

PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED: COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND

PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED

Stronger Together

2020 YEAR-END LESSONS



As of January 6, 2021, 26,723 people in Pierce County have tested positive for COVID-19. 312 of our Pierce County neighbors have died due to COVID-19.

In 2020, the Aligned Philanthropies and donors of PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED distributed \$6.2 million to 174 organizations and entities providing services to address urgent needs and the disruption of basic human services to Pierce County's most vulnerable populations due to COVID-19 and the necessary public health measures to address it.

Together, we have learned valuable lessons about what our community needs and philanthropy's role under crisis conditions.

An Aligned Philanthropic Response

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| Total Contributed | Total Funding Requested to | Total Funded | Total Recipients | Total Grants |
| \$7.5M | \$20M+ | \$6.2M | 174 | 227 |

The public health response to COVID-19 in Pierce County, Washington escalated on March 13, 2020. Schools announced six-week closures.

Washington governor Jay Inslee indicated further closures and restrictions would be coming in the next week.

That day, United Way of Pierce County and Greater Tacoma Community Foundation (GTCF) partnered for an aligned philanthropic response to emerging community needs.

Together, they launched PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED.

PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED isn't just a pooled fund.

“Aligned Philanthropy” means that many different players in the community came together to contribute to advocacy, communication, and rapid response funding consistent with their missions and in support of needs in our community.

GTCF seeded the fund with \$750,000 and then put down \$1 million in matching funds. Philanthropies and donors across the region joined in the response, bringing the fund total to \$7.2 by early June.

Although there were many unknowns as the pandemic hit, several key areas of need were obvious from the beginning. Broadly, childcare for first responders and essential workers, food access, and shelter and housing were identified as the central focus of the fund. However, the funding committee recognized that needs would evolve. They organized funding guidelines to be responsive to the changing situation.

Equity is a central value for PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED (PCC).

Funding decisions prioritize organizations supporting and serving communities most vulnerable to COVID-19 and its impacts.

COVID-19 harms some Pierce County populations more than others

The cumulative COVID-19 rate among Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) residents is

3 times higher

than the white, non-Hispanic rate in Pierce County. NHOPI cases account for 4.9% of total cases compared to 1.6% of the county population.

Rates among Hispanic, Black and Native American residents are about

1.5-2.5 times

higher than the rate among white, non-Hispanic residents.

Evidence suggests people who earn less money, are less educated, or have limited ability to speak English are at

higher risk for COVID-19.

Data from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department COVID-19 Dashboard

PCC's funding request process was designed to present as few barriers as possible to nonprofits to focus their energy. As a result, many smaller and emerging nonprofits with trusted relationships in diverse communities have been introduced to regional funders through the fund.

PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED Funding Committee

Co-Chairs

Dona Ponepinto, United Way of Pierce County

Brad Cheney, Ben B. Cheney Foundation

Lauren Fulton, OnePierce Community Resiliency Fund

Cassandra Mitchell, KeyBank

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Janece Levien, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

Jeff Woodworth, Woodworth Family Foundation

Lois Bernstein, MultiCare

Richard Woo, retired CEO, The Russell Family Foundation

Seth Kirby, Greater Tacoma Community Foundation

Todd Silver, Todd & Teresa Silver Funds

Tyler Zemanek, Windows of Hope Foundation

Philanthropy plays a unique role under crisis conditions. Because of its flexibility and long-standing relationships, philanthropies can fill gaps and bridge governmental relief responses. Philanthropic funding can move rapidly, but philanthropy alone cannot meet the need.

Since its launch, the PCC participating funders have continued meeting monthly to share knowledge, questions, and connections around COVID-19 needs in Pierce County.

Elected leaders, nonprofits, and philanthropic experts have joined PCC regular meetings to amplify the impact philanthropy has during this pandemic.

Along the way, we've learned new lessons about leveraging connections to maximize community response and resiliency during the persistent crisis conditions of COVID- 19.

