

CASCADE CONNECTIONS
opportunities for everyone



Outcome Report 2015

Cascade Connections is a non-profit whose mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life. We promote opportunities for everyone through community partnership and service excellence.

Message from the Executive Director

2015 has been an amazing year with lots of changes. It was our first full year with our new name. In this process we have had some challenges and had to make some tough decisions along the way. We as an organization and the board of directors have really focused on what the values of our organization are and used those values to ensure we are doing all that we can to further our mission: “Empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.”

The one consistent is that change is inevitable and necessary to be sure we are serving our customers and our community in the best ways possible. What we have always done, what we are doing now is not what we will be doing a year from now or twenty years from now. The only thing that stays the same is that the people we serve are at the core of every decision our organization faces.

We are consistently evaluating how to serve more people without compromising the quality of services we offer. Without our community partners we would be unable to achieve the success we have had. In 2015 Cascade Connection created 71 jobs in Whatcom County. We were also able to partner with local businesses to bring the First Annual Hamster Ball fundraising event to Bellingham. This event not only raised funds for our mission, it also allowed us to share with our community the great work that our agency provides.

In this report we will highlight the impact we have made in the lives of people supported by Cascade Connections. When you are involved with the mission of Cascade Connections you know that your support matters to those we serve, our community and our organization. We truly appreciate your commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.

Sincerely,

George Beanblossom

Executive Director



George Beanblossom, Executive Director, Cascade Connections

Our Mission

Empowering individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.

Our Vision

We promote opportunities for everyone through community partnership and service excellence.

Our Customers

Cascade Connections provides residential, vocational and home care services to individuals who have a broad range of skills, interests and abilities.

Our Employers

Cascade Connections is committed to providing Whatcom County with highly valuable applicants who add to the diversity and value of businesses. We pride ourselves in being a resource to local employers on disability related issues.

2015 at a Glance

Residential Programs:

Cascade Christian Home: 8 residents

Supported Living –Lynden: 16 residents

Supported Living – Bellingham: 6 residents

Pine Street Adult Family Home: 6 residents

Home Care Services: 38 customers

Training Department:

Total Students: 298

Total training hours: 10,364

Vocational Services:

Vocational Rehabilitation customers: 65

Long-term services customers: 100

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RESIDENTIAL



Elsie came to Cascade Christian Home (CCH) in June 2011 as a young woman in her late twenties. Due to her life circumstances she arrived with limited background information for staff to use to understand her. Elsie herself was unable to communicate, causing her to be fearful and unsure.

With the support of staff, her housemates and medical and therapeutic professionals, our community has watched a beautiful transformation in Elsie's life. Her communication skills have flourished and continue to progress daily. When assisting Elsie, staff realized that she responded well to particular routines and has found reassurance with those who perform them. Now with set routines and knowledge of Elsie's interests, desires and unique abilities the interaction between Elsie and those around her has blossomed. Elsie has found comfort in establishing and expanding relationships.

Through the consistent care at CCH Elsie has grown to feel confident enough to interact with others and have positive experiences in her home environment. Elsie is a wonderfully strong and determined woman who has applied these attributes to learning and understanding the opportunities she has to live a life she can enjoy and continue to grow into.



Through her developing comprehension and communication Elsie displays special interest in soft textures, people watching, swimming and sunbathing. Elsie enjoys going for strolls outside and is always delighted when she snuggles into with her beanbag. These days she communicates her wants and needs clearly and easily.

Since Elsie's moved in to Cascade Christian Home her talents and gifts have been cultivated. Elsie is now enjoying being an active and contributing member of her community.





Andrew is a 21-year-old man who receives services from Cascade Connections Home Care Aides most days of the week. He lives with both his parents and his brother. Andrew’s mom describes him as really laid back and easy to be with. One of Andrew’s favorite passtimes is listening to music. When Andrew really enjoys something he is hearing, he will let you know by smiling, laughing and exclaiming loudly. He enjoys most types of music and especially enjoys Hawaiian, classical, country and heavy metal.

