Grants Awarded by Rotary 8

Ark Institute of Learning

The ARK works with students who have learning disabilities to help them succeed in school. Educational therapists teach learning disabled students *how* to learn, given the disability the students may have. Most students are between 6 – 15 years old and approximately 42% are minorities. This grant is for scholarships for low-income students.

Boys and Girls Club - Project Learn

Project Learn is a research-based program to help youth achieve academic success. It features five major components: homework help and tutoring, leisure activities that engage youth in educational enrichment activities, parent and adult involvement, collaboration with schools, and positive reinforcement. Project Learn is conducted at least 30 to 45 minutes daily at each of the three Tacoma Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the school year, after school. The Boys and Girls Clubs partner with the schools and with Sylvan Learning Center.

Children’s Museum of Tacoma - Play to Learn

Play to Learn is designed to support and educate parents and caregivers, who in turn nurture children birth through age six.  It is a free program, provided in libraries and community centers across Pierce County.  The goal of the project is to help parents and caregivers to better understand the importance of play in their child’s social-emotional, cognitive, and physical development.  Also it is designed to help parents and caregivers be aware of what being “school ready” means and to learn strategies to cultivate that readiness.

Frank Tobey Jones - Ruston Senior Center
The senior center is a community hub which welcomes those 55 and older. The City of Tacoma provides the building and Catholic Community services provides nutrition meals four days a week. An average of 350 seniors come to the Center each month for health services, wellness and educational classes, and nutritional meals. The Center served 1,520 participants in 2010. The Center serves low-income and fixed-income seniors with dignity and respect. The meals are served with a suggested donation of $2.50. Seniors are also helped in making transitions, such as moving to a new home, providing reputable referrals for services, arranging for transportation, insurance choices, and transitions to adult day care.

Neighborhood Clinic - Healthcare for the Underserved

The mission of the Neighborhood Clinic is to provide medical care, testing and medications to all those unable to access or afford health care. The neighborhood Clinic partners with St. Joseph’s Hospital, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Tacoma Family Medicine, and the RN program at Tacoma Community College. The Neighborhood Clinic is opened two evenings a week. Patients are provided 30-45 minutes of service. The patient is evaluated, or triaged, by nursing staff and then seen by a medical care provider. If the patient has a chronic need, the patient sees a social worker who advocates for him/her in securing care in the community on a no-fee basis or sliding-fee scale. In 2010, the Neighborhood Clinic provided care for 1,825 patients. The Neighborhood Clinic also participates in Project Homeless Connect at the Tacoma Dome.

Northwest Leadership Foundation - Eagle Center

Northwest Leadership Foundation was selected by Tacoma 360 as the lead agency, of 13 agencies and programs, to help students at First Creek Middle School on the eastside of Tacoma. The 2011-2012 program will provide an after-school program that fosters an environment where academic achievement is a priority. Students will receive tutoring first, followed by enrichment activities such as sports and clubs. The Eagle Center will serve up to 200 youth in the first semester, with 51 hours of academic tutoring and 51 hours of enrichment activities.

Peace Community Center - Hilltop Scholars

Hilltop Scholars serves high school students, who have been referred by school administrators, with in-school and after-school tutoring, college application and scholarship assistance. The program helps college students, by calling them often to make sure they are keeping up with their work. Many students are the first in their family to complete high school and/or attend college. The project served 175 students in 2010-2011, using AmeriCorps volunteers, community volunteers, and a UW intern.

Pierce County Project Access - Patient Access to medical Care

Project Access is a network of healthcare providers who agree to donate medical care to residents of Tacoma and Pierce County. Eligibility criteria for patients includes: uninsured, below 200% of the federal poverty level, and a resident of Pierce County for at least three months. Project Access recruits medical providers to participate and screen the patients for eligibility. Referrals to the program come from hospital emergency rooms, free clinics, community events, and other primary care providers. There are currently 33 agencies which refer patients to Project Access. In 2012, Project Access anticipates serving 500 patients with a volunteer network of more than 55 providers.

Tacoma Community House Read2Me

Read2Me is the successor of the Werlin reading program, now administered by Tacoma Community House. Volunteer tutors meet, once a week, at McCarver and Roosevelt elementary schools in Tacoma, to tutor 1st – 3rd grade students, referred by their teachers because they are behind grade level in reading. A reading coordinator is present to provide appropriate activities to help the student improve his/her reading skills. This grant funding will be used to help expand the program to two more schools.

Trinity Presbyterian Church - Trinity Outreach Programs

Trinity Church offers four outreach programs: Trinity Afterschool Program (TAP), Trinity Learning Center, the Clothing Bank, and the Soup Kitchen. The church primarily serves the Hilltop area. The after school program served 10 kids on a daily basis, and staff obtained over 500 hours of volunteer time at Bryant Montessori, assisting students during the school day. The Trinity Learning Center serves Jason Lee Middle and Stadium High School students with homework help and mentoring. Last year Trinity served 150 different students and accumulated 2,000 hours of volunteer work with kids. The Learning Center was open for over 500 hours of homework help and mentoring from staff. The Clothing Bank and the Soup Kitchen served over 1,500 children and over 2,000 adults in the last 12 months. Trinity partners with the Northwest Leadership Foundation, Peace Community Center, Bryant Montessori School, and the Tacoma Public Schools.

YWCA Children’s Project

The Children’s Project provides counseling, therapeutic sessions, healing art projects, special events or field trips, and Kids Club, (for school-aged children) to build skills and resiliency for children who live in households with domestic violence.  The project helps children to plan for their own safety, to use 911 effectively, as well as to make peer connections, relieve stress and master age-appropriate skills.