

WA Women's Foundation's Weekly Newsletter

Our Impact Assessment Committee plays a critical role in tracking the progress of our grants. They have begun their site visits, and in this week's newsletter, we are sharing their findings with you. Please read below for updates from the site visit teams that visited Education grantees Freedom Education Project Puget Sound, Team Read, and Tiny Trees.

Keep scrolling to read exciting news about the 2018 Pooled Fund and to register for upcoming events.

Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (2015)



One of the questions asked when making a grant is “will this grant make a difference?” The grant to the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) was, in our estimation, a resounding success. The original plan was to expand into the Mission Creek Correctional Center, offering educational opportunities to prisoners awaiting release. FEPPS expanded the number and variety of classes, and the number of students attending classes. At Mission Creek, FEPPS accepted applications from prisoners interested in classes and began offering pre-college and college preparatory classes. At Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW), FEPPS offered 7 classes each quarter and has graduated a steadily increasing number of students with AA degrees, a number of

whom have continued their education post-release. The ED Tanya Erzen has developed a BA curriculum which has been reviewed and approved by the education committee at UPS.

The program's success can be seen in the transformation of these women “prisoners” to “students”. As students they are empowered to share their excitement in learning about the world with each other, with prison staff, and with their families. One woman said no one in her family had ever considered higher education, and even a High School diploma had little value to them. Now that she is a student, her mother is getting her GED and wants to work on a nursing degree.

There has been a profound transformation of the prison culture at WCCW, which most of the FEPPS participants attribute to the program. One of the original reasons the women sought education was to eliminate the petty arguments and fighting among themselves. Now, the women work together to solve problems, or work on homework. The Advisory Committee is now reaching out to bring in more women. This is a dynamic program that transparently demonstrates what resilience, determination and success can be – to students, their families, the Department of Corrections, universities, and the public.

Team Read (2016)

Team Read has seen amazing successes with the hire of their summer program coordinator. She has done active outreach and is coordinating and promoting the summer program beginning in January so that parents and schools/libraries can begin planning in advance. She is coordinating with the summer schools and libraries to align their curriculum.

Team Read is working to close the transportation gap by collaborating with neighborhood organizations including the Seattle Public Libraries, King County Library system, Boys and Girls Clubs and the East African Community Services so that students are able to easily access the tutoring programs. Team Read hopes to continue

expanding their programing to increase capacity and close the summer learning loss. **They feel that their grant from WA Women's Fdn has increased their funding opportunities by demonstrating to funders their capacity building efforts.** Team Read has made significant investments in grant seeking throughout the past year and they are experiencing the impact of that investment.

Team Read is facing a transition in the coming months as its Executive Director, Maureen Massey, will be departing the organization at the end of June 2018. The organization is prepared for this transition, and has established a search committee and secured consultants to assist it in the search. (If you know anyone who would be a good fit for this role, please [click](#) here for more information).

During our site visit, we met Sophia, who is a librarian at one of the Seattle Public Library locations where Team Read operates. Sophia was very positive about that partnership, and she shared that she was a tutor for Team Read for all four years of high school. Sophia's experience in Team Read clearly influenced the passion for reading she continues at her local library. We also heard stories about the impact Team Read is having on families who are in deep need for tutoring assistance but cannot afford to hire private tutors.



Tiny Trees Preschool (2017)



Participating in quality pre-school has been proven to be a significant contributor to a student's long-term success. Tiny Trees (TT) is addressing the lack of affordable preschool by providing classrooms outdoors in local parks. Without the overhead of a building, they can put more money into attracting the best teachers while keeping costs down and class sizes small.

Our site visit team arrived at one of Tiny Trees' new locations (Big Finn Hill Park) on a cold November day that was pouring with rain. After spending about an hour on site, it was clear to our team that TT students (all properly dressed with outer-ware provided by TT) are completely indifferent to the weather. There was no complaining, crying or resistance – at least on the part of the 3-year olds!

TT has done an excellent job achieving their stated near-term goals identified in the 2017 grant proposal. **They have added new locations, expanded their staff, and are actively involved in the development of professional standards for outdoor preschools state wide.** We were

impressed by the leadership of TT and the new board president.

