



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Vine Maple Place**

**Address:**  
P.O. Box 1092  
Maple Valley, WA 98038

**Contact:**  
(425) 432-2119  
<http://vinemapleplace.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**

Vine Maple Place works with single-parent families to break the generational cycle of homelessness by offering safety, providing stability, and equipping for self-sufficiency. We emphasize a holistic approach that heals broken relationships and gives family members the tools they need to cope with and resolve trauma in their lives and remove barriers that lead to homelessness.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2017 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

**Specific Use for This Award:**

This award was used for administrative and program expenses. For more information, please read the attached report from Vine Maple Place.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

**TulalipCares.org**

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



*Offering safety, providing stability and equipping for self-sufficiency*

January 15, 2019

Marilyn Sheldon  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
8802 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
via email: [msheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov](mailto:msheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov)

Report Code: **Q3 2017 14.2**  
[www.vinemapleplace.org](http://www.vinemapleplace.org)

Dear Ms Sheldon:

Welcome to our new home!

If you've ever moved into your dream home, you know the feeling that we had at Vine Maple Place on November 8 when we moved into our new, beautiful, 15,000 square foot Family Hope Center! Thanks to funders like the Tulalip Tribes, the Family Hope Center opened—debt-free—and is bustling every day (and many evenings) with moms and kids, volunteers, and staff. Families are engaging with the highest rates of attendance we have ever seen: this is truly a place where families feel at home and are working hard to end the devastating intergenerational cycle of homelessness for themselves and their children, one family at a time.



The FHC triples our physical capacity to serve families in crisis and includes five times the dedicated space for the Children and Youth Program, Counseling and Support, and Financial Literacy and Workforce Development services. We are so very grateful to our community of supporters who helped us build this house of hope and healing for children and their parents. We are pleased to share with you this report of our progress and once again thank you for your generous grant that made this work possible.

**Background:** Vine Maple Place works with single-parent families to break the generational cycle of homelessness by offering safety, providing stability, and equipping for self-sufficiency. We emphasize a holistic approach that heals broken relationships and gives family members the tools they need to cope with and resolve trauma in their lives and remove barriers that lead to homelessness.

This year we expect to serve 325 families, including more than 700 children ages birth to 18 years old. We provide services within a nine-mile radius that includes Maple Valley, Covington, Black Diamond, Kent, Auburn, and Renton. Our families represent a range of ethnicities, races, and cultural backgrounds. All have extremely low incomes, with 81% subsisting below the federal poverty level.



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We collaborate on a daily basis with a number of frontline service providers from 60 social service agencies, food banks, churches, schools, and community organizations to leverage community resources and avoid duplication of services. Last year we also worked with almost 100 different landlords to provide housing options to clients.

**Project Goals:** The ultimate goal of the Family Hope Center building project has been to reduce the service gap and provide more children and their parents who are facing homelessness with the resources and tools necessary to break the generational cycle of homelessness. In our proposal to you we delineated the following key outcome goals:

- 1) Expand the Youth and Children's space to provide programs targeted to prevent, mitigate, and heal from the impact of toxic stress.
- 2) Reduce the service gap by increasing the number of children and parents served each year.
- 3) Maintain a rate of 90% of families remaining housed one year after exiting the program, even as the number of families served by VMP grows.
- 4) Expand training and education space to provide resources for learning new skills that equip families to achieve self-sufficiency.

With the opening of the FHC, our Children and Youth Program has blossomed from a former two-room cramped area into a dedicated 3,000 square foot wing that features large, bright rooms for group activities like art therapy and tutoring, a counseling area, and several "quiet rooms" for kids who feel overstimulated and need a calm place to be. In the past, if we needed to gather more than about 10 children, we had to borrow space in a local church. Now, children receive their services in a secure location dedicated for them. Unlike our previous space, the children's center has a multi-purpose area, flanked by rooms for infants, toddlers, elementary-age and teens. We even have a tree house adjacent to the building, near the children's center.

Moving all of the resource services into the Family Hope Center has enabled us to retrofit some of our buildings back into apartments, expanding our emergency shelter from nine to 14 units. We have four rooms dedicated to family and individual counseling and plan to increase our mental health staffing in order to serve more people. Our previous adult classroom allowed about eight clients to take a class at a time. We now have four classrooms, three of which have retractable walls that allow us to transform them into one large classroom for up to 30 clients at a time. Because of the larger classrooms, we have already expanded the number of classes we offer and the number of clients we serve.

Perhaps most importantly, the Family Hope Center has a gathering place with tables, a large couch, WIFI access and an adjacent kitchen with food. It is a wonderful space for clients to gather and visit. Since many of our clients come to us isolated and alone, having a safe, communal place that is theirs for relaxing and connecting with others is one of the most healing services we can offer.

**What Worked Well:** Having seen the success of the families in our Stable Families program model, community businesses, churches, and individuals gave generously to this capital campaign. Ryan General



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Contractors championed this project from its inception: they worked pro bono through the 2.5 year preconstruction phase and donated 1% of their profit back to the project. Showing admirable civic leadership, they recruited sub-contractors who were also aligned with the mission, and as a result, we received in-kind materials and labor from the building community estimated at \$600,000, all during a highly-competitive time in the building industry. Combined with approximately 15% of our funds raised from private foundations, we were able to move into the building debt-free! This is crucial to our mission: now, all operations going forward can be focused on the family's needs without the burden of debt service costs.

#### **What Challenges We Faced:**

Our region is in the midst of a construction boom, which made this process somewhat challenging to manage from a time and budget perspective. In the beginning, we found it challenging to secure an affordable bid and ran three bid cycles before going to contract.



In addition, the permitting process lasted for 18 months, during which time we watched costs escalate. Since we were receiving discounted and in-kind donations from the building community, by necessity our project would fall in priority according to market demands. With such competition, we experienced labor and materials shortages that would have stymied us without the dedicated support of Ryan GC. While we had hoped to complete the project by July 1, in the end, we received the keys on November 7, just in time for the busy holiday season.

Now that we are up and running, our vision is that the Family Hope Center will be a nexus of community resources where our social service partners, volunteers, and staff collectively engage to end generational homelessness in our region. This strategy is one that we believe can be replicated in other communities with great success.

Again, thank you for helping the vision of a safe and stable home for every parent and child where they can thrive become a reality for the families at Vine Maple Place. I welcome you to visit and see what you have made possible for families facing homelessness. I hope you know this important work is happening because of you. I would be honored to introduce you to our colleagues, volunteers working alongside these moms and kids to change their path and leave homelessness, right here at the Family Hope Center.

Sincerely,

Michelle Frets  
Executive Director