



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Bridge Receiving Center

Mailing Address:
PO Box 2930
Woodinville, WA 98072

Contact:
(425) 444-4812
<https://www.bridgereceivingcenter.org>

Organization's General Goals:
Bridge Receiving Center is a therapeutic transitional residential program reducing a child's experience of trauma in foster care.

Date of Award:	Level:
2023 Q3	\$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Bridge Receiving Center.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

TulalipCares.org

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A healing start for children entering foster care.

November 12, 2024

Sent Via Email: msheldon@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov

Ms. Marilyn Sheldon, Director
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Avenue NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: Q3 2023 14.2

Dear Ms. Sheldon,

Bridge Receiving Center is extremely grateful for the recognition and financial support we have received from Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions. As you know, our mission is to provide a healing start for children entering foster care for the first time. Your organization has been such an important investor in the work we are doing to help families in crisis, and we thank you!

Highlights for 2023 include:

- Serving 71 children, between the ages of three and 16
- Providing three meals and two snacks per day to 71 children totaling 4,431 meals and 2954 snacks
- 1477 nights of care and safety for 71 children
- Ensuring each child in our care received all the clothing needed for their time at Bridge and to take with them upon discharge.

So far in 2024, we have served 51 children. We have provided 855 safe nights to children and teens to date. In addition, we coordinated 2,565 meals and provided over 1,170 snacks to children and teens in our care.

Your support also allowed us to continue addressing the trauma and stress experienced by first-time foster children. The current foster care system continues to suffer from a lack of several components including time, focused attention, and care. As a result, children are bounced around in multiple temporary placements adding further distress to children who have already been traumatized.

One of the biggest challenges we are facing is due to the new legislation passed that makes it harder for the State to remove children from their homes. Because of this, children are kept in abusive/neglectful situations longer, so their trauma is significantly greater. Seeing the high levels of abuse/neglect children experience has been heartbreaking to our staff. Seeing more children returned home has been discouraging. Seeing more children enter care with trauma-induced autism disorder has been challenging.

In addition, most children we receive are functionally illiterate – unable to read, write or do basic math so our work with them is largely remedial. In addition, children often stay a shorter amount of time (avg of 21 days at Bridge). Our Parent Partner Program has been critical in keeping us connected to children we feel shouldn't be returned home and helps us help their parents through resources and support. It

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has been an extremely emotionally draining and hard year for our team – but we are more committed than ever to being there for every child that needs us.

Our time with each of these beautiful children is a gift that we never take lightly. A recent success story highlights M, an 8th grader who was, understandably, failing in most of his classes when he arrived at Bridge. M had been severely abused and didn't ever want to go back home. He hated himself and hated his life even more. M was receiving failing grades in school and was at risk of not passing his final year of Junior High School. Our Educational Coordinator spoke with M's principal and teachers and determined that M had to at least pass Washington State History to be promoted without being required to complete summer school. Unfortunately, two of M's teachers were unwilling to pass him from their classes due to his lack of work completed. Since our Educational Coordinator was unsure of M's future living situation, it seemed the wisest course of action was to help him do whatever it took to graduate from Junior High. But it wasn't easy. Our Coordinator started working closely with M's History and English teachers, and with M himself, and M was able to not only complete enough missing assignments to pass the two classes, but he was also able to graduate. Being able to move on to High School made such a remarkable difference in M's self-esteem and confidence. M told our Educational Coordinator, "I came in here thinking I was going to be a Junior High School drop-out and now I'm going to High School!" And he said it with all the pride that a young boy should have – a young boy who had overcome so much to believe in himself.

Bridge is daily transforming the current foster care system entry experience by providing children with the time, focused attention and care they need during their first 30 days after being removed from their homes by providing them with a safe, soft landing that helps them de-stress, stabilize and begin to heal.

We couldn't do the work we do without your support. We thank you for allowing us to make an impact in the lives of these young children, giving them a more healing start in foster care and beyond. This better start enables children to develop resilience, teach them important life skills, give them much-needed understanding and a sense of empowerment, develop conflict resolution skills, and connect them to outside resources to utilize during their entire foster care experience.

If you have questions, need additional information or would like us to complete an application, please contact me via email at tracy@bridgereceivingcenter.org or by phone at 425-444-4812.

Sincerely,



Tracy Rubstello
Director of Development

Attachments: Photos

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