

State Association Employer Awards

We are proud that three of our nominations for state-wide Outstanding Employer Awards by the Community Employment Alliance (CEA) won! Each employer received a very nice plaque at CEA's Conference held at Campbell's Resort in Chelan, Washington on October 4th. The awards are very competitive and we are thrilled the Tumwater Dairy Queen, ARAMARK at The Evergreen State College, and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration each won in their category.



Brenda, Wendy Smith and Alex

In the medium-sized employer category **Tumwater Dairy Queen** was selected as the state-wide Outstanding Employer.

Dairy Queen is a wonderful employer led by Manager Wendy Smith. Wendy is flexible, fair, compassionate and has high expectations of her employees. Wendy believes that promoting from within is positive and helps each individual achieve their career goals through cross-training. One of Morningside's clients started working at Dairy Queen as a Kitchen Crew Member and within 6 months he was promoted to Lead Kitchen Crew Member. Wendy empowers her employees to improve their work performance by regular communication, acknowledgment and praise for a job well done, and helping each employee create a plan for future development and opportunities. Congratulations Dairy Queen!



Chieu Truong and Elizabeth Kendall

In the public employer category **DSHS Children's Administration** was selected as the state-wide Outstanding Employer.

In February 2016 Children's Administration manager Todd Wollen became our supported employee's new supervisor and a special bond was instantly created. Todd asked to meet with the Morningside Job Coach several times so that he could "be the best supervisor she's ever had". Todd committed to supporting this employee in every possible way from the day he met her. He accommodated her schedule, her cubicle, her dress code, job tasks and pretty much anything else she needed to be successful. The Supported Employee is an integral part of her unit completing much needed tasks and feels fully integrated into all aspects of the job. Way to go Todd and the team at Children's Administration for being excellent natural supports!



Lavonne Peden, Sarah Rath, Elizabeth Kendall and Todd Wollen



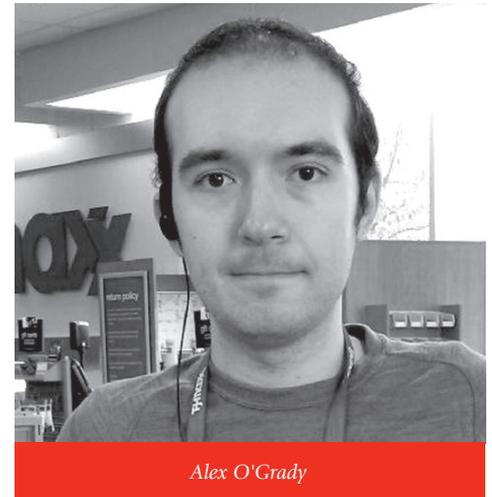
Sam and Cerena work at Einstein Brothers Bagels, one of Aramark's locations on campus

In the youth and transition category **ARAMARK at The Evergreen State College** was selected as the state-wide Outstanding Employer.

Since The Evergreen State College, Olympia School District, and Morningside first partnered 8 years ago to begin a Project SEARCH site, Aramark Food Services has been a stellar role model for business in our community. Their commitment to hire and support students with disabilities has been unwavering. Aramark has been an internship site for the Project Search program for 40 students and has hired 11 supported employees. Aramark provides 5 different food service internship opportunities for Project SEARCH students all housed on The Evergreen State College. The entire staff at Aramark are committed to assisting students grow through real-world experience in the food service industry. Congrats Aramark!

Alex O'Grady

Alex O'Grady has worked at TJ Maxx since shortly after he graduated from North Thurston High School's Transition Program in June 2014. Alex was introduced to Morningside during his last year in the program. Through a partnership with DVR, and Thurston County Public Health/Social Services/Developmental Disabilities Department, Morningside helped Alex explore career options. He then completed a 6 week internship at Olympia Orthopedic Associates (OOA), one of Morningside's internship sites. At OOA Alex assisted admin staff create new customer packets. Alex felt a part of the OOA team immediately – very comfortable with the staff and environment. The supportive staff gave Alex an extensive information interview where all of his questions were answered. Then he donned his scrubs so he looked the part and felt like every other OOA team member! Alex steadily completed his tasks and met or exceeded all expectations during his internship. The internship afforded Alex much needed experience in working independently, following specific instructions and standards, as well as office etiquette.



Alex O'Grady

Alex learned that he enjoyed being around others, working as part of a team, and having a daily routine. He was then supported by Morningside during his job tour of TJ Maxx and follow up interview with Mary, the store Manager. And he got the job!

Alex now works mornings Monday through Friday. He is proud of the tasks he has been assigned including prepping the store before it opens in the morning and helping maintain the store's cleanliness. Alex is proud that he helps keep the store looking good for customers as they shop. While he enjoys a variety of tasks, if Alex had to choose a favorite, it would be getting the clothing in the back room ready for hanging. Alex also enjoys using his two-way radio to contact his co-workers, assisting customers when they have questions, and help from his Morningside Job Coach, Philip, when he needs it.

Alex was recently given a pin and certificate for his 3 years of service at TJ Maxx. He wears the pin every day and is looking forward to earning a 5 year pin! Alex moved shortly after beginning his employment at TJ Maxx in order to be closer to his job. He can walk to and from work every day which provides him great exercise. Payday is every Friday and Alex loves to spend extra earnings on video games and new electronics. Alex is most proud of his newest electronic gadget a new iPhone 8+. When not working, Alex tells stories by creating comic strips on his phone. He also enjoys cooking, including spending time in the kitchen with his mom preparing dinner.

Morningside commends Alex on his growth and has enjoyed being a part of his employment journey!

The Morningside Ride & Poker Run

The Morningside Ride & Poker Run took off Sunday, September 10, from Olympia High School with teams following the clues to the Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel for a great brunch and program. The event raises funds each year for Morningside's High School Transition Program, preparing students with disabilities for work and self-sufficiency after graduation. The theme for the event was Pirates! and lots of teams dressed up this year, showing off their inner buccaneer.

Fifty-five teams competed not only for first place in the road rally portion of the event, but also for over \$2,000 worth of raffle prizes, including a Sunriver Resort vacation. We added a poker run this year, and the winner took home an Amazon Echo Show. After brunch, 2016 Project SEARCH graduate and Morningside client, Anya Boettcher, spoke about the ways Morningside and the



Project SEARCH program on the campus of The Evergreen State College prepared her to be work-ready. Anya is doing very well and currently is an office assistant for two different state agencies.

We want to thank our presenting sponsors, Lucky Eagle Casino and Hotel, and 94.5 ROXY, and all the 2017 Morningside Ride sponsors and teams. Because of their support, young people like Anya are empowered to find meaningful work in their communities after graduating from high school and are set realize their dreams as young adults.

Hearty congratulations to our Road Rally winners: 1st Place, Lindsey and Billy Bamba; 2nd Place, Carrie Munson and Andrew Mack; 3rd Place, Janine Ezzell and Elizabeth Aldrich; and to our best costume winners: Corinne and Evie Daffern ,1st Place; Bridjet Harp, Haley Valentine, Stephanie Cady, Sonja Cady, and Jill Cady,2nd Place; and TerriAnn Hawkeswood and Shirley Jones, Honorable Mention.