



# Cascade Christian Services

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER

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*IT'S ABOUT  
COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP*

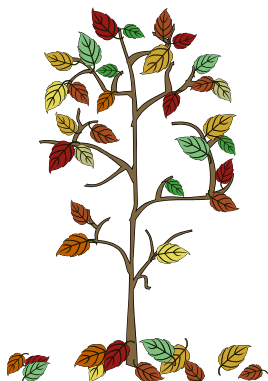
*EMPLOYER OF THE  
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*THANK YOU DONORS*



### **Employer of the Fall 2010 Quarter Whatcom Transportation Authority**

Cascade Vocational Services (CVS) recognizes WTA for outstanding partnership in employing people with disabilities.

In 1998, WTA selected Cascade Vocational Services to provide custodial services through an open procurement process. What started as a one-year contract has become a 12-year partnership.

Through this contract we employ 13 individuals with disabilities as part of a mobile crew. Crew members work alongside a CVS supervisor to clean each terminal. The supervisor also acts as a job coach, ensuring crew members are fully trained to meet quality standards set by WTA.

Many members of the crew have worked together over 10 years. At the same time WTA custodial work has been the spring board for many individuals with disabilities to move on to more independent employment in our community.

Pete Stark, Director of Fleet and Facilities, explains, "Employees are well supervised and very loyal to their employer, and as a result they learn their jobs well and take pride in their work." Our crew works every day bus services are provided, so it is important we provide a reliable service. If one crew member calls in sick, the crew adapts to get the job done. Absenteeism is very low for these employees; people enjoy their jobs, like to come to work, and it shows in their positive attitudes.

Stark believes our contract also "gives WTA employees a much broader and deeper appreciation of people with disabilities as *individuals* to work alongside them at our jobsites," and improves the quality of the para-transit service. Stark says, "Supported employment provides a well supervised work environment and dependable workers who are paid a living wage."

"October was National Disability Employment Awareness Month, and we wanted to recognize an employer who truly goes above and beyond," says CVS Program Director Kristin Nguyen. WTA provides many individuals with disabilities transportation to and from work. By offering para-transit services to 5,700 riders with disabilities WTA is affording these riders the ability to find jobs in the community, get to medical appointments or do their grocery shopping.

## HOME CARE SERVICES

Cascade Home Care began providing services to children last November. However, one of our first participants is not really a child anymore. We'd like to introduce you to Derek, our "big time" high school student. Upon meeting Derek one of his first comments might be, "I'm in high school now!" Derek is an enthusiastic teenager. Home Care Manager Lyndra Iddings was excited to be able to assist Derek and his mom. Iddings stated, "Their family is welcoming and caring. It's rewarding knowing Derek is benefiting from this program as much as we are from them."



Caregiver Jeremy Forbes says, "Derek is bubbling with life and is just a fun guy to be around."

Derek's mother, Sheryl, appreciates that Derek has a buddy to help him out with his personal care needs, which has enhanced his confidence. During the time Home Care has been working with him Derek has mastered tying his shoes and is improving his personal hygiene and cleanliness tasks. In addition, Derek has memorized his phone number and address.

Aside from those successes, Derek has many other interests. He loves fire trucks and construction. He enjoys participating in Special Olympics, bowling, socializing with friends and hanging out at the Max Higbee Center.

Derek's wish regarding the Cascade Home Care program is to go out into the community with his caregiver to experience fun social activities together, and he wants to include other Cascade participants. As Sheryl enthusiastically comments, "Derek is so helpful and caring for his peers."

We agree with Derek and his mom. It is our desire to obtain money through fund raising and donations to provide supervised social activities in addition to the state-funded specified personal care services, because we think those unfunded social activities are as important as is home care.

## CCH HAS 30 YEAR CELEBRATION

On August 14, 2010, Cascade Christian Home hosted a small open house to celebrate our 30-year anniversary of service to the community and to honor those we recently lost. The celebration opened with dedicating a new garden and trees in memory of Trudy Honcoop and Dorothy Golhof. Their families were there to celebrate and cut the ribbon. Many families who have supported CCS through the



years were there to share their recollections of when the home first began. We then moved inside where Supportive Living residents gave tours of the building and reminiscences.

