



A Message From The Executive Director



2015 was an amazing year with lots of changes. It was our first full year with our new name. In this process we have had some challenges and had to make some tough decisions along the way. We as an organization and the board of directors have really focused on what the values of our organization are and used those values to ensure we are doing all we can to further our mission: "Empowering individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life."

The one constant is that change is inevitable and necessary to be sure we are serving our customers and our community in the best ways

possible. What we have always done, what we are doing now is not what we will be doing a year from now or twenty years from now. The only thing that stays the same is that the people we serve are at the core of every decision our organization faces.

We are consistently evaluating how to serve more people without compromising the quality of services we offer. Without our community partners we would be unable to achieve the success we have had. In 2015 Cascade Connections created 71 new jobs in Whatcom County. We were also able to partner with local businesses to bring the First Annual Hamster Ball fundraising event to Bellingham. This event not only raised funds for our mission, it also allowed us to share with our community the great work that our agency provides.

Cascade Connections has published our 2015 Outcome report. In this document we have highlighted the impact we have made in the lives of people supported by Cascade Connections. When you are involved with the mission of Cascade Connections you know your support matters to those we serve, our community and our organization. We truly appreciate your commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life. To read the full report visit cascadeconnections.org.

Sincerely,
George Beanblossom
Executive Director

Cascade Connections: Services Provided During 2015 at a Glance

Residential Programs:

Cascade Christian Home: 8 residents
Supported Living – Lynden: 16 residents
Supported Living – Bellingham: 6 residents
Pine Street Adult Family Home: 6 residents
Home Care Services: 38 customers

Training Department:

Total Students: 298
Total training hours: 10,364

Vocational Services:

Vocational Rehabilitation customers: 65
Long-term services customers: 100



Cascade Connections has a new Facebook page! Please visit us at:

www.facebook.com/cascadeconnections

and  Like US!

People Who Make A Difference



Pictured here is our Executive Director, George Beanblossom receiving the keys from Galen Laird the Service Dept. Manager, Hinton Chevrolet Buick, Inc.

We would like to thank Hinton Chevrolet Buick, Inc. for donating a 2003 Buick LeSabre to Cascade Connections. We'd also like to acknowledge and thank the following churches and civic groups for donating to us:

First CRC – Lynden, WA
Third CRC – Lynden, WA
The Silicon Valley Community Foundation

We live in a generous and great community!

It's Summer Time – Get Out and Enjoy It!



Fishing has been great!



Steve enjoys a day at Hovander Park.



Shawn enjoys spending time at local parks.



Evelyn and Mark enjoy playing basketball.



Valley, Sandra and Peg enjoyed a girls trip to Seattle.

EMPLOYER OF THE QUARTER

SPRING 2016

CASCADE CONNECTIONS
opportunities for everyone
VOCATIONAL



Cascade Connections honors the Barkley Company as our Employer of the Quarter

Bellingham is filled with communities within communities. One of the favorites is Barkley Village, home of Regal Cinema, a unique shopping district, office buildings, residential properties and many fabulous places to dine. This area is managed by the Barkley Company, which offers a true



urban village destination surrounded by a diverse, dense and growing mix of cross-pollinating businesses, residences and pedestrians. The Barkley Company takes pride in providing the best level of support and maintenance to their tenants.

In the fall of 2015 John Moullen, Project and Facilities Manager for the Barkley Company, reached out to Cascade Connections to learn more about our organization and determine if there was a way in which we could form a partnership. Mr. Moullen had heard about some of the successes we had in keeping the sidewalks clean in downtown Bellingham and thought perhaps this would be something that would be of value to their tenants and customers in the area.

After discussing their business needs and our applicant's skills a partnership was established and a Cascade Connections crew began working five days a week beautifying the Barkley area. Our crew is able to pick up debris along the sidewalks and parking areas in order to keep the neighborhood looking the way it is intended to be: clean and welcoming.



Collette working for the Barkley Company.

Cascade Connections mission is to empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life. Work is one of the ways in which we accomplish this mission. The Barkley Company contract with Cascade Connections has created quality employment opportunities for four people who are served by our organization. Collette has worked for Cascade Connections for several years. She serves as a crew member both for the Barkley Company and the City of Bellingham. You may have seen her downtown watering the flower baskets from time to time.