TT uses a proven, evidence based curriculum, endorsed by the Washington State Department of Early Learning. They monitor their student's progress through Teaching Strategies Gold. This tool is aligned with the City of Seattle's early learning guidelines for quality preschool and the Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework. To measure long term outcomes, they are participating in research projects with the UW School of Public Health, UW School of Education, and WSU.

Over the next 2 years they plan to add 7 new locations, primarily in suburbs south of Seattle. As they expand outside of Seattle they will need to collaborate with several new parks authorities. Recognizing the challenge this presents, they are planning on adding a "regional manager" focused on managing these relationships.

Interested in seeing Tiny Trees in action? Join them at one of the following upcoming classroom tours.

- Wednesday, February 7th at 9am - Jefferson Park (Beacon Hill)
- Friday, February 9th at 9am - John C Little Sr. Park (Rainier Beach/Othello)
- Tuesday, February 13th at 9am - John C Little Sr. Park (Rainier Beach/Othello)

Please RSVP directly to Philanthropy Coordinator Katie Weiss at katie@tinytrees.org.



2018 Pooled Fund Update

The 2018 Pooled Fund Grant Committee is busy at work reviewing the **348 Letters of Inquiry** we received this past October. Thank you to the **57 members** who are engaged in this year's grantmaking process, and special thanks to our ten work group leaders: Christine Lewis and Margie Duckstad (Arts & Culture), Nellie Allnutt & Ellen Look (Education), Elizabeth Romney and Jeri Donnelly (Environment), Susan Barley and Nicole Stellner (Health), and Sue Eastgard and Lorraie del Prado (Human Services).

Because of your annual contributions and generous gifts to the Pooled Fund, we have **\$513,000** to grant to the Washington state not-for-profit community this year! This is the second year that members have fully funded not only the five Pooled Fund Grants, but also the five Merit Awards. This is an achievement of which we can all be proud.

We also are excited to announce that the Board of Directors has authorized us to add \$12,000 from the Foundation's cash reserves to the total granted in 2018, allows us to **increase this year's Merit Awards from \$2,000 to \$5,000.**

Save the date and come learn about this year's grant applicants at the **Top 25 presentation on Tuesday, April 3 from 3 - 5 p.m.** (with a reception to follow), and the **Final 15 presentation on Thursday, May 10 from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.** More details and registration links will be available in the upcoming months.

Upcoming Events at WA Women's Foundation

Click on the event name below for more information and to register. Visit our website to read about all upcoming events: wawomensfdn.org/events.

**A Briefing on Washington Voting Justice Coalition
by Progress Alliance**
Thursday, February 15, 2 - 4 p.m., [2100 24th Ave S,](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2100+24th+Ave+S,+Seattle,+WA+98144)
[Seattle 98144](https://www.google.com/maps/place/2100+24th+Ave+S,+Seattle,+WA+98144)

Membership Basics

Friday, February 16, 1 - 2 p.m., 2100 24th Ave S, Seattle 98144

Women Living Richer Lives Through Philanthropy

Thursday, February 27, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., Brighton Jones Office (2030 1st Avenue, 3rd Floor, Seattle 98121)

Book Discussion: Dreamland by Sam Quinones

Thursday, March 1, 4 - 6 p.m., The Rainier Club (820 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104)



**END HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
HERE. EVERYWHERE.**

Community News

Congratulations to 2017 Human Services grantee **BEST** on their monumental new partnership with the Port of Seattle! The Port of Seattle officially passed a resolution to implement a port-wide strategy to combat human trafficking through its facilities including Sea-Tac International Airport. This resolution is the culmination of many years of work by BEST, and their partnership with the Port will continue as they develop and implement training and education for Port employees. For more information click [here](#).

Interested in environmental sustainability and experienced in cultivating a donor base? 2017 Environment grantee **ReUse Works** is looking for new board members. If you or someone you know would be a good fit please email the board president, Kathy Washatka at kathy@washatkgroup.com.

Join a Facebook group exclusively for WA Women's Foundation members in order to learn about board opportunities, job openings and community events:

facebook.com/groups/wawomensfoundation

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter to read interesting articles, access information on grantees, hear about national and local conferences of interest and more!

