



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Summit Assistance Dogs

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Organization's General Goals:

We are an organization that creates life-changing partnerships by providing highly-skilled mobility service dogs for people living with disabilities in the Pacific Northwest. By assisting with tasks such as retrieving items, opening and closing doors, and turning switches on and off, our dogs help their partners live with greater independence and confidence. These companions can also help diminish depression, anxiety, and loneliness.

Date of Award:	Level:
2023 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Summit Assistance Dogs.

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Tulalip, WA 98271
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Grant Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions: Q3 2023 14.2

Submitted by: Summit Assistance Dogs <https://summitdogs.org/>

Program: Monroe Correctional Complex Service Dog Training Program

Grant Purpose: Funding for Additional Instructional Assistant

Summary of Grant Use and Program Outcomes

Thanks to the generous support of Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, Summit Assistance Dogs was able to add an instructional assistant, Heather, to our service dog training program at the Monroe Correctional Complex. This addition has significantly enhanced the quality of instruction and has strengthened our ability to serve both our service dogs in training and the incarcerated men who work with them.

Prior to this grant, our classes were led by just two instructors and one volunteer for a group of over 30 participants. The addition of Heather allowed us to create three structured training tracks: Fundamentals, Basics, and Advanced. These smaller learning groups have dramatically improved our ability to tailor instruction to each participant's experience level and learning pace.

As a result:

- Participants are advancing through the curriculum more quickly and confidently.
- Our most experienced incarcerated trainers are now successfully teaching advanced service dog tasks, such as retrieving dropped items and opening doors, skills previously taught only by our professional training staff.
- Because dogs are acquiring these tasking skills earlier, the amount of time needed with our paid professional trainer has decreased. This directly reduces program costs and enables us to place more dogs with clients faster.

Beyond the practical impact, this instructional expansion has also had a powerful effect on the men in our program. Many have expressed pride in their ability to train more advanced skills, and they have experienced a renewed sense of purpose in their roles. The opportunity to grow their knowledge and responsibility has reinforced the vocational and emotional benefits of their participation, one of the core goals of the program.

Currently, 32–35 men are participating in our weekly classes, and we are on track to sustain this enhanced instructional model. We continue to track the amount of time each dog spends in each training phase and anticipate clear data over time showing reduced training duration and improved readiness for placement.

Looking Ahead

This grant has been instrumental in improving both the educational depth and operational efficiency of our prison program. We are deeply grateful to Tulalip Cares for making this possible. Your investment has not only improved the lives of our future service dogs and their partners, but it has also given dozens of incarcerated men an opportunity to learn, contribute, and take pride in a truly meaningful role.

Thank you for supporting this transformative work.

Below: Summit Trainer Heather with dog in training, Yancy.



Below: Client Jon with Valco, Valco was trained at Monroe Correctional Complex (MCC).



Below: Client Molly with Freya, Freya was puppy raised and trained at MCC.



Below: Dahlia, puppy raised in Prison and currently in training at MCC.