Daily Reports From The Field

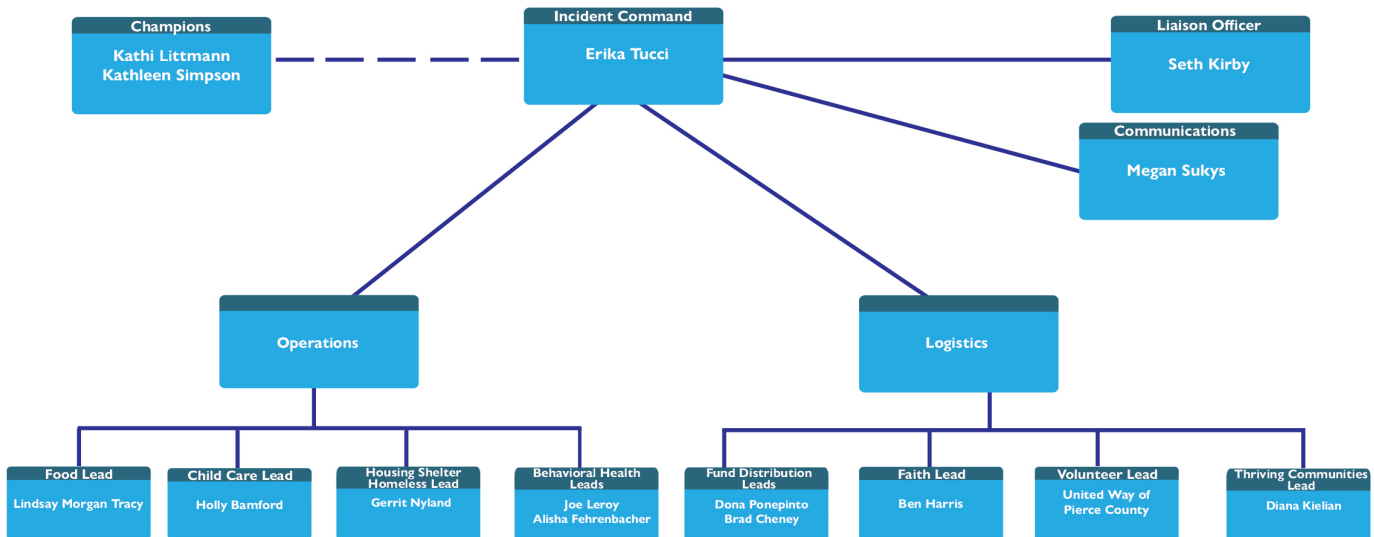
One of the biggest challenges for philanthropy in getting funding where it's needed most is a basic question:

HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHAT THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ARE?

The PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED Aligned Philanthropies worked with the Pierce County Emergency Operations Center, Pierce County Health Department, Pierce County Human Services Department, Pierce County Schools, and our nonprofit agencies to surface new and urgent needs.

In partnership with the Ben B. Cheney Foundation, a "Community Response Committee" was formed, based on the Incident Command Structure used by agencies like FEMA.

PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED COMMUNITY RESPONSE COMMITTEE



Committee members checked in with community connections daily. Then the members reported back to Erika Tucci of the Ben B. Cheney Foundation to inform a daily email report.

The Daily Report allowed PCC to coordinate and facilitate urgent and immediate need requests from nonprofits and government agencies.

The Daily Report audience included the broader philanthropic community. That helped aligned philanthropies see the most urgent funding gaps.

READ MORE ONLINE

Informed by the Daily Report, blog posts shared out insights to the wider public wanting to help their neighbors.



PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED
Spotlight: Working Together To Feed Our Neighbors



PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED
Spotlight: Helping Neighbors Have A Home To Stay Safe



Pandemic Philanthropy: Trust Is The Key To Impact During COVID-19

Beyond funders, though, the Daily Report supported collaboration and alignment among service providers.

“Thank you so much for putting this information out each week. I know that we have been monitoring this key information to pass on to refugee and immigrant families that may need services to get through this time. This was invaluable information each week. We are grateful for it.”

– Feedback on the PCC Daily Report

In one example, mental health providers recognized shared needs through the daily reports and developed a partnership to make access to mental health services easier.

In another situation, providers shared the increased concerns and needs of those leaving domestic violence situations. The report helped elevate the issue to bolster supports for domestic violence survivors.

The Daily Report also reached elected officials. Those representatives let PCC know it offered them a lens into the impacts for their constituents that they couldn't get anywhere else.



The Tacoma News Tribune covered this development, “Bright side to COVID-19 pandemic? Mental health care easier to access in Pierce County” (May 7, 2020)

“I learned about one funding opportunity, through Pierce County that might have slipped our attention. Because we read about it in this newsletter, and were able to be alert for the application, we were able to apply and receive \$75,000 for operating expenses - something that gives us a cushion as we enter the last half of 2020.”

