



## Morningside's New Wheelchair Lift Van Thanks to Many Generous Donors

Morningside is excited to announce the arrival of our new wheelchair lift van! We celebrate and say *Thank You* to all the generous individuals that helped with the purchase of this great addition in support of our services. This vehicle is critical to the success of our clients in the Person to Person Program which serves many individuals with limited mobility. It is also important for several of our High School Transition students. The van replaces an older vehicle that served Morningside well over the years but became more and more expensive to operate. It also began experiencing mechanical problems that eventually meant it was no longer safe for our use.

A lift van is important for clients that use wheelchairs, especially heavy, powered wheelchairs. The van is also important for clients with special transportation needs who don't have access to public transportation because of where they live or limited travel time windows. The van will be utilized in all facets of finding and securing a job for a client as well as retaining jobs. With this new van, many more people with disabilities will find employment in the community which is a life-changing event for many. Some clients were previously institutionalized or thought not capable of working in the community and will now be experiencing their first job! Our Person to Person Program, as with all of our programs, emphasizes abilities rather than disabilities and finding just the right job match for each individual. We believe everyone who wants to work should be able to work and be a part of the community.

Last year as we began a campaign to raise the money to replace our van many individuals, businesses, and foundations stepped forward to help us realize this goal. We are deeply grateful to the following for their financial support that helped make this new vehicle a reality: **Chehalis Tribe, Community Foundation of South Puget Sound, Robert & Lloydine Graham, Lacey Sunrise Lions Club, Irving A. Lassen Foundation, Deb Barnett & Microsoft Matching Gifts Program, Morningside Board of Trustees and Staff, Olympia Federal Savings, Ed & Emily Odegard, O Bee Credit Union, Olympia Masonic Lodge #1, Rotary Club of Olympia, Squaxin Island Tribe.**



Michael Comalander and his Job Coach Cydnie Koreis

Morningside is proud to announce that **Jesse Amoroso** has been posthumously awarded the Ann Bolender Award.

This award is named for Ann Bolender (1935-1986), a Morningside client. Ann worked in one of our clerical training areas. 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 are an inspiration to others.

Jesse worked at Miller Elementary in Winlock, WA. He started as a student volunteer while still in high school and quickly realized this was what he wanted to do as a career. After graduating from high school, a job was developed for him in the elementary school as an educational assistant

## Ann Bolender Award



where he was employed for the past 8 years.

Jesse worked with Kindergarten through second grade students tutoring math and reading. Jesse was an inspiration to both students and staff. He always had a smile and was genuinely interested in how you were doing every day.

He once shared a story, about a second grade student who was upset because he was placed in a reading class for students who needed extra help. Jesse quickly shared with the student that he had been in special education classes himself and that it had

helped make him a better person. He was happy that he had made the young student feel better about the class.

Jesse was a wonderful person and is most deserving of this award – he will be greatly missed.

## 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 **Division of Child Support/Secured Unit: Floor 2 and Tumwater Southgate Ace Hardware** (featured in previous newsletter issues) will be honored at the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce luncheon on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at Saint 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 to R): Juahn Nyberg, Nicole Smith, Jim Larson, and Mary Berschauer

consistently build on Nicole's strengths and are always looking for more tasks that will enable Nicole to be successful because Nicole is a valued team member. Sometimes it's the small things that make someone feel part of the group. Nicole remembers when Juahn included her picture in the employee area during holiday decorating and how she felt like a true member of the team! Nicole loves Walgreen's and the team spirit shared by all her co-workers. Congratulations Walgreen's for your efforts in supporting Nicole and incorporating her into your great customer service focused store!

### Walgreens – Martin Way, Lacey – Outstanding Employer

Client: Tamara Nicole Smith

General Manager: Juahn Nyberg

Job Coach: Mary Berschauer

Nicole has worked at Walgreen's on Martin Way for two years. She does a variety of tasks, including stocking shelves, facing shelves, and pulling expired stock. And she does it all with lots of energy and a friendly smile. Her co-workers love her positive attitude and her great customer service skills. Good customer service is one of Walgreen's core values and General Manager Juahn Nyberg states that "Nicole is always ready to help a customer and if she doesn't know an answer, she will find someone that does."

Juahn and the other members of the management team

### Congratulations to everyone at Walgreen's for being named Outstanding Employer!

### Trader Joe's – Outstanding Employer

Client: Angela Pitchford

Supervisor: Chris Melsha

General Manager: Brad Holmes

Job Coach: Bobbie Jo Sweet

Angela has worked at Trader Joe's Olympia store for nearly 15 months. She started working soon after the store opened on the Olympia's west side stocking and facing products, cleaning shelves, and providing great customer service. Trader Joe's allowed for an in-depth job analysis to ensure a good match of Angela's skills with the tasks that needed to be done. This job analysis was very important and has helped Angela be successful by allowing her to build on her strengths. She excels at stocking shelves, putting together new displays, and helping customers find all their favorite products amongst the many great choices Trader Joe's has to offer.

Her managers, Chris Melsha and Brad Holmes, have made several accommodations which have been critical in Angela's success. They allowed a schedule adjustment so Angela can ride the bus to work. And they approved Angela using a cart for stocking instead of a dolly since the cart is easier for Angela to maneuver. Small adjustments with big results!

Angela's co-workers have also been teaching her new skills, such as using the Zamboni floor cleaner, which she loves. She enjoys the challenge of learning something new and felt proud she had been shown how to operate such a complicated machine. Angela loves her job and Trader Joe's has a dedicated new employee!

**Congratulations to Trader Joe's for providing a supportive environment and assisting employees to be successful!**



(From L to R): Angela Pitchford, Chris Melsha, and Jim Larson