



Cascade Christian Services

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

THANKS

*You Make a
Difference*

*Thank you for your
partnership
and support*

Kiwanis of Lynden
United Way of
Whatcom County
Third Christian
Reformed Church



LIGHT A LAMP



with an endowment gift to the
Cascade Christian Services Fund
and...

- * Dispel the darkness of an uncertain future;
- * Produce a perpetual flow of financial support;
- * Create a lasting legacy for yourself or another.

PRAISE IS PRICELESS

Praise is always a welcome gift. When it comes without warning, its value is priceless. Recently, I attended my son's vocational goal meeting at Wood's Coffee at Fairway Center, Lynden. Steve's vocational representative, Annie, had discussed with Steve in advance where he would like to meet, and this was his choice. Steve, Annie, and Steve's advocate from Cascade Supported Living, Tamlyn, were already seated and waiting for me. Restraining myself from my usual hugs of joy so as not to embarrass him, I snuck a quick hug and peck on the cheek from Steve before sitting down to join them.

Annie asked if I would like to order something to drink before we proceeded. I asked if anyone else would like something. Steve opted for mocha. Tamlyn pointed to a \$20 bill lying on the table. I asked, "Where did that come from? Did I drop it or was it already there?" Tamlyn said, "No, someone gave it to us." I asked why and she answered, "They just said to use it for whatever we wanted."

While waiting for my latte, it occurred to me it might have been someone who knew Steve so upon returning to our comfy sofa seat, I asked if the person was still present. Annie pointed him out. I walked over to the table and said to the gentleman, "Excuse me. The young ladies sitting over there said you gave them \$20. Could you please tell me why?" He answered, "Yes, to do with as they wish." I explained, "The handsome young man sitting with them is my son." He quickly retorted, "I kinda figured that when I saw you kiss him on the cheek." Not realizing we had been observed, I was a bit stunned and said, "The lovely young ladies are two of my son's caregivers. Would you mind if the \$20 went to Cascade Christian Services? That's the name of the agency that provides my son the wonderful care he receives."



Mom & Son Laughing

His wife interjected, "Do you want to know why my husband gave them the money?" I answered, "Yes, please, I would." I remember this

verbatim.

(continued on next page)

She said "We were already here when the two young ladies arrived with your son. I have never seen so much loving respect paid to anyone as what those two showed to your son. From opening and escorting him through the door to the graceful way they assisted him as he sat. They showed him nothing but respect and loving kindness. They made sure he was made to feel an important part of their being here. Then I heard the girl at the counter tell them they don't accept checks, so I told my husband to give them the money so they could buy themselves and your son coffee."

I was joyfully stunned. I restrained myself from hugging each of them (there were several couples). I briefly explained Steve

had a car accident as a teenager and as he matured didn't want his Mom caring for his private needs, and the Lord brought us to Cascade Christian Services. I explained that I have always seen the loving, respectful consideration shown to Steve in my presence and could only trust that same loving kindness was shown to him when I wasn't there. I thanked each of them for affirming that for me. Again, they assured me there was no doubt in any of their minds that Annie and Tamlyn had anything but respect for Steve.

It was such a wonderful experience. I didn't tell them I am the CCS board president. I didn't feel it was necessary. I felt the Lord put us where we were, when we were there, and needed no further

explanation. I thanked Tamlyn and Annie and shared the testimony of how they were perceived by people they didn't even know were watching. It wasn't a show. It was professionalism.

To the staff of Cascade Christian Services, Crestview Home, Cascade Vocational Services, Cascade Supported Living, Pine Street Home, and Cascade Home Care, thank you for all you do for all the clients you serve. I pray we will have more people come to know about Cascade Christian Services through glimpses of all the "Steve's" and their staff.

Rhonda Howard
CCS Board President

TRAINING CENTER



Practice Session in new Training Center

Cascade Christian Services has a training center developed by our training manager, Allison Hill. Many of you know Allison as the long-time director of Cascade Christian Home on the King Tut Road, which has been serving clients for 32 years. Having practically grown up at the Home, Allison has been training our staff for a decade and has become certified by Department of Social and Health Services as a community instructor. She now is one of the most capable certified trainers in the area. This means CCS is one of a few offering the state mandated training for Home Care Aid certification north of Everett to meet the mandates of Initiative 1163 for long-term caregivers that became effective January 7, 2012.

