

CONGRATULATIONS OUTSTANDING EMPLOYERS

*C*ongratulations to these 2017 Outstanding Employers! 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 opportunity as all other citizens – working in the community. Our 2017 Outstanding Employers have all demonstrated sustained efforts to support and encourage Morningside clients on the job. They have also demonstrated the flexibility to make accommodations when necessary which translate into productive and valued employees. Morningside is very appreciative of employers who are willing to step forward and say “yes” and our partners such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and counties who we collaborate with to make dreams come true.



Edward Camp, Manager Jim Larson, Sam Meyers, Personal Manager

Lewis County – Walmart

*T*his store has hired three individuals! Cliff Rousseau is the longest tenured, with 11 years working at Walmart. The management team has strongly supported Cliff and others by making accommodations to ensure success. During the award ceremony held at the store, store manager Edward Camp said, “Even if you have a disability or are going back to work or a single parent, people have things going on in their life - so having a job, a place to go enhances self-worth. We all want to contribute. Our staff have made it possible for people with disabilities to feel at home, be included, and want to come to work every day.” Well said, Edward; and congratulations Walmart!

Clallam County – Golden Nails

*K*evin Hoult's day job is at the Washington Small Business Development Center (WSBDC). This organization is a network of business advisors, trainers, and support staff who operate from Washington State University to help small businesses grow and sustain their businesses. In addition, he co-owns the Golden Nails salon in Port Angeles with his wife Diem “Angel” Hoult. When he needed help at the salon Kevin contacted Morningside about hiring individuals with disabilities. Throughout the process of finding the right employees to keep the salon spotlessly clean, the business was very supportive. After finding just the right fit, Golden Nails made accommodations needed to ensure the success of their two new employees. Thank you, Golden Nails, for reaching out to us for your employment needs.



Jim Larson and Kevin Hoult, owner Golden Nails



Jon Leeson, Jim Larson, Kim Simera and Eileen Norman

Grays Harbor – Walmart

*T*his Walmart hired their first Morningside supported employee 16 months ago and has since hired three more individuals. Clients do a variety of jobs including off-loading freight, stocking shelves, customer service and greeting customers at the entry to the store. The supports and accommodations made are commendable and include bringing in sign language interpreters, adjusting hours to match public transportation, assigning mentors and changing training schedules for personal needs. They have also partnered experienced employees with our clients, which has really helped their new employees feel included and ensures their success. We salute you Walmart!

Pierce County – Metropolitan Market

The staff at Tacoma's Metropolitan Market remember William Deatheridge as a toddler tagging along with his mother during her weekly shopping trips. Now William is a co-worker! It seems they all grew up together at this premier destination market. The moment you walk in the store it's clear it is a very inviting environment with the friendliest folks around. Catering to a belief in working to your strength, William is a Courtesy Clerk who likes to bag groceries period - particularly for his favorite cashiers! People like William because William likes people and Metropolitan Market is a great match! We are very proud to award Metropolitan Market our Outstanding Employer award.



Steve Insley, Assistant Store Director, Kelly Heinzinger, Store Director, William Deatheridge, Jim Larson

Morningside Honored With DSHS Award

Morningside was the first recipient of the new Practice Transformation Award from the Department of Social and Health Services. The major new award recognizes an organization that has transformed the way their programs are delivered to provide significantly better services for DSHS clients.

Morningside is being honored for our work to transform our practice away from sheltered workshops to full community employment to better achieve our mission of advancing the employment and self-sufficiency of people living with disabilities.

Vann Smiley, Deputy Secretary, and Evelyn Perez, Director of Developmental Disabilities Administration, presented the award on January 24th at Morningside's Legion Building. Mr. Smiley noted this is the first time the award has been given and highlighted Morningside's 54 years of serving people with disabilities who can, and do, make valuable contributions to the work force. In her letter announcing the award Secretary Cheryl Strange pointed out that in "transforming your practice, you have further recognized the dignity of individuals making their own vocation decisions. This was no easy feat. It takes not only commitment, but a vision and sustained effort".

Upon accepting the award Jim Larson, Morningside President/CEO, recognized the courageous parents who founded Morningside. They said "No" to institutional placement for their children and "Yes" to community inclusion. By doing so they ventured into uncharted waters. Jim also quoted Jan Loutzenhiser, Morningside's first Executive Director, "We must and will make good things happen for the people we are here to serve. That is what it is all about. It's a community coming together to take care of its own." Jim said this ethos is the heart of everything Morningside does.



Jim Larson and Vann Smiley

Lucas Doelman was asked to speak as a client representative. He talked about abilities and that individuals with disabilities can, and do, make things happen when they set their mind to it. Morningside's staff embody this can-do spirit daily as well. As a Morningside Board of Trustees member, Lucas noted the organization's accomplishments such as the high, and increasing, number of placements each year. The client's determination to work hard and be good employees supports the effort and belief in the ability of every person. He commented about his 17 years working at DSHS Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing where teamwork is important. He also noted that at Morningside teamwork is the key to the organization's success from the top down - people coming together to take care of each other. Morningside is very proud to be first recipient of this award.