A video slide show set to music was shown capturing thirty years of memories in pictures. There were saved newspaper articles and photo albums present to help bring up fond memories. It was a wonderful celebration of 30 years of the lives—residents, families and staff—that have filled the Cascade Christian Home.

## AMY'S MOVE

Amy moved into Cascade Christian Home on September 1<sup>st</sup> from her family home in Lynden. It was delightful to experience her enjoyment of decorating her room by picking furniture, wall color and wall hangings prior to the move. Amy



has made new friends and gotten to know her roommates better. Each Saturday Amy loves participating in Special Olympic's bowling. Amy has shared her love for the African Children's Choir by playing music and videos for her new roommates. Amy enjoys going out for Italian sodas and mall-walks regularly. But her favorite thing about living at Cascade is watching movies with her friends. We welcome Amy, and we are excited to build memories with you.

## AGENCY NEEDS

Fall, 2010

Dear Shareholders,

It's hard to believe that we are getting close to the end of the year when we will be retiring our 2010 calendars.

This year will truly be a memorable one. Foremost in our hearts is the loss of the three residents at Cascade Home who all passed away within six months of each other along with long-time Border Crew custodian, Naomi Lavine, and board member, Lonnie Perrin.

Secondly, is the funding crisis. We see the effect of an economic downturn as many people are out of work while businesses have closed locally and across the county.

State and federal budget deficits have resulted in cut backs to our residential and vocational program funding. At the end of October we received word that we would be receiving another cut to our residential funding January 1<sup>st</sup> next year, with a very good possibility that funds will be cut again six months later on July 1st.

Are we concerned? Very concerned. When we learned about the possibility funding cuts this July, we worked as an agency to see if there were any areas in which we could save money. The staff pulled together and developed means for reducing costs. God has used these hard times to bind us together and appreciate what we have.

What will the future hold for our agency in these uncertain times? I don't know. I do know that God has always been faithful in His care of our mission. We have been through budget cuts before; although, I don't think that I've ever experienced a time in 30 years when everything around us has looked so gloomy. In these times, we have a choice to either be controlled by circumstances or have faith that everything will work out.

Someone said, "Faith is only as good as the object of your faith." In these difficult economic times we have faith that God will help us to provide what is needed for the most in need.

As Executive Director I give thanks for all you have done to support our agency and its mission. Without your prayers and financial support we would not be able to fulfill our mission. Please consider your continued support by praying for the individuals we serve and their families and our staff. I encourage you to consider volunteering and/or financially joining us in fulfilling a mission and vision that has sustained individuals with disabilities in our community for over 30 years. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!

Here is a listing of opportunities to become a partner to provide assistance in a loving and Christian atmosphere to improve the quality of life for individuals with special needs to achieve maximum self-sufficiency.

### Whatcom County

- Repair the fence at Cascade Christian Home
- Replace the driveway and sidewalks at Pinestreet Home

### Skagit County

- Repair or replace the fence at Crestview Home

### Agency

- Serve in an essential role in the agency as a board member. If you know of someone or you are interested, please call me at (360) 714-9355

Sincerely yours,

George Beanblossom, Executive Director

CASCADE CHRISTIAN SERVICES  
1611 N. STATE STREET  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

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***You Make a Difference***  
***Thank you***

Kiwanis of Lynden  
Pacific Northwest Credit Union  
Third CRC  
Whatcom Volunteer Center

***In Memory***

Carey Cecotti	George & Grace Wallace
Gordon Dykstra	Duane & Melva Bouma
	Maribeth DeZeeuw
	Karen Funk
	Bernice Kooy
	Roger Nieuwendrop
	Gloria Norton
	Henry Shagren
	Twyla VanderHaak
June House	Donald & Kathy Carver
	Vivian Rowe

**LIGHT A LAMP**



with an endowment gift to the  
Cascade Christian Services Fund

You've spent your adult years working hard, carefully saving and investing your assets. You plan to enjoy the later years of your life, confident in the knowledge there will be adequate funds to care for your loved ones after your death. But have you planned for the transfer of these assets? Have you left definite instructions for the disbursement of your estate to the people and causes that matter most to you? A well-prepared will is one of the most lasting ways to bestow your love on those you care for most. Many times volunteers and donors leave something in their will to perpetuate for a charitable organization at the giving level they proved in their lives. If you wish to leave a bequest to us, we can work with you and your attorney to ensure the plan meets your needs and your family's as well as ours.