



JAMEY'S STORY

Jamey has been living at the Pine Street Home since 2008. After almost 8 years of receiving services from Cascade Connections, Jamey is ready to move out and live with his younger brother's family.

Jamey was born in Reno, Nevada in 1980. He lived in California and Texas before moving with his family to Whatcom County in 2002.

Jamey has had many interests and participated in many activities in his life. During high school, he enjoyed going camping as a Boy Scout. He also volunteered at a fire station, where he had fun riding on the fire trucks during drills and parades.

In California, Jamey participated in a group called Royal Rangers, a Boy Scouts-like group that is more focused on spiritual development and Christian activities. Jamey says that his favorite Bible book is Matthew, "because it has lots of cool scriptures."

Jamey has always been a hard worker and has been working ever since he got a job washing cars at a local police station in high school. He previously worked at D'Anna's Café and 20th Century Bowling, both in Bellingham. At D'Anna's, he worked as a Host, greeting diners as they walked in and showing them to their seats. He also helped clean up after big events such as weddings and birthdays. At 20th Century Bowling, Jamey helped out in the kitchen. Until recently, Jamey worked at the Food Pavilion in Lynden, where he was in charge of keeping the meat room and deli clean. He learned a lot about food safety and health while working there.

Last summer, Jamey was able to get work at one of his dream jobs: working as a custodian at the US Border Crossing with other crew members from Cascade Connections commercial operations. He starts work very early in the morning and cleans the offices, bathrooms, and grounds at three of the border crossing sites in Whatcom County. He enjoys working with law enforcement agencies and helping keep people safe.

Jamey loves listening to music. His favorites are techno, Christian music, and Taylor Swift. He likes to put music on the iPhone he got last year for his birthday so he can listen to music wherever he goes.

Jamey also likes watching TV and movies. His favorite shows are Tom and Jerry, Best Friends Whenever, and I Didn't Do it. He also likes playing football video games and any game where he gets to drive a truck.



This month Jamey has decided to move out of Pine Street and into the home of his brother, Jeremy, sister-in-law Markel, and niece Lexie. He is excited to move in with his family and have a chance to help them with shopping, do fun things together, and help babysit his niece.

Jamey is very grateful for the time he's spent at Pine Street and the things he's learned. He often asks his housemates or support staff to play a few games of pool or some video games. Jamey has his Food Handler's card and likes to help out with lunch and dinner. He has also learned how to make macaroni and cheese, baked chicken, sandwiches, and juice on his own. He frequently volunteers to help set the table, clean the dishes, or help with cleaning.

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Jamey's Story Continued...

Jamey says, "I like getting along with everybody. I had so much fun at Pine Street, [doing things like] going to a Mariners' game."

Jamey's housemates and the staff he has worked with will miss him. But they are excited for this new opportunity for Jamey.

For over 35 years Cascade Connections has been empowering people with all types of disabilities in Whatcom County. Your prayers and financial support are needed now to help us provide residential and vocational services to people like Jamey. Please consider making a donation and help make a life changing difference in someone's life!

One of Cascade Connections' Founders Passes Away



I first met Arie (Ike) Honcoop when we took group home residents on a trip to California, in 1982. We raised money for the trip by doing a Skate-A-Thon. All 12 residents from the group home, three staff and some volunteers flew to Los Angeles. We were able to use a van from Salem

Christian Home in Ontario. We visited Disneyland and many other area attractions. Ike, his wife, Beulah, and daughter, Trudy, drove their motor home and we followed.

Sometime later, Trudy became part of the Cascade family when she moved into Cascade Christian Home. Ike was always busy helping someone out, whether it was assisting with a building project or in the field doing tractor work. I liked to call him the human equivalent of the Eveready Bunny and MacGyver rolled into one. He would get up early and work until late at night, sometimes 10 or 11pm. And Ike could fix anything. He helped out at Cascade with remodeling, projects such as trench-

ing and putting in outdoor lighting around the property, putting in water pipes and running power to the greenhouses. He even took apart a greenhouse that was donated to us by Bellingham Technical College, and he put it back together at our property on King Tut Road. Ike was a real servant, and he was an example of what it means to be a servant. Not once did I ever hear him complain or put anyone down. His love for the Lord was also very obvious. He would always tell you about what he believed, and he would do so in a meek and humble way. One of Ike's hobbies was woodworking, and he came up with all kinds of projects. Some of them were mischievous. He had built a little house that would explode in your hand when you put a coin into it. Many people also were introduced to Ike's pet skunk (a skunk puppet that would spray), or his plastic rat that popped out of a box. Ike also made and distributed wooden crosses that said "Jesus." He prayed over each cross before it was given away. Many of those crosses have been distributed all over the world. Ike not only talked about his faith, he lived it.

Ike served many years on Cascade's Board of Directors and was one of the founding members of the agency. He also served as a member of the Lion's Club, and on the Second Christian Reformed Church board. He was loved and admired by all of us. We will miss his sense of humor, his wisdom and his example of what it means to serve.

George Beanblossom
Executive Director



Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth Enriches the Lives in our Community

Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth, known as BAAY, has been selected as the Cascade Connections employer of the quarter because of its demonstrated commitment to hiring a diverse work force.

