



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Solid Ground

Address:

1501 N 45th St
Seattle, WA 98103-6708

Contact:

(206) 694-6700
<https://www.solid-ground.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Solid Ground works to end poverty and undo racism and other oppressions that are root causes of poverty.

Date of Award:

2018 Q2

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

Specific Use for This Award:

For more information, please read the attached report from Solid Ground.

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



Building community to end poverty

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January 30, 2019

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
Attn: Marilyn Sheldon, Director
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: **Q2 2018 14.2**

Dear Marilyn,

Thanks in part to the generous grant award of [REDACTED] from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018, Solid Ground provided **381 survivors of domestic violence (DV)** with a safe place to reside, supportive services to help them heal from the dual traumas of DV and homelessness, and opportunities to learn new skills to overcome barriers to stability at our **Broadview Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing**. All families residing at Broadview are experiencing homelessness as a result of domestic violence and actively escaping a DV situation. Additionally, the majority of residents are people of color and made up of single mothers with multiple children. Our residential program comprehensively addresses the complex needs of mothers and their children recovering from homelessness and DV in private, fully furnished apartments at our secure, semi-confidential metro Seattle location, which includes 10 units of emergency shelter and 21 units of transitional housing. Your generous support helped achieve the following results in 2018:

- **Broadview Emergency Shelter: 78 families** were housed (including **80 mothers** and **143 children**), with an average stay of **49 nights** before securing more permanent housing. Of these families, over **85% completed a Family Safety Plan**, and **92% of families made progress** on at least one of their goal areas within their Family Action & Stability Plan. Due to the nature of emergency shelter – families sometimes enter and exit the program quickly – not all families have the opportunity to meet with a case manager to create and implement these plans. This quick turnover accounts for the majority of <100% plans completed; removing families who only stayed at Broadview one week or less, data show a 94% completed Family Safety Plan rate.
 - Of these households, 14 self-identified as being homeless long-term (according to the King County definition of 1+ year of continuous homelessness or 4+ episodes within 3 years), 73 out of the 78 households qualify as having a very low income (<30% area median income per HUD income guidelines), 38 survivors self-identify as having a disabling condition (although we believe the rate of official diagnosis may be much higher), and 66 households identify as refugees or recent immigrants, with 29 survivors reporting limited English proficiency.
 - Demographics of individuals served in Shelter in 2018 are reported as: 39% Black/African American, 16% Multi-Racial, 13% Hispanic/Latinx, 13% Caucasian, 5% Asian/Asian American, 2% Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and 1% American Indian/Alaskan Native.
- **Broadview Transitional Housing: 49 families** were housed (including **49 mothers** and **110 children**), staying an average of **209 nights** before securing permanent housing. Of these families, over **95% completed a Family Safety Plan**, and **100% of families made progress** on at least one of their goal areas within their Family Action & Stability Plan. Over **83% of households exited Broadview to permanent housing** in 2018.
 - Of these households, all 49 qualify as having a very low income, 18 survivors self-identify as having a disabling condition, and 66 survivors self-identify as refugees or recent immigrants.

- Demographics for transitional residents in 2018 include: 39% Black/African American, 21% Multi-Racial, 18% Caucasian, 11% Hispanic/Latinx, 9% Asian/Asian American, and 2% American Indian/Alaskan Native.

Children's Program: The **253 children** housed at Broadview this past year **participated thousands of times in groups** and **100% of children worked with Broadview Children's Advocates** to receive individual attention and support to cope with the traumas of homelessness and abuse. Because all families and cultures cope with trauma and abuse differently, we do not mandate that children participate in groups or activities, and the level of engagement depends on individual needs, where some children tend to be reserved and prefer to stay in their units, others may be high-needs with medical or behavioral issues that require cooperation between family, staff, and specialized providers. Additionally, **100% of school-aged children were successfully enrolled in school** and **100% had access to one-on-one after school academic tutoring** to help them succeed. Broadview's Children's groups are robust and feature high engagement among the youth, below are a selection of some of our groups along with brief descriptions, target age group, and frequency.

- 3-5 year-old group: offered once per week, focused on trauma healing techniques for this specific age group
- Our 6-8 year-old and 9-12 year-old groups were combined this past year into a 6-12 year old group offered 6 times per week with rotating topics on healing from trauma. The Children's program made a strategic decision to move away from enrichment activities to a stronger emphasis on trauma healing with only 3-4 youth per session to increase topic absorption and decrease opportunities for distraction. Healing topics include:
 - Understanding Trauma & Yourself, Identifying Feelings, Controlling Emotions, and Healthy Relationships
 - These sessions include "brain breaks", breathing exercises, and journaling.
- Open Playroom: offered once per week and open to children 6 years and older
- Swim Group: offered 1-2 times per week for children 6 years and older, but we are flexible in including younger kids when their mother is present.
- Audubon Bird & Nature Club: offered once per week and open to youth 6 years and older
- Teen Group: offered once per week and open to youth ages 13-17
- Cooking Matters Group: offered once per week and open to children ages 8 and older. This is a collaboration between Broadview and another Solid Ground program, which empowers participants to eat healthily on a budget and teaches youth how to recognize sugary products with advertisements targeted to teens.
- Broadview Picnic: 65 participants (including both current and former residents)

