

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Children's Home Society of Washington

Address:

2611 NE 125th St
Seattle, WA 98125

Mailing Address:

PO Box 15190
Seattle, WA 98115-0190

Contact:

(206) 695-3200
<https://www.childrenshomesociety.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Our mission is to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children.

Date of Award:

2017 Q3

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

Specific Use for This Award:

For more information, please read the attached report from Children's Home Society of Washington.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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KEY PENINSULA FAMILY
RESOURCE CENTER
17010 South Vaughn Road
PO Box 123
Vaughn, WA 98394
(253) 884-5433 Main
(253) 884-5434 Fax

July 2, 2018

Ms. Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

Grant # Q3 2017 14.2. Report

I again want to thank the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions for its most generous gift of [REDACTED] for Children's Home Society of Washington's Key Peninsula Family Resource Center to facilitate *Little Toasters*, *Amigos*, *Little Buddies*, *Big Buddies*, *Indoor Park*, *Learning Assistance*, *Relatives Raising Relatives*, and *Ready-Set-Go Cooperative Preschool* Programs for 2017-2018 school year. All these programs focus on increasing student academic success and self-esteem. This year we began a Relatives Raising Relatives Support Group and enhanced student support services as a response to the impact of the opioid epidemic in our community. Enclosed you will find our *2017-2018 Success in Schools Programs Report*. With your support we are able to provide weekly academic success services to 478 people.

We look forward to attending *Raising Hands 2018* at the Tulalip Resort on October 27, 2018. Would you please send invitation to jud.morris@chs-wa.org. Enclosed you will also find articles of programs you have supported. Thank you again for your support, partnership, and generosity. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jud Morris, MSW
KPFRC Program Manager
Federal Tax ID# 91-0575955

SUCCESS IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMS 2017-2018 REPORT

Schools Served: Evergreen, Minter Creek, Vaughn, Artondale, Harbor Heights, Discovery, Purdy, Voyager, Key Peninsula Middle School, Peninsula High School, Gig Harbor High School, Belfair, Sand Hill.

Number of Students Served in Group Programs: 130

Amigos: 6 (KPMS) using *Youth Program Quality Initiative*

Little Toasters: 93 (Evergreen, Vaughn, Minter Creek, Artondale, Discovery, Harbor Heights, Purdy, Voyager, Belfair, Sand Hill.

Little Buddies: 17 (Vaughn and Minter Creek)

Big Buddies: 14 Mentors (KPMS, Peninsula High School, Gig Harbor High School students)

Schools Served With Family Home Visiting Support Services: Evergreen, Minter Creek, KPMS, Vaughn, Discovery, Voyager

Number of Families Served With Home Visiting Support Services: 15 (19 parents/16 students). Many families attained goals: increased academic performance for student/increased parent involvement.

Indoor Park Preschool Program: People Served: 253 (142 Children/111 Caregivers)

Ready-Set-Go Cooperative Preschool Program: People Served: 46 (20 Children/26 Caregivers)

Relatives Raising Relatives: 14 (Grandparents: 6/Grandchildren: 8)

***Little Toasters* Pretest/Posttest Data (Yes/No Questions):**

	<u>PRETEST-Y</u>	<u>POSTTEST-Y</u>	
I like to speak in front of class.	43%	77%	34% Increase
Most kids like me.	80%	87%	7% Increase
I can speak up if someone is bullying me.	62%	86%	24% Increase
I will go to college.	84%	95%	11% Increase
I am smart.	87%	95%	8% Increase
Most teachers like me.	85%	94%	9% Increase
I am responsible.	84%	100%	16% Increase

Teacher (*Little Toasters*) Survey Questions (N = 19 Teachers):

Student raises her hand more often to participate in class discussions.	100% Increase
Is she speaking loud enough for the class to hear her?	100% Increase
Does she show confidence when speaking in front of the class?	100% Increase
Is she volunteering to help class projects more often?	91% Increase
Does she seem to have more self-confidence?	100% Increase

