



## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Family Law CASA of King County

**ADDRESS:** 810 Third Avenue, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98104-1457

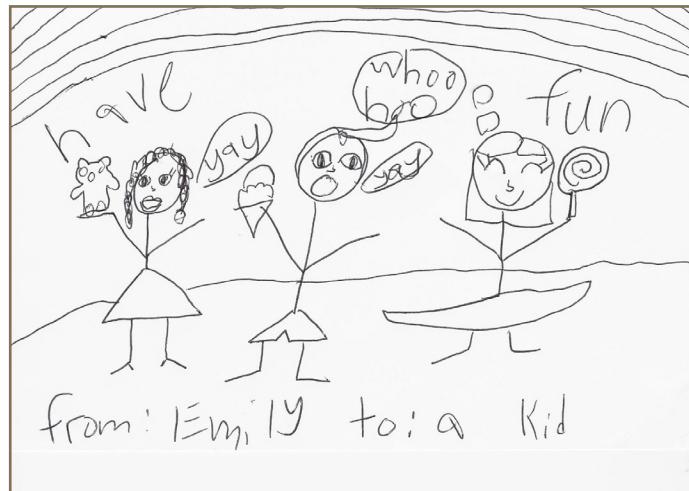
**CONTACT:** (206) 748-9700; <http://www.familylawcasa.org/>

**GENERAL GOALS:** Family Law CASA has advocated for over 700 children involved in Family Court custody cases at no charge.

**SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:**

Funds received assisted in the general operation of the Charity.

For more information, please see the attached report from Family Law CASA of King County.



**TULALIP TRIBES CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS  
GRANT REPORT – Q4 2015 14.2**

<b>Name of Organization:</b> Family Law CASA of King County		
<b>Name of Program:</b> Same as Above		
<b>Contact Person/Title:</b> Lisa McGuinness Carroll, Director of Development		
<b>Telephone:</b> 206-748-9700	<b>Fax:</b> 206-748-9707	<b>Email:</b> lisa.carroll@familylawcasa.org
<b>Date Grant Received:</b> December, 2015	<b>Amount of Grant:</b> ██████	<b>Grant Period:</b> December, 2015 – June, 2016

**Major activities and accomplishments during the grant period:**

- Provided an advocate for 261 children, giving them a voice in court and a safe custody plan.
- Served 116 new families, often referring them to much needed services and treatment.
- Recruited, trained and retained 225 volunteer CASA advocates.
- Continued as the only free advocacy program for low-income children in King County high-conflict, high-risk contested custody cases.
- Served 9 Judges and 5 Commissioners in Seattle and Kent Superior Court. Provided them with investigations, reports and recommendations to assist in making informed decisions.
- CASA recommendations were adopted by the court in nearly all cases.
- Because the court adopted CASA recommendations and court-ordered assessment, treatment, counseling or other services, the likelihood for follow through and stability was greatly improved.
- Addressed increased complexity of issues surrounding the children. More families had multiple issues – violence, mental health, drug/alcohol abuse, educational delays. Provided more recommendations and referrals to needed services.
- Researched and compiled a list of potential professional associations for outreach and scheduled 5 recruitment presentations to potential new advocate groups for the spring.
- Increased mailings and volunteer opportunity postings.
- Created a volunteer task force of experienced advocates to identify retention initiatives.
- Added activities to build community and increase advocate appreciation.
- Initiated peer to peer post case interviews to identify improvements.
- Provided more ongoing training by presenting 5 separate webinars to over 100 advocates and other interested parties on the following topics: Personal Biases; Code of Conduct; Third Petition Parties; Understanding Modification; Tips for a New Case; and Domestic Violence & CASA Court Reports.
- Created new information-gathering guides and report templates to help the advocates tailor their work for each case.

### Updates/Concerns:

- Our Executive Director Roxanne Mennes was out on an acute surgical medical leave for two months, November & December of 2015. During her absence Founding Executive Director Caroline Davis stepped in to assure that operations continued to run smoothly. Roxanne returned full-time in January of 2016 to a stable program.
- Family Law CASA received a testamentary gift in 2011 resulting in the Special Gift Fund. The gift was accepted with the understanding it would be used to grow the program to serve more children. In order to accomplish this growth, the current operating budget runs at a board approved deficit. Our goal is to reach long-term sustainability by closing the financial budget gap in 2-4 years. Yearly progress is crucial as the organization may find in the future it is necessary to reduce staffing and the number of cases/children served. The Tulalip Tribes Charitable Foundation is a key component of the “Close the Gap” plan.
- Advocate recruitment and retention is the biggest challenge we face. Because of the complex issues they encounter and the time involved, CASA volunteers typically take only one case per year and understandably often need to take a break from the work. Unfortunately, the need for advocates continues to grow as more children are impacted by the conflicts and issues surrounding the adults in their life. We focus substantial efforts on community volunteer recruitment, training and retention.
- After an IT assessment we added Adobe Illustrator to 2 computers, updated all computers to MS Office 2016 and improved internet capacity.
- Staff time and resources for each case continue to increase due to more complex issues and safety concerns surrounding the children. In the vast majority of cases, multiple reports spanning a longer time period are often requested by the judge or commissioner.
- We continue to work with the Court to identify unmet need and areas of concern.

### Future

- The 2016/2017 outlook for Family Law CASA looks stable and healthy.
- We have identified trends and areas of improvement now that the Long-Term study contracted with UW researchers is completed. Based on the study we have implemented changes that benefit the children, their families and the Court.
- We will continue to target volunteer recruitment and advocate retention.
- Someday we hope to provide a CASA advocate for every child who needs a CASA
- **Thank you** for supporting FAMILY LAW CASA
- Together, we continue to take steps towards eliminating fear, abuse and neglect in these children’s homes.