Case Management: Broadview's one-on-one case management is an essential element of our service model and is strategically focused on three core themes: Ensuring Safety and Addressing Domestic Violence, Building Long-Term Family Stability, and Providing Comprehensive Support for Children. **Case management is available to 100% of residents** through weekly meetings with specific strategies uniquely tailored toward those in Emergency Shelter and those in Transitional Housing:

- Emergency shelter case management is focused on a "triage" crisis strategy, prioritizing stabilizing immediate finances, creating a safety plan, and securing permanent (and sometimes transitional) housing.
- Transitional housing case management focuses on a longer-term impact assessment strategy which prioritizes addressing long-term debt (most often medical debt, housing debt, or eviction records) and existing legal issues (such as custody, divorce, child support, immigration status, or protection orders and criminal charges). Efforts are also focused on securing opportunities for internships or job training, enrollment in school as applicable to the survivor's situation – all in addition to creating a Family Safety Plan, Family Action & Stability Plan, and efforts to secure permanent housing.

- Case managers continue to work with residents even after they have moved on from Broadview through a six-month follow-up procedure, principally to ensure families have maintained permanent housing. Many mothers who have lived at Broadview in the past stay connected and maintain relationships with their case managers, sharing successes and soliciting advice. Broadview adheres to an “open door” policy, pledging to continue offering services (within capacity) to mothers and children even after they have moved on.
- **100% of mothers and children have access to interpreter services as needed**, and Broadview staff have current language capacity in Spanish, Polish, and Russian. These are some of the most frequent languages needed in addition to native English speakers. Records of interpreter service requests in 2018 show **interpreters were utilized 248 times**, for languages including Arabic, Burmese, Cantonese, French, Hindi, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tigrinya and Ukrainian.

Our Challenges in 2018:

Staff at Broadview are learning that the diminishing supply of affordable housing in Seattle is directly affecting lengths of stay and exits to permanent housing in both our shelter and transitional units, as well as success rates for Family Action & Stability Plans. In addition to the challenge of housing options, we are committed to a low barrier to entry model that does not discriminate against prospective families who experience challenges related to substance use disorder, mental illness, disability, etc. This often translates to residents whose priority may not be housing but rather recovery and sobriety, counselling, or often income stabilization and job search. As a result, many residents at Broadview simply do not have enough time or energy to devote to the housing search. These realities have lengthened average stays in both Broadview housing models and have challenged case managers to encourage survivors to reprioritize housing in their Action & Stability Plans.

Beyond these capacity challenges related to Seattle's homelessness and affordable housing crises, Broadview has contended with short staffing challenges. A Child Advocate left the agency and we had to maintain services with just one advocate during the recruitment and hiring process. This resulted in a reduction in the number of children's groups and often created capacity issues during group sessions. We are pleased to share we have recently hired a second Child Advocate who will support Broadview's children's program and ensure goals are met. A related effect of short staffing is service burn-out, which unfortunately developed in tandem with a noticeable increase in our residents' complex needs and barriers. Our community has made a commitment to prioritize high-need families, which has dramatically increased the needs of incoming survivors. All of these factors result in far more stress on staff to support these families with a trauma-informed lens. Our dedication to this approach means staff absorb families' frustrations, hardships, and often, traumas.

Meeting those Challenges & Strategizing for 2019:

As a result of longer length of stays and slower turnovers at Broadview, along with the increasing homelessness crisis in Seattle, we are preparing for a model conversion to enhanced shelter with a rapid rehousing component beginning initial roll-out in mid-2019. The enhanced shelter model will allow for longer timelines and added flexibility, reducing this essential barrier to a family's stability. The process will begin with adding rapid rehousing to allow a transition in place, which will reduce the potential of unoccupied units and under-served families. To ensure conversion runs smoothly and effectively, Broadview will be collaborating with local DV housing providers who have undergone similar transitions. We were chosen by our core funders, King County and the City of Seattle, to be one of three regional agencies to submit an application to HUD for federal support to add this rapid rehousing component to our service model. We have also begun enhancing our case managers housing navigation skills by tapping into agency expertise in other departments. Unfortunately, because of the lengthy federal government shutdown (of which HUD is affected) we have not received final award notification or contracting yet. We hope to hear good news soon, so we can effectively plan for these strategic changes to our program model.

Although staff turnover is anticipated to a certain extent, in conjunction with the growing demands of Broadview residents and challenges to secure permanent housing, the rate of burnout required a more nuanced solution. One of the unique qualities of Broadview is its tightknit community of dedicated staff and exceptional leadership. During these challenging months, staff stepped up to help each other, respect much-needed time for selfcare, and above all, provide patience and understanding to residents and each other. Broadview staff members were able to pull together and face these demands as a strong, united front. Additionally, Solid Ground is dedicated to cultivating a community of learning. Broadview staff are afforded time and funds to attend trainings, especially related to trauma-informed care models, which incorporate training on handling the daily demands, facing second-hand trauma, and developing a healthy, regular self-care routine on- and off-site.

