



Connect

A REPORT TO SKAGIT AND WHATCOM COUNTIES

WINTER 2010

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Chinook Opens in Bellingham

In August 2010, Chinook Enterprises signed a 5-year lease with the Port of Bellingham, in agreement to take over the former Current Industries building on Williamson Way. The Bellingham location houses Chinook's new Wire Assembly Division, an expansion of its Industrial Production Department. "This expansion increases our capabilities for our current and new customers. It also will allow us to provide services in Whatcom County and we're excited about that opportunity," says Robert Martin, executive Director of Chinook.

It may seem an odd time for expansion with the current state of the economy, but with the closure of an employment agency in that locale, an opportunity presented itself for Chinook to

expand both its commercial revenue base and its services to people with disabilities.

Along with the support of What-



com County, several large companies also encouraged Chinook to spread up North. The three major ones that have signed contracts with the Bellingham office are Altair Advanced Industries, Blue Sea Systems, and Wood Stone Corp. Although unexpected structural problems

pushed back the open date several times, the new building is now fully functional. And with new business coming in every month, the company continues to expand and hire more people.

Currently Chinook employs 10-12 people in the Bellingham operation, 4 of whom have disabilities. The immediate focus and goal is to stabilize operations by finishing building improvements and work flow processes, and implementing an efficient production measurement system. Longer range goals include the hiring of more individuals with and without disabilities and generating sufficient revenues to help the overall agency in fulfilling its mission.

Chinook Earns New CARF Certification

This past November, Chinook was awarded a three year CARF accreditation, the highest level that is available. CARF is a rehabilitation and training certification program for companies like Chinook in North America. The survey team that visited Chinook noted, "The dynamic and vision-

ary leadership of the organization has created an environment in which the mission is evident in daily operations." They recognized that "the organization uses a well developed outcomes management system and strategic plan on which to base decisions and make improvements in ser-

vice delivery." Non-profit organizations can prosper by forming good partnerships with businesses, other agencies and municipal organizations. They commended our staff for our commitment to our mission, the people we serve and our community.



Workshop Participants in Community



Aaron does the recycling for United General Hospital

A few years ago, Chinook Enterprises was awarded a contract to provide community based services for individuals presently employed in our workshop program. These services are meant to provide individualized and community focused vocational services to those who wished to explore this option. Out of the 18 individuals working in our workshop, over half chose to participate.

Overall, the program has been

a successful and popular one for Chinook's workshop participants. Currently, there are three individuals working in paid positions in the community and nine individuals volunteering for local non-profit organizations. For many of them, these opportunities are the first positions outside of a workshop setting. In addition to learning new job skills, one of the most significant aspects of these opportunities is the chance to meet new people and interact with others.

A few of the businesses where people are presently working or volunteering include: United General Hospital, Skagit Publishing paper delivery, Skagit Adult Day Care, Skagit Valley Hospital, Skagit County Community Action, and the Children's Museum of Skagit County. Thank you to all the businesses that support our participants.

Tackling the Budget Blues

As we head into the New Year, Human Service agencies across Washington are bracing for major cutbacks that could be catastrophic in terms of service provision. The poor economy has had a significant negative impact on overall state revenue forecasts and while at this time it is not known how these budget cuts will affect employment agen-

cies like Chinook Enterprises, we do know that we cannot simply sit back and wait for bad things to happen. This budget situation is one of the reasons why Chinook has moved forward with plans to expand into Bellingham. Chinook has remained a strong business over the years because of its investment in the private sector. Chinook cur-

rently generates roughly 56% of its overall operating revenue from private sector commercial contracts. This part of the business will need to continue to grow to help counteract the state budget cutbacks and keep the mission on track. No one knows what will happen with the budget, but it will result in added challenges for many can ill afford additional burdens.

"We cannot simply sit back and wait for bad things to happen."

Mount Vernon City Shop Wins Award



Mayor Bud Norris accepts award from Chinook Executive Director Rob Martin.

