

## CONGRATULATIONS 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 2018 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”, our partners such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and counties who we collaborate with to make dreams come true.

### I-5 Grocery and Deli in Napavine

When you walk into the I-5 Grocery and Deli Shell station you immediately are struck by how clean the store is and how positive the employees are as they greet you. Jennifer Holsted, General Manager, is responsible for this very positive atmosphere and that shouldn't be a surprise as she “sees the glass half-full.” Hiring individuals with disabilities was another opportunity for her. Tiffany Schlottmann is the ace sandwich maker and was trained to make 16 varieties to the exacting standard Jennifer set. Tiffany has gained confidence in herself, knowing she is doing a great job. This confidence has carried over outside of work as well as evidenced by the fact that she is taking guitar lessons and also learning to drive. The award recognizes the store's effort in hiring individuals with disabilities and offering strong support.



(L-R) Don Bryant, Janitor/stocker; Tiffany Schlottmann, ace sandwich maker; Jen Holsted, manager; Stacey Palmer, cook; Alex Lopez, Cashier; Jonathan Pleger, Morningside CEO.



(L-R) Jonathan Pleger, Morningside CEO; Shelly Dixon, Owner; Tracy Kimbro, food prep; Teri Holmes, Morningside Employment Consultant.

### Simpson Avenue Grill in Hoquiam

Shelly Dixon, the Owner/Manager of the Grill, knows how to run a small business in a small town, as she wears many hats to keep the customers happy with delicious food. She speaks highly of the two employees Morningside supports. She has made many accommodations so her employees can be successful and is willing to change tasks to see what each person will be most productive with. We salute Simpson Ave. Grill on their Outstanding Employer award!

### Olympia Theatre Arts - Sequim

Olympia Theatre Arts (OTA) has hired 3 supported employees through Morningside doing janitorial work. Running a small community theater is hectic with all the different pieces that need to come together to put on a production. Finding people to keep the theater clean is one task they don't need to worry about. The bonus for the employees with disabilities whom Morningside supports is sometimes they are cast in plays – not bad for aspiring thespians! To be a true community playhouse it makes sense that it embraces inclusion in its workforce. To that we award OTA the Outstanding Employer Award!



(L-R) Susie Hancock, job coach; Howie Gorton, OTA janitor; Elaine Caldwell, vice chair OTA board, Jonathan Pleger, Carol Willis, OTA executive director, Nicholas Ward, OTA janitor.



Laura Wheeler, Ast. Activities Coordinator Tracy Norman HR/Payroll Ron Wilkes, Life Enrichment Director Miriam Purce, Hospitality Aide Ashley Winkle, Executive Director Cathryne Jensen, Front Desk/Receptionist Jonathan Pleger, CEO Morningside

### Puget Sound Healthcare Center

Puget Sound Healthcare provides critical services to both those who need short-term rehabilitation solutions and those that need long-term care. Providing excellent services is the goal of this agency and choosing the right people is critical to ensuring residents' needs are met with friendly, courteous service. Miriam Purce assists the Activity Department by providing 1:1 assistance during Bingo or wheeling residents to and from rooms for activities. Miriam has had the opportunity to read her poetry book during poetry readings, and a resident bought copies of her book to give to his relatives as gifts. Congratulations and thank you Puget Sound Healthcare Center for recognizing Miriam's strengths!

## Employment for All

Advocacy Day was postponed because of weather, but that didn't deter Morningside and advocates from keeping their scheduled meeting times to meet with Senators and Representatives on important issues, like funding for students graduating high school that need long term support in their job. An important equity, justice and civil rights issue they championed was House Bill 1707 and its companion Senate Bill 5753, which calls for the elimination of subminimum wage certificates for persons with disabilities.



Cliff Rousseau (advocate), Senator Dean Takko (19th District) Brad Young (advocate), Summer Taylor (residential assistant), Leslie McNutt (Morningside Employment consultant)



Brad Young (advocate), Representative Brian Blake (19th District) Clifford Rousseau (advocate) and Leslie McNutt (Morningside Employment Consultant)



Kay Faulkner-Day, employment consultant, advocate Kristin Roth (employee at Ziemek Laboratories), Senator Sam Hunt (22nd District) and Bobby Joe Sweet, Morningside Program Manager



from left are: advocate Kristin Roth (employee at Ziemek Laboratories), Representative Andrew Barkis (2nd District) Kay Faulkner-Day, employment consultant, and Bobby Joe Sweet, Morningside Program Manager



from left are: Bobby Joe Sweet, Morningside Program Manager, Senator Randi Becker (2nd District), advocate Kristin Roth (employee at Ziemek Laboratories) and Kay Faulkner-Day, employment consultant



## 2018 ANN BOLENDER AWARD

### Congratulations Brett DeRousie

Brett DeRousie is our Ann Bolender Inspirational Award Winner recipient for 2018. Brett is most well-known for his quirky sense of humor, witty banter and dedication to the community.

Brett works at DSHS - DOM (Department of Operations Management) where he has been employed for the past 17 years. Brett is typically the first face you encounter when entering Capitol View Building 2 in downtown Olympia. His clever banter with co-workers adds to the camaraderie around the building and helps strengthen his relationship with others. In addition to his regularly assigned duties as an office assistant, Brett is the keeper of the extra badges when you forget yours, the handoff guy for deliveries and point of contact for nearly everyone entering the building.

Prior to working for the state, Brett was employed at his family's business in Olympia for 15 years. Brett's father Gene DeRousie once co-owned Desco, which was established in 1969 with Dick Scott. Brett stayed on for many years after his father retired. While at Desco, Brett was the go-to guy for parts, videos and special projects. He has an impeccable memory.

When not at work, Brett has been a member of Olympia Aerie #21 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) since September of 1991. Brett assists

with the Morningside Picnic, winter holiday party, and annual Morningside Ride fundraising campaign. He is called upon regularly to participate in the interview panel for potential Morningside employees and always provides informative and thoughtful feedback. Brett is also a dedicated family man and enjoys spending time with his mom and sister.

Brett DeRousie is an important part of this community and well deserving of the Ann Bolender award for his passion and drive to help others.