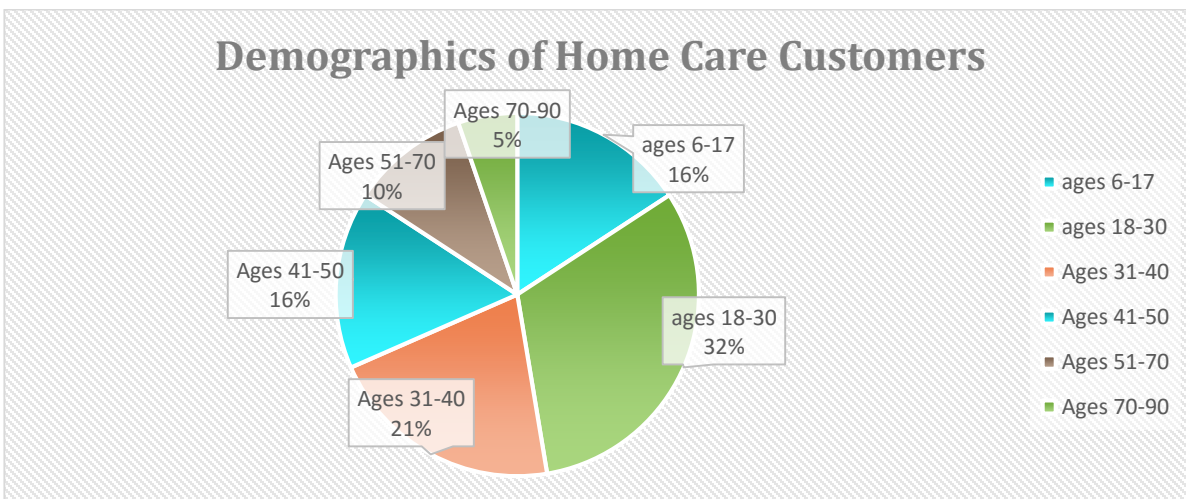
Andrew also enjoys watching television, especially comedy and cartoons, but perhaps even more, he likes reading. When his Care Aides read him books he almost always has a big smile on his face. When the sun is shining, Andrew and his Care Aides have been known to take a walk on the local trails or sit in the backyard and enjoy the breeze.

Andrew’s mother says there have been many moments that stand out as exceptionally positive experiences that Cascade Connection Care Aides have created with Andrew. These include supporting Andrew at the hair dresser while his father also received haircuts. His Care Aide helped with communication and made the entire experience better for everyone. Afterward, Andrew was in a smiley mood and looked great!

Another occasion was a summer camping trip. Andrew’s Care Aide met Andrew and his family at Larrabee State Park for their scheduled shift. His Care Aide being willing to meet them at the campground allowed Andrew’s parents to spend some time alone with peace of mind knowing Andrew was in good hands, having fun and hanging out with someone he had a great relationship with.

We asked Andrew’s mother what she would share with another parent who was considering working with Cascade Connections Home Care. Her response was “It’s a wonderful group of caring people who really do care about my son, Andrew. I’m grateful for all our care aides. Our care aides have helped in so many ways. I’m so thankful.”

At Cascade Connections we serve not only people, we serve families!



NEW JOBS CREATED

71 new job is 2015

Cascade has created a total of 777 jobs since 1994



Long term Vocational Services

Customers with developmental disabilities receive long term vocational services including: discovery, job preparation, job development, job coaching, and retention services

Outcomes

- Total Number of Participants ⇒ 100
- Total Wages Earned ⇒ \$256,847
- Total Hours Worked ⇒ 21,562



Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Customers referred by Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) contract for short term services including: independent living skills, community based assessment, placement, and retention services.



Grace loves her job at Old World Deli

Outcomes

Total Number of Participants Served ⇒ 66
Total Contracts Completed: 113
Average Starting Wage: \$10.12
Average Starting Weekly hours: 13.5

Average days per type of contract:

Community Based Assessment: 83 days
Job Placement Services: 110 days
Job Retention Services: 94 days



Cascade Connections supported Amanda to find her dream job

2015 Cascade Connections
Eliminated Subminimum
Wage Employment

Contracted Services

Cascade Connections employs individuals with disabilities on mobile custodial crews and enclaves throughout Whatcom County. These crews provide long term employment for many participants. In 2015 CVS contracted with the following locations:

Outcomes

Total Employed by CC contracted services \Rightarrow 57

Total Hours Worked by CC crew employees \Rightarrow 25,960

Total Wages Earned by CC crew employees \Rightarrow \$364,495



Cascade Connections was
awarded a contract to clean
Department of Homeland
Security in April 2015

Training Services

Cascade Connections created a training department in January 2012. Since that time the trainers of Cascade Connections have become some of the best in the State of Washington.



