



**CHARITABLE  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**

**Cocoon House**

**Address:**

3530 Colby Ave  
Everett, WA 98201

**Contact:**

(425) 259-5802  
<https://www.cocoonhouse.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Cocoon House is a non-profit that conducts outreach to, and provides short and long term housing for homeless and at-risk young people, including their children. Parents of teens can also find support for themselves and their families at Cocoon House so that young people do not become homeless.

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**Date of Award:**

2020 Q2

**Level:**

\$10,000+

For more information, please read the attached report from Cocoon House.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

**Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund  
Grant Report – November 2021**

**Q2 2020 14.2-COVID**  
**[www.cocoonhouse.org](http://www.cocoonhouse.org)**

Cocoon House remains exceedingly grateful to the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund for your generous support last year, helping to ensure that essential housing programs and services continued to meet the diverse needs of youth in crisis – during an unprecedented time in our community. We are so proud of our staff and young people, as they continue to meet the uncertainty of this health crisis with creativity and flexibility.

We are pleased to submit this report highlighting challenges and successes over the past year, and the positive impact your investment has made in the lives of young people in Snohomish County.

### **Success Despite Continued Challenges**

The impact of COVID-19 continues to prove especially difficult for vulnerable populations, including homeless young people. The health crisis' impact on homeless youth has been especially difficult, as these young people initially lost school services, employment, and access to other activities that provide critical supports such as family visits, peer connections, and childcare, among many others. Isolation, fear, and loss of connection greatly impacted the young people we serve. New and unbudgeted pandemic-related operating expenses, including personal protective equipment, sanitization and healthcare supplies, and increased staffing needs placed additional strain on an already difficult situation. While community resources are coming back online, we are currently seeing new trauma, heightened mental health needs, as well as increased risky behaviors among the youth in our programs.

Despite these challenges, we have been able to keep our programs open and accessible to young people, providing access to a range of services for youth in crisis last year, including housing, street outreach, and individualized case management. In order to continue to maintain care for young people, Cocoon House focused on identifying and meeting increased youth needs, and implemented creative solutions to help support that work. Our service model, as we helped young people navigate additional social, emotional, and behavioral health needs, required more staff onsite and a need to financially invest in the staff in these programs. For example, staff across the agency have been cross-trained to support our housing programs. What started as fulfilling a need, has grown into so much more. Staff from non-housing programs have a better sense of the work being done to support youth. New and enriching relationships have formed between different staff and youth – staff who wouldn't normally work in these programs have now had the opportunity to take youth on a hike, go for a drive in the car and listen to music, and show up for youth in such meaningful and intentional ways. Staff have shared how helpful it's been in deepening their understanding of how systems work and how each of us play a role in supporting the bigger picture of ending youth homelessness. We were also able to provide a modified summer program for young people in our housing programs, which enabled young people to connect after a year of online schooling, quarantine isolation, and additional emotional and mental health challenges.

Additionally, we instituted hazard pay stipends to compensate staff for the increased risk of working in 24/7 housing programs with young people at greater risk of infection. While program leadership positions such as Program Managers and Case Managers remained stable, providing and maintaining hazard pay stipends has enabled us to decrease entry-level residential youth counselor staff turnover during one of the hardest periods of housing program staffing we've had in our agency's history. Our staff felt supported and were able to work in a safe environment and provide a high level of care and support to vulnerable young people.

### Your Investment Helped Build Youth Resiliency

Remaining flexible and nimble in our response to the health crisis has been critical to keeping our programs open and accessible to young people, sustaining the vital services and supports youth need more than ever. These young people worked hard to overcome significant barriers – they graduated high school, secured first jobs, and built vital resiliency that will help support them as they continue to pursue their goals and prepare for independence. A few agency outcome highlights include:

- 153 young people were served through our housing programs
- 85% of young people exited housing programs to stable housing
- 418 youth served in U-Turn, with 3,979 visits
- 375 young people were enrolled in case management
- 8,554 basic needs items were distributed

We continue to see a lot of positive growth happening for our young people in our housing programs. One young person entered *Transitions*, our long-term residential program for teens, in the spring. She was disengaged with school and had no social supports. After receiving mental health counseling as well as case management around education and employment goals, she is now attending in-person school, is employed, has developed healthy support systems, and has made incredible gains in her self-confidence and ability to meet her goals. She continues to reside at *Transitions* and receives ongoing case management support. A resident of *Cocoon House North*, our residential program for pregnant/parenting youth, entered the program without her baby, who was in a foster care placement. She worked hard to meet all of the requirements for reunification and is now caring for her child at North, building the parenting and life skills needed for future independence.

### New Opportunities

While the past year has been far from ordinary, Cocoon House has remained committed to adapting and evolving services to most effectively meet the needs of young people and families in our communities and providing a continuum of housing resources that provides the best possible outcomes for youth with unique housing needs. In June 2021, we launched Cocoon House's new **Connections Host Home Program**. Flexible, short-term, place-based host home opportunities will allow young people to remain in their communities while still able to access additional Cocoon House supports. Volunteer host individuals/families not only provide a room in their home for a young person, but play a vital role in creating the safe and stable environment for a young person to reengage and connect in school, reunify with their family when possible, and help create a healthy

support system. We currently have two host homes in operation and serving young people, and a third is expected to onboard and accept youth placements soon.

