



~ a private not-for-profit whose core purpose is to provide choices and opportunities to people of all ages seeking greater opportunities, self-sufficiency, and participation in their community ~

November 2015

Core Values: Choice, Dedication, Integrity, Progress & Quality

Tesh, Inc.  
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*If you have a passion for people with disabilities, time and resources to share, and are interested in supporting Tesh as a member of the Board of Directors, contact Tesh CEO Frances Huffman at 765-5105 for more information.*

**“I lost one son and gained another; I love them both.”**

In May 1986 Blane Gilbreath was a popular high school athlete enjoying a ride on the back of his friend’s motorcycle when they were hit by a drunk driver who ran a red light. Blane sustained massive head injuries and wasn’t expected to live through the night. He did live but was in a coma for three months. Doctors did not expect him to ever talk or walk again.

That was 30 years ago; six years later Blane joined the Tesh family. Because he received his traumatic brain injury and resultant disabilities before the age of 22 he was eligible for programs in the Pathways to Independence programs

where Tesh had just started providing life skills training.

Today Blane is able to talk, often repeating certain phrases, and is able to walk. He uses a cane because post accident seizures impacted his vision; he appreciates the support of the shoulder of a fellow client as he walks from life skills classes to the Vocational Center where he works.



Blane brings his positive attitude and strong work ethic to the job where he assembles tree plugs and other piece work to earn a paycheck twice a month.

Blane is a vibrant, contributing member of society thanks to care provided by his loving family and to services received at Tesh. His father Sonny is his primary care giver now that his Mom has passed away and the author of the quote used to title this article. At 71 Sonny and his family have put together a plan to assure Blane will have the care he needs as long as he needs it. And Tesh will continue by their side to fill Blane’s days by pro-

Blane and Tesh CEO with Rotary Roses



viding life skills classes, age appropriate activities in the Adult Activity Center, and work opportunities in a Vocational Center which allows Blane to work in a safe environment that is well suited to him.

The journey for a person with disabilities is ongoing. Rather than implementing a cure, Tesh’s well trained and tenured staff provide loving support, consistency and hope for days, months and years.



To the following individuals who retired after serving Tesh for several years on the Board of Directors:

- Kevin Daley
- Chad Murray
- Rick Murray
- Rick Vernon

Your time and talents were much appreciated!

**FY 2014-2015 Review**

The fiscal year at Tesh runs from July 1 through June 30th. Tesh Child Development program included 31 attending the 10 week summer camp, two of whom were funded by an anonymous donor of \$2400. Special thanks to Paula Witkowski and Elise Fry who are key to making that program successful. Adult Life Skills is trying to encourage adults to continue their life skills training even if on the self direct waiver; its important to keep learning. A new program is also being offered to help eligible clients prepare for the written portion of the driving test; driving increases independence! In the Vocational Center,

42 were paid for 12,000 hours of work producing 1.8 million tree plugs and shredding over 41,500 lbs. of paper. Kitting work for Avista and STCU won kudos. Ability Works and Supported Employment continued their focus on preparing individuals to seek and secure work, and then succeed once placed. If you are a business owner having a hard time finding reliable workers, give Ability Works a call (208 -292-0149); there may even be a tax credit available to you. Kiwanis AKtion Club had 40 members! Fund raising was down unfortunately, and Tesh finished the year in the red by \$32,793. Your partnership could close the gap!

**TIME TO GO PAPERLESS!** Let’s save money and reduce waste! Please share your email address to receive Tesh notifications by email rather than hard copy and to be sure you are getting all of our news.

Please send your email address to **answers@teshinc.com.**

*Your personal information will never be shared by Tesh, Inc. with anyone else.*



**HANGOVER HANDICAP**

**JANUARY 1, 2016**

**9:30 a.m.**

Please join us for the 39th Annual New Year’s Day Five Mile Fun Run to benefit Tesh, Inc. The run along the lake starts Friday morning behind Michael D’s restaurant at the east end of Sherman Ave. Register at [www.teshinc.com](http://www.teshinc.com). Early registration ends 12/11. New this year: *In Spirit* category; get the shirt; stay in bed; support Tesh: \$25. Presenting sponsors: **Helbling Benefits and Pita Pit.**

**Shred by Tesh! \$.38/ lb.**



Transforming Lives & Enriching Our Community.

November 2015



Like us on Facebook

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

Pathfinder Society = \$3600 (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

Free Ways to Help Tesh!

- \* Do you shop at Fred Meyer? Please go to www.fredmeyer.com; click on Rewards in the top menu; Click on Community Rewards; and mid-way down the page click on "Link your Rewards Card Now" and enter Tesh, Inc. Each time you shop at Fred Meyer, a small percentage will be set aside for Tesh—at absolutely no cost to you!
\* Do you shop on Amazon? If you use the AmazonSmile.com portal, you can chose Tesh, Inc. as the non-profit you would like to support. Each time you shop, a small percentage is set aside for Tesh—at absolutely no cost to you.
\* How about Good Shop? Www.goodshop.com offers discounts with many different vendors. Once again you identify the desire to support Tesh, and shop away. Tesh will get a little bit each time!
\* Thrivent now includes the option to donate Choice Dollars to Tesh, Inc.

1976-2016 TESH LAUNCHES 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Where were you in 1976? The year of our nation's bicentennial, when gas was 56 cents per gallon,

"Transitional Employment Services for the Handicapped" opened it's doors thanks to a vocational rehabilitation grant. Pittsburgh beat Dallas in the Super Bowl and Tesh received it's first national rehabilitation accreditation. The changes and growth at Tesh over the next forty years resemble society's progress in its understanding and care of individuals with disabilities. Tesh had an eight bed group home in Hayden and a crew providing Janitorial Services to the U.S. Forest Service; work services and employment services expanded to Shoshone County. In 1987 the current location on Industrial Loop had its grand opening, adding another building in 1997. The Pathways to Independence program to teach life skills to adults began and was later followed by Life Skills for children in both After School and Summer Programs. As costs increased but reimbursement rates from the State did not, Tesh had tough decisions to make. The Sandpoint, Kellogg, and St. Maries offices where work and life skills had been provided, were closed. The apartments on Homestead were closed. The community came together twice to help expand and update what is now the Tesh Campus where approximately 80 individuals come each day for class or work.



T.E.S.H. became TESH and then Tesh, Inc. Ability Works, a special branch of Tesh, was created and opened an office on Lakewood to better serve individuals seeking employment in the community. Serving the community for 40 years has been a privilege and an honor. With your help the next 40 will continue to see progress for individuals with disabilities.



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