

EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

SPRING 2022

CASCADE CONNECTIONS
opportunities for everyone

VOCATIONAL



Cascade Connections Selects Elenbaas Country Store as Employer of the Quarter



Cascade Connections' Vocational Services Program has chosen Elenbaas Country Store in Everson as our Employer of the Quarter for Spring 2022! An agricultural cooperative, Elenbaas has provided quality livestock feeds to local farms since 1939.

In October of 2021, the store hired Riley, a helpful, social young man who receives Vocational Services from Cascade Connections. Elenbaas management and staff already knew Riley from his prior work-training experience through Nooksack Valley High School's Community Transition Services program. Store Manager Leo Cana, who has a family friend with developmental disabilities, says he was eager to employ Riley: "I wanted to give an opportunity to people who need experience. Somebody gave me a chance and now I have sympathy."

Riley is a dependable employee. He enjoys his work and is helpful, easy to be around, and careful to follow directions. Riley's cleaning and maintenance duties include stocking shelves, vacuuming and sweeping floors, keeping the parking lot tidy, and collecting garbage throughout the business. Leo says that Riley's "a good worker, and funny!" and "if he misses a day, staff definitely notice." A staff member added, "I don't need to clean on the days he's here."

With the Everson Elenbaas Country Store's recent expansion, there are now more services and inventory offered and more need for Riley's help. Since being hired, Riley has grown in his duties and enjoys taking on more and more tasks. Riley's incredibly supportive parents help Riley work on relevant skills at home. This support, along with job coaching from Employment Specialist Drew Jamison, has contributed to Riley's success at Elenbaas. Kim Sexton, Riley's mother and guardian, says that "Drew has done a really good job with Riley. He is a gentle soul, calm and patient with Riley."





Kim also appreciates the supportive work environment at Elenbaas: “Riley gets positive feedback there; the people are friendly... They’re really nice and happy he is there.” Riley’s presence clearly makes a difference at Elenbaas, and Kim reports that having a job means a lot to Riley: “I think he’s proud of himself when he gets a paycheck. Riley likes to get a check with his name on it.”

Congratulations to Elenbaas Country Store on creating an inclusive work environment, earning Employee of the Quarter, and finding a great employee! Cascade Connections looks forward to continuing to partner with you in creating opportunities for everyone.

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 developmental 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
Among Friends Adult Family Homes
Anvil Corporation
Avamere Bellingham Healthcare
BAAY
Bellingham Pet Supply
Cascade DAFO
Connections Speech Language Pathology
Costco
Denny’s
Downtown Bellingham Partnership
Elenbaas Country Store
Family Care Network
FastCap
Fred Meyer

Haggen Food & Pharmacy
Hannegan Home and Farm
Marlin’s Auto Service
Marshalls
Millard Mall Services
Northwest Health Care Linen
Rusty Wagon
Safeway
Samuel’s Furniture
Soy House
Target
Walmart
Whatcom Transportation Authority
WFC Country Store
Woods Coffee