

# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Atlantic Street Center**

**Address:**  
2103 S Atlantic St  
Seattle, WA 98144

**Contact:**  
(206) 329-2050  
<https://atlanticstreetcenter.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Atlantic Street Center is a non-profit social service agency based in Seattle, Washington. Our mission is to help families and communities raise healthy, successful children and youth through direct services and advocacy for social justice and equity.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2018 Q4	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Atlantic Street Center.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**



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(206) 329-2050  
info@atlanticstreet.org

*Rainier Beach Office*  
5150 S. Cloverdale Place  
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*Kent Office*  
610 W. Meeker Street,  
Suite 201  
Kent, WA 98032  
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February 14, 2020

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
Attn: Marilyn Sheldon, Director  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Code: Q4 2018 14.2 <http://www.atlanticstreetcenter.org>

Dear Ms. Sheldon and Tribal Board,

I write to thank Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions again for your \$█████ grant funding to support Atlantic Street Center's Teen As Parents Program (TAPP) received on March 31, 2019. With Tulalip's investment in our 2019 programming, TAPP has been able to empower 45 unduplicated parenting and low-income teens of color (ages 11-24) – both mothers and fathers – by providing them with parent education, social support, individual case management, and housing assistance. The only program of its kind to support teen parents in Seattle and South King County, our unique and free services encourage and empower vulnerable youth to become safe and nurturing parents, and successful providers. However we could not continue to offer our long-running program without generous and caring supporters like Tulalip Tribes.

In 2019, teen mothers and fathers in TAPP achieved the following goals and accomplishments which we planned to help them strive for, as outlined in our 2018 proposal:

- 100% of participants enrolled in high school (4 teens) remained enrolled and progressed to the next grade level, or graduated / earned their GED.
- 65% of participants (39 teens) demonstrated increased knowledge of their parental role and responsibilities, including an understanding of age-appropriate child development. They said they are generally more aware of the importance of being patient when their child is learning a skill; and they felt motivated to incorporate positive discipline methods.
- 100% of participants (4 teens) in need of safe/stable housing improved their housing conditions – all 4 teen mothers established permanent housing for their families.
- 100% of participants (45 teens) increased their access to community resources including housing assistance, Fresh Bucks (monthly vouchers for fresh fruits and vegetables), cooking classes through our collaborations with Green Plate Special, library sessions with Seattle Public Library-Rainier Beach Branch, Yoga Sessions with Thrive Yoga, career exploration in the tech world due to working with both representatives from Microsoft and the Colour of Code (trainers who teach entry-level coding skills).

Our 2019 participants experienced so many accomplishments that they say would not be possible without TAPP's individualized support. For example, 22 participants gained employment full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs working at Boys and Girls Club Safe Futures program, Popeye's, Rainey Brother's BBQ, Ross, Walmart, Money Mart, Buddha Bruddah, and other companies. Four of our high school students graduated; while three attended college. One of our teen mothers received an Associate Degree in Cosmetology, and another achieved an



United Way of King County

*Helping families and communities raise healthy and successful children and youth through direct services and advocacy for social justice and equity.*




Associate degree in Early Learning. One mother in college received a scholarship to study abroad in Japan. Just two months ago in November, one of our homeless teen mothers grappling with diabetes, Gabbie Price, was featured in the Seattle Times for her perseverance. Gabbie became pregnant at the young age of 16, shortly after discovering that she was living with undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes. She was overwhelmed as she struggled with homelessness too, and staying enrolled in school. Fortunately, school administrators connected her to ASC. Price said TAPP made her feel like part of a community.

*"I would come in and they would ask me if I needed food and just honestly care about me. And it wasn't to gain anything from me other than the hope that one day I'll be in a better place," she said. "We all deserve a chance and all we want is a chance."*

With the support of TAPP and our self-less Program Director of 13 years, Michelle Mitchell-Brannon, Gabbie gained stable housing, completed her education, and gained a job. Today, she has developed into an outspoken leader, community advocate, foster parent, and mentor. Enclosed is the article from the Seattle Times.

Again, our sincere appreciation for the Tulalip Tribe's encouragement and support that we hope, will continue in 2020.

Sincerely,

  
Someireh Amirfaiz, Ed. D.  
Executive Director, Atlantic Street Center

*We're so honored and grateful.  
Thank You!  
Ingratitudes,  
Someireh*





# YOUNG PARENTS GET LIFE-CHANGING HELP AT ATLANTIC STREET CENTER



Gabbie Price and her son Z'aedyn, 7, with their dog, Jade. Now a community advocate, foster parent and mentor herself, Gabbie benefited the Teens As Parents Program through Atlantic Street Center, one of 12 agencies that receive support from The Seattle Times Fund For The Needy.

**Naomi Ishisaka**  
*Seattle Times columnist*

Gabbie Price was just 14 when undiagnosed Type 1 diabetes put her in a two-week coma. Lacking family support, she struggled with not just her disease but with homelessness and instability.