Each quarter Cascade Connections selects a local employer who supports our mission to “Empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life.”

BAAY, located in the heart of Bellingham at 1059 N. State Street, seeks to enrich the lives of children through exploration of the arts. This is accomplished through three programs: EduArts, an after-school enrichment program currently taking place at 10 elementary and middle schools across Whatcom County; Bellingham Preschool of the Arts, the arts-focused preschool; and the BAAY Campus, a 120-seat theater where their music, theater, voice, art and dance programs take place. BAAY works to extend its programs to every child who can follow basic rules. BAAY also offers community-supported scholarships.

In March of 2013 Cascade Connections employment specialist, Stacie Nuckolls, contacted BAAY after a part-time custodial position was posted. She met with the owner, David Post, to discuss BAAY’s needs and ways that Cascade could support the hiring and training process.

An applicant from Cascade Connections was introduced to BAAY supervisors. After a brief working interview, BAAY hired Brandie to clean their theatre and preschool 6 days a week. Cascade supported Brandie in her training to ensure cleaning standards were met. During the training period BAAY went above and beyond to accommodate Brandie by sharing specific tasks with its other custodian, accommodating her schedule needs, and ensuring lighter-weight equipment was available. Cascade had helped to foster a lasting connection between BAAY and our applicant Brandie.



Brandie on her first day
as a BAAY employee.

About a year later Brandie needed to take a leave of absence. The BAAY again went above and beyond and held her position until she was able to return. In the meantime, Cascade partnered with BAAY to provide short-term work training experiences for a few additional applicants. This situation allowed additional individuals with disabilities to gain valuable work experience, and BAAY had needed custodial services while Brandie was away.

The staff at BAAY has maintained a creative and community-focused mentality to meet employ-

ment needs. BAAY has hired 4 applicants through Cascade Connections and has provided a valuable trial work experience for another three job seekers.

Great community partnerships, such as BAAY, help Cascade Connections to accomplish its mission. Thank you to the Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth for your continued collaboration. Please be sure to check out the BAAY website for upcoming events www.baay.org.

Hiring People with Disabilities is Good for Business

Cascade Connections has a long history in leadership promoting equal opportunities for people with disabilities. Yet we have a long way to go in order to fight negative perceptions that keep people who live with disabilities from joining the workforce. Thank you to our Whatcom County business partners who have already embraced a diverse workplace culture. We encourage patronage of businesses that hire individuals based on their skills and abilities and have made a commitment to hiring a workforce that reflects our entire community.

If you are interested in learning more on how to partner with Cascade Connections, please visit our website at cascadeconnections.org We look forward to hearing from you.



Grace loves her job at Old World Deli



Cascade Welcomes New Board Member

Joe Tejada is a husband, father of three, and commercial insurance broker at Rice Insurance, based in Bellingham. When he isn't enjoying his work or family, he is dedicated to spending his time working with causes close to his heart. Joe is one of six siblings, growing up in the Northern California foothills. Growing up in a large family that was both wonderful and layered, he had an older brother with a mental disability. Watching his brother excel and create a life outside of his disabilities motivated Joe to want to help others do the same. Outside of Cascade Connections, Joe finds celebrating and supporting his brother in the programs he is active in to be a rewarding and positive way to stay involved in his life.

Opportunities To Be Involved

Are you looking for a way to build your resume, give back to the community, or inspire others to make our community a more inclusive place? If so Cascade Connections would like to talk with you about our committee work. We have several vacancies waiting to be filled we are just waiting for the right people to fill them. Open committees include:

- Community Relations: planning fun activities for those served by Cascade Connections throughout the year. This includes summertime picnics, dances, movie nights and our Christmas party.
- Marketing & Media – do you have a knack for sharing inspiring stories or a keen editing eye? Cascade

Connections is seeking community members with interest in website upkeep, social media, and writing for our newsletter to help us share all of the great successes here at Cascade Connections.

- Fundraising- 2016 will be a great year for this committee. Cascade Connections will host the Hamster Crawl in May and the Hamster's Ball in November. These great events require people with creative minds and positive spirits.

If any of these committees are of interest to you please feel free to contact our Human Resources Director, Brooklyn Alke, for more information (360) 714-9355 ext 103 or visit us at cascadeconnections.org

Cascade Connections Receives \$1348.75 Grant From WECU

Cascade Connections wants to extend a warm thank you to WECU for its generous donations of 4 adult manikins, 4 infant manikins, and a manikin used for Home Care Aide Certification. These items will help us continue to support our community so that we may offer valuable CPR/First Aid training and provide more quality caregivers for the many agencies in our area.



Cascade Connections Receives a \$4750 Grant From Chuckanut Foundation

Cascade Connections Training Department will launch a program to provide families who are caregivers for elderly relatives free trainings, resources and support group opportunities. This exciting new opportunity is supported by a grant from Chuckanut Health Foundation. See our web site cascadeconnections.org/connecting-families for more information and upcoming events.

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Cascade Connections

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People That Make a Difference

We would like to thank the following people, businesses, churches and civic groups that have partnered with us and make a difference in the lives of the people that we support:

Donations

Bethel CRC Esther Circle
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