Outcomes

Number of Cascade Connections employees who received training \Rightarrow 205

Total number of individual from other agencies \Rightarrow 68

Total number of families/ individuals \Rightarrow 25

Total Training hours \Rightarrow 10,364

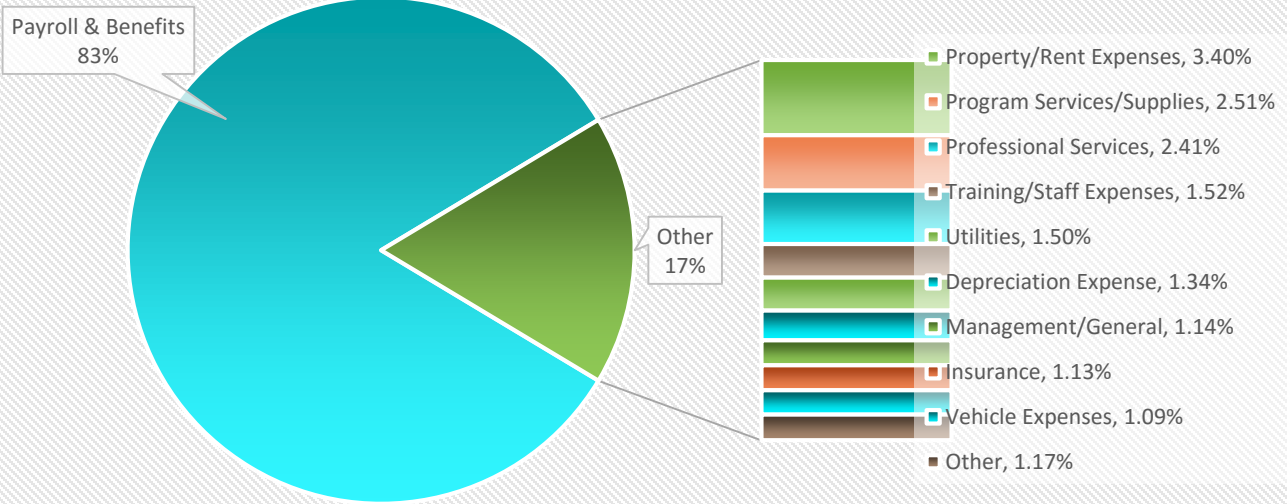
Prometric Testing

Cascade Connections hosted 31 testing dates in 2015

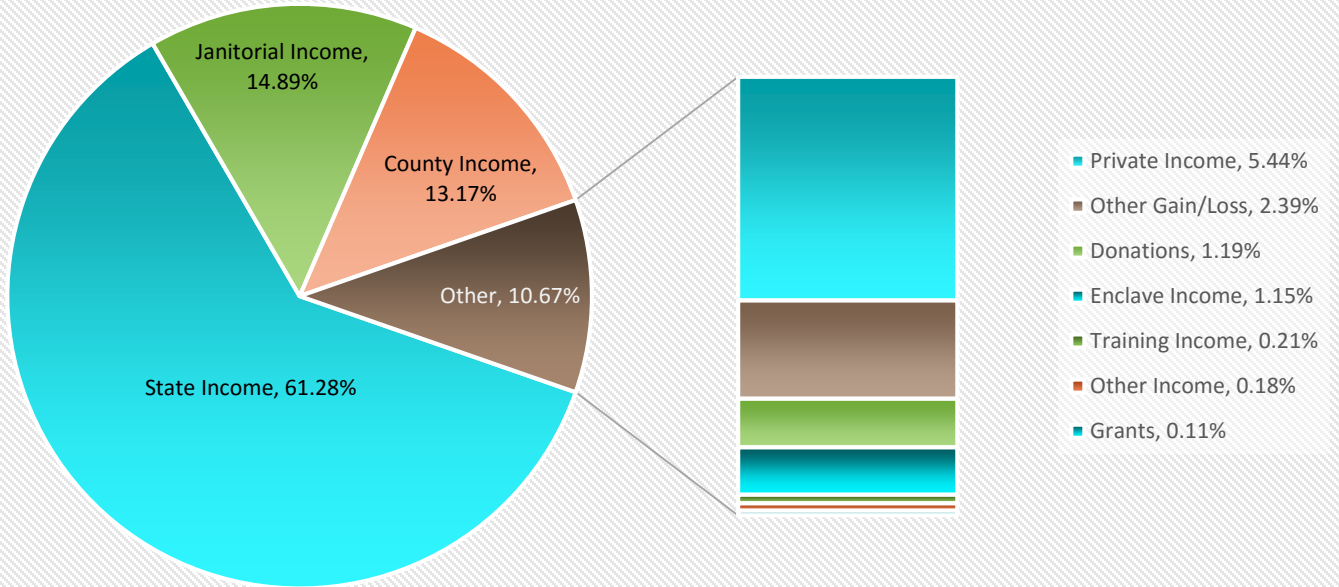
Cascade Connections hosted 403 test takers in 2015



