



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
YouthCare

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Organization's General Goals:

YouthCare works to end youth homelessness and to ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential.

Date of Award:	Level:
2019 Q2	\$2,501 to \$5,000

Specific Use for This Award:

For more information, please read the attached report from YouthCare.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Final General Operations Grant Report
Reporting period 9/1/2019 to 9/1/2020
Q2 2019 14.2

Organization Background

YouthCare has served young people for more than 40 years. YouthCare's mission is to end youth homelessness, ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential. YouthCare envisions a community where no young person experiences homelessness, all young people have the opportunity to thrive, and the systems that oppress them are dismantled.

Outcomes

In the period between 9/1/2019 to 9/1/2020, YouthCare served 967 young people in total across all programs (goal: 1,219); 1,075 clients in drop-in engagement services (goal 1,105); 460 through crisis/emergency shelter (goal: 348); 460 young people stayed in our residential programs (goal: 578). Even though the Education and Employment programs were effectively put on hold in March and are about to launch new and adapted virtual services in October, 81 were served in education (goal: 97), and 105 in employment programs (goal: 244). The street outreach program was most severely affected, being able to reach only 18 youth (goal: 346).

Significant progress was made on reaching our service outcome goals, even though all services were disrupted by the coronavirus and the shelter-in-place proclamation in March.

The first half of the grant period saw YouthCare staff celebrating the client successes that our programs regularly enjoy. In YouthBuild, our most rigorous employment training program, there were record numbers of youth graduating the program in December 2019, largely due to revised program protocols that worked to ensure racial equity. Though progress is often made slowly, YouthCare celebrates each success, as in the case of Alex, who arrived at YouthCare as an emergency external placement. Alex had traveled to Seattle on the promise of a job and stable housing with a relative. Unfortunately, when they arrived those plans fell through and they found themselves with nowhere to go. YouthCare was able to house Alex that night, and in program it became immediately clear that they had suffered severe systematic, physical, and emotional trauma. Despite this, Alex was very respectful, goal oriented, and appreciative. Alex struggled with their mental health: paranoia, coupled with lack of outside support, and limited knowledge of the area, made them hesitate to go out of the program space. Alex wanted to attend driving school to get their driver's license, but would get triggered every time by the subject of leaving Program independently. Eventually, Alex developed positive relationships with all staff in the house, enrolled in Tile, YouthCare's pre-employment program, successfully showed up daily, on time and ready to work. With each small step, Alex was able to move closer to her personal goals.

COVID Response

The initial months during the shelter in place were very difficult. With the uncertainty and fear wrought by COVID19, many youth who already suffered mental health challenges experienced greater anxiety, and there were many tense instances staff had to diffuse. Youth used to their autonomy had trouble adjusting to new health and safety rules limiting exits to two half hour breaks outside, with strict hygiene procedures upon re-entry, and some clients chose to leave YouthCare. Our mental health partners from Ryther were unable to make in-person visits, thus YouthCare scrambled to secure appropriate technology so that young people could access telehealth and work with counselors online. The staff also had shifted responsibilities and schedules. Staff that would normally be doing outreach,

community-based work, and teaching education or employment training were pulled into shelters and housing and redeployed to support 24-hour care. Shifts were extended to 12-hour shifts, 2-3 days a week to limit the number of possible transmission points. While the long hours grueling for everyone, all the efforts have been successful in that there have been no outbreaks experienced at YouthCare sites thus far, as so many other shelters have suffered.

While the staff were shouldering the massive responsibility of young people’s physical and mental health, as well as their own, during a global pandemic, staff continued to engage and help youth progress on their personal goals. For example, the staff in housing and shelter services coordinated with SPS to get laptops for the students and to connect them to the technology and resources to fulfill the remainder of the school year. Barista staff collaborated with employment partners so that three young people enrolled in Barista could work at FareStart, which remained open as an essential business. Staff tutored youth and helped them access the study materials available through their GED.com accounts, preparing them for when testing sites reopened. Staff provided case management, emotional support, and enrichments, such as tutoring, art, crafts, and games to fill the long days inside.

