



Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services

Developmental Disabilities ♦ 111 E 3rd Street ♦ Port Angeles, WA 98362
Tele: 360-417-2428 ♦ FAX: 360-452-9605

PRESS RELEASE **For Immediate Release**

CLALLAM COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

On Tuesday, March 6th, 2018, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners proclaimed the month of March 2018 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 "**See Me For Me**".

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 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 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 side-by-side 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?

- Raise awareness by having people with and without sharing their stories about their lives, side by side.
- Look beyond any disability and see everyone for who they are as a person, and not just as a person with a disability.
- Share resources about living inclusive lives.
- Invite an individual with developmental disabilities to participate in your faith community, your service club or to help on your community service project.
- Encourage your schools to be inclusive of all students in every way possible.
- 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



Group Photo with signed proclamation:

(Left to right) Nan Furford-Clallam County Health & Human Services; Randy Brackett-Clallam Mosaic Board Member; Timothy Bruce-Clallam County Health & Human Services Planner; Tresa Stuber-Clallam Mosaic; Randy Johnson-Clallam County Commissioner; Alicia Stuber-Clallam Mosaic; Mark Ozias-Clallam County Commissioner; Deedra Hunter; Dezerea Hunter.

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



PROCLAMATION
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, developmental disability is a natural part of the human experience and affects close to 5 million Americans and;

WHEREAS, every person, regardless of ability, has valuable strengths, capacity to learn and the potential to make important contributions to their community and;

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities share with all citizens the desire to achieve personal success through education, meaningful work, and family and community ties and;

WHEREAS, Clallam County residents with and without developmental disabilities work together, play together, worship together, learn together and grow together and together enrich the fabric of our communities and;

WHEREAS, we respect, value and salute the daily accomplishments of all our citizens with or without developmental disabilities and;

WHEREAS, people with developmental disabilities deserve equal opportunities to enjoy, participate in and contribute to their local communities alongside their neighbors without disabilities and;

WHEREAS, no disabilities need keep individuals from realizing their full potential nor diminish their right to enjoy and participate within their community and;

WHEREAS, the citizens of Clallam County recognize that their community can grow closer through education, awareness and understanding by recognizing individual abilities, commonalities and differences.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners hereby declares the month of March 2018 as

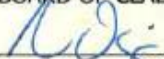
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH

and encourage all citizens to join in efforts to increase the participation and involvement of persons with developmental disabilities throughout all of Clallam County, to recognize the abilities and contributions of Clallam County citizens with developmental disabilities, and to unite the voices of all citizens, with and without developmental disabilities into a strong and inclusive Clallam County.

"See Me for Me"

Signed this sixth day of March 2018

BOARD OF CLALLAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Mark Ozias, Chair



Randy Johnson



Bill Peach

