

EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

WINTER 2021

CASCADE CONNECTIONS
opportunities for everyone

VOCATIONAL



Cascade Connections has selected Woods Coffee as our Employer of the Quarter for Winter 2021.



Please join us in congratulating Woods Coffee as Cascade Connections' chosen Employer of the Quarter for Fall 2021! The Herman family of Lynden, Washington, established Woods Coffee in 2002. Dreaming of starting a coffee shop chain, the Hermans pooled their talents and resources to open the first Woods Coffee location in Lynden. Six months later, they opened their second store in the same town. Following a steady growth track since then, the coffee chain now serves customers in many locations across Whatcom, Skagit, and King Counties.

Cascade Connections began our relationship with Woods Coffee when Janae Neilson, the manager at the Boulevard Park location in Bellingham, Washington, agreed to hire our job-seeker Elvira. As a café attendant, Elvira helps out during the busy lunch rush, restocking condiments, cleaning tables and collecting dishes from customers, folding dishrags, and doing dishes. Elvira has developed her skill set over time and now makes whipped cream and drip coffee, with the goal of eventually learning how to make more drinks! The excitement and energy of the



manager and workers at this location has helped make the experience valuable for Elvira.



Following this initial success, Cascade Connections spoke with owner Wes Herman, who has since helped open the doors to other Woods Coffee locations throughout the County. Woods Coffee just recently hired their second employee through Cascade Connections in October of 2021, this time at the Bender Road location in Lynden.



We look forward to continued collaboration with Woods Coffee as we advance our goal of meaningful employment for people with disabilities in Whatcom County. Cascade Connections is grateful for the opportunity to partner with Woods Coffee!

THOSE THAT ARE DOING IT RIGHT!

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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
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