

Asotin County Community Services Employment Newsletter

Serving the Lewis-Clark Valley since 1973

All people living, working, learning and playing in a community based on abilities, not disabilities.

Our phone number: (509) 758-8349; Our website: www.asotincommunityservices.com

March 2018 Edition Designed by Vanessa Lombard; Edited by Cynthia Tierney



2018 Gerber Baby

The 2018 Gerber baby is Lucas Warren, a 1-year-old from Dalton, Georgia who is the first child with Down syndrome to be named a Gerber baby since the contest's start in 2010.

"He's very outgoing and never meets a stranger," Lucas's mom, Cortney, told TODAY Parents. "He loves to play, loves to laugh and loves to make other people laugh." Cortney Warren said she entered the Gerber contest on a whim, after a relative pointed out an ad seeking submissions. After posting a photo of Lucas on Instagram using the contest's hashtag, Cortney and her husband, Jason, received the news that their son had been chosen from more than 140,000 entries to be the 2018 Gerber Spokes-baby.

Bill Partyka, CEO and president of Gerber, says Lucas's smile and happy expression captured the hearts of the Gerber team. "Every year, we choose the baby who best exemplifies Gerber's longstanding heritage of recognizing that every baby is a Gerber baby," said Partyka. "This year, Lucas is the perfect fit." "We're hoping this will impact everyone — that it will shed a little bit of light on the special needs community and help more individuals with special needs be accepted and not limited," dad Jason Warren said. "They have the potential to change the world, just like everybody else." [Full Story](#)

Teri Peters, Today Contributor, February 2018

<https://www.today.com/parents/2018-gerber-baby-first-gerber-baby-down-syndrome-t122258>



ADVOCATE!

Your voice matters. To find out more about legislation that will directly affect programs for people with disabilities check our People First of Washington's advocacy page:

<http://www.peoplefirstofwashington.org/advocacy/>



Happy Valentines Day from Bob

March is Cerebral Palsy Awareness Month

- Every hour a baby is born with cerebral palsy (CP).
- It is the most common physical disability in childhood.
- Cerebral palsy is an umbrella term for a group of disorders. It is a condition that is permanent, but not unchanging.
- Cerebral palsy is a life-long physical disability due to damage of the developing brain.
- In most cases, brain injury leading to cerebral palsy occurs during pregnancy.
- Cerebral palsy, except in its mildest forms, can be evident in the first 12-18 months.
- Motor disability can range from minimal to profound, depending on the individual.
- It can range from weakness in one hand, to an almost complete lack of voluntary movement requiring 24 hour care.
- Children with cerebral palsy are likely to also have other impairments in addition to their motor disability.
- Spastic hemiplegia, where one half of the body has difficulty with voluntary movement, is the most common presentation of cerebral palsy. Approximately 40% of people with CP have hemiplegia.

There is no known cure.

You can help by donating to support research needed to find an effective treatment for Cerebral Palsy. To find out more go to: <https://cparf.org/what-is-cerebral-palsy/facts-about-cerebral-palsy/>

And you can help by understanding that most people with cerebral palsy don't want sympathy, they want opportunities. There's nothing wrong with them, they just have cerebral palsy.

Check and Notify

Let us know if you discover an error on your timesheet by calling Nick or Paula at (509) 758-8349. We will make every effort to correct the error in the month effected.

Given a short-turn around, the error may not be corrected until the following pay period.

MY STORY MATTERS FIRST RESPONDERS AND AUTISM

By Diana Stadden - mom of a 24 year old son with autism

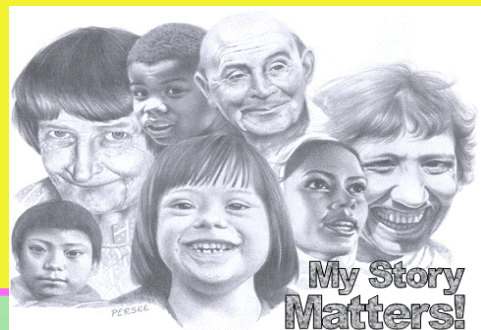
I was in a car accident in 2001; I was injured, and my 7 year old son, who is autistic, was in the back seat with our groceries, as we had just come from the store. Police tried to use a teddy bear to get my son out of the car, but he cared about nothing but his "broken watermelon" on the back seat. I tried to tell the first responders that he was autistic, but they had no idea what to do. This started my journey to educate first responders.

In 2005, I worked with Senator Debbie Regala to introduce and pass legislation for an interactive DVD training on developmental disabilities for law enforcement. There was no funding provided, but when the legislation passed we got a grant from Homeland Security to pay to create the training. This DVD was provided to all law enforcement precincts in Washington State and used at the training academy at the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) in Burien, WA. In about 2009 I began doing one-hour trainings for the Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) at CJTC once a month. You can view the Power Point trainings I used by [clicking here](#) and [clicking here](#).

