

Organizations Funded 2021-22

Big Brothers, Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Puget Sound serves King, Pierce and Kitsap counties. They have a significant presence in Tacoma and have no problem earmarking Rotary 8 funds for Tacoma. BBBS provide a high-quality mentoring program placing youth in positive mentor relationships which is built specifically for each child. The friendships developed help kids to improve their self-esteem, mental health, strengthen academic performance and help the kids to thrive despite many challenges in their lives. The goal of the program is to provide the kids with strong and consistent relationships with trusted adults. In 2021 they served 190 mentor-youth matches in Pierce County: 70% in Tacoma.

Birthday Dreams

They provide birthday parties in a box (cake, party favors, gifts) to children living in shelters like the YWCA and the Tacoma Rescue Mission (to name 2 out of 7 Tacoma shelters). Their goal is to deliver the box to the parent, so the child thinks the parent provided the party for them. They bring smiles and normality to children whose lives have been disrupted by homelessness and/or fleeing a violent home. Last fiscal year they served 111 children in Tacoma shelters.

Children's Therapy Center

The Children's Therapy Center Tacoma office provides occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy to address developmental delays and physical disability and other healthcare needs for children ages 3-18. The children they work with are on Apple Health, and they are one of the few programs that accepts Medicaid and serves ages 3 plus. According to their report, it is estimated that 15% of all children in Pierce County or 31,563 are believed to have a disability, developmental delays or other special healthcare needs. Of these children, 25% or 7,890 are believed to not having their needs met. Because of the demand, children are granted 16-24 visits at 1 per week. The reason for the limited number of sessions is due to the great need. They collaborate with schools and educators to align therapies for the children and educational needs.

Degrees of Change

Degrees of Change's Act Six Tacoma program partners with five local private universities: Gonzaga, Northwest, Pacific Lutheran, Saint Martin's, and Whitworth, which provide full-tuition, full-need scholarships to our Act Six scholars. The program recruits and selects diverse, multicultural individuals to form cadres of Tacoma's most promising local emerging leaders. In the year prior to college, these groups of students are intensively trained by staff and volunteers, equipping them to support each other, succeed academically, and grow as leaders. The teams are sent together to these private colleges and universities with significant financial aid to mitigate finances as a barrier to college completion. Act Six provides strong campus support, ongoing leadership development, and vocational connections to inspire these scholars to serve their home communities. During the 2021-2022 academic year, Degrees of Change will select, train, and support the transition to college of 30

EFN- Break Bag Program

EFN's Break Bag Program provides children experiencing food insecurity with food during extended school breaks such as Thanksgiving, winter, and spring vacations. EFN established the Break Bag program in 2014 in collaboration with St. Leo's Food Connection and the Clover Park School District to provide low-income students with supplemental meals during the breaks. The bags contain 15 pounds of easy-to-prepare and kid-friendly food, such as canned soup, rice, granola bars, and macaroni and cheese. The bags are designed to feed up to a family of four. 2,000 bags are distributed each break, totaling 6,000 bags assembled and distributed each year.

Friends of the Children

Friends of the Children program provides paid mentors to children, who have been referred by DCYF, the Tacoma Schools, and other child-serving organizations. The children are between 4-8 years old, in poverty, and at risk of being placed in foster care. The purpose of this program is to provide a constant, pro-social, adult presence in the

child's life. Each mentor has a caseload of only 8 children and meets with each child, for 3-4 hours, every week, in their school, their home, and other sites. A mentor stays with his or her assigned child for 12 years, or through high school graduation. More mentors and children are expected this August. Mentors are chosen because they work very well with children and their families. The Friends of the Children model is evidenced-based and one of the best models for serving at-risk children I've ever seen. The outside, objective evaluation showed that the program in Portland prevented out-of-home placement, juvenile justice involvement, and led to more high school graduation, and delayed pregnancies, when the Friends of the Children clients were compared to a control group. The program in Tacoma has access to school data and is about to join a randomly assigned evaluation to be done by researchers at Notre Dame University.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run is a regional agency that is part of a national organization. They started the program in Tacoma in 2014. This is an after-school program in local elementary schools like Jennie Reed, Blix, etc. The program is physically, and activity based and designed to enhance girls social, psychological, and physical skills and behaviors necessary to successfully navigate life experiences. The program culminates in a non-competitive 5K. They can accommodate girls with physical disabilities in the program as well. The program is a sliding scale based on need from \$125 to \$25 but they do not turn anyone away if they cannot pay the \$25. Last year, with Covid, they had to meet in parks as they were not allowed into schools. They served 59 Tacoma girls and expect this to triple as we come out of Covid protocols.