2015 Expenses = \$5,991,576.87



2015 Income = \$5,996,348.22



Thank You to our Community Partners!

12th Street Shoes
5 Guys Burger and Fries
Ace Hardware Sehome
Affordable Auto
Albertsons
Altair Advanced Industries, Inc.
Anvil
Appliance Depot
Associates in MH
Baay
Bellingham Baptist
Bellingham HC/Avamere
Bellingham Public Library
Benjamin's Hair Salon (Steve Sweet Shop)
Best Western Lakeway Inn
Big Fresh
Big Lots
Blaine Senior Center
Bookkeeping Solutions
Boys and Girls Club
Bramble Berry
Brigid Collins
Burlington Coat Factory
C9 photo and designs
Caffé Adagio
Cascade DAFO
Cascades Rehab
Chinook Enterprises
Christ the king Bellingham
Christ the King Lynden
Christian Health Care Center Lynden
City Bible
City Dogs
City of Bellingham
Clothes Rack
Club Barbell
Conservation Northwest
Cornwall Church
Costco
Creatures Comfort
CrossWater Café
Crystal Creek Logistics
Downtown Bellingham Partnership
E-Cig Express
Evergreen Supported Living
Family Christian
Ferndale Chamber
Ferndale Library
Flax for Life
Forever 21
Fountain Community Church
Foxy Browns
Fred Meyer Bakerview
Fred Meyer Lakeway
General Services Administration
Generations Early Learning & Family Center
Glacierview Animal Hospital
Good to Go Bakery
Goodwill
Goodwill
Grace Church
Greenbarn
Haggen - Corporate
Haggen Ferndale
Hand Dancer
Hardware Sales
Hawley's Auto Supply
Health Care Svs. Group
Healthy Pet
Hearing Speech and Deafness Center
Hertco Kitchens
Homestead Fitness
Hope House
Hope In Christ
If we want to include volunteer places:
Instinct
Interfaith
Kelly's O'Deli
Kids World NW
Kmart
Landmark Property Management
Larson Gross
Launching Success Learning Store
Light House Mission
Light of the World Prayer Center
Lynden Christian Book Store
Lynden Door
Lynden Food Pavilion
Lynden Library
Marshalls

Martin's Feed
McDonalds
Millard Mall Services
Mobile Hardware
Mt Baker Products
Napa Auto Parts-Bellingham
Natural Way Chiropractic
North Cascades Health and Rehabilitation
Northwest Center
Northwest Health Care Linen
NW Computer Repair
Office Max
Old Navy
Opportunity Council
Orchard Park
Pacific Continental Reality
Pegasus Trucking
Pickford Theater
Portal Way Complete Automotive
Portal Way Farm and Garden
Q Laundry
Red Cross
Rent-a-Center
Restore
Rite Aid Ferndale
Rouse Chiropractic

Rover Stay Over
Rude's Auto
Safeway- Lynden
Safeway- Sunset
Sara Geballe- Interpreter
SMC
Soy House Bakerview
Soy House downtown
St James Prebyterian
Tart Beauty
The Leopold
The Muljat Group Ferndale Branch
TJ Maxx
Trico Office Int
Unlimited Service
WeCare
Whatcom Alzheimer Society
Whatcom Community College
Whatcom Computer
Whatcom Humane Society
Whatcom Literacy Council
Whatcom New Life Assembly
Woodway
WorkSource
Yeagers
YMCA Daycare

Thank you from the Cascade Connections Team!
We are proud to serve our community!



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