



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: The Mockingbird Society

DATE OF AWARD: 2017 Q1

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

CONTACT: (206) 838-6632, <https://www.mockingbirdsociety.org>

GENERAL GOALS: Our mission is to improve foster care and end youth homelessness.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards programs and operational expenses.

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





February 28, 2018

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

Re: Q1 2017 14.2 Grant Report

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

We submit this report in appreciation of your generosity. Your [REDACTED] grant to our Mockingbird Youth Programs made a remarkable difference in the lives of the 54 youth and young adults in our Everett Chapter (Snohomish County)—one of our most active Chapters statewide.

In 2017, the Mockingbird Youth Network (MYN), a powerful statewide coalition of young people affected by foster care, engaged over 400 foster and homeless youth, ages 13 through 24, empowering them to tell their stories and to participate in a powerful new movement of youth stepping up, speaking out, and advocating for systemic change.

Here are some highlights from our Everett Chapter work in 2017:

- 21 Chapter Meetings and Leadership Team Meetings were held.
- 2 Chapter Leaders represented the Everett Chapter at each of the four quarterly Statewide Leadership Council meetings, where youth discussed creative and innovative new reform ideas, developed advocacy strategies, and met with leading/expert policy advisors.
- 17 Everett Chapter youth attended the 2017 Youth Advocacy Day in Olympia where 140 youth and community supporters convened to advocate for improvements to the foster care system.
- 10 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. The Everett Chapter gave a short presentation to the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care.
- The Chapter also hosted and facilitated 31 youth-focused trainings with 43 in attendance, including: Legislative Advocacy, Voice Development, Storytelling for Advocacy, and Power of Voting. These trainings allow youth to gain knowledge and develop skills to prepare them for leadership, advocacy, the legislative session and process, and effective use of personal stories in advocacy. Sixty youth participated in these trainings.

- For this years' Youth Advocacy Day in January, we had 330 advocates and nearly 60 meetings with legislators - a record!

A Personal Perspective

In December, Jeremiah told his story of his experience in our Mockingbird Everett Chapter.

All my life I have been quiet. Growing up, I was moved everywhere, bounced from house to house, school to school. I never really got to know the foster families I stayed with, or really got a chance to talk or connect. My caseworker told me that she would do all the work and that I should sit there and be quiet.

So, I stayed quiet. Until I came to Mockingbird. At Mockingbird, I found myself. I found my voice. I learned how to believe in others. To trust them. How to be comfortable around people and to be comfortable in who I am: a member of the Tulalip Tribe who is in non-native foster care.

Since joining Mockingbird, the way I've changed is simply amazing. I am able to speak for myself. I am able to show other youth that they are not alone because I know what they're going through. I am able to advocate for myself and for others.

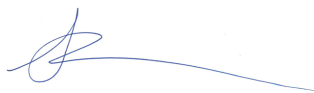
Because of Mockingbird, I am now in extended foster care. At age 19, I am grateful to have the next two years to live with my foster mom and develop more independent living skills. Did you know that Mockingbird is the reason extended foster care exists? Many of my peers and I benefit from this change in legislation - which took a decade of advocacy to achieve! Together, we advocate stronger and louder!

- Jeremiah

Mockingbird Youth Network - Everett Chapter

I can't thank you enough for your support. Mockingbird's Youth Programs break the barriers by engaging and empowering youth, so they emerge from the foster care system not as passive recipients of services, but as advocates and leaders for change. Through our work together, we creatively advance equity and access to opportunities for *all* youth. With your support, we are able to support them in becoming powerful advocates for reforms that will benefit generations.

Best Regards,



Annie Blackledge
Executive Director
The Mockingbird Society