

Alchemy Skate Park Youth Access Fund – Alchemy Skateboarding

Alchemy Skate Park is one of only a few organizations worldwide which provides a safe and dry place for people to learn to skateboard. Their program includes the history of skateboarding while introducing participants to related industries such as art (graphics and design), architecture, city planning and production of skateboards. A 2020 study found that skateboarding directly impacts and improves mental health, encourages resilience and diversity, and fosters community, while providing opportunities for youth to engage physically and socially. The grant request is for their Youth Access Fund which covers the cost of access to the park for low-income participants. From July 2022 through January 2023 Alchemy served 1,643 participants, 40% low-income.

Supporting Kids Care – Ashley House

Ashley House has six locations to provide compassionate care for medically fragile and disabled children in a home-like setting. They provide holistic care, where they work closely with the child's doctors and physical therapists to ensure they are providing the best care possible. Both the house, the staff and nurses who work with the children were impressive. The children who live at the house have severely high needs that cannot be met by their families, especially as the children get older and heavier. Round-the-clock care is provided. The children who are school aged attend local schools, often with a nurse by their side. This is a request for \$4,000 to purchase items like tactical wall mounted items to grasp, physical therapy tables and mats for the floor to be used in conjunction with the physical therapist who works one-on-one with the children. They currently serve 6 children and have capacity for 8. The Tacoma location has been recently remodeled and shows that they care about the environment the kids are in and have made the home accessible to wheelchairs and other equipment needed to meet the needs of the children.

Birthday Smiles – Birthday Dreams

The Birthday Smiles program provides birthday parties in a box (cake, party favors, and gifts) to children living in shelters like the YWCA and the Tacoma Rescue Mission, to name a couple. They are able to deliver the birthday box to the parent(s) so that it appears that the parent(s) have provided the party for them. The program provides a little slice of normality and fun to children whose lives have been disrupted by homelessness and/or fleeing from domestic violence. Last fiscal year they served 138 families in Tacoma, a 25% increase year over year.

Nutritional Food Program - Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound (BGCSPS) have been providing a safe, positive place for youth during non-school time for more than 80 years. An important part of their programming is providing healthy snacks and meals for the kids and families. No child is turned away due to inability to pay. This grant request is to support BGCSPS's Nutritional Food Program. They serve about 750 kids/day. Approximately 90% of Club members from the Tacoma branches qualify for free and/or reduced lunches. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture grant covers most, but not all, of the food costs, and does not cover the cost of staff to plan and prepare the meals. BGCSPS anticipates a funding gap of \$40,000 for 2022.

Pierce County Campaign – Coffee Oasis

Coffee Oasis has been operating for 25 years in Kitsap County and opened in Tacoma 4 years ago. Their model is an earned income model with proceeds from their coffee shops providing funding for their programs. The coffee shop in Tacoma has not been operational yet but is scheduled to open in the next month. It is the same location as their shelter and soon to be drop-in center on 15th and Tacoma Ave S. There are 12 beds in shared rooms. This request is to pay for new mattresses for the shelter, a washing machine and dryer for their new drop-in center. Coffee Oasis is a religious organization that accepts all youth 13-17 regardless of religion or sexual identity. Staff are trained to be inclusive of all youth. They are the only youth shelter in Pierce County. From January through September 2023, 8,077 meals have been served in the drop-in center, 886 youth attended classes, 1,808 bed nights, and 2,784 text messages were responded to through the 24-hour crisis line.

Environmental Maritime Job Training – Communities for a Healthy Bay

This grant application is for a brand new, pilot program for high school students in the Tacoma Public Schools. It is designed, very intentionally, for low-income BIPOC girls and LGBTQIA+ students from schools located in areas of Tacoma with the most environmental degradation the opportunity to explore maritime careers, learn maritime skills and see how these pathways intersect with environmental issues and careers. The program would be for two cohorts of 6 students each, for 40 hours of education over 2 weeks' time, for a total of 12 students. They will receive experience on the water, accompanying the bay patrol staff, who collect water samples, learning about trip planning, navigation, and other environmental education. The program would be part of TSP's Jobs 253 program, providing work experience.

