



TulalipCares.org

## Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

**NAME OF AGENCY:** Northwest Youth Services

**DATE OF AWARD:** 2017 Q2

**ADDRESS:** 1020 North State Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

**CONTACT:** (360) 734-9862, <https://www.nwys.org>

**GENERAL GOALS:** Northwest Youth Services collaborates with at-risk, runaway and homeless youth to foster self-reliance.

### SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards programs and operational expenses.

For more information please read the attached report from Northwest Youth Services.

## **Tulalip Charitable Contributions Fund– Northwest Youth Services Skagit Transitional Living Program Vocational Grant Report**

### **Q4 2017 14.2**

#### **NARRATIVE**

Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) offers this grant report with gratitude for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund. During the 6/1/2017-5/31/2018 grant year, this generous donation greatly impacted the lives of homeless youth and their families served by NWYS in Skagit County. Through the Transitional Living Program (TLP) 33 young adults and 22 of their children were provided housing and supportive case management to end the cycle of homelessness. The NWYS housing team worked dedicatedly to meet each youth's unique needs and support them in achieving their individual goals. Youth who sought services from our organization had experienced varied situations of instability, crisis, and lack of family support. With the support of NWYS, these resilient young adults were able to obtain basic needs, housing, employment support, and hope for the future.

Youth in the TLP program worked alongside their assigned case manager to identify the individual barriers to housing and set tangible goals to ensure that they can continue of life of self-sufficiency. This looks different for each youth and many are affected by internal and external barriers. One of the greatest successes of this grant year was the intensive case management that ensured that no youth exited the program into unsafe or unsheltered environments. Out of the 17 youth who left the program during this time, 100% exited into safe housing situations, staying with family, friends or other sheltered options. 8 of these 17 youth faced barriers such as mental health, chemical dependency, and lack of family support that prevented them from acquiring long term stable housing of their own. Through case management and aftercare, NWYS was able to help these youth identify safe housing situations and continue to work towards their goals. 88.2% of youth completed Housing Safety Plans to prevent returning to homelessness. This has been a very effective tool that assists youth to identify their natural supports and resources. The supportive case management of the program helped 94.1% of youth increase in their independent living skills during this time.

The NWYS Vocational Readiness Program is a vital asset to the agency in which youth can work one-on-one with the Coordinator to pursue their employment and educational goals. Many youth have never created a resume or been able to maintain stable employment due to the incredible challenge of being homeless. Increasing income can be difficult for many of the youth we serve, but is often vital to reaching financial independence and stable housing. 52.9% of youth in the program increased their income upon exit and 82.4% increased their employability by gaining 2 or more vocational or educational skills. While this outcome was lower than projected, it was a major accomplishment for youth facing great adversity. The Vocational Readiness Program offers continual support to youth in aftercare, even after graduating the TLP program. A main goal of NWYS organization is to unconditionally support youth in their goals even after leaving the program. Despite some staff turnover

in the Housing Case Manager and Vocational Coordinator positions, the majority of youth have remained in contact and received supportive services, resource referrals and job readiness support.

The impact of these programs can only partially be portrayed through outcomes and this narrative. While we wish every young person's story could be shared in this report, one youth has offered to tell of their experience in the TLP program. Kimberly wrote:

*"When I first walked into NWYS, I was 18 years old, shy, introverted, and I had taken care of myself for all of my teen years, so I had the mentality that I'd always have to do everything alone. When I met the staff I was surprised to see how helpful, encouraging and kind all of them were, I felt like everyone genuinely wanted to help me and not just because it's their job to do so. I didn't feel alone anymore; I had someone to ask questions to and help guide me.*

*I'm 20 years old now, I have a part time job (thanks to NWYS) planning to get a second job, almost have completed my GED testing and am looking at apartments.*

*The most drastic change that has happened to me since entering this program is my self-worth, I feel much more confident in my ability to create the life I want for myself and I now realize that I am my own greatest tool. My long-term goals are to travel around the world and one day have my art in a museum."*

NWYS sincerely appreciates the support of the Tulalip Tribe community and your dedication to helping youth like Kimberly. It has been reported that 50% of chronically homeless adults in America first experienced homelessness as a youth. Through NWYS programming we are intervening in the lives of young people experiencing crisis and working to end the cycle of poverty and homelessness. Thank you for investing in the youth of Skagit County and creating sustainable change in our communities.



33 YOUTH AND 22  
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