



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:
The Mockingbird Society's mission is to transform foster care and end youth homelessness. We create, support, and advocate for racially equitable, healthy environments that develop and empower young people at risk of—or who are experiencing—foster care or homelessness.

Date of Award:	Level:
2018 Q1	\$2,501 to \$5,000

Specific Use for This Award:
This award was used to support the Everett Chapter youth program which engaged 33 foster and homeless youth, ages 13 through 26, empowering them to tell their stories and step up, speak out, and advocate for systemic change. For more information, please read the attached report from The Mockingbird Society.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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February 26, 2019

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

Re: Q1 2018 14.2 Grant Report
URL: <https://www.mockingbirdsociety.org/>

Dear Ms. Sheldon:

Thanks in part to the generosity of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, in 2018 the Everett Chapter of our youth program engaged 33 foster and homeless youth, ages 13 through 26, empowering them to tell their stories and step up, speak out, and advocate for systemic change. Their activities included:

- 12 Chapter Meetings, 13 Leadership Team Meetings and two Chapter Leaders representing the Everett Chapter at each of the four quarterly Statewide Leadership Council meetings. There, youth discussed new creative and innovative reform ideas, developed advocacy strategies, and met with expert policy advisors.
- 8 Everett Chapter members joining their peers from across Washington at our annual Foster Youth and Alumni Leadership Summit, a two-day leadership development and system reform conference.
- Four youth-focused trainings, including: Legislative Advocacy, Voice Development, Storytelling for Advocacy, and Civics 101.



Our Youth Program shifted strategy this past year, to include fewer participants but realize greater impact. Therefore, the number served by our Everett Youth Program was 33 versus the proposal goal of 50. The results of that shift have already been seen. In our December 2018 survey of all program youth, 84% said that they had facilitated at least one-chapter meeting (up from 66% who in 2017 said that they had facilitated) and 54% said they always spoke at chapter meetings (up from 45%.)

[mockingbirdsociety.org](https://www.mockingbirdsociety.org)
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Because of the increased attention and practice possible with the slightly enrollment, the same survey showed that our outcome goals were exceeded by at least 10%. (See table below.)

Annual Survey Results: Percent who agreed that...	Goal	Results
With Mockingbird, they understood how to change laws and policies, how government works, and how to gain support from decision makers.	80%	90%
Participating with Mockingbird helped them see themselves as a leader.	80%	91%
Working with others through Mockingbird increased their ability to make change.	80%	94%
They are now able to share their personal stories to make change in a way that is safe for them.	80%	90%

The program’s impact may be better told with the story of Sana, a member of our Everett regional chapter:

I was born in Pakistan. My parents divorced when I born, and my dad did not see me until I was seven. I was only eight when my dad died and my mom, brother and I left Pakistan. Growing up, I moved to places like Dubai, Houston, Blaine and Bellingham, bounced from my aunt’s house to my dad’s house to my mom’s house. Life was rough and hard. My mom remarried, but my stepdad was an abuser. He divorced my mom and left us in Dubai without passports. Six days after my mom got us to the United States, she died in a car accident. I really did not know how to be independent because I was only a 17 years old girl. My brother was 18 so we rented a place in Blaine and I was able to go to school.

While I was in the school chess club, I found my foster family, with my chess teacher and his wife. My caseworker told me I am one of the luckiest kids and I agree. I heard about Mockingbird at YouthNet. I always wanted to be a leader and discuss issues. Mockingbird really gives me an opportunity to stand and speak for my rights. I learned how to believe in others and how to really listen to other people. At Mockingbird I feel comfortable and safe around others. I get to meet peers who have a similar story as me.

Since joining Mockingbird, my personality has changed a lot. I began to care about others. I can speak for myself and for others about the issues we are dealing with as a foster child. I can show others that they are not alone and how to stand together because as a Mockingbird family we understand and support others. We know what they are going through.

I am now 18 years old, in extended foster care (because Mockingbird worked to make it happen) and a very mature young adult. I am excited to take the next journey of my life and develop more independent living skills, thanks to the people who have helped me.



I can't thank you enough for your support. Mockingbird's Youth Programs engage and empower youth, so they emerge from the foster care system or their experience in homelessness as advocates and leaders for change. Through our work together, we creatively advance equity and access to opportunities for every youth.

Best Regards,

Annie Blackledge
Executive Director
The Mockingbird Society