Little Toasters' Parent Satisfaction Survey (N = 45 Parents):

I have seen improvement in my child's confidence.	100%
I have seen improvement in my child making eye contact when speaking.	100%
Teachers tell me my child speaks with more confidence.	100%
My child has more confidence when trying something new.	100%
My child has more confidence when being with new people.	100%
I am satisfied with <i>Little Toasters</i> and what it has done for my child.	100%

Success Story: Little Toaster – Big Voice

Mary had been a Little Toasters member for three years. Mary is now a middle school student, but continues to be very involved in Little Toasters (she is a Little Toaster Big Buddy at the same elementary school where she was a Little Toaster). Mary continues to improve her writing and speaking skills and has developed great confidence and self-esteem. This was never more evident than when she had an opportunity to give testimony about Little Toasters before Washington State Legislature House Education Committee. She wrote her speech, and gave an impressive testimony to the legislators. She was asked a question by one legislator, how her Little Toaster skills might help her when she was older? Without missing a beat, Mary said her writing and speaking skills would help her get college scholarships and save her family money.

Little Buddies: Finding a Safe Place:

Charles is one of the many victims of the opioid epidemic who live on Key Peninsula. Charles is a third grader who lives with his grandparents (he is an only child). Charles is living with his grandparents because his father overdosed and died last summer and Charles mother "has just gone away" (according to Charles' maternal grandmother). Only his grandmother is employed because his grandfather is disabled and receives social security. Charles' problem is not unique, but it so impacts all of Charles' life.

Charles has been coming to Little Buddies for three years, but this year is different. He used to be a very active and happy child, but now he was quiet and sad. Little Buddies became a **safe place** for Charles to play with other children, and also to have alone time. This "alone time" was not always totally alone. This year our program had eight Big Buddies, so there was always a Big Buddy for Charles to talk with and just be around a person who cared about him. A very strong bond developed between Charles and one of the Big Buddies. Charles is still grieving his losses, but there are caring people for him.

In addition, to how we are helping Charles, Children's Home Society of Washington has been helping Charles' grandparents and many grandparents in the same situation. CHSW-KP has been providing utility assistance to grandparents who are on limited fixed income, we have a new/used clothing bank, we started a *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren* monthly potluck support group with education/information sessions (drug effects/ACE's/wills/applying for child support). Also, enhanced academic support services for children and parenting skills home visiting support for grandparents. *We know there are many children like Charles and we are trying to be there for them during this critical time.*

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Find Support

SARA THOMPSON, KP NEWS

Grandparents on the Key Peninsula who find themselves caring for their grandchildren need not feel alone. A support group, organized by the Children's Home Society of Washington (CHS), is helping these unexpected "parents" cope.

Lori Mertens, a family advocate at CHS, started the group five months ago. A woman caring for her grandson had recently moved from King County and came into the office. "You should start a kinship," she said. Mertens got on her computer, found the Pierce County Kinship, and made some calls. The advice she got? "Just get started."

The group meets on the fourth Monday of each month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at Evergreen Elementary School during the school year and at the CHS offices at the Key Peninsula Civic Center during the summer. The structure is informal. Grandparents and grandchildren meet for a potluck. The children then go with child care providers for some planned activities while the grandparents meet to discuss a topic of interest, sometimes with an outside speaker. Topics have included wills, legal issues and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). "Mostly it's supporting each other, a time to get together and vent a little," Mertens said.

Jud Morris, CHS director, noted that these grandparents did not anticipate becoming caregivers, and that the impact on their lives is significant. They had not planned for the economics of raising another generation, and their own health and energy as they age can be a problem.

"We wanted to develop support for the grandparents and more enhanced services for the children as well," Morris said. "The children often have a higher need for learning support – perhaps from prenatal exposure to drugs, but also due to ACEs."