In 2016, Representative Gina McCabe introduced the Travis Alert, named for Travis King, a young autistic boy in Yakima, WA whose parents are first responders. In 2017, the bill became law and will create training about developmental disabilities for all first responders and prepare the Enhanced 911 system to allow individuals or family members to provide critical information regarding a person with disabilities to the 911 system for when that person has an emergency at home or in their car.

When I started this journey, I had no idea how the legislative process worked, I was winging it. Senator Regala listened to my concerns based on my experience and the fact that law enforcement only had 4 hours of training on disabilities and it was very generic. She had Senate staff write the bill and I just showed up to testify at the hearings. You don't have to have experience, you just need to share your story. My story mattered! Change was made because I showed up!

http://arcwa.org/resource/Autism_for_Law_Enforcement_2016.pdf



SAFETY MEETING 3rd Wednesday every month. It is mandatory for anyone working on the levee, social security, or at the CORPS.



Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council is seeking candidates to fill open positions on the Governor-appointed Council.

Who Can Apply

The Council is seeing candidates who are;

- 1) Individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD); and
- 2) Parents/Family members/Guardians of individuals with IDD

The Council is especially interested in candidates from the diverse geographic, ethnic and cultural communities in Washington and the Native American Nations.

Candidates will be interviewed by the DDC Membership Team, however, final selection of members is made by the Governor's office. Members will hold a three-year term and are eligible for reappointment for a second term. The Council covers all expenses, including travel to meetings, meals and lodging.

To Apply

Go to the Governor's website at <http://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/board-and-commissions/apply-serve-board-or-commission-0> and click on apply.

Application deadline is April 30, 2018.

For More Information

For more information, contact Ed Holen or Linda West at 800-634-4473.



**MEETING THE LEGISLATIVE GOALS
OF AN EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM
FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

Cynthia Tierney, Community Services Director

Multiple government agencies including Developmental Disabilities Administration (**DDA**), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (**DVR**), Department of Early Learning (**DEL**), Ability One (**NISH**) serve the customers of Asotin County Community Services by providing over \$1-million dollars in funding. For the purposes of this article, we will focus on our biggest funder, The Developmental Disabilities administration (**DDA**), which provides one half a million dollars per year to support our **early intervention program** for ages birth to three, and the **employment program** for people ages 21 and older. While **DVR** funding is also geared to prepare people with disabilities for community based employment from high school through adulthood, it is **DDA** funding that offers **group supported employment**. If you qualify for group supported employment **you are participating in a paid training work experience** as part of the **Corps, Levee or Social Security crew**.

Any program funded by DDA must follow DDA guidelines. These guidelines incorporate feedback from stakeholders including Individuals with disabilities and their families, advocacy organizations, employers, and school districts.

DDA funded **employment programs** are built on the belief that **employment is the typical way** most adults experience a valued life. A good job provides opportunities to gain competence, status, power and choice, improve health and safety, interact with others, and **experience active daily life in the community**.

When an individual begins to search for work through a DDA-funded employment program, the number of service hours offered is calculated based on a formula. The formula is based upon need. For example, if you don't need a lot of help with personal care, transportation or socialization, **calculated hours will be fewer** than hours offered to individuals with higher needs. Once support hours are calculated, the rule is that individuals may use some hours to **participate in in a paid job training experience** (federal jobs through Ability One, internships, etc.), with the remaining hours devoted to activities that prepare an individual for landing a job in the community and retaining it.

DDA Rules about **employment hours are based on laws** adopted by the state of Washington. For example, WAC 388-828-426 names what activities are assessed to measure personal support needs for employment. (See <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=388-828-4260>). After 6 months of receiving employment supports, **individual needs and goals are reassessed**. If a person continues to need a lot of support, his/her hours tend to remain the same. But more often, hours will be reduced as individuals master the skills needed in their training activities. **It is common for hours to be reduced** after an individual has received 9 months of continuous employment supports.

Many graduates of group supported employment are now **thriving in community jobs**. A recent success story is the customer who has hired by Jimmy John's just a few months ago. He's doing so well now that management has asked him to train the new hires!

Another ACCS graduate is a valued employee of **Red Lion**, working 20 hours per week, and more. He's so fast and efficient at washing dishes, the cooks and servers sometimes offer to pick him up so he can get to work faster than the bus could bring him. Cooks and servers love a good dishwasher and they share their tips!

We are particularly proud of a former GSE customer who has worked for five years for **LC Recyclers**. Though she has physical barriers that make life challenging, her **work ethic** is amazing. She works up to **60 hours a month with a job coach**, and she does not like to miss work! She is an example of employment services that continue after you find a job in the community. We will be there for her as long as she needs and wants us to be.

Like those I've mentioned, our customers have a **good deal to offer** to employers in the community.

And LC Valley employers have a good deal to offer to people with disabilities.

