



High School Transition Thurston County

Bethany Hoffman

Bethany Hoffman entered her final year of our High School Transition Program in September 2009. She was very eager to find work in the community. With the help of Morningside's Transition staff, she volunteered at numerous sites in Yelm to gain work skills and experience and attended a weekly Job Club to practice crucial skills, such as interviewing and self advocacy.

Bethany's skills and interests were identified through observations and conversations with those who knew her. With these key components in hand, staff began job development. Just a few months later, Bethany started working at the Prairie Hotel in November. Her excitement to work combined with her warm personality came through during the job interview and Bethany was hired as a Housekeeping Assistant. Her job tasks include numerous items housekeepers often are too busy to complete. Bethany's efforts help the hotel maintain superior standards in cleanliness for their customers.

The job match has proved to be fantastic. Prairie Hotel Housekeeping Supervisor Kathy Crandall said, "Bethany's enthusiasm for working at the Prairie Hotel is contagious! She is a very hard worker who takes on any and all tasks that we assign to her. It is TRULY a pleasure to be her co-worker." Leslie Koch, the Hotel Manager said, "Bethany is a joy to be around. The staff and guests love her. I myself think that her overall personality is wonderful, she seems to enjoy her job very much and we are very lucky that she is with us."

Also expressing their sentiment with actions, Prairie Hotel management made minor and inexpensive



Bethany Hoffman at work in Yelm

accommodations Bethany needed to be successful, such as placing a picture of her in uniform on her locker so she can easily locate it. Bethany is now a working adult, earning income and spending it in her local community.

Bethany's hiring was aided by her employer's attendance at a recent CEO Breakfast. At this informational event, President/CEO Jim Larson showcases Morningside's employment services and features testimonials from guest speakers that are current employers of Morningside clients in the Thurston County community. These businesses share their real life experiences working with Morningside in the hiring process and how their business was impacted. Potential employers in the audience are able to ask questions in an informal environment and are able to hear real-life hiring

stories about how these local businesses have increased productivity, profits, and staff morale and decreased turnover. They come away from the event with a better understanding of how hiring a Morningside client can benefit their business and their employees and how to initiate the hiring process. Several clients have obtained jobs with businesses that attended one of these previous CEO Breakfasts. The businesses attended the breakfast, came away inspired to hire, and worked with our job developers to find the right client with the right skills to meet their needs. Won't you join us at one of our upcoming CEO Breakfasts? Other wonderful employees like Bethany are waiting for the opportunity to work for you and help your business prosper. Please visit our website for the date of the next CEO Breakfast and for more details on how to get started with the hiring process.

3rd Annual Morningside Ride: September 19th 2010



Join the fun at this year's Morningside Ride: Road Challenge 2010. Plans are underway to make this year's Ride the biggest and most fun yet! New route twists and challenges are being added and the raffle prizes will be fantastic.

Sign-up early to receive early bird registration benefits such as bonus clues and more! Also check us out on Facebook for more



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immediate communications and discussions. We will start at the Capitol Campus and end with the Finish Line Party at Lucky Eagle Casino with a BBQ lunch, games, awards, and more.

Sponsorship opportunities are available or participate as a team of two (driver and navigator) for \$80. All makes and models of cars are invited to participate! **Visit our website www.morningsideservices.com to sign-up or contact Jonathan Pleger at 360-596-3539 or jpleger@mside.org for more information.**

Congratulations Ron Patton: Roberta Dee Award

On March 4, 2010 at the Thurston County Transition Fair, our own Ron Patton was awarded the prestigious Roberta Dee Award. This award is to honor individuals who have demonstrated excellence in service to transition students.

The Transition program helps high school aged students with disabilities make a seamless transition from the school world to the working world as adults by preparing them for employment upon graduation.

Roberta Dee was the pioneer who single handedly help start the Thurston County transition program. She established the first off-site program that focused on getting students jobs before they left high school. She later recruited Thurston County Developmental Disabilities, Morningside and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to partner with Olympia School District



to help make this happen. Since then it has expanded rapidly to the point that Morningside now serves 6 school districts in Thurston County.

Ron has been with Morningside since February 2000. He began his career in group supported employment and then became a job developer. In November 2004, he was finally persuaded to join the Transition department. Ron seems to feel that begging was involved, but that memory is sketchy. Since joining the Transition team, he has demonstrated a willingness to assist others within both the Transition department and adult services to help make jobs happen for the individuals we serve. He has assisted

the Person to Person department in creation of jobs for individuals with more significant needs as well as his fellow transition coordinators and the job developers. He has been a valued Morningside employee who fully deserved this tremendous honor. Congratulations Ron!

Morningside's Group Supported Employment Janitorial Crew Recognized for Exemplary Work at Port Angeles Federal Building



The crew members are from front left to right: Evelyn Catli, Ron Cunningham, Bill Scofield, Ricky Ewing and Steve Weller shown in this photo with Customs and Border Patrol agents.

On June 3rd, the Morningside Group Supported Employment Janitorial Crew was recognized by the agencies in the Port Angeles Federal Building for their exemplary work in the building. Border Patrol, Customs and ICE agents all assembled in the conference room and gave the crew members their awards. Those crew members are as follows, Evelyn Catli, Ricky Ewing, Ron Cunningham, Bill Scofield and their employment trainer, Morningside staff member Steve Weller. The crew members were very happy and excited to be complemented for their hard work in keeping the building in such good order and clean. Congratulations Port Angeles crew!

The Americans with Disability Act is 20 Years Old

Did you know that the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is on July 26? Signed in 1990, the ADA is a monumental piece of legislation that changed the landscape, literally and figuratively, for people with disabilities. The provisions of the law address accessibility in the areas of architectural, transportation, employment and communication. It has literally changed the face of American society by enhancing the independence, full participation, inclusion and equality of opportunity for Americans with disabilities.