

Park Bowl Wins Employer of the Quarter



Congratulations to Park Bowl in Bellingham for being awarded Cascade Connections Employer of the Quarter for Spring 2024! A family business that has been in our area since 1954, Park Bowl is a 28-lane bowling alley and family entertainment center that includes an arcade, pool tables, and Splitz Grille food counter and bar service. This inclusive employer has employed Cascade Connections' Vocational Services customer Caelan since October of 2022.

Caelan started working at Park Bowl after graduating from the Transitions Program at his high school. He currently works 15 hours per week as a Porter/Lane Attendant, and his responsibilities include helping with food orders, monitoring the lanes, helping with shoes at the front desk, and cleaning (when needed). The job can be fast-paced – there's lots of walking involved and plenty of tasks to be done. Fortunately, Caelan thrives in this kind of work environment. In fact, when asked what he likes most about his job, Caelan responded: "That it's always moving!"

Caelan's Cascade Connections job coach, Abi, really enjoys supporting Caelan on the job: "I really appreciate his sense of humor and the positive energy he brings to his workplace." Abi is genuinely grateful for the efforts made by the managers and staff at Park Bowl to understand and support Caelan at work. In the past 6 months, Caelan began living with roommates for the first time. Abi appreciates that "Caelan's coworkers also give him advice about getting transportation to and from work, budgeting tips for meals and apartment living, etc. You can tell they really care about him as an employee and as a person – they want him to succeed."

When Abi checks in with staff at Park Bowl, Caelan's managers and coworkers tell Abi: "It is wonderful to have Caelan here!" Caelan's coworkers also enjoy that Caelan can be "such a jokester!" His manager Holly says that Caelan provides "good comedic relief and has good banter, but knows when to be serious." Park Bowl management emphatically declares: "We wish we had two of him."

Congratulations, Park Bowl, on your great employee – and on winning Employer of the Quarter! By becoming an inclusive



employer, you set a great example to other businesses in Whatcom County. We hope to continue this partnership in the years to come.



THOSE THAT ARE DOING IT RIGHT!

Since 2005, Cascade Connections has recognized local employers who are “doing it right” in their hiring of employees with disabilities. Employers who receive this recognition have contributed substantially to Cascade Connections’ mission. By offering meaningful employment, these local partners have helped us to empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.

What does it mean to do it right? Our recognized employers have been open to looking at their hiring practices a little differently. In collaboration with our employment consultants, these employers have formed partnerships that benefit business and support our applicants. By working together, we have changed the face of employment in our community.

Please join us in thanking all of Whatcom County’s current and former employer recognition recipients for helping Cascade Connections to provide opportunities for everyone.

A Child’s Life Learning Center	Downtown Bellingham Partnership	Northwest Health Care Linen
Among Friends Adult Family Homes	Elenbaas Country Store	Park Bowl
Anvil Corporation	Family Care Network	Red’s Aquarium & Pet Supply
Avamere Bellingham Healthcare	FastCap	Rusty Wagon
BAAV	FitEvo	Safeway
Blaine Ace Hardware	Fred Meyer	Samuel’s Furniture
Burlington	Haggen	Soy House
Cascade DAFO	Hannegan Home and Farm	Target
CHS Northwest Bellingham Farm & Home	Justesen Industries Inc.	The Seedlings Early Learning Center
Connections Speech Language Pathology	Marlin’s Auto Service	Walmart
Costco	Marshalls	Whatcom Transportation Authority
Denny’s	Millard Mall Services	Woods Coffee

ABOUT OUR VOCATIONAL SERVICES

Cascade Connections Vocational Services has been providing employment services throughout Whatcom County since 1992. We are committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive workforce. Join us to create opportunities for everyone.

For more information, contact us a **360-647-9087**.
Or visit our website at: cascadeconnections.org/vocational-services