



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Kandelia**

**Mailing Address:**  
PO Box 28058  
Seattle, WA 98118

**Address:**  
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Seattle, WA 98118

**Contact:**  
(206) 760-1573  
<https://www.kandelialia.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Kandelialia, previously known as VFA, provides direct programs, opportunities, and tools to address systemic inequities so immigrant and refugee families and communities can thrive without having to compromise values, heritage or ethnicity. Leveraging our convener model and years of experience rooted in the Vietnamese community, we center youth in our work—championing and building them up so they can be their full authentic selves.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2023 Q4	\$500 to \$2,500

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

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



March 11, 2025

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions  
Attn: Marilyn Sheldon, Director  
8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

### **Kandelia Grant Report: Q4 2023 14.2**

Dear Friends at Tulalip Cares,

Thank you for supporting Kandelia's programs for immigrant and refugee students this past year! Thanks to partners like you, Kandelia served a total of 677 immigrant and refugee community members this past year. Our Youth Programs served 136 students during the 2023-24 program year. Our Family Programs served 79 caregivers through classes and workshops, and 677 total family members through our Food Access program. So far this school year, 128 students have enrolled in our Youth Programs, 95 caregivers have enrolled in Family Program classes and workshops, and 124 families have participated in our Food Access program.

After-school classes for students during the 2024 school year included English, Tutoring, Rollerblading, Swimming, Soccer, Cooking, and Newcomer Club. Our swimming lessons were offered in partnership with the YMCA, and helped some students learn to swim for the first time while others improved their confidence and skills. Rollerblading lessons were taught in partnership with Skate Journeys, and introduced students to a sport most had not experienced before. In our cooking class, students learned to cook dishes from each other's cultures - and enjoyed eating lots of great food! Our Newcomer Club continued to focus on community building, practicing English in a fun, informal setting, and helping students gain familiarity with their new Seattle home. This year Newcomer Club had field trips to the Space Needle, Snoqualmie Falls, the Selfie Museum, and Discovery Park. All of these academic and enrichment activities help our newly arrived students build a sense of community and belonging, practice English in formal and informal settings, and increase level of school engagement.

In Kandelia's Youth Programs, we continue to offer a summer school program where students can practice English, earn credit towards graduation, and earn a \$500 stipend for meeting attendance requirements. This past summer a record 100 students participated in our Summer Academy and 89 met attendance requirements to earn a stipend. Offering stipends makes it easier for students to invest in their education rather than holding a full time summer job, increasing participation and removing a barrier for students who need to support themselves.

As school and work have returned to our new post-pandemic normal, we've seen that the demographics and needs of immigrant and refugee communities served by Kandelia have shifted. In the spring of 2024 Kandelia hosted listening sessions with nearly 100 immigrant and refugee community members across Seattle, seeking to understand how the strengths and needs of our community have shifted in recent years. Financial stability emerged as an overarching theme, with the cost of living increasing and pandemic-era financial support drying up. After a lot of reflection about how Kandelia's resources and strengths can best meet these needs, we've arrived at 3 overarching focus areas for our support of students and their families:

- Language equity: English language acquisition and advocacy/capacity building to support English language learners.
- Educational systems navigation: middle and high school through the transition to post-secondary.
- Employment and career navigation: job readiness training, career exploration, and systems navigation.

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[www.kandelia.org](http://www.kandelia.org)  
EIN: 91-1122532

With the start of the 2024-2025 school year Kandelia launched new programs to better align with community needs and our new focus areas. We continue to provide beginner and intermediate English classes, but have also started a conversation class where students learn English through hands-on activities and field trips. Our staff has always provided informal mentorship and resource navigation because we're able to establish strong, trusting relationships with students. This year we've formalized this support through a new mentorship program. We're collaborating with Seattle World School (SWS) staff to proactively engage students facing additional barriers to opportunities, such as students here as unaccompanied minors. We've also launched a job readiness and career exploration program. Since many of our students support themselves and their families, our program includes support for immediate employment (resume building, job search, interview skills) and also career exploration to help broaden their knowledge of future opportunities.

Aligning our time and resources around these new programs means we will be transitioning away from programs that have served our students well in the past, but that don't meet current needs. As of the end of December we have phased out our after-school soccer program. We are collaborating with the school to launch their own soccer program, which would enable students to participate in league sports instead of the friendly matches Kandelia was able to arrange. After the 2024-2025 school year we will also be phasing out Kandelia's Food Access program, which currently distributes weekly groceries from Seattle World School. In place of this program we are launching a Community Resource Navigation program, which will provide case management and help connect families to vetted, trusted partners who can meet needs not addressed through our direct service programs.

We continue to support caregivers with online English and Digital Literacy classes, and workshops on a range of topics. In response to the current presidential administration's hostile policies towards immigrant and refugee communities, Kandelia has hosted one Know Your Rights training. Educating ourselves and our communities about changing policies will be an ongoing priority.

For more information about Kandelia's programs, impact, participant demographics, and key learning from the past year, we'd love for you to read our [2024 Impact Report](#). You can also check our [Stories](#) pages for more pictures and stories featuring our program participants.

From all of us at Kandelia, thank you for your support! If you have any questions about our impact over the past year or our future direction please don't hesitate to ask.

In partnership,



Kristina Rallu  
Co-Executive Director  
kristina.rallu@kandelia.org

Kandelvia Family Program Celebration



Certificates awarded to caregivers at Family Program Celebration



Patrick, a former Youth Program participant, came back to volunteer with us!



Summer School Field Trip to the Ballard Locks



Kandelias Staff and Board at our holiday party



Kandelias students and mother



Kandelias student and sibling

