



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Family Law CASA of King County

DATE OF AWARD: 2017 Q4

ADDRESS: 810 Third Avenue, Suite 700, Seattle, WA 98104

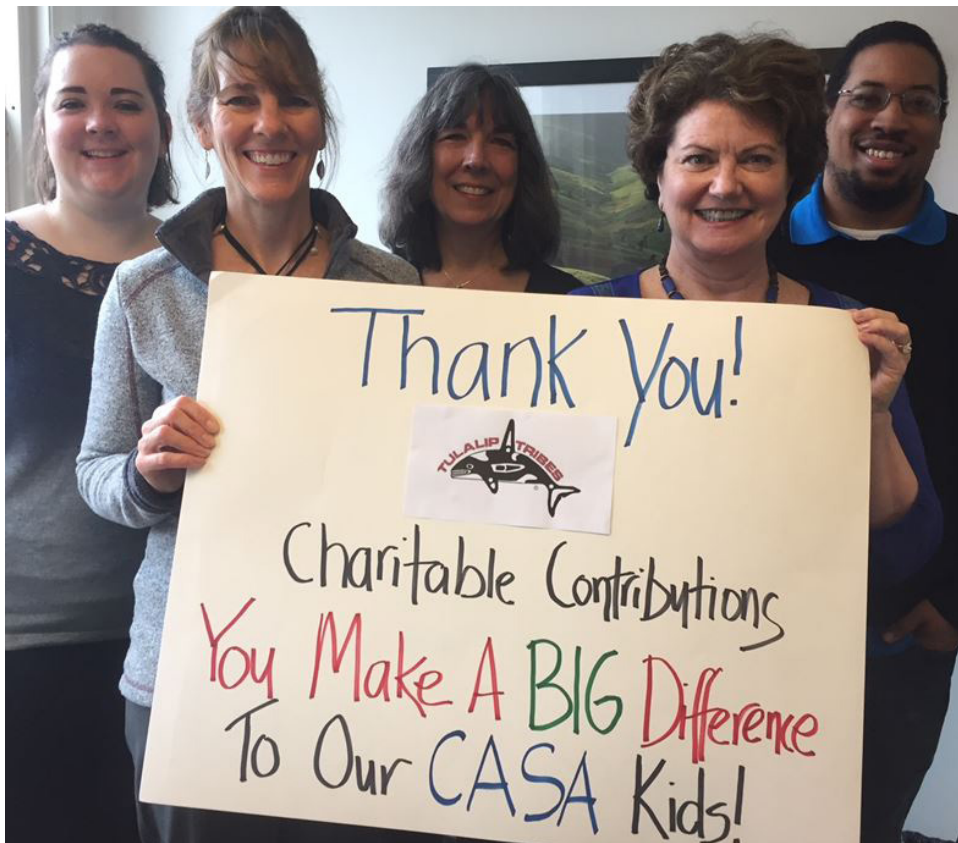
CONTACT: (206) 748-9700, <https://www.familylawcasa.org>

GENERAL GOALS: The children we serve are from lower income homes within King County. Issues impacting the child include domestic violence, addiction, mental illness, neglect and more. This program is designed to help children facing similar trauma in addition to child abuse through a different and separate legal process.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards support of their administration and programs.

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



**TULALIP TRIBES CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
GRANT REPORT – Q4 2017 14.2**

Name of Organization: Family Law CASA of King County		
Name of Program: Same as Above URL: www.familylawcasa.org		
Contact Person/Title: Lisa Johnston, Director of Development		
Telephone: 206-748-9700	Fax: 206-748-9707	Email: development@familylawcasa.org
Date Grant Received: April, 2018	Amount of Grant: ██████	Grant Period: April - June, 2018

Major activities and accomplishments for FY18:

For the Children:

- Provided an advocate for 283 children, giving them a voice in court and a safe custody plan.
- Served 412 households, often referring families to much needed services and treatment.

For the Court:

- Served 12 Judges and 11 Commissioners in King County Superior Court in Seattle and Kent.
- 15,000 hours were donated by volunteer advocates to support the cases assigned to Family Law CASA in King County Superior Court.
- Submitted 161 comprehensive written reports to the court; litigated 38 trials; contributed to 54 mediations; and appeared at 212 additional court hearings.
- CASA reports and recommendations helped 60% of families settle their case out of court saving the courts a substantial amount of time and resources.
- CASA recommendations were adopted in most cases and in cases where recommendations were not fully adopted, the information provided to the court was informative and helpful.
- At the request of the court, accepted more post-trial appointments, requiring a higher level of case management. Additionally, responded to the court's feedback by appearing at more court hearings and providing more information and reports to the court.
- Provided comprehensive CASA resource notebooks for each courtroom highlighting CASA's process, statutory guidelines for advocates, and template forms.
- Conducted ongoing training for judges and commissioners regarding CASA's role in each case and best practices.

