



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Olive Crest: Bridge Receiving Center**

**Address:**  
9900 Willows Rd NE  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:**  
(425) 629-4753  
<https://www.olivecrest.org>  
<http://www.bridgereceivingcenter.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Olive Crest is dedicated to preventing child abuse, to treating and educating at-risk children and to preserving the family... "One Life at a Time."

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2018 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Olive Crest: Bridge Receiving Center.

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.

**Dear Ms. Sheldon:**

**Code: Q2 2018 14.2**

We are grateful for the Tulalip Tribes' charitable contribution to support a new and innovative program called Bridge Receiving Center, which will give a healing start to children entering foster care for the first time.

The Center will impact 72-144 children annually and is scheduled to launch September 2019. The websites for Olive Crest and the new program are: [www.olivecrest.org](http://www.olivecrest.org) and [www.bridgereceivingcenter.org](http://www.bridgereceivingcenter.org) .

The following is our report on the progress made in this past year. We are also including a few photos of the Center before and after the remodeling. We hope you are encouraged by what we have accomplished.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Very Sincerely,

Tracy Rubstello  
Development Director  
PH: 425.444.4812  
EMAIL: [tracyr@bridgereceivingcenter.org](mailto:tracyr@bridgereceivingcenter.org)

**A summary in one paragraph of the most important outcome that resulted from this grant.**

The most important outcome that resulted from this grant was that it gave us the ability to cover expenses related to negotiations with the Department of Children, Youth and Families regarding obtaining the service contract for Bridge Receiving Center to be approved to serve. In addition, this grant enabled us to conduct negotiations with the Department of Licensing, Education, Fire Authority and various other state and local agencies (regarding licensing issues) to assure compliance with the Washington Administrative Code. Your generosity enabled these negotiations to be carried out to a successful end with Bridge Receiving Center now approved to serve as a residential receiving center for children entering foster care for the first time. Beginning this September 2019, thanks to your support, traumatized children will be able to come and start their healing process as they transition into their next steps in foster care.

**The number of people impacted by the grant and how our target population was impacted or changed through our work.**

The Bridge Program is scheduled to launch this September 2019, pending securing all funding. The Center is estimated to serve between 72 – 144 children (ages 6 – 10 years old, along with siblings 4 – 14 years old) in our first 18 – 24 months of operations. These will be children from King and Snohomish County who are entering foster care for the very first time, having just been removed from their homes by CPS. Our original target population for this first phase was boys ages 6 – 10 years old, based on recommendations from DSHS as the population in the Lake Stevens region most in need of care. Over the course of the past year, that target population has been expanded to include girls in that age group, as well as any sibling sets of the children in our care who are between 4 – 14 years old. This change has come at the request of DCYF (the new oversight organization in WA State). Olive Crest has agreed to this change because of our desire to keep siblings together whenever possible. Expanding our program to serve both genders and a wider age range has required us to make some adjustments to how our program will be carried out, but we feel the challenges in making this change are far outweighed by the benefit to the children and families we will be serving.

**Lessons learned and challenges/barriers we faced with this project/program: how we handled these challenges, and how the lessons learned will inform our future work.**

While almost everyone we have talked to about our innovative new approach has been supportive of our concept as having the potential to truly be a “game-changer” for the foster care system, and everyone has agreed that something needs to be done to change the current system, it has been challenging to find people and funders that are willing to invest in this vision financially. It has required us to find donors that are visionaries themselves; willing to take a risk on a new approach that hasn’t been tried before and who are willing to partner with us in carrying out that approach. We have learned to share this vision in a way that helps people see that the possibility for change in the lives of these children as well as in our community is worth any possible “failures” of this program. Gratefully, because of Olive Crest’s reputation for excellence in working with vulnerable children we have been able to bring together a board of directors for Bridge Receiving Center that come from well-known, existing organizations and who are themselves experts in foster care which gives donors the assurance that these experts deem the Bridge Receiving Center model as one worth investing in.

**How are plans for sustainability progressing.**

Our plans for sustainability for the Bridge Receiving Center program include blending private and public support to enable us to maximize our resources and deliver the highest quality care. Private funding sources include Individual Giving, Foundations, Cause Marketing, and Events. The state will be funding 74% of the ongoing operational costs leaving a monthly private funding

goal of \$13,833. We have put together a development strategic plan to ensure our fundraising efforts stay well ahead of our funding needs so that services will not be interrupted. One of these strategies we are currently emphasizing is The 51 Club – a group of donors who are committed to giving \$51 or more a month to help us provide the \$51/day it costs us to care for each child who stays at our Center. Our goal is to have 151 people enrolled as members in this club, ensuring our sustainability over the long run. As Bridge gains momentum with documented successful outcomes, we are confident we can sustain our gains.

**The ways we leveraged our Tulalip Tribes’ grant funds with other donors.**

The Tulalip Tribes’ grant was leveraged through our Go Fund Me Campaign (along with other grants/donations) to show the commitment we had already received in our vision for foster care change. In addition, with every donor engagement our Development Director has with potential donors, the Tulalip Tribes’ grant is shared as a partnership we are proud of and as incentive to new donors to invest in our vision as well. Being able to share Tulalip Tribes’ commitment to Olive Crest has been invaluable in securing other donations for our Bridge program.

**An anecdotal story that happened because of the project our grant funds supported.**

Ronnie is a young man who four years ago inspired the Bridge Receiving Center with his story of experiencing over 50 placements in foster care in five years. Ronnie had aged out of the foster care system and was living on the streets when the Hamers invited him to join them for Thanksgiving in 2015. Because of what he shared in a conversation at that dinner about his traumatic experience in foster care, the Hamers decided something had to be done to change the system. They were inspired to work harder towards innovative solutions to improve the lives of children like Ronnie. This past year, Ronnie visited the Bridge Receiving Center and Camp and as the Hamers told him he had, in fact, inspired its creation, Ronnie broke down in tears knowing that his pain and struggles had turned into hope and healing for other children like him. To have his past redeemed by making a better future for others gave Ronnie a sense of dignity and purpose that had long been missing from his life.

**A short summary of how this program is doing as a whole.**

The Bridge Receiving Center is in an exciting place in its evolution! We have obtained the multiple permits and licenses necessary to open and be in compliance with our contract with the State of Washington (thanks to Tulalip Tribes’ support). We are now bringing together a staff and the necessary operational program components to assure that Bridge Receiving Center will help change the tragic trajectory of children’s lives. Finally, we will be able to reproduce the model and establish the gold standard for how children entering into foster care should be treated.

## The Transformation of a House into Bridge Receiving Center

### Before Remodeling:

Exterior:



Interior:



### After Remodeling:

Exterior:



Interior:

