cascadeconnections.org

40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



By George Beanblossom, Executive Director

On July 1st, our agency will celebrate 40 years of providing services to people with disabilities. Much has happened since we first opened Cascade Christian Home that served 12 adults with developmental disabilities. Who would have known that the program would grow to serve over 250 people? We have expanded over the years, now providing supported living and home care services as well as vocational services that provide job development and support. We also now offer training so people can obtain



their Home Care Aide certification, as well as other classes to support their skillset.

Many people have been involved with building this agency, too many to recognize and thank. Don Kooy was instrumental in establishing our program.



CASCADE CONNECTIONS

opportunities for everyone

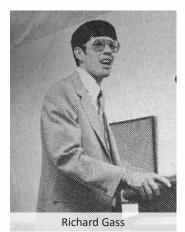
Agency's First Vehicle Donated by Don Kooy

He was involved with a group of other parents and community members, who met for about 10 years

before the agency was incorporated. He donated the first vehicle to the agency that was used for years. Pete Bulthuis was hired to be our first project coordinator. There are others that I need to make sure to mention. Ben Mulder who was involved with Salem Christian



Pete Bulthuis



Homes in California and moved here and eventually served as the agency's First Executive Director. The agency's first Administrator of Cascade Christian Home was Richard Gass, who worked with his wife Karen for about one year. Mark Mouw became the next Director and served in that

role for over 10 years. It was under his leadership that the Supported Living program started and Crestview, a children's home was built.

We also had many volunteers that helped with maintenance, visiting people, and fundraisers. Many of these people came from local churches that have faithfully supported us for many years. We had a group of community members who formed a Cascade "Women's Guilds". The guild raised much money for different projects like replacing carpeting and providing other necessary items. They raised money to buy the first furnishing in our first home. They held fashion shows and an annual Dutch dinner every year.



Cascade "Women's Guilds"

With community support, the agency paid off the mortgage at Cascade Home in about 10 years. Others volunteered by donating animals to an annual auction that the agency has each year for many years. We've had many church groups that have come out on weekends that have donated time and materials to help keep up our grounds and help with maintenance, doing such things as remodeling and painting.



before building began on Cascade Christian Home. Pictured, left to right, are Myron Wester, Executive Director of the Salem Christian Homes, California; Ben Mulder, Development Consultant; Pete Bulthuis, Project Coordinator; and Don Kooy, Chairman. The Salem Christian Homes had donated \$15,000 to help with the building of Cascade Christian Home.

Our agency has gone through many changes, including changing our name from Cascade Christian Home to Cascade Christian Services to Cascade Connections. Despite all these changes over the years, we are committed to the same values as the individuals who help start our organization.





Mark and Daryl were some of the first Supported Living Program residents.

Gloria was one of the first residents at Cascade Christian Home.



Trudy and Gordon enjoyed a trip to California.



Eric was one of the first residents in Pine Street Home. He also works with our Vocational Services.

Our Mission: Empowering individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life

Our Values:		
Service Excellence Maintaining quality staff and services requires wisdom, expertise, respect and integrity.	Integrity Doing what we say and taking responsibility for our actions and words. We hold each other accountable to the Mission and Values of Cascade Connections.	Empowerment Striving to provide people with tools, skills and connections to build a more positive future.
Competencies Delivering services that meet physical, emotional, spiritual, mental, social and environmental needs.	Christian Leadership Adhering to bring glory to God and serve their fellow human kind.	Servant Leadership Leading by example and putting others needs and desires before our own. We are humble stewards of organizational resources: human, financial and physical.
Equal Opportunity Supporting personal growth through power and choice, competence, health and safety, positive relationships, status and integration. All people are created equal.	Individualized Services Providing services from a person centered perspective.	Community Belonging is a two-way street and everyone benefits from inclusion. We seek to partner together to create a barrier free community.

Watch the video about our agency founders that was made in 2013 and view more photos at our 40th Anniversary page: https://cascadeconnections.org/40th-anniversary





Photos: (Left to right) front row: Carol Van Mersbergen, Tammy; back row: Dorothy, Trudy. Carol helped out a lot when Cascade Christian Home first started. Tammy, Dorothy, and Trudy were some of the first residents.



George Beanblossom, our Executive Director and his wife, Jana at Becky's wedding.



Dave and Laurie Charleston. Dave was a Board Member, and both Dave and Laurie are now on the board of our endowment.



Allison, Dan, and Cori. The early days at Cascade Christian Home.



Allison and Becky Kirkland. Becky was a Coordinator of Cascade Christian Home, and she is now our Board Member.





Cascade Connections – COVID-19 Update June 2020

An update from our Executive Director George Beanblossom

This year has been filled with many challenges and blessings. This has been a time of uncertainty for many.



Gardening day at Cascade Christian Home

Our residential programs have been tasked to protect our clientele, many of whom have compromised immune systems. In response to Governor Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order, we needed to restrict visitors to keep our clients safe at home. This was not an easy decision, but necessary to protect them and our staff. To keep clients engaged, we introduced them to many new activities, set up video chat, and encouraged them to write letters to connect with family and friends. I am proud of our residential program's response.

Our organization have not had any cases of COVID-19 to date. One of our biggest challenges has been to ensure the staff has the equipment they need to do their job safely. Gloves, face coverings, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants

were very hard to acquire. However, God has provided all the things that we have needed. A community organization donated 850 masks and we were able to get gloves and soaps from different sources. Staff made disinfectant wipes to be used at our different sites, and Northwest Solutions, Inc. later donated disinfectant spray to us. We truly appreciate all the local businesses who donated these items and community members who continue to serve in whatever way they can as the COVID-19 crisis continues.



Masks we received from the community organization

Our Home Care contract received many cancellations due to the virus.

With a slowed economy, many people did not need respite services, and it looked like we were going to have to furlough people until our hours came back. However, we were blessed by receiving a contract to begin serving seniors with Medicare for the first time.



Vocational Services staff – Reaching out to their customers using video format

The Vocational Services Program has been greatly affected due to the current state of the economy. Job development and placement have significantly slowed, and our heart goes out to our business partners and customers during this time.

We realized that having routines disrupted so abruptly may cause distress for the individuals that rely on our services. We continue to monitor the situation with vigilance, and we are continuing

to work with our business partners and staff to keep our customer engaged and encouraged. We hope to roll out the new "returning to a work site" plans in the future.



Our dedicated training instructors

Our Training Center is still providing essential training. We are ready to prepare caregivers to serve on the frontline and provide training for additional challenges they face during the COVID-19. Our trainers

dedicated themselves to delivering the best possible online and blended trainings using

the new technology available. It is our job as leaders in the field of caregiver education to redefine the training method so our clients continue to receive the best care. Thanks to all students, staff, and managers who adapted to the change and the new procedure. We are working to reopen the in-person training program slowly in a safe, secure manner for all students and staff.



Online and blended training setups

THANK YOU WE LOVE OUR STAFF!



Virtual staff meeting – Cascade Connections Supported Living

We are grateful for our resilient staff. They have been the ones to do the essential shopping and have had to come up with ways to help keep people engaged and connected. The Cascade Christian Home staff has been taking people out for drives, walks, and gardening. Our Supported Living staff has been coming up with creative ways to entertain people, and our Vocational Services staff never missed a beat in connecting with their customers.

Through these challenging times, we just need to remember and know that God is in control and nothing surprises Him. There have been many lessons that we needed to learn or relearn, one of which is we are not in control and we have never been in control of anything. We don't control the future and we don't know what the future will bring. We can plan for the future but it can all change in an instant with something like COVID-19. I am reminded and hold on to this verse in the Bible: I Peter 5:7 "Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you."



Attending a virtual church service

Indoor bowling fun

Easter at Cascade Christian Home

CASCADE CONNECTIONS opportunities for everyone

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Spring 2020 Newsletter

Cascade Connections

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

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