



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Companis Workers Association

DATE OF AWARD: 2017 Q2

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GENERAL GOALS: Companis creates healthy communities by fostering skilled volunteer service. We bridge the gaps that exclude many of us from healthy community by placing dedicated professionals with nonprofit agencies that need staffing assistance.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards support of their administration and programs.

For more information please read the attached report from Companis Workers Association.

Companis Report to Tulalip Cares
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Grant Reporting Code Q2 2017 14.2
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Companis
www.companis.org

Companis is so appreciative of the [REDACTED] grant we received from Tulalip Cares in 2017. These funds were important in meeting the contingency of a 3-year grant from The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust that allowed our nonprofit to hire a new staff member in support of our mission of creating healthy communities by fostering skilled volunteer service. We are delighted to report to you a successful outcome of the project, leading to an increase in placements of Companis Workers (both volunteer and workers receiving stipends) with nonprofit agencies in need of staffing support they could not otherwise afford, and a corresponding increase in the number of clients served.

METRICS OF SUCCESS

We have placed more volunteers. In 2017, Companis made 81 placements of volunteers with 47 nonprofit organizations. In 2016, that number was 65 placements in 42 nonprofit agencies. We are on track to exceed those numbers in 2018.

From Jan. 1, 2018 through Aug. 15, 2018, Companis reports the following metrics:

- Total placements: 57
- Total service hours: 9,955
- Total agencies with placements: 35
- New partner agencies: 7
- Companis Connects (topics on various professional & personal development topics presented by experts in a half-day format and open to partner agency staff): 3

Service to our homeless neighbors is our largest placement area, reflecting current state of need in the Seattle and Puget Sound area. In 2017, 33% of Companis' 81 placements served our homeless neighbors and those at risk of losing homes, 22% helped provide health care access; 14% served immigrants and refugees; 8% served seniors, 6% served LGBT neighbors; 6% were with programs assisting prison inmates or addressing judicial system inequities, 5% served those with disabilities; 4% served youth; 2% were with environmental organizations.

We have served more clients. All told, Companis volunteers provided direct services for 9,423 clients in 2017, a significant increase in clients served over a comparable period a year ago (4,500 clients). This is due in part to several placements at help desks and call centers, where large numbers of clients are served in programs averting homelessness and meeting a myriad of other critical needs.

We successfully reached out to new agencies serving communities of color, refugees and immigrants. The new position funded with Tulalip Cares support was tasked with this, and reached out to several new organizations, with placements including:

- Ethiopian Community in Seattle – 4 placements, including IT support, ESL tutoring and assistance with citizenship applications
- Byrd Barr Place, which works for racial equity by helping people achieve stability in housing and other basic needs – 2 placements
- Coalition of Refugees from Burma – bookkeeping
- Northwest African American Museum – 2 placements
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle/King County – placements included a Companis Worker at the Help Center who is fluent in Amharic to support increased demand from African immigrants
- Northwest Community Bail Fund – 2 placements, IT support and leadership consultancy
- Placement of 2 Companis volunteers who are immigrants themselves, and who are involved in service programs at three of the nonprofit agencies listed above
- Open Arms Perinatal Services serves a large population of immigrant women from Africa– 4 placements

NEED ADDRESSED

Companis has continued our core program of partnering with vital nonprofit agencies delivering human services throughout the Puget Sound region by providing skilled, professional volunteer staffing. Companis Workers (volunteers and workers receiving stipends) are doctors, nurses, teachers, journalists, bookkeepers, lawyers, social workers, therapists, job coaches, business mentors, chefs, human resource officers, technology specialists and more. They are people who have stepped up to serve their neighbors, providing vital nonprofit agencies with expertise and talent in an efficient and affordable manner. Companis staff members identify need and recruit and match volunteers with skill and a passion for particular areas of service, providing important supports, group meetings, and training and professional networking opportunities that help keep our volunteers engaged and committed. In the past year, 96 percent of Companis Workers have completed their service year or project.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT PROGRAM AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

We remain committed to delivering services for our most vulnerable neighbors, with an intentional focus on expanding outreach to new nonprofit partners in specific service and geographic areas that serve this population.

