



# Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

Developmental Disabilities ♦ 111 E 3rd Street ♦ Port Angeles, WA 98362  
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## **PRESS RELEASE** **For Immediate Release**

### **CLALLAM COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

On Tuesday, March 7th, 2017, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners proclaimed the month of March 2017 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in Clallam County.

Since 1987, March has been "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month". During this month we highlight inclusion, contributions and togetherness. This year our theme is "Life Side by Side".

Thirty years ago President Reagan, following the deinstitutionalization movement of the seventies and early eighties which had laid the foundation for significant social change, issued the first presidential proclamation calling upon Americans to provide the "encouragement and opportunities" necessary for people with developmental disabilities to reach their potential.

Today we see that individuals with developmental disabilities are productive and valuable citizens, neighbors and family members. We know they are deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence and personal growth. We are aware that developmental disabilities do not impede individuals from realizing their full potential at school, work, home, or as members of their communities. We have found that we all can work together, play together, worship together, learn together and grow together.

In an ever-changing America, we have many challenges ahead if we are going to continue our progress. We do know that the most effective way to change attitudes and beliefs about the abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities is through everyone's work and active participation in community activities and being personally open to learn and acknowledge each individual's contribution.

We are all a part of this task. We are all up to this task. What can the community or YOU do?

- Participate in a unified sport with Special Olympics or coach a sport or mentor an athlete in a leadership role.
- Become involved at Mosaic by teaching classes, supporting events, mentoring or developing friendships.
- Invite an individual with developmental disabilities to participate in your faith community.
- Encourage your schools to be inclusive of all students in the best ways possible.
- Invite individuals with developmental disabilities to your service club or to help on your community service project.
- Invite individuals with developmental disabilities to participate in your bowling, church athletic or community recreation league.
- Hire an individual at your business or support them as a co-worker at your place of employment.

- Patronize businesses that recognize the contribution of individuals with developmental disabilities and that hire them for real jobs in the community.

Contact: Timothy Bruce, Clallam County Health and Human Services Planner; 360-417-2428



Photo: Timothy Bruce speaking (above) at the Board of County Commissioner's meeting after the reading of the proclamation.



Group Photo with signed proclamation (above):  
 (Left to right) Cindy Sump-Parent of daughter with Autism Spectrum Disorder; Shawnda Hicks-Clallam Mosaic's Parent-to-Parent Coordinator; Kelley Lawrence-Clallam County Health & Human Services Developmental Disabilities Employment Coordinator; Randy Johnson-Clallam County Commissioner; Timothy Bruce-Clallam County Health & Human Services Planner; Patrick McFarland-DDAC Member and Special Olympics Participant; Mark Ozias-Clallam County Commissioner; Randi Jones-Pierce Jones & Associates; Mary Jane Duncan-Clallam Mosaic Board Member.

Proclamation (below):  
"March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month"



**PROCLAMATION**

**RECOGNIZING MARCH AS  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**

**WHEREAS**, Public Law 99-483, enacted by Congress in 1987, designated the month of March as "National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and;

**WHEREAS**, this is the thirtieth year of celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and;

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of Clallam County residents and their families are successfully living their lives with significant lifelong disabilities including autism, traumatic brain injuries, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and intellectual and related disabilities and;

**WHEREAS**, individuals with lifelong disabilities are productive and valuable citizens, neighbors and family members, they are deserving of respect and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence and personal growth and;

**WHEREAS**, citizens of Clallam County are becoming increasingly aware that developmental disabilities do not impede individuals from realizing their full potential at school, work, home, or as members of their communities and;

**WHEREAS**, citizens of Clallam County with and without disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together and grow together and;

**WHEREAS**, the most effective way to change attitudes and beliefs about the abilities of individuals with developmental disabilities is through everyone's work and active participation in community activities and the openness to learn and acknowledge each individual's contribution and;

**WHEREAS**, we encourage all citizens to promote both the expectations and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in Clallam County to participate fully in our community through access to inclusive employment, housing, education and civic engagement and;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners hereby recognizes March 2017 as

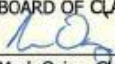
**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH**


and recognize that together we accomplish more and everyone benefits. We also call upon all citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, business and schools in Clallam County to recognize the ability of individuals with developmental disabilities to make significant contributions to their communities and to take time become acquainted with citizens with developmental disabilities and what they have to offer.

Signed this seventh day of March 2017



BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Ozias, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Johnson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Peach