



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: IslandWood

ADDRESS: 4450 Blakely Ave. NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

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GENERAL GOALS: IslandWood's mission is to provide exceptional learning experiences and to inspire lifelong environmental and community stewardship.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award was used as support for operational expenses and the School Overnight program.

For more information please read the attached report from Island Wood.



July 5, 2017

RE: Grant #: Q2 2016 14.2

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
The Consolidated Borough of Quil Ceda Village
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271-8063

Dear Ms. Sheldon and the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions,

Thank you for your generous financial support of IslandWood. Your grant helped hundreds of Snohomish County students from all walks of life connect with nature, their peers, and themselves. With the end of the 2016-17 school year, please accept this brief report on the successes made possible with your grant of [REDACTED] received in September 2016. All of us at IslandWood are grateful for your incredible partnership!

2016-17 School Overnight Program

During the 2016-17 school year, IslandWood welcomed 393 4th, 5th and 6th graders from eight schools in Snohomish County, including: Soundview School, Cedar Valley Community School, Whole Earth Montessori School, Allen Creek Elementary School, Horizon Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School, Brighton School, and Lynndale Elementary School. These schools represent Marysville, Mukilteo and Edmonds school districts, as well as three private schools in Snohomish County. Your generosity helped us provide scholarship support for each of these public schools, all five of which qualify as Title I Schools, a federal designation that indicates at least thirty percent of students qualify for free and reduced-price school meals.

In total, 93 schools from across the Puget Sound region came to IslandWood as part of our School Overnight Program, totaling 4,084 fourth to sixth grade students, and more than 600 parent and teacher chaperones. Students came from geographically and culturally distinct communities across our region, including the following school districts (in order of attendance): Seattle, Federal Way, Bremerton, Lake Washington, Edmonds, Marysville, Mercer Island, Northshore, Bainbridge Island, Bellevue, La Conner, Lake Quinault, Lopez, Mukilteo, North Kitsap, Riverview, and Tacoma.



The transformative learning experience offered through our School Overnight Program enhances traditional classroom curricula by taking environmental science lessons beyond textbooks and instead turning the forest, trails and beaches found on our 255-acre Bainbridge Island campus into a setting for hands-on learning. For four days and three nights, students conducted science experiments, explored stewardship lessons, and enjoyed specialized instruction including pollinators in the garden and STEM activities, all in small field groups taught by graduate student instructors.

Throughout the year, we offered schools the option to have IslandWood instructors visit classrooms before and after their stay with us. During these visits, our instructors helped students understand what they can expect from their stay at IslandWood, alleviating natural anxiety about new experiences, as well as providing context and a deeper link to state curriculum requirements. After students came to IslandWood, instructors met with classes to help them continue to make strong connections to the academic lessons they learned at IslandWood.

Students who attend our programming return to the classroom energized and excited about learning and, equally as important, they return to their classrooms more engaged with each other and understanding of classmate's differences. Many teachers who come to IslandWood with their students likewise find themselves more excited about teaching and engaged with their students, and more understanding of individual differences. They bring renewed energy back into their classrooms and think about their instruction in new and innovative ways, which provides benefits to their future students. As one teacher said after her experience here, "Teachers have a chance to really get to know students and be able to talk to them in-depth and build rapport. It helped me grow my practice to make a difference in the world."

This year brought new and sometimes spontaneous learning opportunities for students, teachers, chaperones, and even IslandWood staff and instructors. Our Artist in Residence program enhanced our science education program with art lessons focused on music, printmaking, pottery and more. One artist provided a unique hands-on opportunity to participate in the art of Salish Coast weaving with a blanket, dyed by hand with natural materials found locally, that was subsequently donated to IslandWood so that students for years to come may enjoy it. This year, IslandWood lost our honey bee hives after an especially long, wet winter. However, inquisitive students were able to turn the loss into a positive learning experience by leading an investigation into what happened to the hives. Our newly replaced bee hives have since allowed for weekly explorations into the inner workings of some of our most well-known, but least understood pollinators.



Each week, students participated in our *Soil to Snack* program where they harvest vegetables and herbs from our garden, and transform the produce into delicious, healthy snacks, showcasing how easy it can be, even for city dwellers, to grow their own food. This program often uses the food that students made, such as bread baked in our cobb oven, to teach community stewardship by deciding as a group, whether to share some of the food with their greater IslandWood community.



Overcoming Obstacles

Unfortunately, this year saw an unprecedented level of attrition from our schools. Three low-income, Title I schools canceled their visits to IslandWood with little notice, citing personnel changes (often new Principals), budgetary and/or cultural reasons. Our Education team works with school communities to support any challenges that arise from their unanticipated roadblocks. IslandWood staff worked hard to help each of these schools overcome these challenges, offering more support to teachers so they feel more comfortable bringing their students out of the classroom, financial support for chaperones, special meal accommodations, and more. Despite these efforts, we were not able to prevent these cancellations. We are committed to ensuring that these schools are able to overcome their unique obstacles and can bring students to IslandWood in future years.

Ensuring Access for All Students

One of IslandWood's founding commitments is to provide students from low-income areas with the same outdoor learning experiences as children from better resourced communities. We remain steadfast to this commitment, and each year raise funds to support this goal. We strive to ensure that at least half of the students we serve come from schools with a high rate of students eligible for free or reduced-price school meals, and work throughout the year to raise money to accomplish this. Thanks to support from our donors, during the 2016-17 school year we provided \$283,000 in scholarships to the schools with the highest need. In total, 44 schools with an average free and reduced-price meal count of 60%, received scholarship support.

As one teacher said after their experience at IslandWood,

Many of our students live in multi-family housing and do not have a yard to explore and play in. The parks are not always a safe environment. Because they do not have the exposure, they do not form the questions, and do not investigate. IslandWood introduces them to ideas, concepts, education and real-world experiences that they would not otherwise have exposure. Our students have a whole new love of learning, and can't wait to share it with others.

Our program staff continues to dive deep into issues of equity and access as they relate to our environmental education program. IslandWood hosted our first Community

Engagement Forum in March 2016 to learn how our curriculum can best meet the needs of the students, families and teachers we serve. Because of the success of that event, IslandWood hosted a second South Seattle Community Engagement Forum in September 2016. This gathering included School Overnight Program teachers, students and their families, alumni, Board member and community leaders. Together, we sought to better understand how IslandWood can directly connect to the diverse communities of South Seattle and become more culturally responsive to our students' needs. As a result, we have built partnerships with the Muslim Association of the Puget Sound, established a community liaison role, and are exploring ways to reach out to Seattle's Spanish-speaking communities. We are committed to ensuring that our programs are open and accessible to all students. If the Tulalip Tribes would like to take part in this effort to increase our cultural responsiveness, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank You!

On behalf of all of us at IslandWood, thank you for this grant support for students from Snohomish County. We are honored to partner with Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions. Please know that you are welcome to visit our campus anytime to see our School Overnight Program in action. Our door is always open.

In gratitude,



Emily Crandall
Foundation and Corporate Relations Manager
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