Homelessness is a key service area, with placements of Companis Workers at these programs:

- St. Vincent de Paul Seattle & King County – 6 placements in past 12 months, 9 placements over three years
- West Seattle Helpline – a homelessness prevention program – 2 placements in past year
- Real Change, a homeless empowerment project and newspaper - 3 placements
- Mary's Place –placement of 2 physicians
- Attain Housing of Kirkland – placement of a facilities manager
- Street Yoga for Homeless Youth – 2 placements
- Shared Breakfast – a program of First Methodist Church, placement of a social worker
- Recovery Café
- Mental Health Chaplaincy – a companionship program
- Elizabeth Gregory Home, a day shelter for homeless women – 2 placements in past year; 10 over 7 years

- Special projects – compiling and updating a resource book for aging homeless women - 2 placements
- Trinity Thrift Shop, providing basic clothing needs for homeless men and women

Health care access and mental health support are key areas service area, with placements at:

- Open Arms Perinatal Services – 3 placements - including donations managers and grant writer
- Seattle Area Support Groups (SASG) (mental health/addiction/chronic illness support for LGBTQ and their allies) - special projects coordinator and board leadership consultation
- Project Access Northwest – caseworker helping those without insurance receive care
- Generations Aging with Pride – a program for senior LGBT community, placement of Executive Director and office manager
- Brigadoon Service Dogs – training of dogs for disabled clients
- Seattle/King County Dental Society – database assistance and research project guidance
- Gay City Health Project - office assistance

Volunteer Support and Development

- Three facilitated peer support groups for volunteers occurring each month
- Professional development opportunities, called Companis Connects, that included expert-led, half-day sessions on:
 - racial equity – 2 sessions
 - deep listening
 - secondary trauma of service providers – 2 sessions
 - gender equality issues
 - conflict de-escalation
- A June annual retreat for volunteers
- A survey of Companis volunteers indicated satisfaction with our program and again helped us fine tune program offerings for the coming months
- Two North Seattle College students fulfilled internship requirements while supported in their placements with technical assistance, mentoring and a financial stipend from Companis

Other Fundraising Milestones

The addition of the new staff position also was a factor in successful major donor gifts secured by the Executive Director, with these highlights:

- Success in meeting individual donor fundraising goals in through 2017 and on track for 2018
- Conducted a successful online fund drive in May of 2018 (GiveBIG) raising more than \$24,000
- Counted 100% of our board among our donors
- Held our biennial fundraising dinner Nov. 2, 2017 with 505 guests attending
 - Net receipts: \$217,250, compares to \$211,050 net receipts in 2015
 - \$138,955 from individual donor contributions
 - \$60,000 challenge matches from 3 major donors
 - \$25,000 from host couple, who are donors and a former Companis volunteer
 - \$22,500 from corporate & community partner sponsorships including Swedish Medical Center as our Presenting Sponsor
 - \$16,140 from employer matching funds
 - Total cost of the event was paid for by hosts and corporate sponsors, allowing all funds raised to go directly to our program

IN CONCLUSION

Support from Tulalip Cares for the Companis program to recruit, place and support volunteers and stipended workers means that more of our most vulnerable neighbors received vital human services in 2017 and 2018. Your grant to Companis helped to efficiently expand capacity for nonprofits throughout the region and support those volunteers and stipended workers who want to serve. Companis works not by creating new programs, but by strengthening the social safety net that is already in place. We tap a valuable Pacific Northwest natural resource – skilled professionals who have a passion to serve their community.

The Tribe's investment in Companis, in combination with funding from Murdock and other foundations, has been the match that ignited significant growth in Companis' ability to serve our neighbors in need. Thanks to this support, Companis is well positioned to offer significant staffing assistance to our nonprofit partners, helping our neighbors in crisis and improving the quality of life for all Puget Sound residents.

