

EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

Winter 2024

Lynden Safeway Named Employer of the Quarter for Winter 2024



Congratulations are in order for Cascade Connections' newest Employer of the Quarter, Lynden Safeway! Safeway first opened its doors in Lynden back in 2002, and shortly thereafter, in 2005, they began partnering with Cascade Connections to create inclusive employment opportunities. Over the years, Lynden Safeway has demonstrated their commitment to inclusive employment time and again, hiring many employees who receive vocational supports through Cascade Connections. Because of this commitment, Lynden Safeway is the very first employer to be recognized as Cascade Connections' Employer of the Quarter for a second time.

Allen Harris, the Store Director had this to say about Safeway's inclusive practices, "I have always been deeply involved with supporting people with disabilities working in our stores. The store should reflect the diversity of our community. Working alongside Cascade Connections has made it an easy choice. They work with their clients throughout the entire hiring and training process."



Cascade Connections currently supports four Lynden Safeway employees.

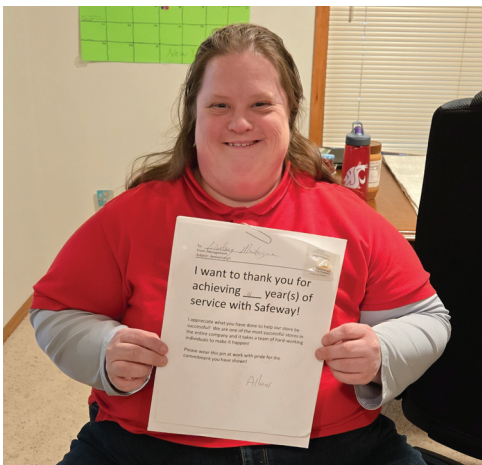
Max is the newest Cascade Connections customer to join the Safeway team. Beyond some seasonal work he performed while he was still in school, this is his first job! Max works as an in-store shopper for about 22-30 hours per week. As an In-Store Shopper, he collects items for online orders and ensures online shoppers receive the best products available. Max is currently working toward an ambitious goal of having an average "pick time" of one item per minute. Cascade Connections supports Max with completing his required in-store trainings and understanding company policies. According to Max, "I love working at Safeway because it's a loving and supporting company that respects me for who I am." The Drive Up and Go Manager, Kelly, said "It's been an absolute pleasure working with Max, he brightens my day every

time I see him. You can tell he's passionate about what he does here at Safeway."

Annemarie, a Courtesy Clerk, will be celebrating her one-year anniversary with Safeway this April. She currently works on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday evenings, sometimes late into night. Her job involves greeting customers, assisting cashiers, and bagging groceries. Annemarie has a goal of working toward running the self-checkout kiosks. She and her job coach are working with her supervisor to determine the next steps, so that she can continue with her professional development. When asked about her favorite part of her job at Safeway, Annemarie offered, "A couple of my favorite things at work are the community of people who are very supportive and caring. I love working with my co-workers, they are easy to get along with and work with. Safeway is a great job for me and I would recommend it to anyone who needs a first job."

Lindsey recently celebrated 4 years of employment with Lynden Safeway, and she wears her 4-year pin with pride. She currently works on Wednesdays and Thursdays for two hours each day bagging groceries. Her smile and helpful attitude are appreciated by customers and teammates alike. She has weekly check-ins with her job coach, Abi, who also provides support to Lindsey with completing online trainings and understanding company procedures. When asked about her

favorite part of her job, Lindsey said, “Everything’s my favorite, community, especially with my coworkers,” she went on to say, “I like it when my coworkers help me.” Lindsey’s coworker, Kelly, shares Lindsey’s positivity about her work, “Lindsey does a great job, I’ve never seen her happier, lots of smiles and talking with customers.”



And finally, Kasey, who has been an employee of Lynden Safeway since 2017. He currently works on Monday and Tuesday mornings as a courtesy clerk and bagger. When he first starts his shift, he typically gathers carts for the first hour or so before completing his other duties. Cascade Connections supports him with trainings, weather-related safety, and reminders of company policies and procedures. For Kasey, his favorite part of his job at Safeway is his co-workers. Kasey’s mother shares that Safeway is a great place for him to work because of his, “amazing coworkers who embrace all of the Cascade Connections customers and treat them as part of the team, supporting them to be successful at their jobs.”



The last time Safeway was named Employer of the Quarter, back in 2009, Cascade Connections supervisor Lan Totten said, “I’ve had the privilege of working with many employers over the years. Safeway stands out not only because of their collaborative approach with us in working with our participants, but also because it is apparent that their philosophy of inclusiveness and diversity is valued and supported by the entire organization.” Lynden Safeway’s commitment to these values has clearly stood the test of time. We look forward to continuing our partnership with Lynden Safeway to create inclusive employment opportunities for many 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	Elenbaas Country Store	Pickford Film Center
Among Friends Adult Family Homes	Family Care Network	Red’s Aquarium & Pet Supply
Anvil Corporation	FastCap	Rusty Wagon
Avamere Bellingham Healthcare	FitEvo	Safeway (Lynden)
BAAY	Fred Meyer	Samuel’s Furniture
Blaine Ace Hardware	Haggen	Soy House
Burlington	Hannegan Home and Farm	Target
Cascade DAFO	Justesen Industries Inc.	The Seedlings Early Learning Center
CHS Northwest Bellingham Farm & Home	Marlin’s Auto Service	Walmart
Connections Speech Language Pathology	Marshall’s	Whatcom Transportation Authority
Costco	Millard Mall Services	Woods Coffee
Denny’s	Northwest Health Care Linen	
Downtown Bellingham Partnership	Park Bowl	