The Impact of Your Gift: Case Management & Child Advocates

Tulalip Tribes support was instrumental in directly supporting the costs of case management and child advocate services, with the full [REDACTED] grant allocated against the following staff time and associated core service costs:

- 2 Children's Advocates and 1 part-time Child Care Specialist
- 7 Case Managers with 24-hours/7 days per week coverage on site, including a Domestic Violence Advocate
- Over 20 different age-appropriate children's support and activity groups
- Weekly adult groups, including groups focused on financial management and empowerment, domestic violence, parenting, and "ask the expert" Child Psychologist counseling
- Supplies for group activities, healthy snacks, and client assistant funds to ensure our programming is inclusive and accessible to all of our residents regardless of income level
- Wraparound case management services available to 100% of residents for weekly meetings with specific strategies uniquely tailored toward those in Emergency Shelter and those in Transitional Housing (detailed above)
- Referrals are also an important component of Broadview's case management. Because of your foundation's support, most heads of household made connections to other social service organizations or government agencies. These referrals increase their network of support, which may include individual therapy, newly obtained/increased benefits (like SNAP [Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, aka food stamps], TANF [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families], WIC [Women Infant Children], or Medicaid), child care assistance, treatment resources, healthcare, clothing, or financial assistance with paying down debt or security deposits to incrementally reduce barriers to permanent housing. Without access to these referral services, continued stability after their stay at Broadview would be precarious.

These costs represent essential services not covered by other grants, with the support of Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, we work together to ensure sustainability of services and quality programming.

Spotlight: Stories of Brilliance & Resiliency at Broadview

Children's Program: Marci's* Story

Wendy and her daughter Marci are immigrants who fled a horribly abusive situation that left Marci so traumatized that at only two years old, she had stopped speaking. Upon arriving at Broadview, Wendy began working with a parent-coach onsite one-on-one, together with Marci, and through an essential wrap meeting that included an educator from Marci's school and our Children's Advocate. The parent-coach evaluated Wendy and Marci as engaging in play well together, and observed that since adjusting to life at Broadview, Marci has been acting out with her mom – signaling that she finally feels safe enough to express the full spectrum of emotions. Marci now interacts well with other children, is speaking a lot and learning English, and goes to childcare groups often while Wendy attends parenting and DV support groups. Marci's daycare also noted a drastic positive shift from when she first started attending to present day. To top it off, in their home country, Wendy had learned about Montessori education and envisioned this type of school as the ideal for her child.

**Names changed for anonymity.*

Broadview's Children's Advocate worked with Wendy and they were able to achieve this goal – Marci is currently enrolled at a faith-based Montessori school where she is blossoming.

Transitional Program: Alice's* Story

Alice and her children entered Broadview's Transitional program having fled an abuser who subjected them to very severe physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Our DV Legal Advocate was able to help with referrals and support during an extended protection order process, as well as looping in school providers around the abuser's lethality due to persistent active stalking and a known weapons cache. During their stay, the whole family engaged in DV support, parenting and financial empowerment groups, as well as child care and various children's enrichment groups each month. Alice was able to establish ongoing counseling services, cash and non-cash benefits independent of their abuser, and accumulate a savings to help them start over. They also participated in one-on-one onsite parent coaching to help Alice understand the children's behavior and support parent-child relationship building. While noting that all the services she received at Broadview were helpful, Alice identified parent coaching as the most beneficial upon exit to permanent housing.

Shelter Program: Betty's* Story

When Betty and her child came to Broadview they had been stalked across two states by her abuser. She immediately worked to establish a safety plan that addressed ways he had been able to find her in the past. Betty was excited to engage in the behavioral health program to support her child. The chaos of the previous months had affected her child and the result was frequent episodes of rage with the child screaming and attacking Betty. Broadview was able to help her child enroll in elementary school and then make a referral for counseling. Staff supported the family in enrolling in mental health services and then coordinated with the mental health provider and the school for counseling to occur onsite at school. Betty then worked with her case manager to tackle job search and find more stable housing. She was able to gain full time employment, and qualified for a Section 8 voucher through a special program with SHA and the school her child attended. With help from her Broadview case manager, Betty carried out an intensive housing search and was able to move into her permanent unit the week before Christmas.

Thank you for your commitment to the Seattle community and survivors like Marci, Alice, Betty and their families. Your support provides a stepping stone for survivors of domestic violence during the most difficult times in their lives. We are thankful to have your support as we race against the rising rate of homelessness in Seattle and domestic violence as the leading cause of homelessness among women. We look forward to the opportunity to partner with Tulalip Tribes again in 2019. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or to request a site visit at alexandraw@solid-ground.org or (206) 694-6801.

With gratitude,



Alexandra Weeks
Grants Manager