



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**The Sophia Way**

**Address:**  
11061 NE 2nd St, #223  
Bellevue, WA 98004

**Contact:**  
(425) 463-6285  
<https://sophiaway.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
The Sophia Way is a place of hope and change for women. We support them on their journey from homelessness to safe and stable living.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2023 Q4	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from The Sophia Way.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**



**2024 Final Report**  
**Presented to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions**

**Code: Q4 2023 14.2**

**Website: <https://sophiaway.org/>**

The Sophia Way (TSW) is pleased to submit this grant report covering our 2024 activities and the use of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund 2024 gift of [REDACTED]. We are very grateful to Tulalip Tribes for your support of the vulnerable women we serve.

**2024 Program Accomplishments**

- A total of 485 women were served at The Sophia Way
  - Helen’s Place emergency shelter: 159 women served; 14,483 bednights
  - Sophia’s Place extended-stay shelter: 56 women served; 7,589 bednights
- 163 women were served at the Resource Center
- 148 were housed
- 36,453 meals were served

Similar to past years, 57% of the women served are from minority backgrounds. Fifty-eight percent reported living with a physical or mental disability and 31% were aged 55+. Over 50% of the women reported have some source of income – attesting to the challenges of finding affordable housing in East King County.

Two demographic changes made it particularly challenging to find women their next home:

- 1) We are serving more women who are experiencing homelessness on a chronic level. This is often accompanied by more case management needs and increased mental health issues.
- 2) We have seen a significant rise in the number of women who have eviction debt. This debt takes hard work to remove and the expense is often beyond what our clients can bear. We have seen this trend in the organizations we partner with that specialize in alleviating eviction debt. Funding for this issue has been hard to come by.

We are also continuing to see a rise in older women experiencing homelessness. As with women experiencing chronic homelessness, older women require unique resourcing and often need supportive housing to move out of the experience of temporary shelters and homelessness. The lack of low-income housing or housing with supportive services in King County has hampered our ability to house clients. Much of the low-income housing in the community we serve will go as low as 30% of area median income; however, this amount still puts housing out of the reach of those who may be on Social Security income.

**Success Stories**

The following stories demonstrate the impact of The Sophia Way and Tulalip Tribes in 2024:

*Elaine sold her apartment to care for her father. But caregiving and working at Amazon left her little time to care for her own health. When her father died, Elaine lost their apartment and moved into her*

*car. She continued to work until she injured her back. Her disability payments weren't enough to rent a place, so Elaine lived in her car for 13 years! A case manager from The Sophia Way connected with her and helped Elaine to move into TSW's shelter. Later, she was able to get a housing voucher and move into her own apartment.*

*At age 70, Claire found herself homeless. She had retired from a career in property management and took on a job as a home care aid as her social security did not cover her expenses. Then a stroke left her unable to work. She lost her job and her home. Claire and her dog moved into her car. Three months later Claire made a heartbreaking choice. She drove her pup to a foster home and then called The Sophia Way. At TSW Claire had her own bed, room for her walker, and a kind case manager. Before long, Claire found a safe apartment she could afford. And the property welcomes dogs!*

Thank you again for your support in creating a place of hope and change for women on their journey from homelessness to safe and stable living. We appreciate our partnership with Tulalip Tribes and the positive impact you made on the lives of the women we serve.

Note: Below is a photo of our Helen's Place emergency shelter. We do not have photos of clients at this time due to confidentiality policies.



*Helen's Place*