



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

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TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
**Northwest School for Deaf
and Hard-of-Hearing Children**

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Organization's General Goals:
Using Signing Exact English and oral communication we prepare deaf and hard-of-hearing children to be self-confident, articulate and academically competitive learners, and engaged community members.

Date of Award:	Level:
2021 Q4	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children.

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Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children 2022 Grant Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

On behalf of our team at Northwest School for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Children (NWSDDH), we are so grateful for your continued support this past year. We are pleased to share highlights from this past year along with some photos to help illustrate the important impact of your investment in our organization.

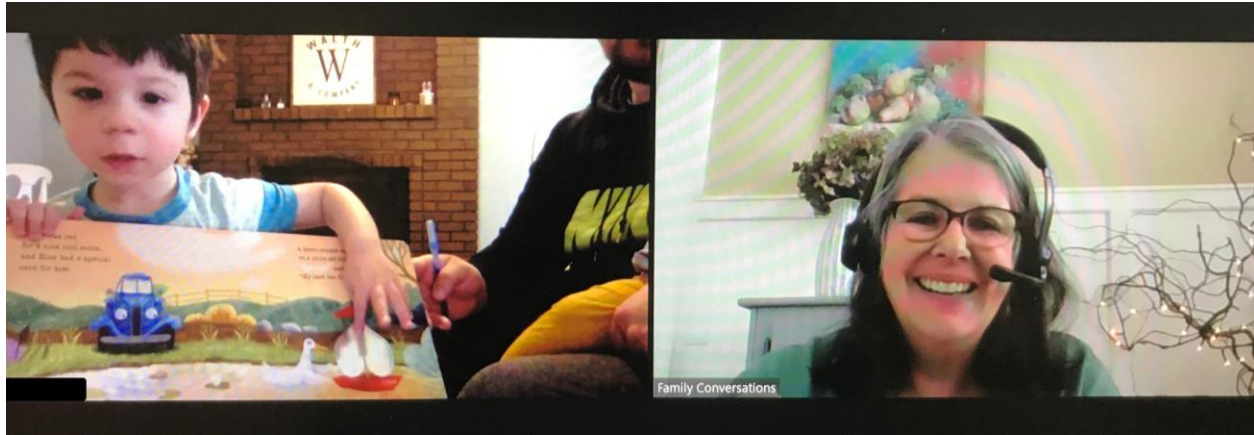


NWSDDH highlights and accomplishments

Across our programs, NWSDDH applies evaluation and program monitoring methods to ensure that we track progress around a range of outcomes: grade level progression, developmental milestones, literacy, and math skills. It also ensures we successfully address our student's distinct learning needs and challenges. In 2021-2022, despite a disruptive and challenging year, students showed resilience and continued to achieve at high levels. Support from Tulalip Tribes helped us in the following ways over the past year.



- **Preschool-Eighth Grade Program:** Through the Preschool-Eighth Grade Program, we ensured minimal interruption over the year for our seven full classes of 45 deaf and hard-of-hearing (D/HH) children. After resuming 100% in-person learning in the spring of 2021, we maintained this without interruption throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Our team of skilled teachers and staff provided educational strategies and supports to ensure students made progress on goals identified in their Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). 100% of our eighth-grade students graduated on time and will enter mainstream high school.



- Family Conversations Program:** We strengthened our birth to three program by designing a hybrid service delivery model proven effective in engaging families. We have seen the benefits of this model combining in-person home visits and virtual visits, and plan to continue a hybrid program for the long term. Over 95% of families of our youngest learners (birth to three) successfully enrolled in their school of choice. (Some families moved or additional developmental needs of the child influenced placement.)



- Increasing staff capacity:** We expanded our staff with more individuals who reflect the families we serve; both racial diversity and staff who have hearing loss themselves. This includes a Resource Room teacher and extra summer school supports to address the impacts and learning losses experienced by some of our students due to the pandemic. We also have laid the groundwork to invest in new staff supports for the 2022-2023 school year including a Compliance Manager and Lead Interpreter.

Critical to our success was expanding the use of technology to provide the most effective distance and hybrid services possible. We upgraded our systems to facilitate improved access to virtual learning platforms, purchased new student laptops and classroom web cameras to deliver hybrid services, replaced a classroom SMARTboard and updated crucial student audiology equipment, and provided training for our staff to prepare for the return to in-person and hybrid learning.

In line with our growth goals, we were able to run all our programs at full capacity throughout the year. Our school enrollment remained at its typical levels as did the overall participation of existing birth to three families and our district support services.

We are also excited to share our progress with renovating our main campus in Shoreline as part of a two-phase campus renovation project to holistically improve our campus to ensure the most healthy, safe, and productive space where children can successfully learn, and adults can work. We divided the project into two phases with the majority of work happening in the summer to minimize disruptions for our school program:

- Phase 1 (completed summer and fall of 2022) focused on a refresh of the interior of our main building, optimizing the use of space to best support service delivery across all programs; improving technology and emergency systems to be more D/HH responsive, and replacing outdated furniture in classrooms and offices.
- Phase 2 (summer 2023 and possibly into the following year if needed) will focus on a refresh of the exterior of the main building and improving and/or replacing outdated portables.

This project is part of our strategic vision for the future and has been planned with thoughtful holistic improvements in mind to last for the next several decades. In the short term, we have seen the benefit to our community already with the completion of Phase I and the excitement of our students this fall as they experience the refreshed, vibrant spaces optimized for the unique learning needs of deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

Addressing continued challenges

We do want to acknowledge that the realities of student and staff absences due to Covid-19 along with the multiplied layers of impact going into the third year of special education services in a pandemic presented challenges for progress. This was particularly so for students with complex needs and/or those who were absent more. To address these challenges, mitigate gaps in learning, and support social-emotional development, we onboarded a new Resource Room Teacher for the Deaf staff member this past year. This new role provided small group and 1:1 instruction tailored to the unique academic needs of our individual students. We also expanded our Speech Language Pathologist position to full-time increasing our capacity to work with students to develop speech and listening skills; and expanded Audiology services to work with older students around self-advocacy and preparedness to learn successfully in high school and beyond.

For our birth to three Family Conversations program, we continued to refine and build out a hybrid service delivery model consisting of both in-person and virtual home visits, which when done in the right proportion, is proven to increase birth to three family engagement and service delivery efficiencies. We also had some space to innovate around small group family programming which is going very well as we pilot events both in the north and south sound.

NWSDHH's success throughout its history is inherently connected to providing the best possible training and holistic support for our staff. We strengthened professional development and training supports for our staff over the past year, and have designed a plan for the coming year to double down on high-quality, engaging staff training, mentoring, and coaching. As the field of Deaf Education quickly evolves, long-time educators retire and more people leave the field in general, we have more need than ever to further invest in our staff training and professional development supports.

As we look to the year ahead, we are eager to advance our efforts guided by our strategic vision and overarching goal: To foster programs and a learning environment that allows our Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing students, their families, and our staff to flourish. Thank you again for your partnership and support as we continue offering our core services and innovating to ensure we meet the ever-evolving needs of our community in the most effective and responsive ways.