Our new training center was built into a warehouse space using our specifications to include current technology and material for staff to learn and practice the skills necessary to show demonstrated competency. We provide everything to assure staff have the skills, knowledge and abilities to assist our clients to the high standards of service CCS provides. Prometrics, a third party testing and assessment service, test our students to qualify them for the required certification before they perform those important services to our clients.

Located just south of Ferndale not far from I-5, our administrative offices have also moved to the new place to free room in the Bellingham offices for the fast-growing Home Care division and the employment solutions Cascade Vocational Services continue to provide, as they have been out-growing their space as well. Watch us grow as we meet the changing needs of our community while providing the best service offered.

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME

Representatives and clients from all parts of Cascade Christian Services joined forces at Safeco Field April 19 to cheer on the Seattle Mariners to a 9th inning defeat to the Cleveland Indians.

Neither the loss nor the misty fog dampened the high spirits of those filling many of the 180 seats the Mariners donated to Cascade Executive Director George Beanblossom. It was a Cascade block party with folks hollering hello to friends not seen for some time.

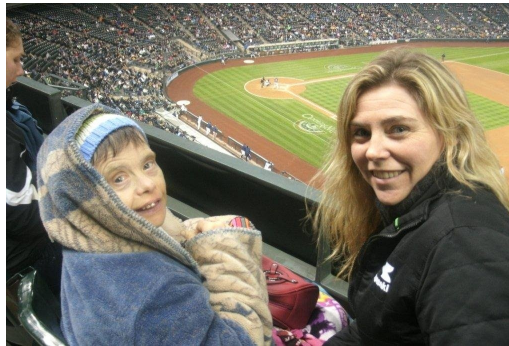
Transporting folks from Lynden, Mount Vernon and Bellingham was its own game – one Supported Living staffer likened it to a “week-long camping trip in one day.”

Meds, food, blankets, extra coats, pillows and backpacks filled every nook and cranny of Cascade vans. A furious spring storm dumped water by the bucketful onto I-5 and pushed windshield wipers to their highest speeds.

It was a challenging drive, but Mariners staff proceeded to make the rest of the evening a walk in

the ball park. Mariner staff guided us to disabled parking, elevators, and led our amoebic group through the easiest path to our third-level seats.

With a bird’s eye view over first base, our group was quick to get in the game. After about one chilly hour, we were ready to get coffee. Mariners pitching kept the game close and Mariner bats kept us hooting and hollering.



Gloria and Tabatha

In the end it wasn’t about the who won or lost, or how many french fries the gulls nabbed; it wasn’t about the chilling Seattle weather that passes for spring or the adventure that lasted well into the wee hours of the following day; it was the camaraderie, the laughter, the friendship and the excitement of an evening well spent with friends.

Janne Sleeper
Cascade Supported Living

You wouldn’t have won if we’d beaten you.
Yogi Berra

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

“Activities with clients, like bowling and fun stuff,” are Brittney Biondolillo’s favorite things about her job at Cascade Supported Living, where she’s worked since 2006. “It doesn’t even feel like work,” she says.

That cheerful disposition and energy earned Brittney the spring Employee of the Quarter for Cascade Christian Services.

With a wry smile, Brittney is quick to point out that paperwork is not among her list of happy activities at CSL.

She has worked with each of CSL’s 11 clients



Brittney

over the years, and has seen many people change. But none so much as in Kent , who she says has become “more outgoing. He does more things. He seems happier.”

Brittney notes positive changes among staff at CSL as well. “With my coworkers, it’s more like a team,” she says.

Brittney shares her Lynden home with husband, Luke, and their three year old daughter, Kaitlyn.

In her off time, you’ll probably find her outside.

Hunting, hiking and fishing are among her favorite activities, she says.

CASCADE CHRISTIAN SERVICES
P.O. BOX 3174
FERNDALE, WA 98248

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CASCADECHRISTIANSERVICES.ORG

◆ Join Cascade Christian Services
for a picnic in the park!



WHERE: BLOEDEL DONOVAN PARK
WHEN: SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012
11:30AM-2:30PM

Hope to see you there!



◆ Cascade Christian Services ◆