As reported in the June 2018 Atlantic, the number of grandparents caring for their grandchildren has doubled in the last fifty years. In the last five years that number has increased by seven percent,

in part due to the opioid epidemic. Morris endorsed the connection to drug use. He said, "We noticed that, because of the opioid epidemic, there were a lot of grandparents raising their grandchildren. It was not hard to notice – it was a flashing red light."

Mertens discussed the complexity of the issues facing these grandparents. While some families are disrupted by the opioid epidemic, others are affected by a parent's serious illness. The children's parents may be in and out of their lives or may be completely absent. A grandparent may be a single grandmother or may be part of a couple. Sometimes, if there are two grandparents in the home, they may not agree about the role they should play in their grandchildren's lives.

Legal custody is necessary both for financial assistance and for the ability to make medical or educational decisions. It can take months to go through the process of getting third party custody. Mertens pointed to a stack of paperwork an inch thick and said, "This is the paperwork we are doing for one family."

Mertens's role in establishing and leading the support group is a natural progression from both her career and her life. She worked at the Henderson Bay High School day care – set up for the school's teen parents – for 17 years before coming to CHS a year ago. "I always wanted to have a support group for grandparents for the Henderson Bay kids, but never had the time to form one," she said. Mertens has also helped parent her own grandson, now 18. Due to a financial crisis, his mother could no longer care for him and he moved in with Mertens five years ago. Because his mom is still very much a part of his life, the situation is not quite like that of most of the grandparents in the support group, but the fact that she has been in their shoes is helpful.

Mertens and Morris said that there is room for additional families. They can register by calling the CHS office at 253-884-5433. Funding for the support group has been provided by the Gig Harbor Rotary and the Key Peninsula Lions Club.

KEY PENINSULA NEWS: JULY, 2018

KIDS' CORNER

'Little Toasters' builds confidence in Peninsula girls



BY HUGH McMILLAN
Contributing writer

Not long ago, I missed the stand-down notice for Communities In Schools of Peninsula's mentoring program at Evergreen Elementary and, almost in vain, showed up ready to do my duty as a reading mentor for a delightful first-grade lady having trouble with her reading skills. But mentoring had been canceled for the day.

"Who are all these kids, then?" I asked office director Betty McCord. They're with our "Little Toasters" program, answered my longtime friend, McCord.

Long story short, no one objected to my camera-and-curiosity attending the Little Toasters session. What an inspiring operation this is. A dozen or so third-, fourth- and fifth-grade girls very seriously addressed the—for some—frightening prospect of speaking before a group. Not one of them performed less than, in my estimation, perfectly.

Brooke Johnson, a fourth-grader, noted, "I joined Little Toasters because I was very scared to say a speech in front of people. Little Toasters helped me with that. On the scale of one-10, my confidence feels like 10! I've made many new friends here and I'm thankful I'm in Little Toasters."

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I JOINED LITTLE TOASTERS BECAUSE I WAS VERY SCARED TO SAY A SPEECH IN FRONT OF PEOPLE. LITTLE TOASTERS HELPED ME WITH THAT. ON THE SCALE OF ONE-10, MY CONFIDENCE FEELS LIKE 10! I'VE MADE MANY NEW FRIENDS HERE AND I'M THANKFUL I'M IN LITTLE TOASTERS.

Brooke Johnson, a fourth-grader

Her classmate Grace Roberts, "came to little toasters to do speeches and so I could be less shy. Now, here I am defiantly a lot better. I think more girls should join if they are struggling with speaking up, trust me it would help them. This group helped me have more confi-

dence."

The group's overseer, Lori Mertens of Children's Home Society, said the Little Toasters program began 10 years ago with only two schools and now serves all eight elementary schools in the Peninsula School District.

"It is a girls empowerment group to build self-confidence and give the girls experience in public speaking," she said. "We meet once a week after school starting with a snack and sharing our highs and lows of the week. Next, we talk about our theme and word of the day which could be anything from colleges and careers to our favorite things about winter. Each girl then writes a short speech and presents it to the group. We finish our time with working on a craft related to our theme.