– Feedback on the PCC Daily Report

The Daily Report only lasted as long as it was actively driving connection. After about three months, other systems grew up to support the communication and visibility of needs. Then, PCC shifted resources to other areas.

Aligned Philanthropies still benefit from the trust and connections the Daily Report built. Those elected representatives have continued to follow up with the PCC aligned philanthropies for help connecting them to community needs.

Supporting Local COVID-19 Innovation

Like many areas of the country, COVID-19 testing and Personal Protective Equipment were in desperately short supply in Pierce County at the beginning of the pandemic.

GTCF was approached to support a testing concept from Tacoma's RAIN Incubator, a biotech innovation network. RAIN is an acronym for Readiness Acceleration Innovation Network.

RAIN had a COVID-19 test that could be used to test the area's sewage. They had the skills and capacity, but they needed bridge funds to get them up to scale.



“It should be like an early warning system,” Hirschberg said. “We should be very alert now. So you could imagine in the future, if we had a surveillance system like this in place or a testing system, you would be able to detect when there’s a threat.”

– David Hirschberg Ph.D, Founder & Catalyst RAIN Incubator

Both GTCF and PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED funded RAIN to launch the testing build-out. This was an opportunity to meet a local need with local business when national support was not coming rapidly. Aligned Philanthropy supported community resiliency with business investment.

Emergency Food Network, the major food bank distribution nonprofit, partnered with RAIN through PCC to secure consistent testing for safe food supply to food banks.



The Tacoma News Tribune covered RAIN's work in this story, [“COVID-19 is in Tacoma's sewers. Testing them will prepare us for future outbreaks, scientists say”](#) (April 21, 2020)

Another Tacoma start-up, FAB LAB, a design, fabrication, and community makerspace, turned its work and 3D printers to making Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

PCC funded them to scale up their production. Then, supply chains improved for emergency responders. Once that happened, FAB LAB distributed PPE to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians because Tribal communities weren't yet getting PPE from the state. The local supply helped the Puyallup Tribe take care of their people.



FabLab Tacoma Co-owner/Director of Marketing William Davis,

“As normal supply chains were unable to keep pace with the growing demand for personal protective equipment (PPE), FabLab Nonprofit leveraged open-source designs, locally sourced materials, a team dedicated to volunteers, and crowdsourced funding to deliver scarce masks and face shields to the local essential workers who needed it most.

“We will emphasize distribution to tribal communities, essential workers that do not have current access to PPE, area shelters, social workers, and senior care providers.”

Identifying Emerging Needs

At the very beginning of COVID-19, the PCC funding committee knew food, shelter, and childcare would be essential. They also knew they didn't know what else might be critical.

The funding committee established some time-limited phases to the response.

The first phase provided an immediate \$1million in funding with no application to 40 organizations that were addressing the most urgent needs. These were organizations connected through the Daily Report.

Then, the next phase opened funding requests for rapid response. This second phase distributed \$2 million in April.

The third phase, starting in May, opened the door to funding for what the funding committee called 'emerging needs' – needs that couldn't have anticipated at the beginning.

Technology is an emerging need – something that has proven critical for community resilience. From staying employed and in school to getting access to health care and human connection, technology became essential under COVID-19 conditions.

Technology and internet access were issues for Pierce County before COVID-19. In 2019, the Pierce County Council requested evaluation of Broadband Access and Speed. A key conclusion from that was, “Because high-speed internet is necessary to employment opportunities, education, and identifying social resources, areas in which broadband is unaffordable or unreliable are at a distinct disadvantage.”



Technology and Internet Access Are Essential Needs Under COVID-19 Conditions



“Everyone in the house will now have to negotiate for bandwidth. No one conceptualized the negotiation of bandwidth in the American household, but that’s what it boils down to – who can connect to the outside world now? Is it the breadwinner or the children?”

That is a horrible decision to have to make, and a conversation to have. It’s different from pure economics.

Moms and dads all over the world will say, ‘if it comes down to the last can in the house, you get it, but if it comes down to my ability to provide cans in that house – now we’ve got a whole new problem’.”

– Peace Community Center Development Director,
Lianna Shepherd

PCC distributed nearly \$200,000 for technology to help students, seniors, those needing telehealth, and more. As the technology requests grew, PCC drew on a critical philanthropic tool: the landscape scan.

