



TulalipCares.org

Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Peace Community Center

ADDRESS: 2106 S. Cushman Ave., Tacoma, WA 98405

CONTACT: (253) 383-0702; <http://www.peacecommunitycenter.org>

GENERAL GOALS: Rooted in faith and the Hilltop neighborhood, Peace Community Center believes education is an integral part of a strong community. We support and encourage youth historically underrepresented in college to cultivate their academic and leadership talents so that they can gain full access to educational opportunities and reach their full potential.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

Funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund helped address the achievement gap in Tacoma where low-income students and students of color struggle significantly compared to their higher income and/or white peers with lower achievement in 3rd grade reading, 8th grade algebra, the passing of 9th grade, high school graduation, and college enrollment. Funding supported Hilltop Scholars which serves 11-24 year olds living in the Hilltop neighborhood that are students of color, students living at or near the poverty line, and/or students that are first-generation college bound.

For more information please see the attached report from Peace Community Center.



**Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
Report, July 2016
Q4 2015 14.2**

Name of Organization	Peace Community Center
Web Address	www.peacecommunitycenter.org
Name of Project	Hilltop Scholars
Project Dates	July 2015-June 2016

Project or Activity Funded

Funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund helped address the achievement gap in Tacoma where low-income students and students of color struggle significantly compared to their higher income and/or white peers with lower achievement in 3rd grade reading, 8th grade algebra, the passing of 9th grade, high school graduation, and college enrollment. (Foundation for Tacoma Students. Graduate! Tacoma. 2016 Impact Report: Cradle to Career) Funding supported Hilltop Scholars which serves 11-24 year olds living in the Hilltop neighborhood that are students of color, students living at or near the poverty line, and/or students that are first-generation college bound. Students have access to 500+ free mentoring and learning hours including academic coaching, tutoring, enrichment activities, college and career readiness seminars, summer learning, and college support. The actual expenditures can be seen in the attached Budget to Actuals document.

The Numbers

In 2015-2016, Hilltop Scholars provided 254 students with academic support to help improve student access to educational opportunities and reduce the achievement gap:

- ☐ 216 middle and high school students received one-on-one, tailored support through academic coaching, with 164 students receiving a total of 2596 sessions.
- ☐ 56% of high school students participated in at least one college readiness seminar.
- ☐ Students received tutoring with an average daily attendance of 33 students.
- ☐ 59% of middle school students participated in enrichment offerings, which included activities like glee club and robotics.
- ☐ 87 middle school and 27 high school students participated in summer learning to prevent learning loss.

In June, 10 seniors graduated from high school. Additionally, 38 students received support in their post-secondary programs and 6 graduated with post-secondary degrees.

Progress to Date: Challenges and Discoveries

Check & Connect

This fall, the middle school and high school phases of Hilltop Scholars implemented Check & Connect, an evidence-based student engagement intervention model. In this model, Academic

Coaches monitor student grades, attendance in school, and behavior referrals to give a more immediate indication of students' engagement in school, which in turn indicates likelihood of school success and graduation. Through this model, the coaches help students stay on track and learn the importance of their education.

The implementation of Check and Connect is a sign of progress. Academic Coaches use this proven method when working with students ensuring a focus on academics and consistency in the delivery of coaching. Both the middle and high school students were surveyed in the spring and the results demonstrate the impact of Check and Connect. Students believe that academic coaches help them get better grades (75% of middle schoolers and 86% of high school students agree) and that their coach fosters future thinking (80% of middle school students and 69% in high school agree).

Through the review of the surveys, staff also learned about how students relate their work with their school attendance and behavior. They view the connection with their school attendance and behavior as lower than the connection with their grades. Because of the evidence concerning the importance of school attendance rates on student academic success, it will be important for academic coaches to relay that to students and help the students understand the importance of staying engaged in school for their future success.

Retention

Transition points are always difficult. This past year retention data clearly demonstrated that. The incoming freshmen to Hilltop Scholars High School were the second group to have participated in our middle school programming. A much higher percentage of eighth grade students from 2013-2014 participated in at least one component of high school programming as ninth graders in 2014-2015 (74%) than the 31% that participated this year.

