

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Shared Housing Services

Address:
901 S 11th St
Tacoma, WA 98405

Contact:
(253) 272-1532
<http://www.sharedhousingservices.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Shared Housing Services is a 501c3 nonprofit organization located in Tacoma, Washington. Our mission is "Connecting people and fostering independence through innovative and affordable housing, because everyone needs a place to call home".

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q3	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Shared Housing Services.



8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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Shared
Housing
Services

Connecting people and fostering independence through innovative and affordable housing, because everyone needs a place to call home.

August 25, 2020

Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Avenue N.E.,
Tulalip, WA. 98271-9694

RE: Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contribution **Q3 2019 14.2 Report**

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

I am submitting this final report in accordance to the guidelines for the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contribution grant awarded to Shared Housing Services in the amount of [REDACTED] for general operating support.

Shared Housing Services (SHS) continues to serve Pierce County community members needing assistance to remain stably housed in their home, and those needing a safe, affordable place to call home through our homesharing programs: Adult Homesharing (AHS), Youth Host Home (YHH), and the newly launch Collegiate Homesharing (CHS) programs.

Through the first eight months of 2020, the AHS program has successfully completed 52 homesharing matches, helping 81 clients to remain or obtain safe, affordable housing. This is an increase of 19% for homesharing matches for the same time period in 2019. We saw decrease in applications and homesharing matches in April and May due to COVID-19 and the Stay-at-Home mandate, but jumped back up in June as re-opening began. We have reached out to other community entities such as the Tacoma Housing Authority, 211-United Way, and area colleges as well as Pierce County and the City of Tacoma to reinforce how our AHS program works and that we are available to help support their clients who may need assistance to remain stably housed or help in finding an affordable housing option during this unprecedented time.

Through August, the YHH program has housed 19 youth and young adults (age 17 – 24) in host homes who were experiencing homelessness upon entering the program. Once housed, case management work with each young person on their educational, employment, and personal goals to help them build the self-sufficiency needed to live independently. The YHH program saw a larger effect from the COVID-19 pandemic as we were unable to house only one participant during the months of March through June. A decrease in funding by Pierce County will cause a slight decrease in the number of young people housed in the 2020 calendar year versus 2019.

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sharedhouseingservices.org • 501(C) 3 Non-Profit Organization

In January, we launched our CHS program to assist currently enrolled college students find housing in a homesharing situation. We are very excited about this program and how it can help a growing number of college students who are insecurely housed or experiencing homelessness find a safe, affordable place to live and focus on their studies. We created the CHS program after successful testing a pilot program with University of Washington – Tacoma and because of the need for housing expressed from other area schools such as Tacoma Community College, Bates and Clover Park Technical Colleges, and Pierce College. When campuses closed in March and all classes went online because of COVID-19, we did not receive any request for services. But as fall enrollment and classes take place, we are starting to receive inquiries from students and are working with each college to see how we can best serve the students during this unprecedented time.

Overall we expect our homesharing programs to serve 200 -225 or more community members in the 2020 calendar year.

As the safety nets of unemployment benefit subsidies and non-eviction moratoriums expire, we are expecting many households to become unstable and/or homeless which will overwhelm the County's social services network. We are increasing our outreach efforts to inform and educate community members about how homesharing can be utilized as a means to re-stabilize their household. Reducing the number of households entering into homelessness will not only lessen the burden on our homelessness and social services systems, it will also prevent the traumas associated with becoming, and being, homeless. A recent article put out by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) states that "Shared housing has reemerged as a strategy to cope with problems such as the rising cost of housing, inadequate supply in general and a lack of affordable housing in general, stagnant incomes, and inadequate public resources.'

On behalf of Shared Housing Services and the clients that we serve, I wish to thank the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions for its generosity and continued support of our mission and our Homesharing programs. This funding along with support from other caring individuals and foundations is truly helping to make a difference in the lives of those that seek out Shared Housing Services, looking to obtain and/or maintain safe affordable housing in Pierce County. We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish this year to better serve our clients and the community. But we realize the need for affordable housing is only getting greater and that we must do all that we can to address this increasing need.

Sincerely,



Mark Merrill

Executive Director

Shared Housing Services

<http://www.sharedhousingservices.org/>

Emily who goes by “EM” has been a Pierce County resident her entire life. She became homeless at the young age of 18. During her childhood and young adult life, EMs parents stressed to their children that the only acceptable way to live was the lifestyle that aligns with the Mormon religion.

At the age of 16 EM came out to family and friends about her LGBTQ identity. As she expected, her family did not agree with her sexual orientation. EM was continuously ridiculed, and subjected to emotional abuse. The abuse got so severe that she admitted herself into a mental health facility for 72 hours until she felt safe enough to leave.

Following her hospital stay, EM began to stay at the Young Adult Shelter and was referred to different organizations to assist her with housing and employment goals. EM was able to find a minimum wage part-time job at Sally’s Beauty Supply, but her search for housing continued to be unsuccessful.

EM was referred to our Youth Host Home program and within a week we were able to complete an intake and set-up a “Match Meet” with a Host Home Provider who also identifies as LGBTQ. Both the Home Provider and EM felt good about the meeting and EM moved into the host home three days later.

Being stably housed with someone who accepted her for who she is, provided EM the platform to begin addressing the traumas endured from her past, current unhealthy relationships, and to begin setting goals for her future. As EM became more comfortable in the host home, the home provider offered guidance and mentorship which allowed EM’s self-esteem and self-confidence to grow.

After a couple of months, EM was able to obtain a full-time position closer to her host home. It was evident that EM had a passion and talent for fashion and cosmetics as she expressed that having a career in this industry was her dream job. With the extra hours and a pay increase, EM was able to pay off debt, pay a partial rental contribution, and began to put some money into savings.

After six-months in the YHH program, EM began to applying for different positions in the fashion and cosmetics industry in the Tacoma/Seattle area including for a position in the cosmetic department at the Downtown Nordstrom’s store in Seattle. On September 5th, she completed her makeup tutorial interview, and was officially hired by Tom Ford located inside the Seattle Nordstrom. EM had gotten her dream job.

EM commuted between Tacoma and Seattle while she looked for a new place to live in the Seattle area. In early October, she moved out of her host home. EM, is now living with two roommates in Seattle, and explains that she is happier than she has ever been. In discussing her journey during her exit interview she stated the following: *“When I came in to this program, I was lost. I was a different person then, than I am now. I am stronger now, and I am legitimately living my dream life. I couldn’t have done this without the support that Shared Housing Services and my host home provider gave me through this journey, I am just so happy.”*



Em moving into the host home.