While the funding committee saw the big need for technology, no organization in the community holds the center on technology needs ‘writ large’.

To better address the need, philanthropy needs the big picture.

PCC funded University of Washington Tacoma’s Center for Applied Urban Research to assess the status of internet and technology access across Pierce County. The scan is still being conducted, but this research will be made available to the full community to assist everyone in addressing the need.

Leveraging Philanthropic Tools: The OnePierce CARES Act Bridge Loan Indemnification Pool

One thing is clear under COVID-19 conditions, there is no ‘silver bullet’ when it comes to supporting resiliency during crisis and multiple system shocks. No single answer or tactic can fully support the community.

Working with the CARES Act funding in Pierce County is one place where Aligned Philanthropies piloted a new approach to build resilience.

Pierce County government received more than \$150 million in CARES Act funding. The county's funding plan relies on nonprofits to deliver millions of dollars for human services. That includes rental assistance to Pierce County residents.

However, Pierce County government contracts are reimbursement-only.



Our Sisters House is now providing help through the Eviction Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). We will use funds to help victims of domestic violence and Black individuals pay for past due rent since March 1st 2020.



What we offer

- Assistance paying past due rent.
- Help to those with the greatest needs while distributing funds equitably.
- Help preventing evictions

Eligibility

Families with an income at or below 50% of Area Median Income (Refer to chart on application).

Contact alaina@oursistershouse.com for questions

www.oursisterhouse.com

That means nonprofits would have to distribute tens of thousands or, in some cases, millions of dollars in cash assistance from their own reserves. Then they would have to submit for reimbursement from the county.

Many nonprofits don't have the cash reserves or banking relationship to get a line of credit to front-fund the work. On top of that, the county faces the December 31 deadline to distribute the funding – or return it to the federal government.

A PCC funding partner, OnePierce, offered to provide no interest bridge loans to nonprofits so they had the cash flow to start delivering Pierce County CARES Act funded services. However, OnePierce needed backing funds to cover any potential loan defaults.

GTCF developed a pool to guarantee OnePierce's loans. Part of the agreement included streamlining the loan process to minimize the burden on nonprofits. These organizations are already taking on a larger load to push out CARES Act dollars.

Several Aligned Philanthropies joined into the agreement GTCF developed and offered \$2.5 million in backing funds.

Nearly \$1 million in loans have gone out. These funds helped small nonprofits.

Small nonprofits often don't have

large lines of credit or well-established relationships with banks.

Supporting the organizations that directly serve those most impacted can mean flexing the unique financial tools philanthropy has at its disposal. Innovation is a valuable tool when it comes to building resilience during crisis and system shocks.

9 Lessons From PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED Aligned Philanthropy

1. Put out a clear value proposition at the start to recruit partners. This helps partners know what alignment will look like.
2. Invest in a communications structure that reaches a broad range of stakeholders on a frequent basis.
3. With rapid funding, local businesses can mobilize to meet local needs.
4. In the face of a crisis without a clear, linear timeline for recovery, establishing time-limited response phases (with date milestones for review and transition) gives structure and focus for responding to changing circumstances.
5. Examine trends in needs to uncover root causes that may not be readily apparent. Be willing to adapt the plan to include those discoveries.
6. There is no single 'silver bullet'. It is necessary to apply many tactics, in tandem, to support community resilience.
7. Philanthropy is best when it fills gaps and provides bridge funding to larger governmental funds.
8. Philanthropy can leverage a broad range of tools, like loan guaranty, to support rapid response to community needs.
9. Crisis can be an opportunity to innovate solutions that uniquely meet your community.

COVID-19 has tested Pierce County's systems at every level. There was no way for philanthropy to predict what might fail, or where needs might emerge.

However, PCC Aligned Philanthropies have seen that:

- + Deep and well-maintained relationships with community leaders
- + A commitment to collaboration, and
- + Developing alignment that allows for both individual and combined action...
have made a positive difference in our community being able to weather system shocks.

The final component that has helped our community is documenting our lessons along the way.

Early in our efforts, Richard Woo, the former CEO of The Russell Family Foundation and a member of the PCC Funding Committee, pointed out that we had the opportunity to document this incredible journey to help us in the future.

