



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Family Law CASA King County

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GENERAL GOALS: A CASA advocate is a Court Appointed Special Advocate who receives training and volunteers their time to investigate and report on the best interests of a child.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award was used as support for operational expenses and programs.

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



**TULALIP TRIBES CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS
GRANT REPORT – Q4 2016 14.2**

Name of Organization: Family Law CASA of King County		
Name of Program: Same as Above		
Contact Person/Title: Lisa McGuinness Carroll, Director of Development		
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Date Grant Received: March, 2017	Amount of Grant: ██████	Grant Period: March - June, 2017

Major activities and accomplishments during the grant period:

For the Children:

- Provided an advocate for 275 children, giving them a voice in court and a safe custody plan.
- Served 120 new families, often referring them to much needed services and treatment.

For the Court:

- Served 7 Judges and 5 Commissioners in King County Superior Court in Seattle and Kent.
- Created comprehensive CASA resource notebooks for each courtroom highlighting CASA process, statutory guidelines and forms.
- Conducted lunchtime training for judges and commissioners about the CASA process and statutory requirements.
- CASA recommendations were adopted in most cases and in cases where recommendations were not adopted, the information provided to the court was informative and helpful.

Volunteer Advocates – Recruitment, Training and Retention:

- Recruited and trained 55 new volunteer advocates and retained 263 volunteer CASA advocates.
- Allocated staffing resources to more fully support volunteer recruitment and retention.
- Added monthly on-going webinar trainings for volunteer advocates. 10 webinars with a total of 143 participants were successfully completed in FY2017.
- Monthly training webinars are now recorded and stored for easy volunteer access.
- Sections of the initial 3-Day training have been recorded in webinar format to offer volunteers more training flexibility.
- Created a step-by-step interview guide for volunteers.
- Created a menu of commonly used recommendations to assist volunteers in report writing.
- Created a handout for the families of commonly needed community resources such as where to find free or low cost legal help.
- Concluded a peer to peer post case interview study to thank volunteers and gather information about their experience as an advocate.
- Conducted interviews with 20 of the most experienced advocates to obtain recommendations for recruitment and retention and acknowledge their value to the organization.

- Implemented a schedule of Coffee & Conversation gatherings for active volunteers to brainstorm program improvements and share their experiences with one another.
- Hosted a volunteer appreciation event at Woodland Park Zoo during “Wildlights”.
- Hosted several get-togethers for advocates and their supervisors throughout the year.
- Created a private Facebook page for CASA advocates.
- Created a quarterly volunteer e-newsletter distributed exclusively to Advocates.
- Strengthened ongoing social media including Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Volunteer Attorneys:

- Implemented a volunteer attorney program and initiated the inaugural training in April of 2017. Trained attorneys are all experts on Family Law and will help to alleviate the work load for the current staff attorney. Eight attorneys are now participating in the Volunteer Attorney initiative and another training is scheduled for August 25, 2017.

Infrastructure:

- Reviewed and reconfigured office workspace with input from a volunteer space planner to increase productivity and maximize available space for interns and office volunteers.
- Purchased additional phone and computer equipment to allow for increased efficiency.
- Completed research for a new secure and efficient telephone system to be implemented in the next fiscal year.

Networking and Partnerships:

- Joined the invitation only Pro Bono Coordinators group of King County in March 2017 requiring monthly meetings.
- Hosted a luncheon with King County Early Resolution Case Managers that mediates the vast majority of our cases before trial for the purpose of sharing program information.
- CASA was invited to participate in a coalition to produce a domestic violence screening protocol to be used by courts, lawyers and GALs. This is an invitation only coalition and CASA’s presence/participation has clarified our commitment in the legal community to the safety of children exposed to domestic violence.
- 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. Examples include possible collaborations with Art with Heart and Northwest Justice Project to add tools that help families through high risk circumstances.

The Future:

- Celebrating 15 years in operation this year and helping over 2,000 at-risk children the outlook for Family Law CASA looks strong and healthy.
- Our newly designed website will include resources for the court, for lawyers and for the broader community. At the same time, resources for the families CASA serves will be enriched with short guide about working with CASA, as well as additional resources added about after school programs and school lunch programs for lower income families.
- We hope to add another 6-8 volunteer lawyers to our volunteer lawyer project to address the litigation demands of high conflict family law cases.
- 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.