



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

RE Sources

Address:

2309 Meridian St
Bellingham, WA 98225

Contact:

(360) 733-8307
<https://re-sources.org>

Organization's General Goals:

We mobilize people in Northwest Washington to build just and thriving communities and to protect the land, water and climate on which we all depend.

Date of Award:

2024 Q4

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from RE Sources.

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271-9694

December 12, 2025

RE: Final Report – Q4 2024 14.2

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

I am pleased to submit this final report on behalf of RE Sources — it describes what we were able to accomplish with the help of the [REDACTED] grant awarded on March 10, 2025. Thank you for investing in our work and for the Fund's deep commitment to improving our communities.

Awarded funds went to support our Youth for the Environment & People! (YEP!) program. In 2025, the YEP! program engaged two cohorts of Whatcom County high school students in hands-on, community-centered environmental learning. Across both sessions, students developed leadership skills, built connections across schools, and carried out meaningful action projects rooted in environmental justice, climate resilience, and community wellbeing.

SPRING 2025 COHORT

Theme: Pollution in the Salish Sea — Focus on Stormwater

The Spring cohort brought together 13 dedicated students from Squalicum, Options, Sehome, Whatcom Intergenerational, Bellingham, and Explorations. With “Pollution in the Salish Sea” as their guiding theme, students narrowed their focus to stormwater—the largest source of pollution entering the Salish Sea. Students explored:

- How stormwater runoff transports pollutants into creeks and bays
- Impacts on wildlife, stream health, and nearshore ecosystems
- How landscape design can prevent or filter pollution
- What pollutants can be eliminated at their source

A field day at Little Squalicum Creek, led by RE Sources' North Sound Waterkeeper Kirsten McDade and Program Coordinator Zoe Fry, immersed students in stormwater monitoring. Students:

- Collected stormwater samples from a local outfall
- Used a YSI multimeter to test temperature, pH, conductivity, salinity, and dissolved oxygen
- Measured copper levels using a YSI photometer
- Used R-cards to test for E. coli
- Learned how to report pollution to the Department of Ecology and the City of Bellingham

Students also used the City of Bellingham's CityIQ tool to explore stormwater infrastructure and model watershed dynamics, learning the difference between point and non-point sources of pollution.

Action Project

Following weeks of study and fieldwork, students developed action project ideas ranging from DIY rain gardens to educational films. Ultimately, they chose to host an interactive public education booth at Taylor Dock—an area with a consistently problematic stormwater outfall.

With colorful trifold, a five-foot watershed model, and takeaway materials, students educated community members about stormwater impacts and pollution prevention. The cohort ended the program out on the water, celebrating with a group paddleboard trip on the Salish Sea. While floating offshore, students shared powerful reflections about community, leadership, and environmental stewardship.

FALL 2025 COHORT

Theme: Regenerative Food Systems

The Fall cohort consisted of 13 students from Squalicum, Sehome, Options, Meridian, and Ferndale high schools. Over a month and a half, students examined how regenerative agriculture, food access, and community health intersect with climate and social justice.

The cohort launched with a joint field trip to Skagit County, meeting the Skagit YEP! cohort and touring Viva Farms. Students learned directly from farmers Adele and Elma about sustainable farming, then participated in harvesting squash and jalapeños.

Additional experiential learning included:

- City Sprouts Farm: A tour led by WWU students sharing perspectives on food sovereignty
- Community to Community (C2C): A session on the intersection of food systems, labor rights, and participatory democracy; students wrote letters of support for the HEAL Act and received a reply from Rep. Alex Ramel
- Whatcom Food Network: A hands-on lesson tracing how food reaches our plates and how local food system policy is shaped
- Farm Wild: A final field trip exploring aquaponics and closed-loop sustainable farming

Action Project

Building on what they learned, students wanted to take action that strengthened food access and supported community resilience. With SNAP benefits delayed in November, students chose to create three informational videos promoting the RE Sources campus "Freedge" — a free community fridge offering accessible, stigma-free food support.

Their videos help spread awareness of this resource, encourage community participation, and uplift a model of mutual aid that aligns with regenerative, equitable food systems.

Student Reflections:

- "YEP! has opened up a door for me to be more involved with my local community as well as educated me on how much of an impact we all have on our food system!"
- "Being in YEP! has allowed me to meet a variety of new peers from many different schools... it's been great to hear different voices come together over a shared passion for environmental advocacy!"
- "I loved working with other people my age who care about our environment and community."
- "This cohort has allowed me to think more deeply about the complexities of our food and the places we source it."

Thanks to your support, both YEP! cohorts this year were able to learn, explore, and take meaningful action in their communities. Your investment created a space where young people could grow as leaders, build confidence, and discover their power to influence environmental and social change.

Most importantly, your support helped students realize that their voices matter. As one student shared, *"There aren't a whole lot of options for environmental activism at my school — YEP! gives us a place to actually make a difference."*

Thank you for believing in youth leadership and for helping cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards. Your partnership makes this work possible.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Kunkel-Patterson".

Rachel Kunkel-Patterson
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