



## Cascade Connections Partners with Thrivent Financial



By George Beanblossom  
Executive Director

Cascade Connections has developed a relationship and is partnering with Thrivent Financial Services through their Choice Dollars Program. Thrivent Financial Services has a part of their company that is a non-profit, like Cascade Connections. This means Thrivent Financial

allots some of the company profits back into the community to agencies and churches like Cascade Connections.

One of the main goals of Thrivent Financial is to strive to help Christians be wise with money and live generously. As a membership organization, it offers its nearly 2.4 million member-owners a broad range of products, services and guidance from financial representatives nationwide. For more than a century it has helped members make wise money choices that reflect their values while providing them opportunities to demonstrate their generosity where they live, work and worship. The program gives eligible members an opportunity to recommend where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year. Since 2010, \$300 million has gone to help churches, educational institutions and other nonprofit organizations, like Cascade Connections, through charitable grants.

At Thrivent Financial, they believe the key is to have discussions with your family and loved ones about what priorities are most important to you. Their members come to them around a shared goal of being wise with money and living generously and Thrivent aims to help them live this, every day in their lives. Whether it's saving for a child's college, supporting a favorite charity, building retirement strategies or a combination of all of those and more. Each financial strategy should be driven by one person. You.

As a membership organization of Christians, Thrivent's goal is to make it easy for members to be active in helping us live out our full mission so more members, their families and communities thrive.

It is for these reasons Cascade Connections is proud to partner with them and to recommend their services to you.

For more information about the Choice Dollars Program and to find out about all the other ways Thrivent Financial can help you and how it benefits our community, visit <http://www.thrivent.com> or you can call their local office at (360) 738- 3588 and ask for Adrian. You can also find them on Facebook and Twitter.



**THRIVENT**  
**FINANCIAL®**

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

**2 Corinthians 9:7**



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Cascade Connections has a new Facebook page! Please visit us at:

[www.facebook.com/cascadeconnections](http://www.facebook.com/cascadeconnections)

and  Like US!

# People That Made A Difference

By George Beanblossom, Executive Director

There are people in our lives that have made and make an impact on our lives. These people challenge us by their words and actions to be better people. People come and go in and out of our lives all the time but each of us have people we look up to; our role models or heroes. These past couple of months have been especially hard on the staff and residents of Cascade Connections. Two of our participants and one staff member passed away. All of these people made a great impact in their own way on all of us at Cascade Connections.



On July 29th **Gloria Tisdel** passed away. Gloria was one of the people the agency started providing services to in 1980 at Cascade Christian Home. It was there that she learned the skills she needed to move into her own apartment in Lynden.

Gloria will be remembered for her infectious laugh and great sense of humor. Gloria brought joy, spirit and spunk to her days in Lynden. She was a dancer, photographer, basketball player, bowler, artist and general comedian. Gloria lifted our spirits and captured our hearts over and over throughout the years. Gloria loved without discrimination. She touched many people during those 36 years and she will be greatly missed by us all. She taught many of us to live each day one at a time and to live with gusto.

On August 22nd **David Spry** suddenly passed away in a car accident. David was a lifetime resident of Whatcom County. He became a part of the Cascade family in 1998. David worked in a variety of capacities with Cascade Connections. In his most recent years David worked as a



custodian at the Pacific Highway Border Crossing in Blaine, WA. David was a hard worker who was dedicated to his community and the people within it. David has been described by those who knew him as the guy behind the scenes. He did the little things that made a difference for others, not because he needed attention, but because it was the right thing to do. David touched the lives of many, he leaves behind a legacy of selfless acts of kindness and a trail of people who were touched by him in a positive way. His co-workers, the officers and staff of Customs Border Patrol and everyone at Cascade Connections will deeply miss David. He will forever be in our hearts.



On September 1st **Jennifer Wakefield** was suddenly taken away from us in an auto accident. Jennifer worked for us a short time but made a great impact in both the people she provided services to and the people she worked with. Jennifer was known for her faith and for her servant's heart. Jennifer brought a smile, laughter and a sense of peace wherever she went. Client homes were cheerful as she simmered soothing lavender on the stove. She treated clients and staff with respect and love. She shared duties. She seemed to always have time for those who needed it and she will be greatly missed by all of us. One of Jennifer's verses from the bible that motivated her was, "*Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.*" **Galatians 6:9-10**. Jennifer modeled this in her life!

