



**CHARITABLE
CONTRIBUTIONS**

8802 27th Ave NE
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TulalipCares.org

Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:

Whatcom Peace & Justice Center

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Organization's General Goals:

The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center promotes lasting peace, social justice, and a culture of nonviolence at home and worldwide. We accomplish this through partnerships, education, and direct action.

Date of Award:

2024 Q1

Level:

\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from
Whatcom Peace & Justice Center.

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Q1 2024 14.2

Grant report: Whatcom Peace & Justice Center

whatcompjc.org

October 15th , 2024

The Whatcom Peace and Justice Center's (WPJC) education and outreach programs had an excellent year. Through our programs like Alternatives to Military Service and our Transformative Justice Learning Lab, and community workshops, skill trainings, lectures, and other community events, we had direct contact with over 1,500 community members, and reached an additional 5,000 through online communications. We are incredibly thankful for the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions Fund, which allows us to help strengthen our community through transformative programs, educational opportunities, and events working against settler colonialism and state sanctioned violence in Whatcom County and beyond.

In 2023 and 2024, a few major educational events helped bring support, skills, and messages of peace and social justice to hundreds of people in Whatcom County:

- Our central community event, "International Day of Peace (IDP): Sowing Hope, Cultivating Peace" reached several community members with approximately 300 people attending some portion of the evening. The event began with Lummi DJ Yugwa'mala performing their music while attendees explored our informational fair. Almost 20 local grassroots organizations tabled at the info fair to educate and engage community members in their work. The program opened with Lummi Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest reading one of her pieces. Our Youth Awardee Peacemaker recipient was Raven Ott, an emerging leader advocating for people facing homelessness in our community. Walker River Pauite tribal member Michelle and Swinomish tribal member Michael Vendiola were our Lifetime Peacemaker Awardees. Their continuous work as community activists and educators has centered around uplifting Native people, building more resilient communities, mentoring student leaders to become critical thinkers, and protecting Mother Earth for decades. A video of our 2024 International Day of Peace can be found [online](#). The feedback we received from the event was overwhelmingly positive, and people discussed how the program confronted settler colonialism while also focusing on work that shifts the dynamic through community strength and support.



Rena Priest opening 2024 IDP



FICA Bellingham performing capoeira during our Info Fair



Whatcom CARE tabling at this year's Info Fair



Raven Ott being honored during 2024 IDP

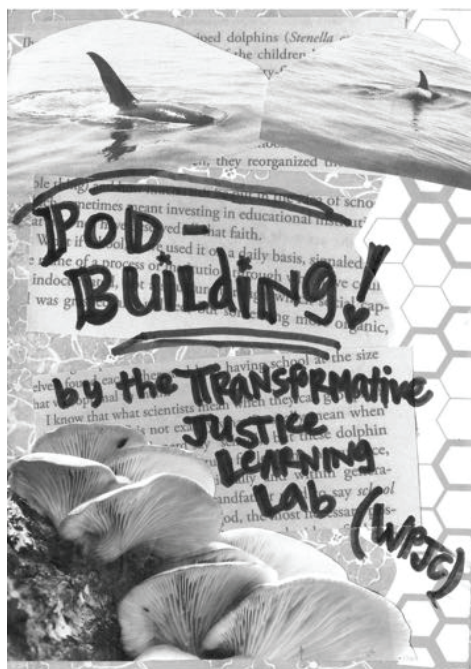


Melchor Vendiola accepting the Lifetime Peacemaker Award on behalf of his parents during 2024 IDP

- Since 2022, WPJC has been hosting a Transformative Justice Learning Lab (TJLL) which is a program that aims to build community through nonviolent practices and learning. TJLL participants develop systems of community accountability, care, and safety outside of the carceral system. Since 2023, 15 participants have completed the program and built their own community pods, which expanded the program's reach to 61 individuals. We also created a pod-building zine to distribute at WPJC and other community events. This year we have run two seasonal cohorts - a continued cohort from January-November and a new cohort from June-November. We've been able to begin paying facilitators and a program coordinator to support these program expansions. We are also beginning to offer quarterly community workshops to educate and practice transformative justice and accountability practices. Our first workshop will take place on October 19th in downtown Bellingham.



2023 TJLL Participants



2023 TJLL pod-building zine

- In April, WPJC put on a community screening of the documentary *Reimagining Safety* at Western Washington University. The screening was accompanied by a community panel with local attorney and activist Junga Cha, local activist and WPJC board member Beth Girma, and filmmaker Matthew Solomon speaking and answering questions from attendees. Local grassroots organizations No Whatcom Jails and Community to Community tabled at the event. The program had an attendance of approximately 60 people including city councilmembers Hannah Stone and Michael Lilquist.
- The ongoing genocide of Palestinians has been a continuous focus of our community:
 - In April, WPJC held a solidarity event and fundraiser for Palestine called “What Makes Life Worth Living.” The event included diasporic art, poetry, live music, and a nurturing space to hold our community with care and accountability through the solidarity work we need to sustain ourselves through such deeply troubling

times. About 150-200 people attended the event and about \$6,000 was raised and donated to Palestinian Children's Relief Fund.

- WWU Divest Apartheid, other students, and community members participated in the encampment to protest WWU's silence on and support of genocide through financial ties with Boeing and other weapons manufacturing companies in the Spring. In May, WPJC hosted a Legal Observer training with a National Lawyers Guild attorney, so that legal observers could be available to register potential civil rights violations during the encampment, protests, and future demonstrations in Whatcom County. The event resulted in approximately 10 people signing up to become legal observers.
- Every year, WPJC hosts Holidays for Prisoners, a letter writing event for people to create and send cards and messages to incarcerated folks during the holidays. We offer supplies, ideas, and coordinate the mailing of messages so that incarcerated people in Whatcom County Jail, LGBTQ+ people in Texas, and political prisoners know they're thought of and cared for. In December 2023, approximately 20 people attended the event. Approximately 20 letters to local incarcerated folks and 10 letters to political prisoners nationwide were sent as a result of the event. We plan to have another Holidays for Prisoners this year.



2023 Holidays for Prisoners

Community outreach and connection, local action, and group learning are ways that WPJC enhances our ongoing crucial work in Whatcom County. Our Alternatives to Military Service (AMS) program made a total of 28 school visits to public schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties in 2024. During school visits, our volunteer team made up of veterans and other community members had approximately 600 conversations with young people to discuss options outside of military service after high school. We also shared this information with youth at community events. This is the second year we were able to have a part-time AMS program coordinator. We were also able to fund a part-time program youth liaison in partnership with a youth homelessness prevention and advocacy agency in town. Such growth allowed us to reconnect with all but one high school in Whatcom County with whom we lost connection with during the pandemic. Additionally, we've expanded into tabling at some local college campuses

In 2024, AMS supported people in Skagit County with vocational materials and coaching to establish a volunteer base of veterans and lawyers who do similar outreach.

The [REDACTED] awarded to WPJC from the Tulalip Cares fund went toward covering WPJC's rent and general maintenance costs. It also helped with program expansion, including purchasing educational and outreach materials for both AMS and TJLL, and reimbursing volunteers for gas, stamps, and other materials.