Look for these vests in the Barkley area. We are working to make our community beautiful.

One of the other crew members, Teri, also works a few days a week for Haggen. Teri is an energetic person and did not want to settle for such limited hours. She now has two jobs and splits her time between the two.

Cascade Connections would like to thank the Barkley Company for thinking outside of the box and being willing to solve their needs with a partnership with our organization. A job is not just a paycheck. It provides us all with a sense of pride, self-respect, friends, status, the ability to learn new things and maybe most, importantly, the opportunity to be a part of a community. Together

with our community partners we are changing the face of employment one job at a time. Thank you Barkley Company.



Teri working at Haggen

THOSE THAT ARE DOING IT RIGHT!

CASCADE CONNECTIONS
opportunities for everyone

VOCATIONAL



Since 2005 Cascade has been selecting employers in our community who are doing it right by honoring them with what is known as the Employer of the Quarter. In order to be selected by our team as the employer of the quarter these employers have had to have made an impact on our mission. They have helped us to empower individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life by providing them the opportunity for meaningful employment.

What does it mean to do it right? It means these employers have been open to looking 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.

Please join us in thanking all of the former recipients of the Employer of the Quarter in Whatcom County for helping us to provide Opportunities for Everyone.

Anvil Corporation
Avamere Bellingham Healthcare
Best Western Lakeway Inn
Cascade DAFO
Costco
Denny's
Downtown Bellingham Partnership
Family Care Network
Fred Meyer
Haggen

Hannegan Home and Farm
Marshall's
Millard Mall Services
Old Country Buffet
Safeway
Soy House
Target
Towner Press
Whatcom Transportation Authority
WFC Country Store

Churches Can Help Make a Difference!

Every year Third Christian Reformed Church celebrates Shalom Sunday in June, where members sign up for projects, don a T-shirt and work a few hours after morning worship at a task that suits their skills.

Cascade Connections benefited this year by having multiple volunteers help with different projects. Cascade Connections provided all the necessary information about the projects and the volunteers did the work.

Materials were marked for Second Chance Thrift Store (which received some nice things) and other items went straight to the dump. We now have clear pathways and breathing room! Other Third Church volunteers pressure washed driveways, walkways and porches at the houses as well.

In addition, the men's Bible group at the church has resurrected the garden patch behind the church. Our clients have been encouraged to enjoy the garden as well as its harvest! Look for pictures to come.

Other civic projects or church-related 'yard work' was also done that Sunday by volunteers from the church. In all, one-hundred twenty-five people participated. Shalom was evident and practiced. We cannot express enough thanks for the hours and sweat on behalf of the individuals we support at Cascade Connections. We are fortunate to be surrounded by so many caring individuals.

If your church or group is interested in volunteering at Cascade Connections, please email us at: cascadeconnections@ccsite.org or call our main office at 360-714-9355 x112.

Please visit us on the web at
cascadeconnections.org
to learn more.



At Cascade Christian Home on the King Tut Rd., a shop was painted.



The home had shelf paper cut and installed on kitchen shelves.



Board member Larry Stegink and friends put on their gloves, brought the big truck and cleaned out the garages at our houses at Aaron Drive and Littlefield Lane.

Summer 2016 Newsletter

Cascade Connections

PO Box 3174
Ferndale, WA 98248
(360) 714-9355
cascadeconnections.org

Board of Directors

Rhonda Howard, *President*

Joe Tejada, *Vice President*

Becky Kirkland, *Vicar*

Kari Doss, *Secretary*

Beth Strotz, *Treasurer*

Susana Rodriguez

Larry Stegink

Deborah Thidodeau

Suzanne Hansen

Cascade Connections has been serving the community for more than 35 years by providing residential and vocational services to individuals with disabilities to enhance their quality of life. As Cascade Connections, we believe in creating Opportunities for Everyone. Everyone has talents and gifts that they bring to our community and that is what community is all about, supporting one another.

Cascade Connections want to thank the Lynden Community and all of Whatcom County for all their support. By supporting Cascade Connections you help people with disabilities to live, work and be a part of our community.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the Lynden Farmer's Day Parade this past Saturday. What a great event to showcase a great community!

