



News from the Peninsula Region

2010 has been a challenging year in our Port Angeles office, but challenges can open the door to opportunity. When several of our commercial contracts ended this year due to recession and economic reasons, Morningside was faced with the loss of work for clients.

Questions abounded – Do we look for more contracts? Do we cut the hours of work so we can have more people work at least some hours? Do we look to the community and find individual jobs for people?

Most of the individuals in Group Supported Employment (GSE) have worked the same contracts for many years – some as many as 20 years. So we knew they were experienced and had a successful work history.

So is there life after GSE? Just ask Stacey Shipley and he will answer with a resounding “Yes”.

It works! Stacey Shipley has been in the GSE Program for 6 years. When he lost his job, he was very focused on getting another job – not working was not a part of Stacey’s life. Stacey was offered a new job at Lee Shore Boats with help from his residential and Morningside staff. They love him and he loves his new job. He is working 5 days a week and is supported by his Job



Stacey Shipley at work

Coach, Beth Kovach-Row.

Lee Shore Boats likes that Stacey shows up on time. They like that he is neat and clean. They like his positive attitude. Lee Shore Boats finds Stacey to be a great fit with their crew. Stacey is proud of the boats that are made there and of his role in keeping the shop safe and clean for his co-workers. Stacey sweeps up the metal filings, makes sure one of the saws is clean and keeps the rooms dirt free. He likes the people he works with and his paycheck.

Morningside staff continues to look for work for 4 more clients with great work histories. If you have opportunities or ideas, please contact our Port Angeles Office at 360.452.7919.

Willie Burer, the Clallam County Developmental Disabilities

Program Coordinator, recently retired. Her career focused on employment for people with developmental disabilities in the community. Tim Bruce has replaced her as County Coordinator.

At a recent welcoming event, Tim indicated that his background in the developmental disabilities and mental health field has been at both the direct service and administrative level. He also said he is not anticipating making any major changes in the ways the county interfaces with local vendors. Welcome Tim!

Congress Designated Each October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month

The effort to educate the American public about issues related to disability and employment actually began in 1945 when Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October

each year “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week.” In 1962, the word “physically” was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988 Congress expanded the week to a month and changed the name to “National Disability Employment Awareness Month.”

As part of its efforts to promote National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Morningside made



From L-R: Debbie Roper, Matt Inchausti, Kelly Robeson, Lucas Doelman, Teresa Coker, and George Smylie

a presentation to the Attorney General’s office on October 22nd. The presentation included information about Morningside’s employment services programs, disabilities in general and a discussion panel that consisted of clients

and their supervisors from three local State agencies – Department of Health, Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Office of Support Enforcement. These three wonderful employers shared their experiences working with a Morningside supported employee and the resulting benefits to their workplace. The clients offered their own testimonies of their jobs and duties, and all of them enjoy their work!

Congratulations Outstanding Employers!

Congratulations to our most recently named Outstanding Employers. They all have demonstrated sustained efforts to support and encourage Morningside clients. They have also shown the flexibility to make accommodations when necessary which translates into productive and valued employees. Morningside's Outstanding Employer award is given to employers who exemplify a vision of the future in which people with disabilities have access to the same opportunities as all other citizens – working in the community!



From L-R: Fausto Torres, Teila Mullins, Zach Ward, Ruben Arceo, Victor Arceo, Carlos Hernandez, Jim Larson

Casa Ramos Restaurant, Centralia Southwest Region Award – Outstanding Employer

Client: Zach Ward
Supervisor: Ruben Arceo
General Manager: Victor Arceo
Job Coach: Sherry Nygard

Zach Ward has worked at Casa Ramos restaurant for 4 years. Zach loves his job! He works hard in the kitchen and does a variety of tasks, including washing and putting away dishes, breaking down cardboard, and his specialty – peeling shrimp! Zach works closely with several co-workers and even though they primarily speak Spanish, they always seem to find a way to communicate what needs to be done.

Casa Ramos has a very family-oriented feel that is evident when talking to the General Manager, Victor Arceo, and the rest of the staff. Many of the staff have worked at the restaurant for over a decade. Victor's brother, Ruben, works closely with Zach and provides great support when Zach needs it. This family feeling was also evident when Zach recently celebrated his birthday with his family at the restaurant. Instead of the usual 3 or 4 employees that come out to sing the birthday song to the guest, the entire staff – all of Zach's work family – came to Zach's table to sing to him while he wore the special "birthday sombrero". Zach loved it and loves working at Casa Ramos.

Congratulations to everyone at Casa Ramos for being named Outstanding Employer!

McDonald's, Port Angeles – Peninsula Region Award Outstanding Employer

Client: Chas Blake
Supervisor: Eric Schimschal
Owners: Brian & Kathy Beaulaurier
Job Coach: Beth Kovach-Row

Chas Blake has worked at the McDonald's in Port Angeles for the last 3 1/2 years as a lobby attendant. Throughout his entire time with the company, his co-workers at McDonald's have embraced him as a fellow team member and provided a supportive environment. If he needs a gentle reminder regarding a task or break time, his co-workers are there to help. He is included as a part of the team and valued as an employee.



From L-R: Beth Kovach-Row, Jim Larson, Chas Blake, Eric Shimschal

Chas loves his job and keeps the lobby very clean. And he does it all with a smile and an upbeat, friendly demeanor. He greets customers in a friendly manner whether he knows them personally or not. In fact, his great customer service has prompted several customers to seek out the manager to commend Chas' wonderful customer service. It's a great team working together to provide a great dining experience, and Chas is an integral part of that team.

Congratulations to McDonald's in Port Angeles for being named Outstanding Employer and for fostering such a positive atmosphere for customers, Chas, and all his fellow team members!

Morningside Ride: A Big Success



Thank you to everyone that participated in our 3rd annual Morningside Ride: Road Challenge 2010 held on Sunday, September 19th. The event was a huge success! We appreciate the support of all our sponsors, raffle item donors, and everyone that drove the route.

Special thanks to Peggy Rogers, Event Chair, and the entire Ride committee for their hard work in putting on this fun and unique event.

Check out the pictures from the event on our website and Facebook page. New ideas are being developed to take the fun factor and the Ride experience to a whole new level in

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2011. Stay tuned for information about next year's date, starting location, and more details in the very near future. A new promotional video is also in the works. We'll be sure to share that once it's ready. Keep your calendar open for next September and the Fourth Annual Morningside Ride!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNING TEAMS:

First Place: Nik & Steve Pust

Second Place: Janine Smith, Steve Smith & Bruce Schultz

Third Place: Judy Stratton & Clela Steelhammer