



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Wellspring Family Services

DATE OF AWARD: 2017 Q2

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GENERAL GOALS: Wellspring's mission is to build emotionally healthy, self-sufficient families and a nonviolent community in which they can thrive. We achieve our mission through the effective provision of social and mental health services that help strengthen families, addressing a broad range of issues that can negatively affect their lives.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards support of their administration and programs.

For more information please read the attached report from Wellspring Family Services.



2018 REPORT TO TULALIP TRIBES CHARITABLE FUND—Q2 2017 14.2

Wellspring Family Services is pleased to provide this report regarding the generous grant of [REDACTED] from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund on September 12, 2017. Your support has helped us to reach more young children through our Early Learning Center (ELC), ensuring that they have access to a nurturing, trauma-informed early learning environment specifically designed to help buffer the impacts of homelessness. Thank you!

The ELC's child-centered outcome goals are:

- Children aged 1-3 will reach age-appropriate developmental milestones, and
- Children aged 4-5 will improve their school readiness.

We are pleased to report that, in 2017, 90% of the 69 students in the ELC met these outcomes. Students gained an average of 64 skills per child, up from 50 in 2016 and 45 in 2015. These skills encompass multiple domains, including social development, self-help, language, motor development, and cognitive.

99% of our participants were children of color, and all of our students came from families with "very low" or "low" income who are or have recently been homeless. So far in 2018, we have served 43 children, 95% of whom have demonstrated significant

MARK'S STORY

Mark (not his real name) came to the ELC after being expelled from a number of other programs due to challenging behavior, including yelling loudly when he became upset. This behavior was his way of reacting to domestic violence at home. Because of what Mark's teacher had experienced in her life, the yelling felt unsafe to her, and she became frustrated and overwhelmed when she couldn't make the behavior stop. After learning how to recognize and address the effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences, such as domestic violence, Mark's teacher was able to understand both Mark's behavior and her reactions. This allowed her to generate different solutions to help Mark calm down. As Mark began to feel safe in the classroom, he was better able to engage with classroom activities.

increases in age-appropriate developmental skills. We expect to serve a total of 65 children by the end of the year.

Thanks to generous donors like Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, our students are now on a path toward healthy development and lifelong learning and well-being.

Early Learning Center



“My son has come such a long way at the Early Learning Center. His growth is just amazing.”

- Former ELC Parent

what we do

Wellspring’s Early Learning Center (ELC) offers specialized early learning to pre-school children who are currently homeless or have recently experienced homelessness.

The ELC is a therapeutic environment for vulnerable children that helps them to gain social, emotional, and development skills. This prepares children for success in kindergarten and beyond.



trauma informed

Highly trained teachers work alongside caregivers and family support specialists to create a safe, nurturing environment for our ELC students, many of who have had a history of trauma.

Children learn healthy ways to express their feelings and emotions, to help them adjust challenging behaviors learned under traumatic circumstances.



“We understand the backgrounds of our children. We’re only in their lives for a moment in time. There is a life before and a life after. Hopefully they will develop from this experience. We can only do so much but great work is happening here. Our children are shown that we care for them. That we’ll be there for them. That there are people that care for them.”

- Bevette Irvis, ELC Director

In 2017

69

children were enrolled in the ELC

90%

of students who attended for at least 4 weeks made significant development gains

51

families received free early learning services for their children



Celebrating our Wellspring Early Learning Center 2018 Graduates!

Wellspring Family Services is proud to announce the June graduation (or promotion) of nine students from our Early Learning Center (ELC). Each of these youngsters has faced significant challenge: currently, they are homeless or they have recently faced homelessness. However, with an average stay in the Wellspring ELC program of 15 months, each young student now is better prepared to succeed in kindergarten, and beyond.

“Researchers who study pre-K education often find that children who have had early experiences of economic scarcity and insecurity gain more from these programs than their more advantaged peers.”

– The Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects (authors include Deborah Phillips of Georgetown University, Mark W. Lipsey of Vanderbilt, Kenneth Dodge of Duke and Ron Haskins of the Brookings Institution).



As these students enter the school system this fall, what skills will they take with them? Here's what Wellspring's ELC teachers tell us about the Wellspring Class of 2018:



We have come to understand that emotion coaching is paramount in the children's success in their entering the primary educational culture. Through our work on emotional intelligence with our ELC children, they learn to combat big feelings, react to those feelings appropriately, and process through conflict. The benefit of children identifying their feelings are numerous: they pay attention, with an ability to focus over a period of time; they bond with adults and peers; show empathy; label feelings; and regulate feelings, with the ability to express thoughts appropriately.

For these young students, there's no such thing as summer vacation: the learning (and fun!) will continue for another few months. Each will remain with the Early Learning Center Program until they transition to kindergarten later this year.

What is “school readiness”?

“For children to succeed in the transition to school, they must be able to: accurately identify emotions in themselves and others, relate to teachers and peers in positive ways, manage feelings of anger, frustration, and distress when faced with emotionally charged situations, enjoy academic learning and approach it enthusiastically, and work attentively, independently, and cooperatively in a structured classroom environment.”

- Knitzer, J. (2002) Ready to Enter – What Research tells Policymakers About Strategies to Promote Social and Emotional School Readiness Among Three-to-Four Year Old Children, NY, NY. National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.

Wellspring Early Learning Center Graduate Capabilities

Language & Cognitive Skills

- Recognizes own name in print and attempts to write it
- Expresses ideas others can understand
- Recognizes the beginning sound of some words
- Recognizes all alphabet letter names
- Uses sentences that include two or more ideas
- Recognizes some common sight words like “stop”
- Matches three letters with the sounds that make a word
- Follows two-step oral directions
- Uses descriptive language
- Tells or retells stories and/or everyday experiences

Gross & Fine Motor Skills

- Traces on a line
- Enjoys cutting (safely!) with scissors
- Balances on one foot
- Catches a ball with both hands
- Hops and skips

Math

- Counts in sequence 1-10
- Identifies numerals 1-10
- Identifies shapes
- Sorts and classifies
- Understands concepts of none, some, less, and more
- Counts 4 to 10 objects
- Understands addition and subtraction (‘give’ and ‘take-away’)

Pro-Social

- Gets along with others (parents, teachers, and peers)
- Identifies and regulates one’s emotions and behaviors
- Thinks of appropriate solutions to conflict
- Persists on task
- Engages in social conversation and cooperative play
- Correctly interprets other’s behavior and emotions
- Feels good about oneself and others