



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Assistance League of Bellingham

ADDRESS: 2875 Meridian Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

CONTACT: (360) 738-2803, <http://www.assistanceleaguebellingham.org>

GENERAL GOALS: Assistance League of Bellingham is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization serving Whatcom County children, adults and seniors.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

Operation School Bell provides new school clothing and shoes to Whatcom County students living in poverty. About 50 ALB volunteers participated in Operation School Bell during the last school year. All of your funds were allocated to new school clothing for low-income students.

For more information please see the attached report from Assistance League of Bellingham.



P.O. Box 2998
Bellingham, WA 98227
360-738-2803

Website: www.assistanceleaguebellingham.org

October 13, 2016

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

RE: Q4 2015 14.2

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

Please accept our update on the expenditure of [REDACTED] in Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund support awarded in early March of 2016 for the Assistance League of Bellingham (ALB), Operation School Bell program. Operation School Bell provides new school clothing and shoes to Whatcom County students living in poverty. About 50 ALB volunteers participated in Operation School Bell during the last school year. All of your funds were allocated to new school clothing for low-income students.

During the last school year, 9/1/15 to 5/31/16, we provided new school clothing and shoes to 1,700 primary low-income students with a clothing budget of \$189,432. Among these were 100 homeless high school students served through the new Teen Team program. Teen Team is a new program and is discussed below.

Our new focus on homeless high school students is motivated by the increasing numbers of Bellingham and Whatcom County children who are estranged from their families and living on the streets or in unsupervised housing. These boys and girls are at the highest levels of risk for becoming the victims of serious crimes like sexual assault or involvement in negative and self-destructive behavior like drug and alcohol use.

High school clothing is expensive and some low-income students must work part-time simply to afford to stay in *public school*. Others drop out because they can't afford to stay in school without a regular job. The number of homeless children and youth in our region and across the United States continues to increase. 70% of homeless children state that they became homeless in order to escape sexual assault, domestic violence and/or other serious crimes occurring in their homes. We feel that the Teen Team program for homeless high school students will help to get these kids back in school and moving forward academically and socially.

Teen Team is a logical extension of our longstanding Operation School Bell Program. Bellingham is not a large city and much of Whatcom County remains rural, yet in our community we have a high number of homeless teens. We have set our definition of "homeless" so that we can include not just kids that live on the streets full time, but also young people whose parents or caregivers have been incarcerated so that they have been left with friends, often with little or no supervision. We also serve also "couch kids" who have no permanent residence due to substance abuse, physical abuse, or mental illness affecting parents. We work with the homeless liaison workers in the schools and with other local social service organizations to identify teens who qualify for assistance.

For the last school year we allocated 100 Fred Meyer clothing vouchers of \$125 each for homeless teens for a total expenditure of \$12,500 for the next school year. In the first year of the program we provided 100, \$125 clothing vouchers for homeless high school students in eight Whatcom County school districts. Fred Meyer provides a 10% discount on all Teen Team purchases, and we have a list of acceptable items that can be purchased including pants, skirts, jackets, sweatshirts, underwear, gloves, belts, shoes and socks. The students must do their checkout at the customer service counter where Fred Meyer staff members have been apprised of the program and have a list of the items that students are allowed to purchase with their \$125 vouchers.

Thank you again for your generous support. The Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund has been a loyal partner in our effort to ensure that local children have new clothing and shoes for school. If you have questions about Assistance League of Bellingham or Operation School Bell, please contact Judy Lockwood, Grants Coordinator at (360) 303-2218 or judylockwood@comcast.net. Our mailing address is PO Box 2998, Bellingham, WA 98227, and our web address is www.assistanceleaguebellingham.org.

Sincerely,



Shelly Fishwild
Board President