In reviewing retention data, this drop in the transition from 8th to 9th grade was certainly noticed by staff. From 2013-2014 to 2014-2015, the academic coach moved up with the students from 8th to 9th. In the next year, 2014-2015 to 2015-2016, the coach did not move up and both the Middle School Director and High School Director turned over. The importance of relationships with students is clearly illustrated by this impact on retention from middle school to high school.

To help increase retention and strengthen the connection between the two phases, halfway through this year, staff incorporated a Friday Fun Day at the Center where middle school students can come and hang out with staff and high school students. We continue to explore additional ways to strengthen these transitions.

Evaluation

The Center is moving toward performance management in its operations. A new position has been created, Learning and Evaluation Manager, to support the organization's evaluation efforts to ensure that we are providing high quality education opportunities and service for our students and families.

This work has already begun. During this past year, the team of program directors and organizational leadership worked closely together to use data to learn how to best serve students. Staff reviewed survey data in January from students attending fall seminars. In the spring, the middle school and high school survey data and first semester data on school attendance, behavior and grades from Check and Connect was reviewed. The joint learning by the staff helps to refine and align programming.

This year staff clearly defined our target population; set common recruitment strategies, including specific coordination between program phases; and established a standard enrollment process. With such regular and timely review of results, the Center can increase the capacity of the staff and the organization to course correct, improve services for students and families, and deepen the impact of our work.

Photos



A middle school student works on his math skills in Summer Academy.



High school students paint images of the Center and its connection to the Hilltop community.

Please see the attached Budget to Actuals document for fund expenditure information.

**Peace Community Center
Hilltop Scholars Budget & Actuals
Fiscal Year July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016**

INCOME	Budget	Actuals
Individuals	\$ 166,450	\$ 162,522
Churches	\$ 15,960	\$ 14,000
Foundations	\$ 315,500	\$ 298,000
Corporations & Businesses	\$ 15,950	\$ 14,000
Government	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,324
In Kind Contributions ¹	\$ 75,080	\$ 75,080

TOTAL INCOME	\$ 606,940	\$ 581,926
---------------------	-------------------	-------------------

EXPENSES	Budget	Actuals
Personnel (salaries, taxes, benefits)		
Director of Education Programs (.5 FTE)	\$ 31,720	
College and Career Director (1 FTE)	\$ 53,740	\$ 59,705
High School Director (1 FTE)	\$ 63,220	\$ 48,741
Middle School Director (1 FTE)	\$ 51,890	\$ 48,947
Service Team ²	\$ 78,710	\$ 70,842
Summer & Part-time Program Staff	\$ 86,610	\$ 69,785
Management & Administration	\$ 25,540	\$ 68,583
Total Personnel	\$ 391,430	\$ 366,603
Non-Personnel		
Student Snacks & Meals	\$ 18,850	\$ 15,545
Curriculum & Classroom Supplies	\$ 4,150	\$ 4,035
Student Transportation	\$ 9,250	\$ 2,289
Student Assistance		\$ 428
Field Trips & Incentives	\$ 19,400	\$ 17,475
Volunteer Training & Appreciation	\$ 850	\$ 117
Office Supplies/Postage/Printing	\$ 20,990	\$ 17,764
Staff Development	\$ 9,750	\$ 12,030
Facilities & Equipment	\$ 93,850	\$ 98,106
Professional Services (evaluation, legal, accounting, etc.)	\$ 25,040	\$ 33,162
Travel & Meetings	\$ 1,690	\$ 7,463
Other Expenses	\$ 11,690	\$ 6,909
Total Non-Personnel	\$ 215,510	\$ 215,323

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 606,940	\$ 581,926
-----------------------	-------------------	-------------------

¹In Kind Contributions reflects the donation of the Center facility by Peace Lutheran Church.

²Service Team includes AmeriCorps Members, Vision and Call Interns and the Service Team supervisor. The members and interns serve as academic coaches and tutor coordinators.