Break Bags – Emergency Food Network

The EFN Break Bags Program provides a bag of healthy food to students who experience food insecurity to cover the extended school breaks (Thanksgiving, Christmas, spring breaks) as the students typically rely on the schools for both breakfast and lunch each day. In Pierce County 49% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch, totaling more than 64,000 students relying on school meals to keep them fed. The staff at EFN curate the food carefully to ensure the food is not just healthy but also 'student preparation friendly' as in most cases there isn't a parent/adult to help prepare food but rather an older sibling. On an annual basis, the EFN Break Bags program assembles and distributes 6,000 bags containing 15 pounds of nutritious food for hungry students and their families. Through its partnerships with St. Leo's Food Connection, 3,000 bags reach students in Tacoma. Last year, Rotary 8's grant of \$7,000 provided 245 bags to students in Tacoma.

Pt Defiance-Ruston Senior Center – Franke Tobey Jones

The Point Defiance-Ruston Senior Center is in a modest one-story building away from the main campus of Frank Tobey Jones. It serves basic needs such as regular nutritious meals, fitness, wellness, artistic, and educational classes. The senior center has one full-time staff and three part-time employees. With the help of over 60 volunteers and through partnership with Catholic Community Services, Food Lifeline, Pierce County Human Services, City of Tacoma and AARP, the center serves on average 114 visitors a day and 2,449 unduplicated (15,837 duplicated) participants last year. Over 50% of seniors who visit the center are on fixed income (i.e., social security). Lunches are served in big portions so that there are enough left over to bring home for dinner. The center has a food bank that distributed over 11,000 pounds of food. We are impressed by how a senior center like this can accomplish so much on a \$142K budget by being resourceful and efficient. In many ways it reminds us of the Neighborhood Clinic that leverages a small number of paid staff with many volunteers.

Empowering Tacoma Children – Friends of the Children-Tacoma

Working with community partners, Friends of the Children - Tacoma ("FOC-Tacoma") identifies children between ages 4 and 6, living with the intersecting pressures of poverty and trauma and pairs them with a salaried, professional mentor (a "Friend") who provides 12-16 hours of service to each child each month through high school graduation - 12+ years - "No matter what." Friends spend 3-4 hours a week assisting each child in setting and achieving annual individualized "Road Map" goals in intermediate outcome areas of: School Success; Prosocial Development; Improved Health; Making Good Choices; and Plans and Skills for the Future. Our focus on prosocial development (social and emotional learning) not only supports healthy development, but has been linked to increased school engagement, test performance, and stable employment in adulthood. Friends also focus on helping youth develop nine "Core Asset" qualities: positive relationship building; growth mindset; perseverance and grit; self-management; self-determination; finding their spark; problem solving; belonging; and hope. FoC is currently working with Notre Dame University on outcome-based studies to contribute to their ongoing 'continuous learning and adapting' models.

FOC-Tacoma is only about five years old, but the Friends of the Children national network has nearly 30 years of research and evaluation showing the effectiveness of the model in helping youth achieve long-term goals: 83% graduate high school or earn a GED, 93% avoid the juvenile justice system, and 98% avoid becoming teen parents.

HSDC's Tacoma PIP Family Meetings – Hearing Speech and Deaf Center

The Tacoma Parent Infant Program (PIP) Family Meetings at the Hearing, Speech & Deaf Center bring families who have deaf infants 0-3 years old together. Parents are the first teachers for infants. However, 90% of deaf and hard-of-hearing children are born to hearing parents and less than 1% of those parents know sign language. This lack of communication can lead to delayed speech, poor social readiness, and inadequate social-emotional skills. The PIP program brings families together for extensive support to help educate parents of deaf children with help from the PIP teachers. The Rotary funds will be used to provide bi-monthly field trips for families to acquaint them with safe, assessable venues for their children. Most of the families are low-income. PIP uses standardized assessments such as the Cottage Acquisition Scales for Listening, Language and Speech (CASLLC), Hawaii Early Learning Profile (HELP) and the Visual Communication and Sign Language Checklist (VCSL) to measure the language and developmental progress of the children served.