The weekly program has had a great impact. Teachers report that the involved girls speak up more in class, have better eye contact and participate more in classroom activities. This year, we also started the program in two Belfair schools."

"Little Toasters helps me improve in lots of ways," said fourth-grader Keyanna Davis, "like my voice level, build up my confidence and writing wonderful speeches. And it's super fun!"

"I can be myself and I can say what I am feeling," said classmate Lauryn Hicks. "I learn to speak louder and I like being part of the group."

Intern Chelsie Compton is an Early Childhood Education graduate from Liberty University.

"In June 2017, I began an internship at the Children's Home Society Family Resource Center on the Key Peninsula," she said. "In September, I got involved with Little Toasters at Evergreen and Minter elementary schools. Now, I am leading Minter and a newly made group at Belfair Elementary. It is such a positive program for young girls. I love how this program has established a place for young girls to build their confidence and

learn that the best thing that they can be is to be themselves."

For fourth-grader Mylie Matthies, "It's very fun and exciting to be there and we do wonderful projects. If I could, I would stay in Little Toasters forever!"

Classmate Amelia Staples said, "Little Toasters is an amazing group. We do fun activities like art projects, we tell our highs and lows of the week, we write a short speech and share it in front of the group. And at the end we get to pick out a lollypop!"

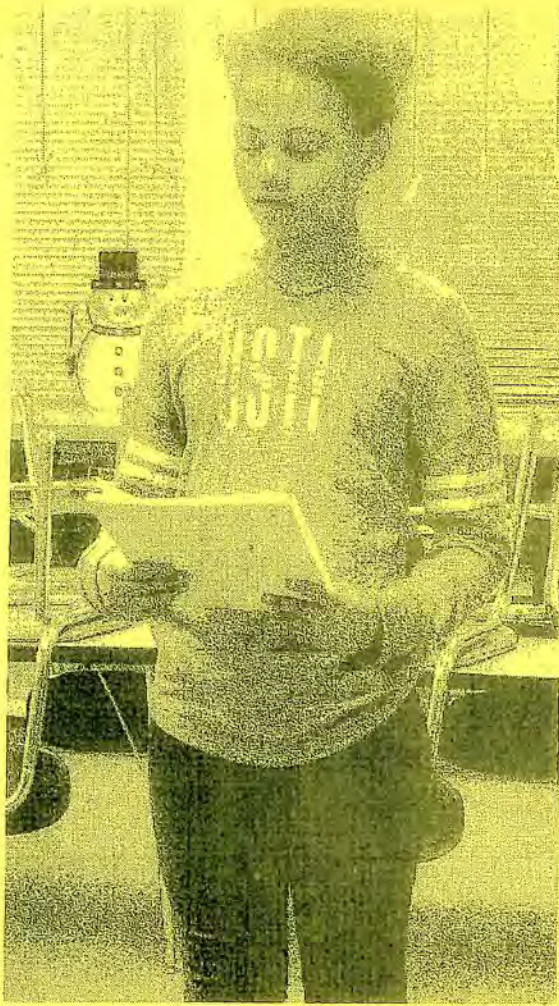
Aha! I knew there'd be a secret lure. Whatever works!

Hugh McMillan is a longtime contributing writer for the Gateway. He can be reached at hughmcm26@gmail.com.



From left, Evergreen elementary "Little Toasters," third-grader Lexi Johnson and fourth-graders Grace Roberts, Amelia Staples and Keyanna Davis working on an art project under guidance of Lori Mertens of Children's Home Society, seated far end, and intern Chelsie Compton, standing.

