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Our Mission
To promote the growth, development and independence of people with disabilities through programs of therapy, education and work opportunity.

Maddie, who has Prader-Willi syndrome, and her typically developing sisters Sam and Harper, all benefit from inclusive early learning at Northwest Center Kids.

Jakob, who has cerebral palsy, keeps up with his peers at Northwest Center Kids.
Am grabs a slice of “watermelon” from the play food on his family’s coffee table. He pretends to eat it, then offers some to Ricky, his dad.

It’s more than a happy moment, says Susannah Major, Speech Language Pathologist with Northwest Center Kids: “This is huge. Pretend play is such a prerequisite for language.”

Kam was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder after his family became concerned that he wasn’t talking at age 2, says his mother Christine. After a year of therapy services, Kam is communicating through signing, gestures, and a bit of speech.

“Northwest Center has taught us to communicate with Kam, which we at first struggled with,” says Ricky.

“No one thought of asking Kam to ‘Give me a kiss’ to get what he wants, we’re asking him to point to what he wants or use the sign for ‘milk,’” says Christine.

Adds Major, “We’re meeting Kam where he can be successful.”

The Early Intervention team recognized the benefit of knowing the dynamic environment and potential of children at risk for autism.

The number of babies served by our NICU-to-Home team quadrupled in 2017.

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The EPIC (Expanding Play, Interaction and Communication) team was established to increase supports for children with autism or social communication delays.

The Early Intervention team spearheaded efforts to create an equity committee within NWC to serve as a community leader, taking action for social justice by challenging societal believes through education, awareness, and self-reflection.

Early Intervention

2017

255 children

increase in the number of children served

with a diagnosed delay or disability received Early Intervention services each month

The Early Intervention team partnered with the University of Washington to begin research on the dynamic environment and potential of children at risk for autism.

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Rachel understands the power of inclusion. Her son Owen was abruptly kicked out of his preschool when he was 2. The school offered little outdoor play time, and Owen “had a lot of energy,” Rachel says. “The day we got asked to leave, he was headbutting the wall of the school out of frustration. They gave us a list of inclusive schools, and Northwest Center was at the top of the list.”

Owen stayed with Northwest Center Kids for two years. “The teachers worked with him,” she says. “They never once pulled him out. They never once made him feel like he needed to be isolated if he had issues. They gave him good coping skills that he still uses to this day.”

Today Owen is happily enrolled in kindergarten, where he is hitting all the milestones for children his age.

“The teachers never made him feel like he needed to be isolated.”

Owen was kicked out of his first preschool. He went on to thrive at Northwest Center Kids.

Children with and without disabilities sharing classrooms, playgrounds, and high expectations.
Erika’s first few shifts at Amazon Prime Now warehouse had their challenges. The pace was hectic, she was learning a scanning system, and she was navigating a dizzying assortment of quadrants and aisles. But Erika was still all smiles. “It was a good day today,” she would say. “I learned a lot!”

Her optimism gave Northwest Center and Prime Now management confidence that Erika would get the hang of things. It didn’t take long for their faith to be rewarded.

“I started timing myself to finish faster,” Erika says. Now she puts away, or “stows,” over 160 products an hour—more than two and a half per minute. Soon she was also “picking” (fulfilling customer orders) faster than the warehouse average.

“I love this job,” Erika says. “I try to go fast and be a good worker. I’m so glad I work here.”

For her managers and coworkers, the feeling is mutual.

“I love this job!”

Results of employees placed at Amazon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2017 Data</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More adults served</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>Employment Services Training and support for people of any ability to gain a path to meaningful employment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More adults served</td>
<td>550+</td>
<td>356 adults received services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More adult clients received</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>550+ clients received job coaching &amp; retention services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More hours per week</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>195 clients received job coaching &amp; retention services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More job support and training in Seattle</td>
<td>38,168</td>
<td>40+ hours per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More job support and training in Seattle</td>
<td>1168</td>
<td>4.4 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Erica has broken several speed records in her job at Amazon, which she found through Northwest Center.

7% higher attendance rates

Productivity rate at 98% of the business average

37% better quality work than general population

Perfect safety record compared to a 1.1% warehouse incident rate
In 2017, our legacy partnership with Value Village™ reached a significant milestone as Northwest Center earned Value Village’s 50 Year Partnership Award. Since 1967, Northwest Center has partnered with Value Village to collect clothing and household donations with The Big Blue Truck™ and our bright blue donation bins. Value Village buys that merchandise to sell in its stores, and the revenue funds our education and employment services for children and adults with developmental disabilities throughout Washington state.

The partnership also drives inclusion in the workplace as Value Village works with Northwest Center to hire employees with disabilities. Northwest Center-owned companies like Electronetics not only provide best-in-class services, they help fund our programs and employ an inclusive workforce.
Thanks to Employment Services in Spokane, WA, Mercie is working toward her dream of becoming a veterinarian.
I want to start by saying THANK YOU to all our donors, partners, and staff for making 2017 such an impactful year!

In 2017, our Early Intervention and Early Learning teams served a record number of kids, we expanded our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) program, and we charted a course for how we will teach other Early Learning institutions how to do what we do: serve children of all abilities.

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