



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: YWCA of Bellingham

ADDRESS: 1026 N. Forest St., Bellingham, WA 98225

CONTACT: (360) 734-4820; <https://www.ywcabellingham.org>

GENERAL GOALS: Through programs, services and advocacy, the agency addresses issues of housing, basic needs, health and safety, education, discrimination and racial justice.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

Your generosity has allowed us to continue to provide 120 homeless women in Whatcom County with safe housing and a supportive environment each year.

For more information please read the attached report from YWCA of Bellingham.



YWCA BELLINGHAM NEWSLETTER 2016

We would like to update you on our involvement in our community and our progress toward our mission: eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Our Leadership Breakfast, a benefit for YWCA programs, services, and advocacy, was held on May 20th 2016. The keynote speaker was Debora Juarez, a member of the Blackfeet Nation and elected member of Seattle City Council.

The YWCA Bellingham has partnered with the Bellingham Food Bank to create a gardening project for our residents. We have raised planting beds, built by the Bellingham Food Bank. The women receive plant starts, seeds, and a gift card to the Farmer's Market. The gardens are well tended all summer long and the women share the harvest with their fellow residents.

Our "Back to Work Boutique" provides free clothing to women in need of appropriate attire for job interviews and new jobs. We also provide free clothing to all women who seek clothing, no matter what their status. We are grateful for the generous clothing donations that we receive.

Our "Prom Dress" program provides gently used formal attire to junior and senior high school girls who otherwise might not be able to afford to go to homecoming or prom events. We have many girls come for dresses, often accompanied by grateful parents.

The YWCA Bellingham sponsored scholarships through the "Women's Independence Scholarship Program", otherwise known as WISP. The scholarships are available to women who have successfully been out of a domestic violence relationship for at least a year and want to go to college to further their options to gain financial independence. In the past three years, we have sponsored 9 women and the scholarships have totaled \$60,750 from the Doris Buffett Sunshine Lady Foundation.

The YWCA Bellingham has been honored to receive recognition from several local organizations in 2016. The Bellingham Theatre Guild held an opening night benefit for YWCA programs when they presented "Love, Loss and What I Wore", written by Nora and Delia Ephron. The Whatcom Council of Governments created Whatcom SmartTrips, a program to encourage more trips by walking, bicycling, or riding the bus. They had a drawing for prizes and one of the winners donated \$250 in coupons for our residents to use at the Saturday Market.

Our Red Stocking Tea event on December 4th was a delightful holiday celebration in our historic ballroom. We celebrated with friends, community members, and supporters of the YWCA with beverages and homemade goodies.

We mourn the loss of Julie Foster, longtime Executive Director who was an inspirational champion of the YWCA. We extend our condolences to her family for their loss.

We extend appreciation to all our wonderful volunteers who help in so many ways. We couldn't succeed without their willingness to give so generously of their time.

In gratitude,

YWCA Board of Directors and Staff