

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Mother Mentors Whidbey Island

Mailing Address:

PO Box 92
Langley, WA 98260-0092

Contact:

(360) 321-1484
<https://www.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 and for all families of young children on the island to feel supported and connected to each other and to their community.

Date of Award:

2020 Q4

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

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

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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April 11, 2022

Program Report

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund

Mother Mentors Whidbey Island: Q4 2020 14.2

www.mothermentors.org

Total number of individuals served by Playscape and mentoring since July 2021: 409

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

We received a grant in the amount of [REDACTED] from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund in late March of 2021. Since that time, Mother Mentors has been able to resume in person programming and initiate new programming. You gave us a general operating grant in support of our in-home mentoring and Playscape Play and Learn programs. Beginning in April of 2021 we cautiously opened our doors two days a week for Playscape in Oak Harbor and Langley. We added new safety protocols, including asking all adults and children age 3 and up to wear masks. We asked folks about whether they had any COVID related symptoms while checking in and asked that they do a temperature check. We added new cleaning protocols after every session and had to limit the number of families attending in each space; something we have not had to do before. As a result, Play and Learn groups were offered without incident all spring!! We partnered with Sno-Isle Libraries and continued to offer monthly craft activity kits and birth to three board books for families with young children once a month. We began to mentor families again in their homes in the summer of 2021 but we had to re-start the program in many ways. We asked all volunteer mentors and staff to be vaccinated but not all families requesting mentors have been vaccinated and so we have had to be creative about how we serve these families via zoom or on the phone, dropping off meals, etc... instead of in person service.

This fall Mother Mentors re-opened Playscape with a full fall schedule: eight groups a week, four in Oak Harbor and four in Langley. Because people have been so isolated and many young children have never socialized with others outside of their own family, the socialization aspect of Play and Learn has become a critical piece of what Playscape offers, both for children and adults.

In September new Mentor Match Coordinator was hired to recruit, train, match and support the volunteer mentors as they offer weekly support to families with young children. During the pandemic a group of our young mothers started a Parent Pantry, offering diapers, formula, breast pumps and nursing supplies, gently used infant and toddler clothing, and small equipment such as smaller strollers, bouncy chairs, bassinets, etc.... to local families. The Parent Pantry is now open every other Saturday in Langley and once a month in Oak Harbor and is a place where families with young children can shop for free. The Parent Pantry is operated and managed by volunteers and all donations come to Mother Mentors free of charge except for the diapers. We recently became members of the National Diaper Network and received a grant to purchase diapers in bulk. We have recently partnered with United Way Skagit County, which has a diaper distribution center, to purchase diapers through them at a discount. We are excited to be able to offer this service to families in Island County.

In early 2022 we also started a new peer led Parent Support Circle online. Parents of young children are struggling more than ever, partly because of the challenges related to working and schooling children from home. And, because young children have not been able to be vaccinated, there are many still unable to meet in groups in person. Led by a young mother with three toddlers at home, the group is designed to offer parent conversation, connection and community building. Some sessions are open ended and others have a specific topic related to parenting and child development and/or unique challenges for military families. These groups have been well attended and will transition from virtual to in-person in Oak Harbor and Langley in late April.

Attached please find a copy of our fall 2021 Annual Report and some photos we thought you might enjoy.



Mother Mentors

Whidbey Island

Welcome to the third edition of Mother Mentors of Whidbey Island's Annual Report. It is designed to **thank you**, our partners, for believing in us! It is also intended to inform you about our work, past accomplishments, current services and future dreams.

Your generous gifts of time and money allow us to forge lasting relationships with families and stay connected in ever changing ways.

Ode To My Mother

I am my mother's garden
Carefully planted seeds, awash in the
light of your love
Growing gracefully and strong
Guided by your warm embrace and thoughtful
voice.

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE 3, FALL 2021

The **mission** of Mother Mentors is to nurture parents and caregivers of children birth to three by offering practical and emotional support.

Playscape Play and Learn programming was offered virtually twice weekly during much of the year and there was an average of **300** views per month by families on Facebook.

We prepared and distributed **100** craft activity kits with board books **each month** to families up north and south (50 north and 50 south aver).

During the 2020-2021 year, volunteer mentors supported **15** families with a total of **41** children

The Parent Pantry opened its doors in mid February as an experiment and has served **25** families per month with diapers, formula and infant toddler clothing and equipment.

Approximately 40% of our families are Military Active Duty

- 1/5 are Single Head of Household
- 1/3 have incomes less than \$50,000/year
- 1/2 have more than two children
- The average length of a mentoring match is 11 months

Looking Back

Challenging times call for creative thinking and adaptability. I have been truly amazed by the ability of our small staff and committed volunteers to bend and move gracefully around the many obstacles posed by the pandemic this year. Teresa and Couloir, our Playscape Facilitators, found ways to continue to offer artful and engaging circle times on our Facebook page. They also prepared wonderful craft activity kits for families to pick up once a month in person. Sno-Isle Libraries gave us beautiful birth to three board books to distribute with the craft kits. Macaroni Kids brought toys and treats to distribute.

Our Mentors found ways to connect by bringing a family a meal or talking on the phone or online. We tried some virtual support groups and our Board, like everyone else, learned to meet on Zoom. In early February, a group of Moms brought in gently used infant and toddler clothes, donated diapers and baby equipment and voila! the Parent Pantry was born. Offered twice a month on Saturdays, families can shop for diapers, formula and other needed items for free in an inviting boutique setting.

