

## Outstanding Employer Award 2017 DSHS Children's Administration

At the Thurston Chamber of Commerce Forum in April we viewed a video featuring Todd Wollen, Supervisor, Children's Administration, who supervises Elizabeth Kendall, one of the two clients we support in that agency. You can view the video on our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/MorningsideServices](http://www.youtube.com/user/MorningsideServices). Todd has had a special relationship with Elizabeth since he began supervising her. He asked assistance from Morningside to coach him so he could "be the best supervisor she's ever had." The agency has accommodated her schedule, her cubical and pretty much anything else she needs to be successful. It is plain to see when you observe the work area that Elizabeth is welcomed and fits in like everyone else. We also nominated the Children's Administration for a statewide award sponsored by the Community Employment Association and they were selected in the public employer category (see Fall 2017 newsletter on our website [www.morningsideservices.com](http://www.morningsideservices.com)). Congratulations DSHS Children's Administration!



Jenny Heddin - Director of Finance Division, Shannon Mathis - Chief of Finance and Accounting, Jim Larson - CEO Morningside, Elizabeth Kendall, Todd Wollen - Supervisor of SSI and Trust Funds Units, Sarah Rath - Trust Funds Fiscal Analyst 3, LaVonne Peden - Trust Funds Fiscal Analyst 2, Robert Ensley - Federal Funding Manager

## CARF Accreditation

In mid-April Morningside completed a three-day intensive program and administrative review conducted by CARF. This process is completed every 3 years by the international organization which leads to certification required by contracting entities. Morningside has been certified by CARF for more than 30 years and has always received the highest level of certification. Throughout the process Morningside demonstrated how we conform to a series of rigorous and internationally recognized CARF standards. The standards examine everything related to administration as well as our entire employment services program, including in some instances transition services for each of our five locations.



It is an arduous process and Morningside fared well, according to the exit conference conducted by the surveyors. We should receive the final review by the end of May. Once again the surveyors praised our bright, innovative staff that are so very creative in supporting individuals with significant disabilities in finding and maintaining employment.

## CEO Retirement

Three years ago Jim Larson, Morningside President/CEO, announced to the board his intention to retire in 2018. A plan was developed at that time for a transition process. That plan has worked well and Jim will retire at the end of July.

Larson, the organization's longest serving President/CEO, joined Morningside as its fourth CEO in 1989. He took over leadership of the nonprofit after a successful 13-year career that included previous CEO roles at similar organizations in McMinnville, Oregon and Ellensburg, Washington.

During his presidency, the organization transformed from a sheltered workshop where individuals with disabilities worked in a segregated setting to an agency that supports individuals working in individual jobs in the community. In 2006 Morningside sold the facility that it constructed on Ethel Street in 1972 and purchased a building on Plum Street where the organization's corporate office is located today. The Thurston County Chamber of Commerce, an active partner with Morningside, purchased the third floor of the building which is named The Business Center. During his career with Morningside the agency experienced geographic expansion as well and now has offices located in Centralia, Grays Harbor, Port Angeles and Tacoma.

"For the past twenty-nine years, it has been both a privilege and an honor to serve alongside teams of dedicated staff focused on finding and supporting hundreds of person with disabilities working in the community." Larson said. "Their creativity and passion for our mission is inspiring."

For his entire career Larson has been a leading proponent of many issues seeking to advance the employment of individuals with disabilities locally, regionally, and nationally. His knowledge, passion for Morningside's mission, and innate sense of fair play has led to the admiration of all who work with and for him. He will be missed. A farewell reception and celebration will be held in his honor in July.



Jim Larson

## Discovery Zone Grant

Morningside is the recipient of a \$39,500 grant from the Boeing Employees Community Fund to help us equip our new Discovery Zone training facility in Tumwater. The Discovery Zone will feature five focus areas divided into simulated office, retail, grocery, restaurant, and janitorial space; a study area equipped with computers and training software for job seekers to practice skills training and complete resumes and job application forms; and classroom space for training and activities like "Job Club" and "Work and Friendship Club," which provide important networking and community opportunities for our clients. Morningside will also be purchasing assistive technology such as iPad and iPods, vibrating watches and reminders, and training software with ECF funds.

Morningside has long recognized the need for a space dedicated to both job exploration and skill practice for job seekers to explore vocations, learn and practice marketable job skills and soft skills, and identify what kinds of supports they may need to be a successfully employed individual. We are very grateful to the Boeing Employees Community Fund for their support and willingness to help people with disabilities achieve their dreams of employment.



Lucas Doelman

## ANN BOLENDER INSPIRATIONAL AWARD WINNER Lucas Doelman

Our 2017 Ann Bolender Inspirational Award is Lucas Doelman. Lucas is caring, respectful, and giving not only to his employer but to his community. For example, he volunteers countless hours to Thurston County jail inmates. Because he is a distinguished Toastmaster Lucas encourages others to join him and hone their public speaking skills. His work ethic is nothing short of the best.

Lucas has also served on the Morningside Board of Trustees since 2005 and rarely misses a meeting. Lucas participates in all Morningside's events including picnics, holiday celebrations, and our annual fundraiser, The Morningside Ride.

Lucas has worked for the Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing for seventeen years as an office assistant and is deeply engaged in the mission of the agency. When one of Lucas' coworkers learned he was an Ann Bolender award recipient she told us that "he came to us as a shy and eager young man, and now he's a dedicated as well as confident staff member and friend. He's talented in the work that he does and always shows compassion and respect for not only the clients we serve but his peers as well. Lucas has so much heart and he gives of himself so generously within the community. He wouldn't hesitate for a moment if someone asked for assistance and it was something he could accommodate. His generosity is evident in all areas of his life. I'm grateful to have him as a colleague and friend. I can't think of anyone that would be more deserving of an award that recognizes all that he does to give back." We agree. Congratulations Lucas!

Save  
the  
Date

## SAFARI! Join The Adventure SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

The Morningside Ride & Poker Run is a scavenger hunt in your car. Your mission is to correctly answer clues related to the sites you see along the way!

Draw a card at 5 different stops - the best poker hand wins! Safari-inspired costumes are optional, but they really add to the fun. The event concludes with a buffet breakfast, raffles, program and prizes for winners and best costumes.

**Road Rally/Poker Run Start:  
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM**

**Finish Line, Buffet Breakfast,  
& Program:  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

### NEW THIS YEAR:

The Ride begins and ends at the Norman Worthington Conference Center at Saint Martin's University



**360.596-3539**

Morningside Services.com/events

*The Morningside Ride & Poker Run raises funds for Morningside's Transition Program for students with disabilities*