



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!

All four of our Outstanding Employers, including **McDonald's-Yelm Highway** and **Red Robin** (featured in previous newsletter issues) will be honored at the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at St. Martin's Worthington Center. Please join us and the business community on that day in saluting these wonderful employers and their efforts on behalf of people with disabilities!



From L-R: Jasmine Smith, Melissa Miller, Thaxton Page, Kortni Pendon, Laura O'Neal – Operations Manager, Judy Wheeler, Vicki Hopkins – Job Coach, Carol Cooper, and Kurt Kageler – Owner

Charlie's Safari Outstanding Employer

Clients: Carol Cooper, Judy Wheeler, Alex Talberg
Supervisors: Melissa Miller, Laura O'Neal, Kurt Kageler
Job coach: Vicki Hopkins

Charlie's Safari is a relatively new business in Lacey, but Operations Manager Laura O'Neal has worked with Morningside clients previously and is a tremendous advocate for hiring people with disabilities. Currently they employ three Morningside clients. Owner Kurt Kageler, Head Chef Melissa Miller and Laura all emphasize the clients' abilities and the wonderful skills that they bring to the rest of the team. Kurt, Laura and Melissa have educated all their employees about supporting their co-workers with special needs. When integrating the clients into their staff, Charlie's

Safari created their own visuals that support the clients and increases their independence. Melissa is wonderful at listening and making accommodations to their individual needs. She has used a timer to assist with break time and notifies their families of any changes in policy or procedures in order to reinforce the information. The management team at Charlie's Safari considers these Morningside supported clients some of their best employees and often hold them up as examples of how to dress professionally, stay on task, and other outstanding job-specific tasks such as keeping the kitchen area clean.

Congratulations Charlie's Safari for your outstanding efforts in integrating and supporting people with disabilities in your business!

Coffee News Outstanding Employer

Clients: James Lutz, Brett Lemon
Supervisor: Danny Stusser, owner
Job Developer: Briscoe Eisendrath

Danny Stusser is the owner of Coffee News and has hired several Morningside clients over the years. Since starting his business several years ago he has sought to hire dependable and enthusiastic team members and he found the perfect matches through Morningside. Hiring dependable people to deliver the Coffee News and handle other time sensitive tasks is important in the publishing business. Danny understands and is perfectly willing to make whatever changes are necessary to make these employees successful because they help make his business successful.

Coffee News is a growing business which now has grown from a three person business to eight employees over the last three years. Danny is in frequent communication with Morningside to talk about the progress of the clients or any other changes that he would like to make. James and Brett meet regularly with Danny and his other staff and they are given input into many business decisions. James takes part in all celebrations and actually bakes items for the other staff.

Danny is always thinking of ways to help Morningside's clients succeed and any time he gets ready to hire a new employee he checks with Morningside first to see if there might be a client that would be an ideal fit.

Congratulations to Coffee News for your continued hiring and support of people with disabilities!



From L-R: Erin Korntved, Briscoe Eisendrath – Job Developer, Jim Lutz, Brett Lemon, Jennifer Templeton, Florence Jonen, Jim Larson – Morningside President, Danny Stusser – Owner, and Little Bill – Coffee News Mascot.

Holiday Party and Annual Awards

Over 200 clients, family members, board members, and staff enjoyed a delicious holiday meal and wonderful fellowship at the Lacey Community Center on December 11, 2009. Mr. Lobo provided the music for dancing. A big thank you goes out to Diane Lee Crawford, Chairperson of the event, and all the staff and volunteers who helped with decorating and cooking and serving to make this such a fun and memorable event for all in attendance. Congratulations to the three annual award winners who were recognized for their outstanding efforts in 2009:

Ann Bolender Inspirational Award: This is award is named for Ann Bolender (1935-1986) who was a Morningside client. Ann worked in one of our clerical training areas. She was a faithful worker beyond all expectations. In the years preceding her death when illness and disabilities multiplied, if she could get out of bed she went to work. This award is given to recognize clients who inspire others. **2009 Recipient: William Schelper, McDonald's Administrative Office, Janitor**

The President's Award is presented to an individual, a

work group, or a team that has demonstrated outstanding job performance, integrity, excellent customer service, good communication skills and strong co-worker support. The nominee should be a person/group who has been an employee of Morningside for at least one year, serves as a role model for other staff, and demonstrates our principles and values on a daily basis. **2009 Recipient: Patty Maibauer, Receptionist**

The Joanne Oljefski Memorial Award recognizes a Morningside staff member who embodies Joanne's commitment to people with disabilities. Joanne, a Morningside employee, was always positive, saw each challenge as an opportunity, and was a strong supporter of her co-workers. But most importantly, she believed in the possibilities for people with disabilities. Her commitment, caring and respect for clients were a part of her daily life. This award honors Joanne's life by recognizing a Morningside staff member who embodies a similar commitment to their work with a clear commitment to our vision and mission. **2009 Recipient: Meja Handlen, Lewis County Job Developer**

We've Moved: Morningside's New Port Angeles Office

Morningside recently purchase a new office building in Port Angeles. This building is an upgrade over its former cramped, rented office space. Among the many benefits that this building offers is its closer proximity to the heart of downtown, ample parking space, and large office and meeting spaces for clients and staff. It is a beautiful office space! Please join us for our open house on March 5 from 2 pm to 5 pm. Our new address is 113 S Valley St, Port Angeles, WA 98362. Our phone number remains the same at (360) 452-7919.

Check out the pictures online at www.morningsideservices.com.

New Computers Thank You Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound & Irving A. Lassen Foundation

The Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound recently made a grant of \$15,000 to Morningside for the purchase of new laptop computers for staff. The Irving A. Lassen Foundation also made a grant of \$10,000 for new computers for staff. Because of their generous support, Morningside will be able to upgrade its computer technology so that it can run new client service software and mobile applications. This will enable staff to work more efficiently in the field and as a result will help Morningside serve more clients. Thank you ECF of Boeing Puget Sound and Irving A. Lassen Foundation for your generous support!

June Truax Celebrates 20 Years with Morningside



June Truax, Processing Clerk at our Cherry Street location, celebrated 20 years with Morningside recently. A fine party was held and many of her co-workers, staff and friends attended. She was given a photo album with pictures of everyone, flowers and a little spending money.

June first began at Morningside as a client and worked with Helen Carlson at the OBII filing site. Her excellent work, attendance and ability to interact with those around her led to her being hired as a regular employee in 1989

June's commitment to her job, our clients and the mission of the organization are applauded and appreciated. Thanks June and congratulations on your 20th year milestone.