*"We decided to apply to be a host home nearly the instant we saw the opportunity come in my email. It was in an email from volunteer.com informing us of volunteer opportunities in our area. Mike and I had been talking about kids, about fostering kids, and about getting involved with different organizations that would help us feel more connected to our community and would be helping to make a difference. When this email came through I showed Mike. After talking it over, maybe 10 minutes, we reached out. We have the room in our home, hearts, and lives that would help kids avoid homelessness, how can we not be part of something so wonderful?" – Connections Host Home Volunteer*

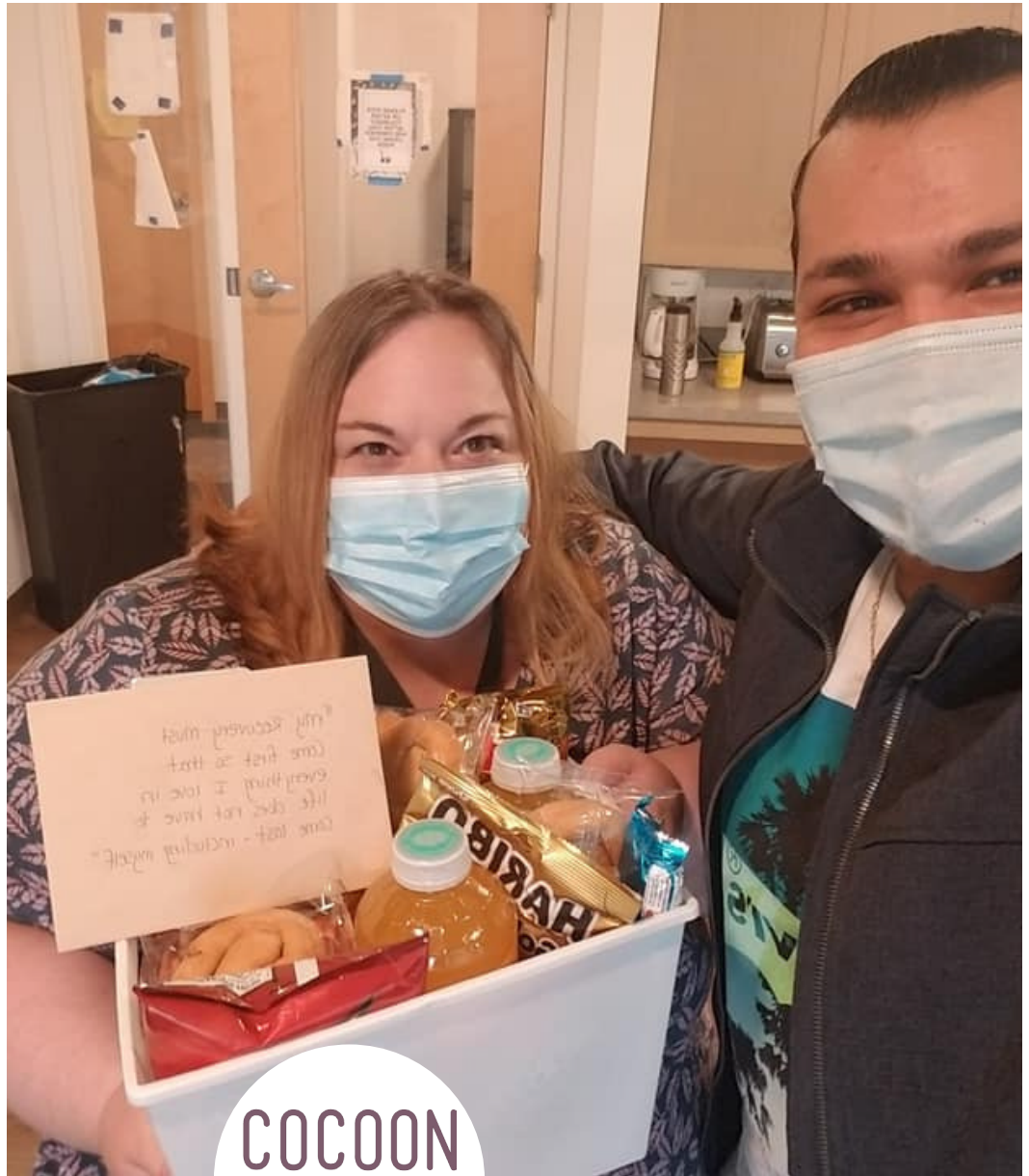
We are excited to see the Host Home program continuing to gain increased interest and traction throughout our community, and we look forward to continued efforts to connect community members to Host Home program information and participation opportunities that will help young people navigate housing instability in new and uniquely supportive ways.

### **The Impact of Your Partnership**

The pandemic has greatly impacted human services throughout our region, and has amplified challenges. Generous funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund helped to ensure the sustainability of critically needed housing services for vulnerable young people in Snohomish County during this uniquely challenging time, supporting them with the care and resources they need to remain safe, advance toward stability, and realize their full potential.

Thank you so much for your partnership and your strong commitment to the young people in our communities.





**COCOON  
HOUSE**  
Breaking The Cycle of Homelessness

