



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Mother Mentors Whidbey Island

Mailing Address:

PO Box 92
Langley, WA 98260-0092

Contact:

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<https://mothermentors.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Mother Mentor's mission is to nurture mothers and other caregivers of young children by providing practical and emotional support.

Date of Award:

2018 Q3

Level:

\$500 to \$2,500

Specific Use for This Award:

For more information, please read the attached report from Mother Mentors Whidbey Island.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

Last December we received [REDACTED] from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund to support Playscape, our drop-in Play and Learn program for families with children birth to 4. Playscape is offered at two locations in Oak Harbor, Washington and one location in Langley, WA. In Oak Harbor we offer two groups a week in a church space and two groups a week at the Toddler Learning Center early childhood classroom space. On the south end of Whidbey, we offer four groups a week in a rented classroom space in the former primary school. Because of your support, along with several other private funders, we were able to maintain all eight weekly groups from late September of 2018 to mid June of 2019.

Last year we had a major budget cut back in funding for Playscape from our primary funder, Child Care Aware. This cutback was due to changes in funding for early learning initiatives at the state level and not due to any performance issues. In fact, our Playscape program has had record attendance and last year we served 321 families with 630 children. In addition, we provided mentoring to 41 families with 87 children. Without additional funding we would have had to close the program in May. A week of eight Play and Learn groups costs [REDACTED] so your donation gave us almost an additional two weeks of program time last year.

The purpose of the Play and Learn groups is to offer a safe, stimulating place for children to play and explore and to begin to learn the early social and emotional skills such as sharing, dealing with transitions, self regulation and coming together in a group. Playscape is also a place for parents and caregivers to connect with each other and develop community and learn about area resources. This year some of our parent leaders began leading the monthly parent conversations on topics related to parenting and child development.

At the end of the year in June, participating parents and caregivers complete a survey about how the program has helped them. Parents report that Playscape helped them increase their own confidence in themselves as parents. They read more to their children at home and play more with their kids and even get messy! Some parents report doing more art projects and more music at home after attending Playscape. Many parents report that Playscape has helped their child learn to play with others, to share and to enjoy being around other new children more. One parent from the baby group had this to say,

“When my daughter was 4 months old , we ventured out to the Baby, Me and We group at Playscape. I was immediately struck by what an incredible oasis this group was. While attending the group I gained confidence in who I was as a mother. I felt like a member of a larger community for the first time despite spending most of my days alone in a rural homestead. The Baby group gave structure to my week, support when I needed it and an

opportunity to give back to others.
What I love about the group is how it recognizes that parenthood cannot be done in isolation. Everyone , both parent and baby, benefits from a safe place to share and grow.”

Playscape also saw a record number of other caregivers this past year. There were 12 grandparents who brought grandchildren on a regular basis , two aunties and three friends who brought their own children and their neighbor’s child or children. There were also multiple supervised visits with two different families last year and three foster children consistently attended Playscape with their foster parent. Five children with special needs attended Playscape North and South, sometimes with a therapist from the Toddler Learning Center and sometimes with a parent.

Our goals for the coming year are to continue to create a diverse space that welcomes all kinds of families where everyone can discover the value of play as a learning tool.