The pandemic, coupled with egregious police violence, brought the Black Lives Matter movement and conversations into YouthCare sites, as nearly 75% of YouthCare clients are youth of color. Staff facilitated conversations about racial justice with BIPOC and White youth in shelter, allowing some young people to share the trauma that they themselves had suffered from police and allowing the young people to learn from each other about their lived experiences with racial inequity. The BLM protests also spurred YouthCare to organize its first Juneteenth celebration, which was facilitated through Zoom and accessed across YouthCare sites. Juneteenth is now instituted as an annual YouthCare holiday.



YouthCare T-shirt celebrating Black Excellence for Juneteenth celebration

Community Partnerships



YouthCare Urgent Pantry: Food Lifeline and Northwest Harvest donated food packed to order and ready to deliver to programs.

Partnerships were integral to YouthCare’s ability to pivot services- our daily meal service that served 35,000+ meals in 2019 at the Orion Engagement Center is traditionally purchased, prepared and served by 1,500+ volunteers. This was put to a sudden stop in March and YouthCare immediately connected with Food Lifeline and Northwest Harvest to collect huge weekly allotments of nutritious salvaged food for our young people across YouthCare’s 14 sites. Operation Sack Lunch provided lunches daily to our sites from food normally served in Microsoft’s cafeterias. Generous community businesses and restaurants such as Gourmondo Co, Super Six, Spice Waala, Chez Grand-Pere and many more created delicious meals for our young people to enjoy. YouthCare established a well-stocked Urgent Food Pantry where our Program and Case Managers could order or pick up the pantry items, hygiene supplies, and clothing that so many young people needed.

ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, which is a member of the University District youth network of services, partnered with YouthCare’s UDYC Engagement Center. ROOTS is an overnight shelter only, where young people must leave the premises during the day. UDYC was able to provide a place for the youth to stay throughout the day - providing the

essentials of food, shelter and hygiene, case management support, and engagement during this particularly stressful period. Their coordinated services allowed the homeless youth in the neighborhood the ability to successfully shelter in place and stay healthy, safe and engaged.

As the months wore on, the staff and young people tried to renew hope and creativity. A donation of houseplants from GlassWing was used aptly to invigorate the shared spaces. A YouthCare staff described it thus: "[Pleasure Activism](#) is the idea that in order [for] social justice work to be sustainable, it must be pleasurable - in this case beautiful. I'm grateful for all the folks that had a hand in beautifying this art space at Orion."

As the pandemic lingers on, it has become clear that we must adapt; all programs are tasked with envisioning the new processes that will allow services to resume under the health and safety parameters. For example, our prevention and outreach staff now use phones and technology to reach young people but make in-person visits equipped with PPEs and meet outdoors when possible. Education and employment programs are currently launching their new sessions and cohorts,

revised for online delivery with limited enrollment for modified hands-on opportunities. Also, the Barista program is being launched as VYBE (Virtual Youth Barista Employment) Program, which will include online curriculum, with synchronous class and group sessions and asynchronous assignments students can complete on their schedule. YouthCare is making significant investments in technology to meet these evolving service needs. For the young people who are sheltering with us, they must continue to mask and distance in all shared spaces, which is heartbreaking in that it requires young people to mask in their own "homes" because of the communal living environment. Across the organization, staff continue to evaluate the ways that they can adapt and continue to provide quality service to the young people in our care, while supporting them in their journey to self-sufficiency in a very changed COVID world.

YouthCare thanks the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for its generous contribution to YouthCare. These unrestricted General Operating funds are what allow YouthCare to remain nimble during unforeseen circumstances like a global pandemic. We are very grateful for your support and commitment to giving homeless youth the opportunities, not just to survive, but thrive.



Orion Youth Engagement Center shared art space, decorated with donated plants from GlassWing