## Donations for Businesses, Churches and Foundations/Civic Groups:

Eaglemill Farms  
Harbor Lands Co.  
Netherlands Ref. Church  
Kroger  
Third CRC  
Tesoro Foundation Inc.  
Kiwanis of Lynden

## These people made a donation in memory of Gloria Tisdel:

Joyce Burger  
Bernice and Don Kooy  
Arnold and Gretchen Van Dyken  
Ferrel and Marilyn Stremler

## These people made a donation in memory of Norma Van Beek:

Bernice and Don Kooy

# EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

CASCADE CONNECTIONS  
*opportunities for everyone*

VOCATIONAL



Cascade Connections honors Northwest Health Care Linen as our first lifetime partnership

award recipient! Each quarter Cascade Connections selects a local employer who supports our mission to “Empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.” Northwest Health Care Linen is in a league of its own and has gone above and beyond in their partnership with Cascade Connections by embracing our mission as if it was their own.

Northwest Health Care Linen was founded in 1992. President and CEO, Jim Hall had previously owned an extended-care center equipped with its own on-site laundry. Through gaining a reputation for providing unsurpassed linen service, Jim uncovered the regional need for a medical-only laundry service and established Northwest Health Care Linen.

As a leader in the industry, they’re focused on providing the best in customer satisfaction and the best in company and environmental performance. With careful attention to detail, quality and service, they continue to grow significantly as a business and with the services we offer.

Cascade Connections began working with Northwest Health Care Linen twenty years ago. The partnership began with one applicant and one job. The vocational department of Cascade Connections and supported employment in general was relatively a new concept to Whatcom County in 1996. This did not stop the leadership from moving forward in creating a customized position for one young lady with a visual impairment. This included providing a small inexpensive reasonable accommodation of taping white lines along the floor for our applicant

to use in navigating her way to the work station. Her job description included stacking washcloths and other linen, a job that typically had high turnover. Cascade Connections was able to support this hiring process and reduced the

turnover costs for this position considerably. Since that time this partnership has resulted in employment for dozens of people with disabilities over the past two decades.

The leadership at Northwest Health Care Linen has remained dedicated to providing a quality work environment for all of their employees, including those people with disabilities. It has been a pleasure to grow with a small local business. This growth was never more evident than in 2002 when the Bellingham facility underwent a significant remodel, tripled in size, and gained the ability to process laundry with greater efficiency and resource conservation. Equipment and technology began to change some of the processes within their facility. This did not change the dedication to their partnership with Cascade Connections.

Jim Hall states, “we have had some great job coaches. We have been very fortunate to have very responsible and receptive coaches. They listen to our management and really work with us in accomplishing our goals.” One of those dedicated Cascade Connections job coaches is Drew Jamison. Drew has supported Cascade Connections partnership for many years. He says, “I am grateful to Jim Hall, Rob Burton (plant manager) and all of the employees at Northwest Health Care Linen for the consideration and care. There is a genuine partnership where we seek to meet their business needs with our applicants. They have truly provided opportunities for everyone.”

“You will find no more enthusiastic employees than people with disabilities. They are so happy to have jobs, to have a paycheck. When they come in in the morning they are happy to be at work,” Jim said. When asked what is the best part about working with Cascade Connections Jim had this to day. “The benefit of feeling like you’re helping out your community. I didn’t realize it would feel as good as it feels. It’s a very, very big plus.”

Thank you Northwest Health Care Linen for your lifetime partnership with Cascade Connections.



*Evelyn loves her job!*



*Sharon and Ron working at Northwest Health Care Linen*

Please visit us on the web at  
[cascadeconnections.org](http://cascadeconnections.org)  
to learn more.



### Fall 2016 Newsletter

Cascade Connections  
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### Board of Directors

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October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) and Disability History Month and the theme for 2016 is #inclusionworks.

Disability Employment Awareness month is a national campaign to celebrate the skills and talents that people with disabilities bring to our workplace. This month we seek to promote positive employment outcomes for people with disabilities by encouraging employers and others to recognize the value and talent they bring to the workplace as well as the dividend to be realized by fully including people with disabilities at work and in our communities. People with disabilities can and do make important contributions to businesses every day. By implementing good workplace practices, like maintaining a flexible and inclusive work environment, businesses can capitalize on the talents of qualified people with disabilities, benefiting everyone. Cascade Connections currently partners with hundreds of different businesses in Whatcom County. The success of our applicants cannot be realized without these partnerships. Together with local businesses we are changing the face of employment and providing opportunities for everyone!

To learn more about the value of hiring someone with a disability and the benefits it brings to our community check out this Cascade Connections video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FGrDSI-urXU>