Hilltop Artists Outreach Services – Hilltop Artists in Residence

Hilltop Artists is a youth development program with a focus on glassmaking as a means of developing relationships with at risk youth. The program provides 50 youth with art instruction, mentoring and wrap around support each year. The Outreach Services Manager, a licensed social worker, is onsite every day to ensure students receive individualized referrals, support, advocacy, and services for themselves and their families. Those services include BASIC Needs: housing, food, clothing, hygiene, Health: medical, dental, mental health drug counseling, vision, and EDUCATION: attendance, graduation, post-secondary education, and financial literacy. The program's goal is equity and inclusion for underserved youth and includes low income, students of color, students with disabilities, homeless, BIPOC youth, foster and court involved youth. Increasing access to the arts has proved invaluable for many students since the program's inception in 1994.

Junior Achievement South Puget Sound – Junior Achievement of WA

Junior Achievements' (JA) purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy through a unique learning dynamic that is a natural equalizer in an educational setting. This program teaches kids how to deal with the real world financially and realistically. At all ages, scenarios are set up for kids to have a mockup of running a town, financially, fiscally and learning about life debts, credit cards, how to avoid poverty. They serve public, private, charter and honor schools, at all levels through high school graduation. The essential life skills they teach are done so interactively with local businesses stepping in and making the experience true to life. The monies they are asking Rotary 8 to help them with are for Summit Schools which provide college-prep curriculum and support learning environment for a diverse group of young people. JA has partnered with more than sixty K-12 schools and impacted more than 3,400 students annually in Tacoma. The outcome of this hands-on program will help students build savings, finance college, avoid credit card debt and move toward economic independence. 53% of all JA alumni have started or owned a business with 85% of those indicating JA played an important role in fostering their goals.

Eloise's Cooking Pot Food Bank/Baby Care – Making a Difference Foundation

Eloise's Cooking Pot is a food bank serving the young and old. They provide healthy food for free to the area's most vulnerable. About 70% of their clients are BIPOC and multi-race. They are located on the Eastside of Tacoma and serve East and South side residents. They also have a mobile drop-off service. ECP has been operating since 2009. They are open 5 days a week. Eloise's numbers have gone from 98,569 unduplicated clients in 2021 to 157,199 families with a total of 517,338 individuals in 2022. When you see the program in operation, the impact becomes apparent. They purchase food, and they receive donated food. The \$8,000 grant would be used to purchase baby food, formula and needed diapers of various sizes. They have 19 staff members and 150 volunteers.

Healthcare for the Underserved – Neighborhood Clinic

This is a remarkable organization, run primarily by 3 staff members and an incredibly team of about 160 volunteer providers serving 4,236 hours. The clinic regularly services a full lobby on their clinic nights and served 1,633 individual patients during the past year. They provide free medical care and have great success obtaining free or reduced-rate services through the Franciscan/Virginia Mason system for both imaging and prescriptions. The staff are all passionate individuals who love their mission. They take great gratification in the ability to help a diverse community, including a growing population of immigrants, homeless and elderly. They offer free vaccines and relieve a significant burden on the local emergency rooms with their services. Each patient receives an exam from a medical provider, and if needed, x-rays, labs, and prescription medications. As they serve people representing 31 languages, they have found a unique service which helps them accommodate a wide variety of languages during their visit. Located in the basement of Catholic Community services, they do a tremendous amount of "good" in a relatively limited footprint.

Bulk Food Distribution – Nourish

Nourish provides food to 200 people a day three times a week at the site we visited in Midland. They see 15 to 20 new clients show up each time the food bank is open. On off days volunteers restock the shelves because clients shop for themselves like they would at a grocery store. This grant will provide funds to purchase bulk foods that they do not typically get donated. The amount of food they receive from stores is declining so the need is great to have funds to purchase in bulk. Items purchased include meat, dairy, and other food items high in nutrients and protein. They purchase 15-20 truckloads annually. They purchase \$7 worth of food for every \$1 spent. The budget for purchasing food is \$300,000. This is a well-run operation and 25% of their clients are under the age of 18. They also serve seniors. They have been in operation for 50 years. In 2022, they served 52,769 unduplicated clients.

