



Cascade Christian Services

SUMMER/FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

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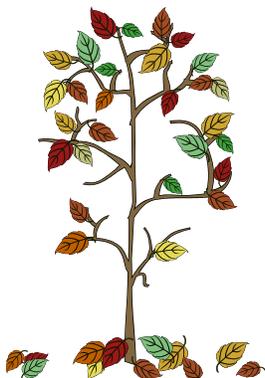
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THANK YOU DONORS



CAMPING ADVENTURE

BY JUALANNE SLEEPER

Cascade Supported Living (CSL) participants Daryl Kooy and Mark LeLacheur took advantage of one of July's few beautiful weekends to camp at Birch Bay State Park with their advocate, Claire Hendricks.

An adventurous ferry tour, a windy drive to Semiahmoo, an uninvited skunk and a fireside party with other CSL participants were an exciting part of the fun, hot weekend July 29 through 31.

Daryl, Mark and Claire arrived Friday evening following the agency picnic to set up tents and sleeping bags. Their campsite had the benefit of being close to the bathroom *and* the beach – meaning the trio had a constant stream of families and revelers making their way past. Mark, Daryl and Claire serenaded everyone with music of guitar, drums and other makeshift percussion instruments.

Claire had researched the local area and discovered the Plover Ferry offering foot passengers a free ride to Blaine Harbor by way of an half-hour long tour of the bay. After starting Saturday out right with coffee at the Bay Café, Mark and Daryl rode with Claire to Semiahmoo via Birch Bay's winding back roads. All three enjoyed the incredible landscape of trees, water and mountains.

Once aboard the ferry, Captain Kooy had a chance to pilot the boat for a portion of the trip. The 12-person ferry allows passengers a chance to take a turn in the wheelhouse, and Daryl wasn't about to miss that chance of a lifetime.

Once back at camp "home," Daryl and Mark spent some time gathering seashells, which both have displayed in their apartments. A snack included "Hawaiian sandwiches" – meat and cheese on sweet Hawaiian rolls, wrapped in foil and cooked over the fire.

Daryl and Mark invited their friends to their campsite later that evening to enjoy dinner, s'mores, and the campfire. What they didn't invite was a skunk, who ambled harmlessly (phew!) into the brush after giving Claire a moment of concern.

CSL participants Becky Icenhower, Gloria Tisdell, Steve Howard, Kristen Tripp and Evelyn Case arrived for the party in good spirits. This group has been friends for many years, so it turned into quite an event. Steve Howard posted on his Facebook wall later that night: "Loving this sunshine! Had a campfire at Birchbay

tonight!" The nice weather was appreciated by all.

Sunday morning brought a few sprinkles as the group packed up and cleaned the campsite. When Daryl was asked about his camping trip, he stated, "It was fun to get out in the fresh air and meet my neighbors in other campsites." Birch Bay State

Park was completely full the entire weekend they were there.



When Daryl

was asked what his favorite part of camping was, he said, "Going around to all the different places!" When Mark was asked what he would remember about camping, he said, "The skunk!"

MEET DEREK

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.

CASCADE VOCATIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is the perfect time to honor the employers we work with in our community.

The partnerships Cascade Vocational Services (CVS) has created with businesses throughout Whatcom County have lasting effects for not only our participants, but for our community.

One of the longest standing relationships CVS has had is with the General Service Administration (GSA). CVS has provided custodial services for the US Border Crossings at the Blaine Truck Crossing, Lynden and Sumas Stations since 1996 through the federal AbilityOne Program. The AbilityOne program is providing employment to more than 47,000 individuals nationally and is the largest single source of employment for people who are blind or have other significant disabilities. The employment opportunities made possible through the AbilityOne Program equip people who are blind or have significant disabilities with the skills and training necessary to earn equitable wages, benefits and greater independence. Because of the job opportunities created by the GSA through the AbilityOne Program, CVS has been providing gainful employment to many people over the last 15 years. These jobs have made available learning opportunities, the ability to receive wages and benefits that help lead to a more independent life, and reduce the need for other government benefits.

Thank you, employers who support Cascade Vocational Services in providing Opportunities for Everyone.

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES TO ENHANCE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE

“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” Proverbs 27:17 NIV

This June we invited community, staff and board members to review the Cascade Christian Services agency mission statement. We also asked our community how they thought we were doing and what services besides those currently given they would like us to offer. This strategic planning meeting was the first we’ve had in a while, but is part of an ongoing process to assure the agency is prepared for the future.

The last time we laid out plans for the agency’s future resulted in our adult family home, Pinestreet Home for young men. Our supported living program started using the cluster housing model. Our home care program began providing contracted-services to children.

Now with the sluggish economy and uncertainty that has created, we determined to look closely at what we do and how we use funds entrusted to us. We’ve been dealing with the inevitable cutbacks in our contracts by becoming more efficient and stronger. Our strategic planning and restructuring this summer are putting the agency on the ready for possible growth as we feel challenged by God’s calling to offer as good or better services we have provided for over 30 years.

It was time to update our mission statement, which was fine when we were providing only residential services in a group setting. Today we provide services in the community—homes, shopping, recreation—and offer vocational services—job development, placement, support. We wanted our mission statement and values that support our mission to be inclusive and to the point.

Mission: Empowering individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.

Values:

<p>Service Excellence</p> <p>Maintaining quality staff and services requires wisdom, expertise, respect and integrity.</p>	<p>Integrity</p> <p>Doing what we say and taking responsibility for our actions and words. We hold each other accountable to the Mission and Values of CCS.</p>	<p>Empowerment</p> <p>Striving to provide people with tools, skills and connections to build a more positive future.</p>
<p>Competencies</p> <p>Delivering services that meet physical, emotional, spiritual, mental, social and environmental needs.</p>	<p>Christian Leadership</p> <p>Adhering to bring glory to God and serving fellow humankind.</p>	<p>Servant Leadership</p> <p>Leading by example and putting others needs and desires before our own. We are humble stewards of organizational resources: human, financial and physical.</p>
<p>Equal Opportunity</p> <p>Supporting personal growth through power and choice, competence, health and safety, positive relationships, status and integration. All people are created equal.</p>	<p>Individualized Services</p> <p>Providing services from a person centered perspective.</p>	<p>Community</p> <p>Belonging is a two-way street, and everyone benefits from inclusion. We seek to partner together to create a barrier-free community.</p>

These values are the fundamentals of who we are and what we do, and at core of the grid is the Christian leadership and service on which our agency was founded. This process of updating our mission statement and articulating our values has helped us to refocus and prepare us for what God expects of us in the future.

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

Kiwanis of Lynden
Third CRC
United Way of Whatcom County

***In Memory
Ben Mulder***

Kenneth Becker	Donna Lautenbach
Gerrit Bosma	Sidney Oostema
Dennis Hollander	Sherman Polinder
Lisa Holleman	Phyllis Roosendaal
Henrietta Kok	Jenny Tjoelker
Bernice Kooy	Cornelis Voskuilen

***National Disability
Employment Awareness Month***

Congress designated each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) to increase the public's awareness of the contributions and skills of American workers with disabilities. Various programs carried out throughout the month also highlight the specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and removed.

This effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945, when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month."