



# Funds Distribution Report

---

**Recipient Organization:**  
**YMCA Walla Walla**

**Address:**  
340 S Park St  
Walla Walla, WA 99362

**Contact:**  
(509) 525-8863  
<https://www.wwymca.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
The Walla Walla YMCA is dedicated to the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility and committed to building a community where all people, especially the young, are encouraged to develop their fullest potential in spirit, mind and body.

---

<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2022 Q4	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from YMCA Walla Walla.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulip, WA 98271

**TulipCares.org**

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



January 26, 2024

Marilyn Sheldon. Director  
Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund  
8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271

Re: Report of 2022 Contribution : Q42022 14.2

Dear Marilyn:

The Walla Walla YMCA ("Y") is deeply appreciative of the funding received from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund in late 2022 for use in providing drowning prevention and learn-to-swim lessons for children in rural, low income communities served by the Y.

The 2022 funding made it possible for the Y to provide lifesaving and confidence-building swimming skills to over 100 children ages 3-12 in Prescott, WA. Prescott, with a population of 377, where over 22% live below poverty, is in the middle of wheat fields. The majority of children in the school district live in nearby Vista Hermosa; a culturally-rich community that is home to migrant and seasonal orchard workers.



The Prescott pool is the only healthy entertainment for kids and adults alike all summer long where temperatures can soar to over 100 degrees. Since 2022, the Y has been asked by the community Parks and Recreation department to manage the pool. We staff it with local youth who serve as American Red Cross certified summer lifeguards and swim instructors.



We announced the Fund's swim lesson award in a press release to the community with instructions for swim lesson sign up. Classes filled quickly. This wonderful community pool that serves the town of Prescott and several other small rural farming communities, opened for the season on June 14 and lessons ran through July 2023. 77 children received free swim

lessons.

Once the summer ended and school resumed in September 2023, the Prescott School District and Y partnered to continue to provide children in grades K-6 with lessons. Each week the district bused individual classes in groups of 20-30 students to the Y's pool in Walla Walla for lessons. This drive takes roughly 30 minutes each way; which may not sound much to a city commuter but in a rural agricultural community served by winding, narrow, two-lane roads where slow-moving agricultural equipment is often on the roads and deer are known to bound onto the roadway seemingly from nowhere, a bus load of kids making the trip can be very challenging. Over 100 children received these free lessons through the end of 2023, which the grant funding helped to cover.



The kids flourished in the water as they strengthened their swimming skills. And the teachers had this to say about the program:

***We love this program - the kids are engaged and happy - and building confidence!***

***The kids really look forward to swimming at the Y! They arrive happy and leave tired and happy!***

***This program is so great - there are bilingual instructors and all the staff are so helpful.***

***Thank you YMCA for providing students with the opportunity to participate in a fun, structured, and organized program. I am a preschool teacher at Prescott School District and my class had the amazing opportunity to participate in the free swimming lessons program they offered. My students were able to attend swimming lessons at our local YMCA for three days where they learned skills from experienced swim teachers. Not only did my students learn new skills, they also had an amazing time while building their independence and confidence. Students have since asked me if we are going back to see their swimming teachers because they had a blast. Thank you again for allowing these students to attend an opportunity that they would have otherwise not been able to attend.***

The look on kids' faces as they gain skills and the words from the teachers above say it best. **Thank you** for making an important and lifelong difference in the lives of many rural youth for whom opportunity is often a dream and not a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Hedine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Hedine" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Hedine, CEO  
Walla Walla YMCA  
340 S Park St  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
[khedine@wwynmca.org](mailto:khedine@wwynmca.org)  
(509)525-8868