The Mount Vernon City Shop was honored as an outstanding employer at the Employer of the Year Awards given by the Community Alliance this past September. The Alliance recognizes businesses, government entities and non-profit agencies that have

made exceptional efforts to employ people with disabilities and who, by their recruitment, hiring, retention and promotion policies are role models in our community.

The City Shop has employed Jon Carpenter for several years to clean their sanitation trucks. Their supportive at-

mosphere and can-do attitude has made the job work well for Jon, who loves to be around trucks. The Ceremony was held in Seattle, and Mayor Bud Norris accepted the award on behalf of the City.

Coworker Encourages Dana to Tell Time



Dana Munson has been volunteering at Bargains Galore every Thursday for a year, putting clothes on hangers to go out in the store. Although there was a clock in the back where she worked, Dana

would always ask people when it was time for her to clock out. A few months ago, her coworker April saw her job coach explaining the analog clock and how to tell when it was time to leave. She then realized that Dana struggled to read time.

The following week, April came in with a gift for Dana. It was a set of flash cards for her to take home. Not only did April believe in the importance of learning to tell time, but also wanted to support Dana as a valued member of their staff.

Dana was so excited that she started studying the flash cards right away, and continues to study every day. Because of April's encouragement, Dana believed in herself and took an interest in learning. The gift of telling time was significant, but Dana's growing confidence has been more powerful than anyone anticipated.

Now, Dana doesn't ask anyone when it's time to clock out. Her skills get more developed every week with the supportive environment her coworkers provided.

Boeing Builds Great Planes with Chinook Parts

For 24 years, Chinook Enterprises has produced parts for the Boeing Everett and Renton Plants. We build parts that are considered "non-flight critical." Parts such as supports, components and connectors are assembled here in Mount Vernon and transported daily to Everett.

Chinook is part of a program that Boeing calls the Community Manu-

facturing Partnership. Boeing is committed to working with qualified organizations like Chinook where they have a social mission but operate in a business fashion so long as they are able to meet the requirements of any other Boeing Company supplier. This has required us to take some major steps so that, for the most part, we function like other Boeing suppliers

with the same expectations and outcomes required. It has been a good experience, and made us a stronger company and better service provider. When companies partner with organizations like Chinook Enterprises, great things can happen.

"It has been a good experience, and made us a stronger company and better service provider."

Darlene's Data Destruction

Darlene Hoezee is a Chinook participant that lives and works in Mount Vernon. She has lived on her own in an apartment for 5 years. She uses caregiving services for transportation and help around the house, but values being independent very much. In her free time, she enjoys putting large puzzles together, playing solitaire and getting mochas at Starbucks. This past

year, Darlene started her own business shredding documents for local businesses and individuals in the community. The County provided her with the proper equipment needed to operate her business, including the shredder and lock box she keeps on site. Darlene has been with Chinook for 13 years and absolutely loves to work. She is currently looking for more clients

in order to expand her company. Darlene's Data Destruction is located in the Kincaid Landing building on the top floor in the conference room. Hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:30. Please contact Holly or Marcia at Chinook at (360) 428-0140 for more information.



New Jobs in 2010



Darlene Hoezee
Chinook Enterprises



Doris Goodlett
Walgreens



Kalob Cates
A Cup Above Deli



Navjot Singh
Taco Bell



Tawni Harris
Chinook Enterprises



Benjamin Hull
Dairy Queen



Matt Davis
Skagit Skate



Chad Lapine
Skyline Marina



Aaron Campbell
Campbell Family Farm



Dustin O'Malley
Skagit Recovery Center



Tony Mata
Chinook Enterprises



Ricardo Ortiz
Goodwill

Job Seekers



Name: Lisa

Lisa is a punctual and responsible worker who has the ability to work independently. She has experience working in several industries including retail, production and clerical. Lisa is looking for a part-time position in an office setting. She has general computer knowledge and can use a variety of office machines. Her most recent office position included preparing files for scanning and destroying. Lisa is interested in working Monday-Friday and is available flexible hours within the SKAT bus schedule.