Books to Engage Every Student – Pierce County Library Foundation

This grant is for funding to enhance the Library's BEES program (Books to Engage Every Student). The library has selected three low-income schools with a high population of non-English speakers, plus the Boys and Girls Club in Lakewood, and the Child Study and Treatment Center, to receive visits from a pop-up library. Currently serving 507 students. Librarians select books that will appeal to students, load them in large plastic boxes into the special van, and when the van arrives, they give kids library cards on lanyards. Each time the van visits, the students select three books, read them at the school or organization, return the books, and then select another three books during the next visit. The enhancement to this program, provided by the Foundation, is to give books to the students to take home and keep. The library cannot give away books - only loan them - however, the Foundation can give away books so that the student can have books in the home. One research study showed that students with books in the home were able to stay in school longer and the effect is greatest for children from disadvantaged homes.

TYSA Community Music Project – Tacoma Youth Symphony Association

For many underprivileged children at Willie Stewart, Stanley Elementary and Baker Middle School, interaction with the traveling community project is the only positive feedback these children receive. The program engages both youth and adult volunteers to make

a difference in children's lives through music. The program provides access to affordable, inclusive, and transformative music experiences. Through music education, TYSA empowers young people to seek intellectual growth, explore, create pathways, appreciate cultural diversity, and experience the joy of being part of a team. The Tacoma Ukulele Project has built partnerships with Tacoma Public Schools, Frank Tobey Jones, Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Eastside Community Center. The schools where the outreach programs are offered consist of predominantly low-income families with a student body of more than 75% ethnic minorities. It leads to confidence, inclusiveness, kindness, and positive mental health. Ultimately the program helps provide hope for a future that they never imagined.

Homeless Hygiene Services - YMCA

This program provides showers and hygiene products to homeless persons, three afternoons a week, at the downtown YMCA. Rotary funded this program last year and their application this year asks for a grant to also provide a healthy snack to the individuals who come in for showers. Their progress report stated they had provided 12,800 showers for approximately 335 unique individuals. This year the program is working with UW Tacoma, which has provided a social work student needing practicum hours. The student has organized donated clothing for homeless individuals and suggested a healthy snack for those who come in for showers. The YMCA is very committed to the program and the new director has been meeting with, and actually volunteering at, some non-profits that would be natural partners. The director talked about the need to standardize demographic data collection and will be working with another UW social work student on it. We encouraged him to work with partners (e.g., SeaMar, CCS, Beacon Center, New Hope, and the Rescue Mission) that also provide showers to homeless individuals, and with healthcare providers (e.g., Community Health), in order to form lasting partnerships, and he was amenable.

Children's Program - YWCA

The children and youth that come to the Children's Program have disproportionately witnessed violence and unhealthy relationships as an abusive parent's primary means of gaining power and maintaining control within the household. For many of them, they have experienced trauma in varying degrees for all their lives and may currently experience violence in their homes, in their schools, and in their communities. The Children's Program provides alternative experiences and interventions which begin to develop new patterns of behavior, healthy relationships, and a wider range of coping skills for children/youth. They recognize that this work is essential in preventing violence and a reliance on unhealthy behaviors as their default reaction in relating to the world around them.

Children's Program staff partner with parents to meet the family's physical and emotional needs. Staff do so by providing advocacy and safety planning support, tangible goods, community resources and referrals, respite care for children birth-5 years of age, and family activities. They also run curriculum-based groups for children and youth 2-17 years of age. Curricula has been designed to support social-emotional development and provide opportunities for building and practicing concrete skills for stress relief, self-regulation, identity development, peer-connections, and healthy relationships. Our therapeutic group for children 6-12 years of age provides similar support while also exploring and increasing each child's understanding of what they have experienced.