



TulalipCares.org

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** HopeSparks

**DATE OF AWARD:** 2016 Q4

**ADDRESS:** 6424 N. 9th Street, Tacoma, WA 98406

**CONTACT:** (253) 565-4484, <http://www.hopesparks.org>

**GENERAL GOALS:** We strengthen families by inspiring courage and confidence to make a lasting change.

### SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards programs and operational expenses.

For more information please read the attached report from HopeSparks.



March 9, 2018

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
8802 27th Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund from HopeSparks**

**Program Progress & Achievements during 2017**

The grant award of [REDACTED] from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund has supported families in our Children’s Developmental Services (CDS) program by providing them with strategies to meet their children’s developmental goals through a home visiting program and specially designed instruction and therapy. Over the last year, CDS has grown the Infant Mental Health team and is the only provider in Pierce County of in-home Infant Mental Health services.

**Program challenges during 2017**

Services for children and families in the CDS program are primarily delivered in the child’s natural environment, which is usually in the child’s home. In addition to home visiting, therapists and educators support families in finding local social opportunities for children to engage with similar aged peers, and for families to connect with one another. However, it is challenging to find a place that will be an appropriate social environment for children in the CDS program given that they’ve been identified as having developmental delays or special needs. The best placement for the children we serve may not be a community group full of typically developing peers. CDS is working hard to find ways to fund and host a wider variety of social groups in our clinic specifically designed with the needs of our clients in mind.

**Organizational Achievements**

HopeSparks has completed all planned construction on our “Kids Can’t Wait” capital project. This project will allow our Healing Hearts Counseling program to serve an additional 500 children and families annually. We have moved forward with plans to make changes to our existing facility to create 11 new office spaces and hire more therapists to meet the increased need for services. This has expanded therapy services by 25%, reducing the access gap in Pierce County for mental health services. We anticipate being able to provide 5,500 or more additional counseling sessions annually with this expansion. Now that construction is complete, we will begin furnishing the offices and hiring new team members throughout the spring.



## **Success Story**

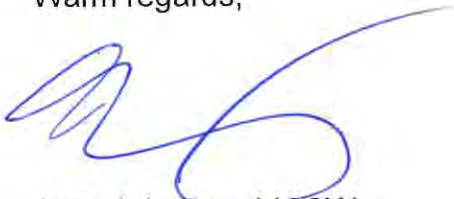
Jack came into the world at just 28 weeks gestation, and after a long 3 month stay in the neonatal intensive care unit, he came home with an NG feeding tube. Jack's parents, Zephyr and Brian, felt helpless as Jack vomited often, choked on the feeding tube, and had to be held down to put it back in place through his nose. *"There were days I didn't think I could do it. I couldn't even sleep because I was afraid he would start choking."* Even after the decision was made to surgically place a G-tube directly into his stomach, he continued to vomit and wasn't making progress toward getting nutrition orally.

After traveling to Seattle for feeding support for the first year of Jack's life, they found the Children's Developmental Services program at HopeSparks and started seeing Sonya, a Speech Language Pathologist, in their home for feeding therapy. Having home-based services was a huge relief for Zephyr; Jack was able to relax and feel comfortable with Sonya right away while they tackled his sensory and feeding needs in the familiarity of his own home. *"I just felt so at ease the second I met Sonya, she's so empathetic and really looked at Jack as an individual. She took her time with him and made their activities fun and playful."* Occupational therapy and home educator services were added to his plan to support his development and to prepare him to enter preschool in the future.

Through a sensory-based approach with his early intervention team, Jack has gained new feeding skills, as well as new play and behavior skills. Focusing on Jack's sensory needs has made it easier for him to participate in activities with his family that were a struggle in the past. During occupational therapy sessions, Jack got to practice touching sand so that he could enjoy a family vacation to the beach. Zephyr has learned new activities and games that support Jack's behavior and social-emotional needs. Through home-based support, Jack is meeting more milestones and getting stronger every day. *"I felt like I had a whole parenting team helping me through this. I don't know what I would've done without them, they helped me find my strengths."*

We sincerely thank the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for supporting our Children's Developmental Services program with a generous grant of [REDACTED]. Thank you for your continued support in the critical work that we do with children and families, and we look forward to further opportunities for HopeSparks to partner with Tulalip Tribes.

Warm regards,



Joseph LeRoy, LICSW  
President & CEO