Contact: Lisa Knowles

Phone: (360) 428-0140

Email: lknowles@chinookenterprises.org



Name: Rick

Rick is dependable, punctual and very well-liked. He has previously been involved in shipping, sorting, inventory, cleaning and inspecting. He is looking for a part-time job in the Mount Vernon area and hopes to work 10-20 hours per week.

Contact: Steve Miller

Phone: (360) 428-0140

Email: smiller@chinookenterprises.org

Name: Michael

Michael is reliable and always on schedule. He has extensive work experience in sterilization, food preparation, dishwashing and janitorial duties. He has the ability to follow directions and complete tasks efficiently. He works independently and is methodical and detail-oriented. His personal interests include biking, soccer, movies and drawing.

Contact: Steve Miller

Phone: (360) 428-0140

Email: smiller@chinookenterprises.org



Name: Steven

Steven is an energetic and friendly guy with an outgoing personality. He is a very hard worker and will always flash a great smile to his customers and fellow coworkers. His work skills include cleaning and other janitorial tasks and yard work. His dream job is to work at an auto body shop, or anywhere he can be around cars. He also loves to mow lawns and weed plants. Steven is willing to work any day of the week from 8am-9pm.

Contact: Tahnee Crawford

Phone: (360) 428-0140

Email: tcrawford@chinookenterprises.org



An Address from
Executive Director,
Rob Martin



The View From Here

Over the past year, Chinook has embarked on an exciting adventure as we developed our industrial services into the Bellingham area. Our location is the same as was used by Current Industries, and much of the work will be the same as the work they did before their closure resulting in the loss of about 35 jobs. This was the product of something remarkable. Three of the former Current customers began meeting and hired a consultant to seek out possible candidates

to provide many of the same services that Current Industries did as they felt strongly that the greater Whatcom County community needed the services. We agree with them! Whatcom County has made substantial repairs and renovations to the building and as of the first part of January we officially moved to the new building. All the renovations are not complete, but we are making progress. New paint, a new roof and some major remodeling to the space will

improve the efficiency of the building. While we won't be hiring back everyone who once worked at Current, I am pleased that we have hired a few people back and will certainly hire more as our workload demands. It is really exciting to be part of something new, and the wire harnesses and kitting we will build in Bellingham will be a great addition to the Whatcom County business community.

*"I want to help
people improve
their lives."*

Board of Directors Adds Member

Chinook Enterprises' Board of Directors added a new member to the team. Roger Jewett grew up in California, where he went to Stanford to major in Engineering. He started out in aerospace, but eventually got into commercial electronics. This led to his work on pioneering developments for Citibank and Visa as Project Manager for financial payment

systems. Although he values his work, he has a true passion for boating, which brought him to the Pacific Northwest in 1987. After experiencing the struggle his grandsons had with medical problems, he was looking for a chance to give something back. He joined the board at Island Hospital. He stayed for about 10 years before he moved back to Califor-

nia to be with his family and tend to business interests. Last year, Roger returned to Anacortes as a retired man where he reconnected with a Board Member affiliated with Chinook. "Your organization interested me because I want to help people improve their lives," he says. Roger is looking forward to giving back to the greater Skagit community.

Employee Spotlights

Jess Norley
on left pic-
tured with
Kate Defen-
bach



Chinook welcomes two new members to the organization this year, Kate Defenbach and Jess Norley.

Kate joins the staff as our Public Relations Coordinator. With a Communication degree from Western, Kate is

excited to form new relationships with local businesses. As a volunteer for the Mukilteo Little League Challenge Program, she formed her passion helping people with disabilities and wants to spread our mission to the community.

Jess was recently hired on our Employment Specialists staff.