HUGH McMILLAN Contributing writer



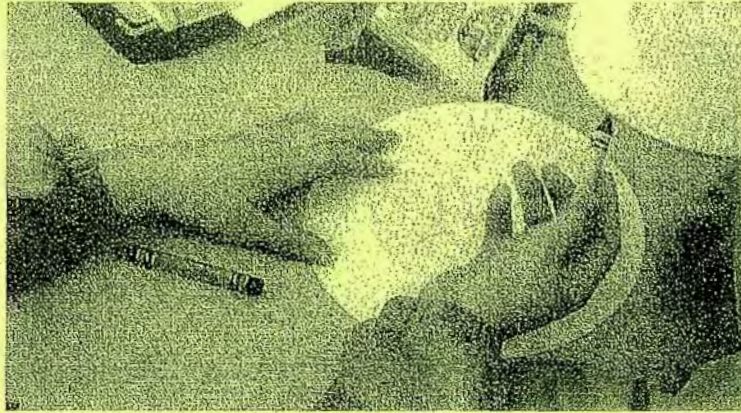
Evergreen elementary fourth-grader Keyanna Davis shares her speech with her Little Toaster classmates.



Evergreen elementary third-grader Lexi Johnson shows her stuff speaking before fellow "Toasters."



From left, Evergreen elementary fifth-graders Justine Sorrels and Mallory Riddle work on their Little Toasters after-speech-session projects.



Parents and children learn together in preschool. Photo: Ted Olinger, KP News

New Free Cooperative Preschool Offered at KPCC

TED OLINGER, KP NEWS

A free preschool learning program for children 3 and 4 years old and their parents or guardians got underway Jan. 25 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The cooperative class is sponsored by the Children's Home Society of Washington-Key Peninsula Family Resource Center.

"The goal is for the children to be fully prepared for kindergarten," said Debby Fisher, CHS director of cooperative learning programs and the class teacher.

"We want them to know their ABCs, start to read, know their shapes and develop some socialization skills," Fisher said.

Fisher operated a day care that included some preschool education and has been in social work for seven years. She also trains students for public speaking in the CHS Little Toaster programs at Minter Creek and Evergreen elementary schools.

"This new class is a cooperative program where we use parents as the first teachers," said Jud Morris, executive director of CHS. "We're getting the parents into the idea that their child's lifelong learning is something they have to be involved with."

The class is paid for by a grant to CHS from the United Way of Pierce County. "It's been funded for one year with two year-long renewals, so it's a three-year program," Morris said. "There are programs at Vaughn and at Evergreen (elementary schools) but they are both maxed out. There are lots of fee-based preschools in the school district, but there are very few free ones and the demand is much greater than the supply."

The class will meet Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., year-round. The hour goes by fast with a variety of activities focused on a simple thing each week, like

tracing, coloring and reading about a single letter in the alphabet.

"Circle things that start with B," Fisher said to a recent class. Children and their parents or guardians leaned over a preschool workbook with pictures of butterflies and bunnies to copy and color. Then came story time, all about bunnies and finding the letter B on the page, followed by a little singing and dancing "to get the wiggles out," Fisher said. The class ended with children and adults working together to make a bunny-face shaker out of paper plates and popcorn kernels, followed by another song to try them out.

"Every week, I give the parents one thing to learn," Fisher said. "I know it's difficult to sit down and do a lesson, but you can count steps from the car to the grocery store and ask what color different foods are. Those teachable moments are huge."

The class has a maximum of 10 students and 10 adults. "It's a good cross-section of what goes on in today's world," Morris said. "You have new parents, not-new parents and grandparents who are raising their grandchildren."

"This isn't necessarily true of the parents we have, but there are parents who are very uncomfortable about being involved in education or school because of their own experiences as a child," Morris said. "By getting them involved in this very safe environment no matter what their backgrounds, we're getting these parents up to speed so they feel they are capable and want to be involved in their child's education. The reality is, as a child progresses educationally, if the parents aren't involved, more likely than not the kid will fall behind."

For more information or to register for the class, call CHS at 884-5433.