



Inclusion *drives* Innovation



NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

#NDEAM



OFFICE OF DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT POLICY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

dol.gov/odep

The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy proclaims the theme of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) in October 2017 is "Inclusion Drives Innovation".

"Americans of all abilities must have access to good, safe jobs," said U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta. "Smart employers know that including different perspectives in problem-solving situations leads to better solutions. Hiring employees with diverse abilities strengthens their business, increases competition, and drives innovation."

You can read more about the NDEAM here:
<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>

October is a month to celebrate and showcase how much employers and employees benefit from workforce

diversity. People with disabilities are an untapped and underutilized resource for employers. At Cascade Connections, we focus on understanding the needs of employers and finding applicants who can fill those needs.

Workers with disabilities tend to be reliable, dedicated and loyal employees with a positive attitude and work ethic. Cascade Connections can offer recruitment and training support at no-cost to your business. By increasing your diversity, you broaden your customer base and enhance your company image. If you are interested in learning more about how to partner with Cascade Connections, please visit our website at cascadeconnections.org or call our vocational office at (360) 647-9087.

Wheelchair Van Fundraising

We talk about independence, integration into the community, the ability to access services and knowing that you have the ability to get where you need to go. For many of us, that just means we have to take a walk or hop in the car. For people whose transportation is a motorized wheelchair, it's a lot different. And more challenging.

Mark Hildebrand moved to Cascade Supported Living in Lynden in 2015. He had been living in an adult home off Wisner Lake, however was not able to get into town regularly because he could only travel with Specialized.

"I love where I am now," Mark says. "I really love the place and I love all the caregivers who take care of me. If I were 20 years younger, I would apply for a position here."

Mark is a member of the Cascade Connections Board of Directors. He'd like to see the organization purchase a wheelchair van that could take multiple people.

Mark is often seen motoring through Lynden in his wheelchair, going to coffee shops, meeting a local pastor, stopping in to have breakfast, or visiting

friends. However, Mark points out that his battery-operated wheelchair will only go so far. After that, he needs a wheelchair van.

"I could go in a car with a (regular) wheelchair," he says, however then staff must push him. "I'm kind of limited in my getting around. It's almost like I'm handicapped."



Donations for Businesses, Churches and Foundations/Civic Groups:

AmazonSmile Foundation
Andeavor Foundation Inc
Habor Lands Co
Hinotes Corner Storage
Kroger
The Hilltop Restaurant & Catering
Third CRC

These people made a donation in memory of Gloria Tisdel:

Lawrence & Harlean Stegink

These people made a donation in memory of Ricky VanderHaak:

Jon & Gloria Norton

Cascade Connections' First Recruitment Event

Cascade Connections was pleased to hold its first Recruitment Event at our Ferndale office on Saturday September 30th. We weren't sure what to expect, but the taco truck, door prizes, and on the spot interviews attracted dozens of applicants to come inquire about employment opportunities within Cascade Connections! Thank you so much to all who volunteered their time to make this event successful. As a result, we were able to hire 17 new staff for multiple residential departments. We expect that number to grow, as we have interviews scheduled with several applicants who weren't able to make it to the event itself. Way to go team Cascade!

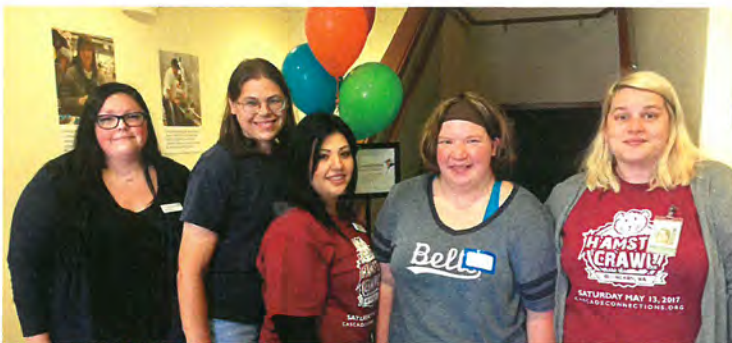
Mark has access now to an older van, but it can transport only one passenger in a wheelchair. It's important that the transportation is reliable as well. Staff transport Mark in the wheelchair van weekly when he does his laundry at the laundromat, when he works out at Homestead, and when he wants to go to church in inclement weather. Of the opportunity to access Homestead, Mark says the workout "helps keep my muscle tone. Now I'm in the best shape I've ever been in in my life. I love it."


Since the wheelchair van requires many specialized and modified parts, it costs a lot more than the regular van. Cascade Connections is hoping to raise \$40,000 to purchase the modified van for our customers. We also have the opportunity to be able to serve people who are currently living in the state institutions that want to live in our community, but we will have to wait until we have the van.

Your donation means a lot to us and our customers. If you decide to donate, your tax-deductible donation can be made online at <https://cascadeconnections.org/support-us/donate>. You can also mail a check or money order. Please make it payable to Cascade Connections and mail it

to: Cascade Connections c/o Wheelchair Van Fund
P.O. Box 3174 Ferndale, WA 98248.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this story.



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to learn more.



Fall 2017 Newsletter

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CASCADE CONNECTIONS PARTNERS WITH MORPHOTRUST

On September 1st, Cascade Connections became a partner with MorphoTrust as an IdentoGo Fingerprinting Services Center to provide fingerprinting to our community and our staff. Cascade Connections saw a need and stepped up to fill the need for a fingerprinting site in Whatcom County as well as the opportunity to provide employment to individuals we serve.

Cheri is our first fingerprinting employee. Cheri loves her job and has fit right in with everyone else at our Ferndale office. Welcome to our team, Cheri!

Cascade Connections provides the fingerprinting service on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and we are looking to expand this opportunity to five days a week by the end of 2017.