She graduated from Western last summer with a Human Services degree. Her knowledge of American Sign Language and experience working with deaf culture has been a large asset to our Community Services program. Chinook is thrilled to have Kate and Jess on board.

2010 Employers of the Month



January
Mount Vernon City Shop



February
City of Anacortes Parks & Rec



March
Where the Heart Is



April
Majestic Inn and Spa



May
A Cup Above Deli & Espresso



June
Sedro Woolley McDonalds



August
Jack in the Box #8379



September
Northwest Hair Academy



October
Taco Bell in Mount Vernon



November
Bargains Galore



December
Skagit Adult Day Care

Each month, Chinook awards a local employer for their efforts in using our employment services. These winners have built strong relationships with Chinook and provided supportive environments for our participants. Congratulations to the 2010 Employers of the Month!



People Community Quality

2026 North LaVenture Road
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Phone: 360-428-0140
Fax: 360-428-1616

3720 Williamson Way
Bellingham, WA 98226
Phone: 360-255-2550
Fax: 360-734-9385

Chinook Enterprises is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to support full participation in community life for persons with disabilities or other barriers. The company was founded in 1980 with a small grant and just six participants. Throughout the years, Chinook has helped people with disabilities live more productive and fulfilling lives by striving to gain competitive employment and inclusion in the community. Today, we serve over 200 people annually.



Thanks For Your Support

A Cup Above Deli & Espresso	Hayes Drilling	Pavilion Medical Center	United General Hospital
Ace Hardware	Head Start Program	Pleasant Ridge Cemetery	Upstage Boutique
Alf Christenson Seed Company	HeartPrints Food Bank	Port of Anacortes	Value Village
Alpha Technologies	Helping Hands Food Bank	Port of Skagit County	Walgreen's Anacortes
Anacortes Fire Department	Home Depot	Puget Sound Rope	Wal-Mart
Applebee's	Humane Society Thrift Shop	Red Robin	Where the Heart Is
Avon United Methodist Church	Island Hospital	Regional Care Centers	Woodstone Corp.
Bargains Galore	Jack in the Box	Rehabco	WSU Research & Ext. Center
Best Western Cottontree Inn	Janicki Industries	Riverside Health Club	
Big Scoop	JC Penney	Ross Dress for Less	
Blockbuster Video	Keep it Clean Pressure Washing	Safeway	
Blue Sea Systems	Kincaid Landing Center	Sea Bear Inc.	
Burger King	KOHL's	Sedro Woolley Public Library	
Burlington Little School	La Conner Chamber of Commerce	Skagit Adult Day Services	
Burlington Senior Center	La Conner Fruit & Produce	Skagit County Community Action	
Children's Museum	La Conner Marina	Skagit County Facilities Dept.	
City of Anacortes	Lang's Pony & Horse Farm	Skagit County Parks & Recreation	
City of Mount Vernon	Lucille Umbarger Elementary	Skagit Gardens	
Clear Snap	Macy's	Skagit Recovery Center	
Costco	Majestic Hotel	Skagit Skate	
Dairy Queen	Markets, Inc.	Skagit Valley College	
Denny's	McDonald's	Skagit Valley Hospital	
Donatello	McIntyre Hall	Skagit Valley Human Society	
DSHS/DDD	Micro Aerodynamics	Skagit Valley Publishing	
Enchanted Florist	Mount Vernon Building Center	Skyline Marine Center	
Fairfield Inn & Suites	Mount Vernon Library	SSC Solutions	
Fidalgo Care Center	Mount Vernon Parks & Recreation	St. Paul's Episcopal Church	
First Evangelical Lutheran Church	Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church	Taco Bell	
First Impressions Dental Center	Mount Vernon School District	Target	
First United Methodist Church	North Cascades National Park	Tesoro 4090	
Goodwill Industries	Northwest Hair Academy	The Bridge	
Grocery Outlet	Old Navy	Timberland Homes	
Haggen	Pacific Woodtech Corp.	Toussint Machine	