Volunteer Advocates – Recruitment, Training and Retention:

- Recruited and trained 57 new volunteer advocates and retained 158 volunteer advocates.

- Continued webinar trainings for volunteer advocates. Six webinars with a total of 296 participants were successfully completed in FY2018. Topics included Mental Illness & Addiction; Child Abuse & Neglect, Child Development and Interviewing Children.
- Monthly training webinars are now recorded and stored for easy volunteer access.
- In response to feedback received from advocates and to provide more flexibility, trainings have been switched from a 3-day to a 2-day format with required webinar sessions.
- Streamlined a step-by-step case guide for volunteers including an update of resource and training materials.
- Regularly surveyed the families and advocates. Based on results, we continue to implement changes that benefit the children, their families and the Court.
- Scheduled Coffee & Conversation gatherings for active volunteers to coincide with new advocate trainings. Featured advocates with areas of expertise relevant to CASA casework. Established a sense of community for the advocates and at the same time provided ongoing training opportunities. Coffees have included experts from the schools, the court and law practices.
- Hosted a volunteer appreciation event at Woodland Park Zoo during “Wildlights”.
- Hosted a mock trial at the Seattle King County Courthouse. An opportunity for active advocates to understand the trial process. Included an actual demonstration of the advocate’s testimony presided over by a judge with direct and cross examination by attorneys.
- Maintained a private Facebook page for CASA advocates to increase sense of community, share current resources, and gather feedback regarding additional training topics. Continued a quarterly volunteer e-newsletter distributed exclusively to advocates.
- Purchased radio and newspaper advertising for recruitment purposes.

Volunteer Attorneys:

- Thirteen Family Law attorneys are now participating in the volunteer attorney program with the goal of alleviating the litigation demands of high conflict family law cases. Over 180 hours were donated in FY18 by local attorneys at the savings of \$45,000 to Family Law CASA and the King County Superior Court system. This has substantially eased the tremendous work load for the program attorney.

Infrastructure:

- Our newly designed website premiered in the fall of 2017 and includes resources for the court, for lawyers and for the broader community. Resources for the families CASA serves have been enriched with a short guide about working with CASA, and additional resources added about after school programs and school lunch programs for lower income families.
- Gained access to Electronic Court Records to more quickly review new cases and assign volunteers; this also assists in having the most current case information as the situations of families are fluid and constantly changing.
- Gained access to JABS, a background check database. Increased screening capabilities to provide safety assurances to advocates entering homes and allowed CASA to provide the most current and accurate information to the court.

- Researched how to increase capabilities of current case management database with plans to train advocates to utilize database for improved efficiency, accuracy and security.
- Completed research for a new secure and efficient telephone system to be implemented this fiscal year.
- Purchased additional office equipment to allow for increased efficiency.

Networking and Partnerships:

- CASA is participating in a coalition to produce a domestic violence screening protocol to be used by courts, lawyers and GALs. This is an invitation only coalition funded by a 3-year federal grant. CASA's presence/participation has clarified our commitment in the legal community to the safety of children exposed to domestic violence.
- Continue to strengthen ongoing social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn sharing information, resources, articles and updates from our partners in the community.
- Advocate trainings include presentations by experts in the fields pertinent to CASA cases. Speakers donate their time and share their expertise with new advocates.
- Students are recruited for internships from the University of Washington and Seattle University focusing on the law, social work and justice programs. Interns often become advocates at a later date.
- Brown bag lunches are held on a regular basis. Experts are invited to share information with the CASA staff and advocates. Last year presentations included a clinical psychologist, a Washington State Bar Diversity leader and a Seattle Library Youth and Family Learning representative. A social worker/therapist is scheduled to present in the summer of 2018.
- The organization will continue to focus on becoming a "networked" organization, utilizing collaborations and partnerships to strengthen families and increase safety for the children we serve.

The Future:

- In operation since 2002 and helping over 2,000 at-risk children the outlook for Family Law CASA looks strong and healthy.
- For FY2019 we plan to continue to provide the courthouses in Seattle & Kent with 5-7 monthly appointments each, averaging a total of 10 per month. We plan to match our caseload numbers from FY2018 realizing we are currently at caseload capacity.
- Someday we hope to provide a CASA advocate for every child who needs a CASA.