Staying with different family members and feeling alone, Price's diagnosis left her despondent. "I didn't take my insulin at all," she said. "I would just hope that someday maybe [diabetes] would kill me. And I wouldn't have to deal with this [or] with anybody. Like I wouldn't have to deal with myself."



At 16, Price became pregnant, which overwhelmed her even more. Her school, the Interagency Academy, reached out to Michelle Mitchell-Brannon of Atlantic Street Center's Teens as Parents Program (TAPP) for support. It turned into a life-changing meeting.

Even before the baby was born, Price said Mitchell-Brannon would frequently show up to check on her. After her son, Z'aedyn, was born in 2012, Price said, "[Mitchell-Brannon] would literally come and spend a few hours with me at school and just hold my baby, because I didn't have day care. So she would literally just love on my baby while I got some work done." After school, Mitchell-Brannon would come and read to her son at home.

In addition to help with diapers and other basic necessities for the baby, Mitchell-Brannon supported Price in taking care

## Atlantic Street Center

Atlantic Street Center provides employment and housing help, behavioral health services, support for grandparents who are caregivers and academic assistance and extracurricular programs for kids. The agency primarily serves low-income families from Central Seattle to north Pierce County.

to write my blood sugars in and when she saw me, she would be on me like, 'What's your blood sugar?' And that got me [testing] more and more." By 17, Mitchell-Brannon helped Price, her fiancé and their son secure their first permanent housing.

Now 24, Price is no longer the quiet, guarded teen she used to be. An outspoken leader, community advocate, foster parent and mentor, Price has taken advantage of



# NORTHWEST

## < Ishisaka

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rained their housing. Atlantic Street Center is one of 12 agencies that benefit from The Seattle Times Fund For The Needy.

"Mom Michelle," as Price and many other young people in the Teens as Parents Program call her, knows firsthand the struggles many young parents face. Bounced around among different family members, Mitchell-Brannon describes her early life as feeling like "nobody's child." Homeless with three babies at 15, Mitchell-Brannon would ride the bus with them all night so they could stay warm. After they all spent time in foster care, a sympathetic judge allowed them to be reunited in Seattle, where she had family support.

"I could not let [my kids] go through life trying to figure out what was it about them that would separate them from their mom's love, because that was something that I constantly ques-

**ABOUT THE SERIES**  
Each year, The Seattle Times Fund For The Needy raises money for a group of charities that help children, families and senior citizens. Throughout the fall and winter, The Times will tell how the 12 organizations make a difference in the lives of thousands, and the impact donors can make.

tioned," Mitchell-Brannon said. "What was it about me? Why was I not good enough?"

When Mitchell-Brannon started as the youth development/TAPP program manager in 2007, she said "these babies were in the streets with babies." She said 80% of the young people in the program were homeless or in unstable housing, and many were afraid to ask for help for fear of being separated from their children by the state. She knew they

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would fall the young parents if they didn't tackle homelessness and other fundamental barriers, one by one.

Mitchell-Brannon was not afraid to take matters into her own hands. "There was a time that I went and paid all the [apartment] screening fees," she said. "... And I knew that \$40 separated 11 young ladies from having access to brand-new affordable low-income housing."

At a recent TAPP group meeting at Atlantic Street Center's Family Support and Early Learning building in Rainier Beach, about 10 young moms gathered in the basement while their children played in a child-care

room. After sharing a home-cooked meal provided by volunteers, each person shared one thing they were proud of from the week. Later, a volunteer from Microsoft taught the class tips on how to interview for a job and one of Mitchell-Brannon's oldest sons, twin Marcus, 33, demonstrated basic coding skills.

Atlantic Street Center's executive director, Sameirah Amirfaiz, said while the agency is proud of the holistic approach it takes with clients, it does not want to put a "Band-Aid" on problems. To that end, it's focusing more on advocacy and policy shifts needed to prevent conditions leading to poverty and homelessness in the first place.

She also doesn't want Atlantic Street Center to stay the "best kept secret" of Seattle social service agencies.

Mitchell-Brannon said ultimately, believing in the

potential of young people goes a long way. "I love them and I want to see them be successful and I know that they have what it takes," she said. "They just need somebody to let them know that they're enough. But they've been broken down in so many ways. If we support these young people early on and plant the seeds of knowledge, they make different decisions."

Price said Atlantic Street Center made her feel part of a community. "I would come in and they would ask me if I needed food and just honestly cared about me. And it wasn't to gain anything from me other than the hope that one day I'll be in a better place," she said. "We all deserve a chance and all we want is a chance."

*Naomi Ishisaka; nishisaka@seattletimes.com. Naomi Ishisaka writes about race, culture and equity, through a social-justice lens. Her column appears weekly on Mondays.*