

NEWS RELEASE

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Cascadia Nominees Win State Rehab Honors

Multnomah County Facilities and Property Management has been named Oregon Rehabilitation Association Employer of the Year, after being nominated by Cascadia's Wellspring Services, reported Cascadia President and CEO Leslie Ford.

At the same time, Cascadia's Wellspring employee Brian Dieter, 41, was named as employee of the year. Dieter, diagnosed with bipolar disorder, said that his two years with Wellspring has taught him to "work well with other people who all come from different places."

Wellspring Director Roy Soards noted the cooperative relationship with Multnomah County that has created jobs for 85 people with severe disabilities. County facilities that benefit from Cascadia's Wellspring Services include the courthouse, 21 library sites, six public health facilities, three corrections facilities, county headquarters, and several smaller sites.

Soards said, "In my own long history of finding employment for people with disabilities, I have rarely had the experience of working with an employer so committed to this cause. Multnomah County Facilities Management and staff have made significant differences in the lives of over 80 people with severe disabilities."

He noted that based on a national formula used for calculating the impact of social return on investment, there is a \$422,124 return to the community in tax payments and reduced benefits thanks to Multnomah County Facilities and Property Management.

The Oregon Rehabilitation Association has 89 member organizations, serving thousands of consumers. ORA, who has been offering the award for more than two decades, represents and supports non-profit community organizations that assist people with disabilities. The award will be presented at the annual lunch, held this year in Bend on July 13th.

Wellspring is part of Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare, which provides the most services for people with mental illnesses on Oregon Health Plan in Multnomah County. Cascadia is also one of the largest service providers for those seeking addictions treatment, as well as children and families.

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