



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Community Homes

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GENERAL GOALS: Community Homes, Inc. believes that ALL adults with developmental disabilities deserve the opportunity to thrive in a quality, safe, community-based home.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

With your generous grant award in March 2016 for general operating support, you have helped us provide the highest quality residential settings for 52 adults with developmental disabilities as well as the opportunity to grow our organization in the areas of education for 100+ families and state-wide advocacy.

For more information please read the attached report from Community Homes.



February 28, 2017

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulip, WA 98271

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

Community Homes is deeply grateful for the support of the Tulip Tribes Charitable Fund. With your generous grant award of ██████ in March 2016 for general operating support, you have helped us provide the highest quality residential settings for 52 adults with developmental disabilities as well as the opportunity to grow our organization in the areas of education for 100+ families and state-wide advocacy. With the partnership of the Tulip Tribes, we are proud to share with you our recent accomplishments:

Continued Responsible Growth in Community-based Housing:

Community Homes now supports 52 residents with our 7 Adult Family Homes (AFHs) and our 8 Shared Living households. In 2016, we examined our infrastructure, shifted our staffing, and slowed our expansion to ensure continued quality support to current residents and their care providers. We added one household with three residents this past year; two additional households for six residents are in development for 2017. The adjustment enabled us to explore new education and outreach opportunities. This step strengthened the organization and its capacity to serve more adults in 2017.



Residents at our annual Family Celebration gathered for a group photo after a fun day of festivities. This event included educational breakout sessions for parents and guardians.



Our residents regularly enjoy social activities together.

Individualized Family Education & Outreach:

In 2016, Community Homes launched a series of educational meetings to

help families learn how to navigate the housing journey. It became clear that this journey is very individualized, and without a state-supported system to guide them, every family has a different experience in understanding how to access services. The number of families contacting Community Homes at a crisis level due to aging parents inspired the organization to reconsider and improve the education component.

Community Homes presented the first Housing Readiness Workshop in

January 2017. This new format includes a pre-event survey to understand the steps the family/guardian has already taken toward housing independence. The workshop filled with a waitlist within 48 hours of opening. Workshop attendees received a feedback survey. This pilot event will be evaluated and additional workshops are planned for February, April, June and October.



Community Homes provides education and outreach in helping families understand the housing journey.

Leadership in Advocacy: When Community Homes opened its seventh Adult Family Home in Woodinville in 2014, lessons were learned regarding navigating the overwhelming regulations and fees that have led to a decrease in Medicaid housing throughout the state. Community Homes led discussions at the local and state level with legislators and other Medicaid AFH providers to help understand how regulations can hinder the independence of adults with disabilities. In 2016 we collaborated with other AFH organizations to lead the charge to advocate for regulations specific to adults with developmental disabilities through the creation of a separate category for Medicaid Adult Family Homes and also develop streamlined licensing, training and oversight specific to the needs of these homes. Work and dialogue will continue throughout the 2017 legislative session in Olympia.

Forward Vision: In 2017, our priority is to continue providing excellent housing for our existing residents while also exploring new ways to expand our services through partnerships with existing affordable housing organizations. We will also strengthen and expand our local and state-level education and advocacy initiatives.

We are excited and energized for the future and confident in our organization’s ability to continue to serve more adults in developing community-based housing. We

appreciate your past support and look forward to our potential work together in the future to provide rich, full lives for adults with developmental disabilities. Thank you for your all you do to support special needs adults in the Puget Sound area.

Sincerely,

Vicki Isett
Executive Director



Our residents gathered together last summer to create squares for a handcrafted quilt that was auctioned off at our Autumn Gala. The event was our best gala yet, raising more than \$165,000.