



## Supported Living Welcomes Three New Clients

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented new and unique challenges for our departments providing direct services. Nevertheless, our Supported Living Department has taken it in stride and is proud to welcome three new clients to our agency.



Haley joined Cascade Connections Supported Living (CCSL) in late September, and every day since has been an exciting adventure. She has enjoyed exploring local parks and trails and she loves how close her new apartment

is to the forest. She has a view of the trees from her balcony and enjoys seeing deer roaming outside. Haley has been working on her cooking skills and has developed a wonderful list of dishes she enjoys preparing. Community integration can be challenging in light of COVID-19 restrictions, but Haley goes on walks with neighbors she's met through CCSL and already has a few burgeoning friendships. She is looking forward to participating in Special Olympics programming and the virtual activities hosted by the Max Higbee Center. When Haley is in the mood to sing and dance, there is nothing that can stop her from stepping into the limelight.



Some days Haley does still feel the weight of past experiences weighing heavily on her shoulders, but with the support of her team, she is able to channel growth into positive directions. Although her family is further away, Haley is able to stay in touch by phone and they are so

incredibly proud of her newfound independence. Haley has opened a promising new chapter here in Bellingham, and Cascade Connections is excited to be a part of her journey forward.



In August, we were lucky enough to welcome new clients Kevin and Heather. The two of them are social butterflies and quickly developed a close bond living independently for the first time. Our staff has thoroughly enjoyed their presence as their excitement for this milestone in

their lives has been contagious, and their home radiates the happiness and contentment they seem to feel.

Kevin is a massive Disney fan. He is known around CCSL for being a very hard worker and loyal friend. His huge collection of Disney books and pictures are well known at Supported Living, and Kevin won't hesitate to share his favorite characters with you.

Heather is a happy go lucky, fun, and goofy individual. She loves to hang out with her new friends, and always wants more staff to come to her home and visit. Heather is mostly non-verbal, so she really enjoys listening to her roommate talk



her ear off about his Disney collection. Disney's Baby Mozart is one of Heather's favorite things in the world, and she watches it with Kevin often.

Cascade Connections is extremely lucky to welcome such amazing individuals, and we're excited for the adventures and accomplishments to come!



## Connections Speech Language Pathology Selected as Employer of the Quarter for Fall 2020



Cascade Connections has selected Connections Speech Language Pathology (SLP) as our employer of the quarter. Connections SLP offers certified speech-language pathology to children from birth through age 21. They treat a range of disabilities including speech/language impairment, developmental disabilities, autism, genetic syndromes, hearing loss, sensory integration, and feeding problems.

In 2015, Cascade Connections worked with the founder of Connections SLP Melissa “Missy” Bartel to create our first employment opportunity for one of Cascade Connection’s applicants. A position was created to clean and sanitize all of the toys the children would come in contact with when receiving services. Since that time, four additional Cascade Connections customers have been hired.



Each employee is encouraged to grow in their skills, abilities, independence, and to seek advancement opportunities. Rachel was hired to clean the office in June of 2018. She was excited to have the opportunity to work in an office environment. Her goal had always been to work in an office. With hard work and dedication, Rachel proved herself a quality employee. When she asked if she could expand her role and responsibilities, she was given the opportunity to increase her job description to include clerical tasks. In January of 2020, with support from her job coach to advocate for this change, Rachel was promoted to a Filing Clerk. Rachel achieved a goal she had set for herself!

In January of 2018, Connections SLP hired Mark. By working hard and showing continued growth, Mark’s role grew to include organizing and categorizing various games, sanitizing toys, and folding laundry. Mark is thorough in his work and greatly enjoys having a variety in his work tasks.



With growing sanitation needs, Connections SLP hired Paul in October of 2018. Paul was brought onto the team to sanitize toys used during therapy sessions with children. Paul enjoys how friendly all of his coworkers are at Connections SLP, and loves helping his community.

Scott is the most recent customer of Cascade Connections hired at Connections SLP. As a former recipient of Connections SLP services, Scott was very comfortable and started his new position with confidence. Scott has gained independence with picture task lists created with the support of Cascade Connections. Scott is happy in his new position doing what he enjoys most!



Thank you to Connections Speech Language Pathology for creating an inclusive workforce, supportive culture, and serving our community.

## THOSE THAT ARE DOING IT RIGHT!

Since 2005, Cascade Connections has selected exemplary organizations to be Employer of the Quarter. To receive this honor, companies must make a significant impact on our core mission. Meaningful employment opportunities help us empower individuals with disabilities and enhance their quality of life.

These employers look at their hiring practices a little differently. They have been willing to work with our employment consultants to create partnerships that will benefit their business and our applicants. Together we are changing the face of employment in our community.

Join us in thanking all of the former Employers of the Quarter in Whatcom County for helping us 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*

*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*

## Essential Workers – Commercial Operations Department

Cascade Connections Commercial Operations Department has continued to operate throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The dedicated crew members and supervisors provide custodial services across Whatcom County 365 days a year.

Thank you to each and every one of our committed crew members for their continued dedication to keeping us safe! You are all true heroes!



### Thank You to Our Donors

#### **Donations From Businesses:**

Expedia Group, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Harbor Lands Co, Kroger

#### **Donations From Foundations and Churches:**

AmazonSmile Foundation, Hope In Christ Church, Netherlands Reformed Church, Third Christian Reformed Church

#### **Memorial Donation in Honor of Michiyo Cook:**

Clifford & Regina Cook

#### **Memorial Donation in Honor of Gloria Tisdell:**

Larry & Harlean Stegink, Aubin Stremmer

#### **Donation in Gratitude of Daryl Kooy:**

Roger & Helen Granger

**Special thanks to the dozens of other individuals who donated since June.**



Return Service Requested

Please visit us on the web at  
[cascadeconnections.org](http://cascadeconnections.org)  
to learn more.



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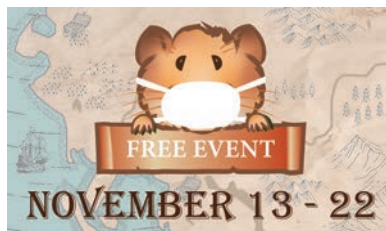
## Fall 2020 Newsletter

Cascade Connections  
PO Box 3174  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
(360) 714-9355  
[cascadeconnections.org](http://cascadeconnections.org)

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## 2020 Hamster "Socially Distant" Scavenger Hunt



This November, we want to celebrate locations and businesses in Whatcom County – the place we call home. In recent years, our fundraising efforts have relied on the support of countless small businesses that have made it possible to pursue our mission of empowering individuals with disabilities to improve their quality of life. By participating in the 2020 Hamster “Socially Distant” Scavenger Hunt, you’ll get to see some of these businesses as well as other landmarks that make Whatcom County special. By playing, you will also get the opportunity to win prizes!

For full details and registration, please visit [events.cascadeconnections.org/2020-hamster-scavenger-hunt](http://events.cascadeconnections.org/2020-hamster-scavenger-hunt) to participate! You can also follow the Cascade Connections Facebook page for updates as we get closer to the event.

## E-Newsletter Subscription

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