In April we cautiously opened our doors at Playscape on a limited basis and began to mentor in person in early summer. This partial opening helped us develop strong safety protocols in preparation for a full, masked re-opening this fall. We are thankful to have come this far and joyfully and cautiously celebrate new community connections.

Looking Forward

The pandemic has brought about new partnerships in 2021. As soon as our volunteer Moms opened the Parent Pantry doors, we found that other groups wanted to contribute to the Pantry. A quilting and knitting group is making baby blankets, hats and booties and another group is delivering feminine hygiene kits and personal care products. The Goose Grocery donated some formula and we are soon going to become part of a national diaper bank network.

In September we welcomed new north end Playscape Facilitator Maggie Sweeney and new Mentor Match Coordinator Rebecca West. We are excited about being able to again offer eight weekly Playscape sessions, including the Parent Infant support groups. Thanks to a successful "Round Up" program at the Goose Grocery in August and a generous gift of money and office space from the Presbyterian Church in Oak Harbor, we be able to increase our social media budget to better communicate with potential volunteers and families through a variety of online tools.

In the coming year we will be developing some new programming to support parents with a emphasis on inclusivity and creating a welcoming atmosphere for all types of families in everything we do. A new group of young Mothers on our Board are bringing fresh ideas and energy to keep the critical work of supporting parents moving forward. As I begin my last year working with this amazing organization, I am honored to join hands with so many parents working together island wide— isn't it amazing what a small group of parents can do!

Kate McVay, Executive Director



Many Thanks to our Grantors and Event Sponsors:

Child Care Aware

Medina Foundation

Kelly Family Foundation

Tulalip Charitable Fund

Candace Jordan, Keller Williams

Trinity Lutheran Church

St. Augustine's in the Woods

Whidbey Island Bank

Whidbey Telecom

Daughters of Norway, Esther Moe Lodge

Whidbey Presbyterian Church, OH

Goosefoot Community Grocery

Island Thrift, OH

Whidbey Community Foundation

Matt's Import Haven

Whidbey Fine Arts Studio

Langley United Methodist Women

Unitarian Congregation Whidbey Island

Daughters of the American Revolution

Langley United Methodist Women



Photo: Dedicated Parent Pantry Volunteers

MMWI Volunteers

Volunteers are the backbone of Mother Mentors. In addition to in-home mentors, volunteers help out each week in the Playscape Play and Learn classrooms and manage the Parent Pantry. Volunteers to help with everything from fundraising to cleaning to delivering food and diapers to making up craft activities!

Thank You to our 2020-21 Volunteers

Rebecca Reid

Lizzie Thigpen

Jodelle Delay

Cindy Mason

Lorayne Thompson

Barbara Thelan

Amy Hadlock

Laurel Fagan

Debbie Banta

Linda Ridder

Nancy Bolin

Kristin Lasher

Lynn Launer

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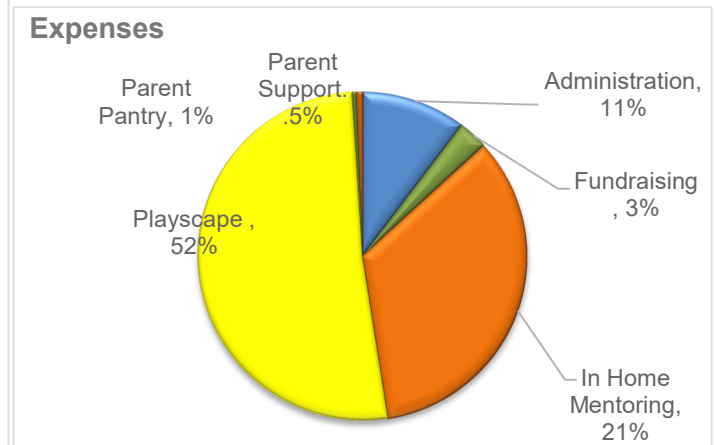
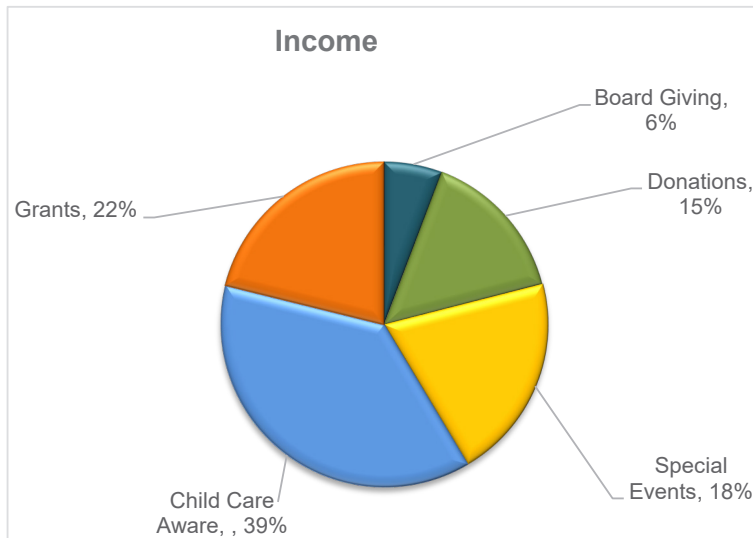
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July 2021– June 2022 Financial Report



Thank You To Our July 2020-September 2021 Donors!

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