



**Tesh, Inc.  
Board of Directors**

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## Angelman's Syndrome



What are the odds? The Center for Disease Control reports that one in six children in the United States has a disability. At Tesh we serve children and adults who have a variety of *developmental* disabilities, which are disabilities which start before the age of 21.

Meet Judi, who we think is one in a million, but is statistically 1 in 12,000 to 20,000. She was 16 years old when

she was diagnosed with Angelman's Syndrome, a developmental disability in which one gene on chromosome 15 is missing or unexpressed.

Judi's parents heard this diagnosis and determined to accept its challenge head on. They thought, "yes, one gene is non-functioning; but thousands of others are fully functional, so we will focus on those. And while an earlier diagnosis would have been better, we can still seek the best interventions and therapies available tailored to our daughter's needs to improve the quality of her life."

Judi joined the Tesh

family in 2003, receiving 1:1 life skills classes. Impulse control was a challenge for her. A milk glass placed in front of her would soon go flying; food would often follow. She was inclined to pinch and pull hair. Community outings were complicated by Judi's uncanny ability to spot a wig or toupee and snatch it off the wearer's head. Language comprehension and non-verbal skills are usually more developed than spoken language and Judi has few words at her disposal.

Judi is now able to enjoy group games in the Activity Center at Tesh. Not quite ready to join in the dancing, she is able to rock her head and swing her legs to the music. That would not have been possible even six months ago.

When Judi arrives at Tesh she is anxious to show us

the latest temporary tattoos she has gotten on her hands. She should be proud. She receives these as rewards for positive behavior. Because Judi is no longer pinching indiscriminately, she is making friends with others in the Activity Center. Her happy squeal of excitement welcomes them into the room. And she is learning to wave goodbye with that beautiful big smile on her face.

Defying the odds, two clients at Tesh have Angelman's Syndrome. And there are individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, and other disabilities too. And they all have a beautiful story waiting to be told.

## Simpson given Rehab Award



Tesh CEO Russ Doumas had the honor of presenting the "Pat Young Award" to U.S. Representative Mike Simpson during the ACCSES-Idaho Quarterly meeting in Boise on February 20th.

Representative Simpson has been a champion of individuals with disabilities for many years; he began his support during his tenure as a state legislator.

Pat Young, for whom the award is named, was a former Idaho Vocational Rehabilitation Department Director who strongly supported Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) including Tesh.

ACCSES-Idaho is a trade association representing not-for-profit CRPs across Idaho. Russ Doumas has served as the President of the association since 2008.

Fred Meyer is donating \$2.5 million/year to non profits in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon & Washington as directed by their customers' choices. If

you have a Fred Meyer reward card, log into [www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards](http://www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards). Click on your Account Summary; you may have to establish log in information. Click on Community Rewards in the lower Right; Edit; and type in Tesh, Inc. Or search the drop down for Tesh, Inc. Click "okay" at the top of the box. Then each time you use your card at Fred Meyer, Tesh will receive a small percentage of the purchase amount!



As Spring arrives, Tesh is reminded of the need to replace its 20 year old riding lawn mower. If you have a gently used mower you no longer need, please consider an in-kind tax deductible donation. Thank you!



*Transforming Lives &  
Enriching Our Community.*

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***Your financial support helps  
make these success stories  
possible! Thank you!***

**Pathfinder Society** =  
1 life for 3 years @ \$1200/year

**Benefactor** = 1 life for 1 year  
@ \$1200

**Friend of Tesh** = \$600/year

**Patron of Tesh** = \$300/year

**Supporter of Tesh** = \$120/year

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## **Employment happens with Tesh & Ability Works**

Tesh, Inc. is often recognized as an organization which provides life skills services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

Equally as important is the division of Tesh that is dedicated to finding employment opportunities for individuals with a variety of abilities and skill sets. Job Development is based in the Tesh office located at 2005 Lakewood Drive, CdA, and is known as Ability Works.

The following success story is not only about Jake, the Ability Works client, but also about community employer North Idaho Masonry & Hardscape Center.

Jake lives in Rathdrum and had been searching for a means to support his family for some time. He came to Ability Works last summer. Once his case was approved and opened by a Vocational Counselor with Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Jake began to work with Ability Works Job Developer Linden Custer to develop his resume and enhance his interviewing skills. Jake met with several employers but was continually hampered by his lack of experience.

Kelly Enders with North Idaho Masonry & Hardscape Center (and Tesh Board member) let us know of an opportunity at her business and invited Jake to complete a work evaluation in the position of stone cutter while supervised by a Tesh job coach. This way the employer has an opportunity to see the individual actively working the position before they make the hiring decision. Jake and North Idaho Masonry were a match. Jake quickly learned the ins and outs of doing this job safely. After several days of steady performance Jake was offered the position. He is proud to be providing for his family through his own hard work and dedication.

Tesh and Ability Works are grateful to North Idaho Masonry & Hardscape Center for their partnership in this worthwhile effort which resulted in the addition of an excellent team member to their business and an individual's success as a member of their community.

If you have a need for an excellent employee in your business, contact Linden Custer at (208) 292-0149.

