



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**IslandWood**

**Address:**  
4450 Blakely Ave NE  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

**Contact:**  
(206) 855-4300  
<https://islandwood.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

As an environmental science and education nonprofit, we create experiences that help students and educators understand their environment and discover the impact they can have on their world and their community.

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Date of Award:</b> | <b>Level:</b>      |
| 2019 Q2               | \$2,501 to \$5,000 |

For more information, please read the attached report from IslandWood.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

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September 14, 2020

**VIA Email to: [msheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:msheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov)**

Marilyn Sheldon, Director  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**Re: Report Code Q2 2019 14.2 – IslandWood 2019 Grant Report**

Dear Ms. Sheldon and the entire community of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund,

On behalf of IslandWood I am pleased to write to you today to report on work delivered over the term of your generous 2019 grant of [REDACTED], which was invested in our exceptional Urban School Programs (USP) to help students from Snohomish County connect their classroom learning with their communities. IslandWood works on the premise that environmental education has the power to transform the way that youth understand and engage with their community. Extending student learning beyond a classroom and into local ecosystems provides opportunities for increasing students' sense of connection to their social and environmental community. It also increases the likelihood that they will see themselves as actors in building more resilient communities.

It is impossible to write to you today without acknowledging the current state of our world and how the coronavirus global pandemic has impacted our work and our IslandWood community. I will try to do that here, in brief, so that the Tulalip Tribe has of sense of how we are coping and responding during this ongoing crisis. Importantly though, please know that all of us here at IslandWood truly hope that you, your families, and your community are staying well during this uncertain and challenging time.

You will not be surprised to learn that IslandWood is suffering significant financial losses as all our revenue generating events and operations have been cancelled. We initially responded in the end of March by making difficult decisions; 60% of IslandWood staff had been furloughed and 20% faced reduced hours and salary reductions, particularly our Education and Event teams (educators, kitchen, lodging, and events staff). Given the sudden and sweeping nature of the crisis, these drastic actions were a prudent course. Fortunately, we applied for and received a Payroll Protection Program loan that is enabling us to recall many staff from furlough. We are grateful for this short-term help but continue working on our longer-term recovery planning. Included in this recovery is an unprecedented pivot toward remote access learning.

IslandWood's "regular" youth educational program delivery has come to a halt with profound impact on our mission-critical programs; School Overnight Program school groups, Brightwater experiential programming, teacher professional development workshops, graduate student spring practicums (teaching our SOP school groups on campus), and in-classroom lessons—were all cancelled for the remainder of the 2019/2020 school year and at least the first half of 2020/2021 school year. These programs are the lifeblood of our organization. Without them, our nonprofit, like many during this still unfolding crisis is facing perhaps the greatest challenge to our mission since our founding.

*Visit us at: [www.islandwood.org](http://www.islandwood.org)*

We have been planning (and are now rolling out programs) for a *new* normal given the potentially lasting requirements for adapted social distancing. Being a staff of resilient environmental educators, our passion for high quality science teaching and learning continued even when it was clear (mid-March 2020) that planned youth programming would come to a halt. IslandWood Urban School Program educators worked quickly to pivot their program delivery and responded to meet the needs of teachers and students during the crisis by developing and providing remote access learning supports. Our immediate pivots included:

- Fulfilling all Urban School Programs contract projects at Brightwater Center creatively, via remote delivery
- Developing additional supports for teachers such as resources and activities that were rolled out and shared with students and families
- Developing new professional development opportunities for teachers, including IslandWood support at the June 2020 WA State Virtual Teacher Conference and a 5-week online course that supported teachers in at-home instruction.

While addressing these new needs we continued to ensure that we are also set-up to resume regular operations as soon as is practical. IslandWood is uniquely positioned and committed to maintaining exceptional environmental education programming during this crisis and beyond—we have always recognized there is not just one way to create environmental stewards. We therefore engaged various strategies that empower teachers and students to be part of solutions needed to achieve a healthy environment and build community resilience. IslandWood believes that the Urban School Programs will have a role to play in helping students recover from traumas caused by COVID-19 related circumstances such as isolation, decreased access to educational resources, and separation from peers and trusted educators. When USP can again serve kids in their schools and schoolyards, and at Brightwater Center, we believe that nature will help kids heal.

Our Educators worked in partnership with classroom teachers as young people explored local environmental issues, conducted experiments and observations, and learned how they can help steward their planet. Water-themed, day-long programs took place at King County’s Brightwater Center/ Treatment Plant in Woodinville, WA, and at neighborhood creeks and streams across Seattle. Our staff worked to deliver programs related to water quality, stormwater, and the impacts and implications of climate change such as Community Waters, the Duwamish Watershed Education Project, and ClimeTime. Teacher professional development is always a major component of our USP; we trained teachers in community-connected environmental learning using a model that focuses on improving teachers’ ability to increase student awareness of how science relates to their community and their capacity as problem-solvers.



*Students learning about stormwater at the Brightwater Treatment Center*

Our application to you for this grant on which we are now reporting indicated that during the 2018/19 school year, we served over 1,700 students from 11 Snohomish County Schools. We also had anticipated

similar numbers in the 2019-2020 school year. However, as you can imagine, COVID-19 school closures and other pandemic disruptions seriously affected our program delivery and we all “lost” 4 months of productive school time. However, we are happy to report the following about our Urban School Programs:

- During the 2019/2020 school year 1,048 kids from the following 18 Snohomish schools attended environmental education programs at Brightwater Center (free of charge): Cedar Way Elementary, College Place Elementary, Glenwood Elementary, Highland Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary School, Holy Rosary School, Madrona K-8 School (Edmonds), Maltby Elementary, Martha Lake Elementary, Monroe Christian School, Salem Woods Elementary School, Shelton View Elementary, Spruce Elementary, Sunnycrest Elementary School, Terrace Park Elementary, Westgate Elementary, Whole Earth Montessori School, and Zion Lutheran School.
- Overall, USP served approximately 3,714 students from 72 schools (Sept 2019 - mid-March 2020; prior to closures caused by COVID-19); 100% participated free of charge.
- USP trained more than 200 teachers in community-connected environmental learning via professional development workshops—114 teachers attended 8 workshops across the region (Sept 2019 - Jan 2020). Our educators taught 66 teachers virtually in April 2020.
- 3,060 students attended a Brightwater program and 761 students participated in post-Brightwater classroom lessons.
- COVID-19 closures resulted in 52 Brightwater program days being cancelled after March 6, equating to approximately 2,080 students who were not able to come to classes at the center.
- In-classroom post-lessons after attending Brightwater was targeted to be 75 classes from Nov. 2019-June 2020— 38 classes (904 students) lost this engagement opportunity.

While our “regular” operations are temporarily shuttered, our mission and work remain as critical as ever—preparing the next generation of environmental problem-solvers and stewards. We look forward to the time when we can reopen our doors for gatherings and restart our in-person educational programming. But for now, whether our work happens over the internet, via Zoom calls, at Brightwater Center, or in Puget Sound’s urban schoolyards, we strive to create exceptional environmental education opportunities. IslandWood has been hard at this work for over 20 years, each year building on the lessons and successes of the past. Your grant support has enabled this. Thank you.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about this 2019 grant report or about the current situation facing IslandWood during this pandemic. We are deeply grateful for your financial support. Please take good care.

With gratitude,



Stacey J Nordgren  
Grants Manager



5th graders investigate the role of freshwater ecosystems during a day trip to Brightwater Center



Teachers in a professional development class learning how to incorporate schoolyard stormwater into their everyday science classes