

# EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

## SUMMER 2022

CASCADE CONNECTIONS  
*opportunities for everyone*

VOCATIONAL



## Cascade Connections Selects The Seedlings Early Learning Center as Employer of the Quarter



Cascade Connections would like to recognize The Seedlings Early Learning Center in Bellingham as our Employer of the Quarter for Summer 2022! A small business that provides childcare for infants, toddlers, and preschool age children, Seedlings takes a holistic approach that focuses on emphasizing social and emotional skills and building strong attachments between children and their caregivers and teachers. Cascade Connections has built a positive working relationship with The Seedlings Early Learning Center over many years, and we are grateful for their dedication to inclusion in our community.

Since 2019, Cascade Connections has supported three people in becoming valuable employees at Seedlings. The state-approved Early Childhood Education (ECE) certificates offered by Whatcom Community College culminate in a 70-hour local internship that allows students to put their education into practice. A welcomed partner in this process, The Seedlings Early Learning Center has supported several interns to learn, grow, and become a part of their community.

Hilary, the most recent Cascade Connections' Vocational Services recipient to get hired at Seedlings, was offered her position after successfully completing her internship with support from Cascade Connections Vocational staff. She is starting out as a Substitute Teacher's Aide and may become a Teacher's Aide with a fixed schedule as time goes by.

For Hilary, this has been a dream come true after a long employment journey. Hilary started working at the Lakeway Fred Meyer Service Deli over ten years ago. In January 2016, she began independently completing courses through WCC's Early Childhood Education Program in order to gain skills necessary for a childcare career. Getting this new job at Seedlings marks the achievement of that goal! Needless to say, Hilary is "over the moon" to work at Seedlings. In her words, this is her "dream job!"

Not many people's dream job is found on a



Early  
Learning  
Center

straight path. It can take time, dedication, and commitment to achieve your goals and accomplish your dreams. Cascade Connections is honored to have been part of this process for Hilary and others. We are grateful to have partnered with Seedlings in opening the door to a positive work environment for Hilary and others as they learn and grow as people. We sincerely thank Seedlings for their partnership and for helping to provide 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	Hannegan Home and Farm
Among Friends Adult Family Homes	Marlin’s Auto Service
Anvil Corporation	Marshalls
Avamere Bellingham Healthcare	Millard Mall Services
BAAY	Northwest Health Care Linen
Bellingham Pet Supply	Rusty Wagon
Cascade DAFO	Safeway
Connections Speech Language Pathology	Samuel’s Furniture
Costco	Soy House
Denny’s	Target
Downtown Bellingham Partnership	The Seedlings Early Learning Center
Elenbaas Country Store	Walmart
Family Care Network	Whatcom Transportation Authority
FastCap	WFC Country Store
Fred Meyer	Woods Coffee
Haggen Food & Pharmacy	

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 at **360-647-9087** or visit our website at: [cascadecconnections.org/services/vocational-services](http://cascadecconnections.org/services/vocational-services)