



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Mending Wings

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Organization's General Goals:

Mending Wings exists to empower and heal Native youth through leadership development, cultural retention and revitalization programs, spirituality and our ways of life.

Date of Award:	Level:
2025 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Mending Wings.

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

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Dancing Our Prayers Grant Report

Q3 2025 14.2

Dancing Our Prayers continues to create opportunities for Native youth to connect with their culture through traditional drumming, singing, dancing, and storytelling. More than just a performance group, Dancing Our Prayers is a place where young people learn who they are, where they come from, and the importance of carrying their traditions forward.

From January 2026 – May 2026, Dancing Our Prayers impacted approximately 3,580 people through performances, workshops, cultural presentations, and community gatherings. Through these experiences, participants not only learned songs and dances but also shared the beauty of Native culture with audiences across the country.

One of the most encouraging developments this year has been the number of new students learning drum songs and traditional dance styles. Many youth joined with little or no previous experience, yet through regular practice and mentorship they gained confidence and began actively participating in performances and cultural events. Seeing young people take pride in learning and sharing their culture has been one of the greatest successes of the program.

Dancing Our Prayers also continues to raise up the next generation of culture bearers. Through relationships with experienced drummers, singers, dancers, and elders, youth are learning more than songs and dance steps—they are learning responsibility, leadership, and the importance of preserving cultural traditions for future generations.

This year, Dancing Our Prayers shared Native culture with a wide range of audiences throughout the United States. A highlight was performing at the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita, Kansas, where youth had the opportunity to share traditional songs, dances, and cultural teachings with community members and visitors.

The group also performed at several churches across Washington State, the Northwest and the country. These events created meaningful opportunities to build relationships, educate others about Native culture, and demonstrate how traditional cultural expression continues to thrive in Native communities today.

In addition, participants took part in community events, cultural gatherings, and educational presentations that allowed them to represent their people with pride while strengthening their own sense of identity and belonging.

The impact of Dancing Our Prayers continues to grow. In July, the group will travel to Ireland to share Native culture through drumming, singing, and dance. This will be a unique opportunity for youth to represent their community internationally while building bridges of understanding and sharing messages of hope, healing, and cultural resilience.

Through Dancing Our Prayers, youth participants are:

- Learning traditional songs, dances, and cultural teachings.
- Growing in confidence and pride in their Native identity.
- Developing leadership skills as future culture bearers.
- Building meaningful relationships across communities and cultures.
- Sharing Native traditions with audiences locally, nationally, and internationally.

We are deeply grateful for the support that makes this work possible. Your investment is helping Native youth strengthen their cultural identity, develop leadership skills, and carry important traditions into the future. Thank you for partnering with us as we continue this journey.

www.mendingwings.net

