



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Greater Metroparks Foundation

Address:
4702 S 19th St
Tacoma, WA 98405

Contact:
(253) 305-1066
www.metroparksfoundation.org

Organization's General Goals:
We believe that parks play a vital role in assuring that everyone in our community has the opportunity to play, learn, and grow. We can achieve this together by providing every child a safe and beautiful place to play; making our neighborhoods attractive and livable; stimulating economic development; and creating memories that last a lifetime.

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Date of Award: | Level: |
| 2019 Q1 | \$2,501 to \$5,000 |

For more information, please read the attached report from Greater Metroparks Foundation.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

February 27, 2020

Marilyn Sheldon
Executive Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

RE: Q1 2019 14.2

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

On behalf of The Greater Metro Parks Foundation and Metro Parks Tacoma, thank you for the Tulalip Tribe's generous grant of [REDACTED] received on June 13, 2019, to support Metro Parks' Specialized Recreation Program. This letter serves as the final report for this grant.

Specialized Recreation provides people with intellectual disabilities opportunities to learn, build skills, gain strength, and make life-long friends. The focus of the program is to provide sport, social, and recreational opportunities. In 2019, the program served 632 participants who attend multiple times throughout the year, resulting in over 17,000 experiences annually. The majority of participants live on a limited income, with discretionary monthly income averaging only \$35.



In addition to a variety of programs and activities, the following Specialized Recreation events were held in 2019:

Athlete Recognition Banquet

In January 2019, 194 Special Olympics athletes and their families enjoyed a night of celebration. This recognition dinner honors the time and dedication of our Special Olympics athletes and their families. Each athlete is presented with an award and the group enjoys a banquet-style dinner.

Under the Sea

In March 2019, MPT presented Under the Sea. This one-time special event held at the newly-opened Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium. For this event, we invited kids with disabilities and their families to enjoy the zoo in a more inclusive setting. Care was taken to ensure fun and meaningful experiences, for example, there was a sensory room, (a special room designed to develop a person's sense, usually through special lighting, music, and objects. It can be used as a therapy for children with limited communication skills) and the blinking lights in the aquarium were turned off (blinking lights can trigger seizures in those with epilepsy), among other accommodations. We had about 800 people attend this event.

Cinderella Ball

The Cinderella Ball took place in May, 2019. This annual event is presented in partnership with the Tacoma Yacht Club (the location of the event). The participants dress up for the event and enjoy a DJ'd "prom" style dance. We had 320 people attend the event.



Holiday Cruise

The Holiday Cruise is an annual event that is held in December at the Foss Waterway Seaport Museum. Volunteers from 5 different yacht clubs donate their time and their boats to take Specialized Recreation participants out on a ride on Puget Sound. While participants are not out on the boats, they have a chance to take a turn on the dance floor with a DJ'd event taking place in the museum, take a photo with their friends in the photo booth, or just enjoy each other's company with snacks and conversation. Last December we had 199 participants attending the festivities.

Critical to the lives of people with disabilities in the Pierce County area, Specialized Recreation allows participants to build friendships and practice skills of independence. The Specialized Recreation program website is: <https://www.metroparkstacoma.org/activities-and-sports/specialized-recreation-page/>

The demographics of Specialized Recreation participants offer a compelling portrait of a regularly underserved and underrepresented population. Each year, hundreds of participants with intellectual or developmental disabilities from Pierce County, ages 2 to 90, engage regularly with a welcoming community; access support services through which they learn to become more self-sufficient and take responsibility for their needs; and enjoy new and enriching experiences through wellness, cultural, social, and outdoor programs that are offered weekly, year-round. These essential enrichment, wellness, and community opportunities provide a safe place for participants to develop lifelong relationships, self-determination, and a sense of belonging.

We at Greater Metro Parks Foundation (GMPF) are honored to partner with Metro Parks Tacoma to help raise funds to sustain vital programming like Specialized Recreation. In place since 1991, we are a 501(c)3 charitable organization that nurtures community support, volunteerism, and philanthropy to enhance park and recreation programs run by Metro Parks Tacoma. The mission of the Greater Metro Parks Foundation is "inviting you to build a healthier, more vibrant community by investing in people and parks." The mission of Metro Parks Tacoma is "creating healthy opportunities to play, learn, and grow. Metro Parks Tacoma serves the city of Tacoma (approximately 213,000 residents).

On behalf of all of us at the Greater Metro Parks Foundation and Metro Parks Tacoma, thank you again for the Tulalip Tribes' support of this critical program in 2019. We truly appreciate your support.

With gratitude,

Julie Dugan
President, Greater Metro Parks Foundation