Hilltop Artists

Founded in 1994, Hilltop Artists is a youth development program with a focus on glassmaking as a mean of developing relationships with at-risk youth. It provides hands-on skill building and learning techniques in glass blowing, glass fusion, and beadmaking, as part of a team of youth and adult mentors. The Outreach Services Program at Hilltop Artists support youth through a dedicated on-site manager/mentor to provide in-depth and individualized referrals, support, advocacy, and services for students and their families. The program plays an essential role in addressing issues that can lead to housing instability, homelessness, food insecurity, and physical and mental health. It listens to students and responds quickly when a youth is in need of immediate intervention. It works collaboratively with school counselors and teachers on academic and attendance needs. Hilltop Artists has a graduation rate of over 90%, well exceeds the district's high school average. The majority of its funding comes from foundation grants and public donations.

Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children

Lindquist Dental Clinic for Children (LDCC) is a non-profit organization specialized in pediatric dentistry for children in need. No child is turned away due to inability to pay. Over 93% of the children served by LDCC come from low-income families. Studies have found that dental problem is the number one reason low-income children miss school. Furthermore, children from low-income households have a much higher rate of tooth decay. Lindquist Dental is providing \$283K of uncompensated care in 2022 for children who are un-insured, under-insured, or whose parents cannot afford insurance co-pays. The \$5000 grant from Rotary 8 will serve 41 Tacoma children based on an average uncompensated cost of \$119 per child. Lindquist Dental receives 100% on Charity Navigator. It measures its effectiveness through an Outcome Based Evaluation (OBE) program that analyzes patient data and determines if indicators were met to achieve outcomes. In 2021, 86% of LDCC's patients met improved health outcome, and 96% of patients indicated reduced barrier to receiving dental care.

Eloise's Cooking Pot

Eloise's Cooking Pot (ECP) is a food bank located on McKinley Ave in an area described as a food desert- no grocery store within 2.5 miles. Many of its clients walk to the food bank several times a week. They also do home deliveries and have a backpack program for homeless people living on the streets. ECP has an arrangement with Door Dash where people can order food and Door Dash drivers deliver within an 11-mile radius. We witnessed this activity. Every Monday and Wednesday Door Dash delivers food to 600 families. While watching this activity seemed

rather chaotic it is really well organized and food for 600 is loaded into private vehicles and off for delivery in a matter of minutes.

Neighborhood Clinic

Neighborhood Clinic is a non-profit organization that serves people who do not have easy access to health care. Most do not have health insurance. This organization will be celebrating their 40-year anniversary next year. They currently have 160 volunteers who are health care professionals including MD's, nurse practitioners, RN's, PA's, LPNs and social worker. In 2021 the volunteers provided 4,500 hours of service. They serve the community two nights per week. Over the last year they have seen an 11% in patient visits serving 28 patients per night. Also, their Latinx population has increased plus the need of a Spanish speaking person in house. 30% of the patients require interpretation services. They have not had any Covid in the clinic thanks to the staff. They did have two vaccination clinics- one for the flu and one for Covid. Lastly, they did not close during Covid.

Nourish

The Food Procurement Program purchases additional foods to supplement the nutritional, economic, and cultural needs of clients at Nourish Food Banks. Much of the food served to clients comes from partnerships including Food Lifeline, Harvest NW, and the Emergency Food Network, but those commodities often don't include all the foods needed by clients. Items like eggs, peanut butter, canned soups, etc. serve a variety of needs including those with medical conditions like diabetes, children who need to prepare food on their own, and people whose living situations don't include the ability to refrigerate and cook. The goal of the food banks is to provide three meals for three days for each person in households that visit and include 3 Tacoma food banks as well as Tacoma sites served by their mobile food bank model. During the pandemic they have been pre-making boxes for clients but are in the process of moving back to indoor serving and client-selected foods (one Tacoma site has a deadline of April to shift back to this model). They are also working on several ways to better serve their clients including communication, so clients don't have to wait in line or congregate in large numbers. They are also implementing the results of a study they completed with the collaboration of UW to provide culturally appropriate foods and uplift the dignity of their clients. Clients served include 30-40% BIPOC communities, a third of clients are children, and nearly a fifth are elders. Their food banks are relied on by about 1,500-5,000 clients per month (about 28,000-29,000 visits on average). A huge challenge they are seeing right now is that cost of living increases is increasing the number of clients they are serving, while also increasing the cost of food purchased by the food bank (for example, the cost of canned peaches has doubled in recent times).

