



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
The Mockingbird Society

Address:
2100 24th Ave S, Suite 240
Seattle, WA 98144

Contact:
(206) 323-5437
<https://www.mockingbirdsociety.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Mockingbird creates, supports, and advocates for racially equitable, healthy environments that develop young people at risk of or experiencing foster care or homelessness.

Date of Award:	Level:
2015 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from
The Mockingbird Society.

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February 11, 2016

Ms. Marilyn Sheldon
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
8802 27th Ave. NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: Grant Report - Grant Year 2015

Dear Ms. Sheldon and Members of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund:

We appreciate this opportunity to report on the use of \$[REDACTED] in funding from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund. This funding has made a positive difference in the lives of Snohomish County youth by supporting the Everett Chapter of the Mockingbird Youth Network.

In 2015, the Mockingbird Youth Network (MYN), a powerful statewide coalition of young people affected by foster care, engaged 352 foster youth and alumni ages 13 through 24. Of these, 81 youth were engaged in the Everett Chapter, making this the MYN's most active Chapter in 2015. The MYN brings together young people who want to share their stories so that tomorrow's foster youth will not have to face the same challenges they did.

Activities

Here are some of the highlights from our Everett Chapter in 2015:

- Twenty-two Chapter Meetings and Leadership Team Meetings were held.
- Two Chapter Leaders represented the Everett Chapter at each of the four quarterly Statewide Leadership Council meetings, where youth discuss reform ideas, develop advocacy strategy, and meet with leading/expert policy advisors. Reform ideas for the 2015 legislative session included: 1) adding youth with significant medical conditions to Extended Foster Care; 2) creating a Homeless Youth Act, 3) and preventing the overmedication of youth in foster care.
- Twenty-five Everett Chapter youth attended the 2015 Youth Advocacy Day in Olympia where more than 240 youth and community supporters convened to advocate for improvements to the foster care system.
- Nine Everett Chapter members joined their peers from across Washington at our annual Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit, a two-day leadership development and system reform conference held at Seattle University in August. The Everett Chapter gave a short presentation to the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care. The Chapter recommended that a formal evaluation of group care in Washington state be completed to better understand the experiences and outcomes of foster youth in these settings.

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- The Chapter hosted and facilitated five youth-focused trainings including: Legislative Advocacy, Voice Development, Storytelling for Advocacy, and Power of Voting. These trainings allow youth to gain knowledge and develop skills around the topics of leadership, advocacy, the legislative process, and effective use of personal stories. Sixty youth participated in these trainings.

In June, the Everett Chapter welcomed Cecily Ferguson as the new Seattle and Everett Engagement Specialist. Cecily brings many years of experience through her work at YMCA Young Adult Services, the University of Washington Medical Center, and Seattle Municipal Court Probation Services.

A Personal Perspective

In the September 2015 issue of the *Mockingbird Times*, Everett Chapter member and Network Representative, Janell Braxton, shared her thoughts on how attending Mockingbird's Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit shaped her into the leader she is today:

The Mockingbird Society has accomplished a lot and it couldn't have been possible without youth voice! Within the last ten years of Summits, we've worked with legislators to pass more than 25 bills into laws. I have attended every Summit for the past five years, and realized that I've grown tremendously as a leader because of it. Through my involvement as a participant, chapter leader, and now Network Representative, I have learned the value of giving back to my community. I volunteer with other non-profits, and have had the opportunity to travel to Japan, Boston, and San Francisco. In all of these places, I shared stories of my experience in foster care, met other foster youth, and discussed how advocacy can create changes in the system. Speaking in front of the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care each Summit has encouraged me to use my voice to stand up, speak out, and take action wherever I go!

I have been a part of the Everett chapter for years and it has allowed me to see the growth of not only the Summit event, but the participants as well. Each year youth bring a topic that they resonate with, and every time their presentation proves to be more impactful with personal experiences, detailed research, and profound knowledge. Participants at the Summit write their own speeches, create their own visuals, and practice insatiably. Having been involved for so long, I've come to realize that Summit does more than prepare youth to speak in front of the Commission, it establishes a belief that advocacy starts with hearing a youth's experience and giving them that encouragement by listening. The Summit has changed lives by empowering youth to speak up to help create a world-class foster care system and to end youth homelessness. This event helped me develop a stronger voice not only for myself, but also for my brothers and sisters in the system.

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Conclusion

The Mockingbird Society is an advocate and a steward for one of society's most important obligations: to care for vulnerable children and youth who find themselves without the anchor of a stable home. We have much work still to do to ensure that all children reach adulthood healthy, supported, and with full opportunity to thrive in life. We look forward to continuing this work alongside the Tulalip Tribes. If you have any questions or would like to know more about our work, please don't hesitate to contact me at 206-323-5437 or annie@mockingbirdsociety.org.

Best regards,

Annie Blackledge
Executive Director
The Mockingbird Society

Thank you for your support.
I look forward to meeting
you soon.