Peace Community Center

The funding requested would help support the Bobcat Program, which provides four academic coaches to all middle school students who want to participate at Hilltop Heritage Middle School. (Peace also has a program for elementary grade students at McCarver and a program for high school students.) The Bobcat Program meets Monday - Thursday, after school, at Hilltop Heritage School (the former Jason Lee) using trained tutors from the community. The tutors are trained by materials provided by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The program provides homework help, academic tutoring, STEAM enrichments activities, and field trips. Peace Community Center collaborates well with the Tacoma Public Schools, and is able to have access to students' grades and student behavior. Peace uses appropriate tools to track the progress of students and the results of the program. The data from the schools provides for an outside evaluation of the program, by comparing those who receive the academic help and those who do not. This is a well-thought out and well-managed program that also focuses on exposing students to post-secondary education. Peace Community Center has several individual and philanthropic foundation financial supporters throughout the community, as well as a state and a federal grant.

Pierce County Library Foundation

The Pierce County Library System Homebound Delivery services provides support and library services for the elderly. One could argue that this program meets our Priority 1 category because it offers mental health support to elderly folks who can't leave their homes and positive relationships with the Librarians who work with the individuals. This program is all of Pierce County. The books and other library supplies are delivered to individual homes and adult

care facilities of which there are around 5 in Tacoma. The funds can be target to Tacoma. The visits are monthly due to the number of individuals they serve. A relationship of trust is built up over time as the Librarians work with individuals to serve their needs -- so they get to know what is needed, what a person likes, and they can do what Librarians do -- suggest reading materials or other supplies that could be checked out from the Library. They also provide trainings on devices so that folks can download to a tablet, kindle or some other device. This is yet another program that has high need but can serve everyone interested. The homebound individuals must meet certain criteria to qualify for the service....not everyone can expect to get their library materials delivered.....so why not use Amazon? These are low-income individuals and may be disabled. These are materials that must be returned. The program has a budget of \$34,000. There are 30 employees, they track circulation, they receive anecdotal feedback, they also track the number of materials provided, the number of clients they have, the number of miles driven -- they will likely begin to track how much gas is used. But more than anything the program providers are happy with the qualitative relationships that grow from the service. They do hope to grow the number of clients/households served to 350.

Tacoma Boat Builders (\$5000 as requested)

This program is in partnership with the Tacoma Rescue Mission (TRM) and the teenagers in the TRM temporary 90 day housing. Tacoma Boat Builders was founded to work with youth as a diversion program of the courts. In their programs, they work with marginalized youth to learn the art of woodworking by refurbishing and building wooden boats. In addition, they can design and build something from wood to keep as their own as was requested by the youth. In the process, they also gain drafting skills. The result of the hands-on opportunity for youth to focus their energy has been transformative for many court influenced youth. They serve a difficult population and through their programs and focus on emotional health, change the course for marginalized youth by teaching a useable skill and connecting them to resources and experiences that can become life changing.

YWCA Children's Program

The YWCA Children's Program serves a vital role for children affected by domestic violence. The program focuses on providing developmentally appropriate consistency and structure to promote and foster the positive development of healthy relationships so the children do not repeat the cycles of intimate partner violence that they have either witnessed or survived. The program achieves the foregoing by providing advocacy, safety/planning support, community resources, physical goods, respite care and age-appropriate curriculum to build skills for stress relief, self-regulation and healthy relationships. We were impressed with their efforts towards data collection and their commitment to diversity, not just in a statement, but actual practice through their caucus work.

YMCA Homeless Hygiene Services at the Tacoma Center YMCA

The Homeless Hygiene Program at the YMCA offers basic needs of bathrooms, showers and hygiene products that help homeless people in Tacoma stay healthy and support their dignity. This program at the downtown YMCA services about 100 clients a week, many of whom are repeat clients who come in several times a week for a hot shower in a safe, secure environment. The YMCA also connects many of these clients with local services to help them find shelter, employment and medical care.