It's not just the lessons, though. It's the practice of capturing and sharing the hard-won knowledge this time provides that enables Aligned Philanthropy to grow stronger for the challenges that are yet to come.

PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED FUNDING PARTNERS

Amazon
 Anonymous
 Ballmer Group
 Bates Family Foundation
 Beardsley Family Foundation
 BECU
 Ben B. Cheney Foundation
 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 Campbell Family Foundation
 Campbell/Loan Family Charitable Fund
 CHI Franciscan
 Columbia Bank
 Corry & Donna J. McFarland Foundation
 Elevate Health & One
 Pierce Community Resiliency Fund
 Elliott Family Foundation
 Foundation for Tacoma Students
 JayRay
 JP Morgan Chase
 Laird Norton Family Foundation
 Laird Norton Wealth Management
 Laird Norton Trust Company
 LT Murray Family Foundation
 KeyBank
 Korum for Kids Foundation
 Laird Norton Foundation
 Medina Foundation
 MJ MurdockTrust
 MultiCare
 Names Family Foundation
 Oscar T and Olivann Hokold Foundation
 Pacific Source
 Perigee Fund
 Premera Blue Cross
 Propel Insurance
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 Roy & Patricia Disney Foundation
 Ruth Foundation
 Satterberg Foundation
 South Sound 100Women
 Stewardship Foundation
 Stolte Family Foundation
 The Baker Foundation
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 The Russell Family Foundation
 Todd & Teresa Silver
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 Whisper Foundation
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| Janssen Judge | LoriAnn Randall | Richard Woo | |

2020 PIERCE COUNTY CONNECTED FUNDING RECIPIENTS

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| ACT - A Common Thread | Communities in Schools of Tacoma | HopeSparks |
| Advocates for Immigrants in Detention NW (AIDNW) | Community Health Worker Coalition for Migrants and Refugees | House of Matthew Permanent & Supportive Housing Program |
| AHAT Homecare | Community Youth Services | House of Prayer Foundation |
| All Saints Community Services | Cowlitz Indian Tribe | HumanGood Affordable Housing |
| Amara | Crystal Judson Family Justice Center | Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative |
| American Heart Association, Puget Sound | Cultivating Our Sisterhood International Association, Inc. (COSIA) | Key Peninsula Community Council |
| Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association, Evergreen Chapter | Dave Purchase Project | Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District |
| Arthritis Foundation | Degrees of Change | Kindred Souls Foundation |
| Arts Impact | Disciples Terrace | Korean Women's Association |
| Asia Pacific Cultural Center | Eastside Assembly of Believers | Krownless Kings |
| Associated Ministries | Eatonville Area Council/Eatonville Family Agency | L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community LASA |
| Bates Technical College Foundation | Eloise's Cooking Pot Food Bank | Lighthouse Storehouse Food Center |
| Bethel Community Services | Emergency Food Network | Lutheran Community Services Northwest |
| Bethel School District Foundation | Empowering People in Communities | Making a Difference Foundation (MADF) |
| Bonney Lake Food Bank | Exodus Housing | Marymount Manor |
| Bonny Lake-Lake Tapps Area Senior Citizens | FabLab Nonprofit | MetroParks Tacoma |
| Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound | Families Unlimited Network | Metropolitan Development Council |
| Buckley Senior Citizens | First 5 FUNdamentals | Mom & Me Mobile Medical Clinic |
| Building Beyond The Walls | Forward Operating Base (FOB) Hope Foundation for Tacoma Students | Mountain View Community Center |
| BYTM (Building Youth Through Music) | Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Suicide Prevention Coalition | Multicare Health Foundation |
| Cancer Pathways | Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH Food Bank & Community Services | Multicultural Child & Family Hope Center |
| Cares of Washington | Girls Hearts on Fire | Mustard Seed |
| Catholic Community Services | Goodwill of the Olympic & Rainier Region | NAMI Pierce County |
| Centro Latino | Greater Destiny Church | Neighborhood Clinic |
| Child Care Resources | Greater Gig Harbor Foundation | New Phoebe House Association |
| Children's Home Society of Washington - Key Peninsula | Greater Metro Parks Foundation | North Pierce County Community Coalition |
| Children's Therapy Center | Greentrike | Northwest Immigrant Rights Project |
| Citizen Corps Council of Pierce County | Harbor Hope Center | Northwest Trek Foundation |
| City of Puyallup | Harbor View Manor and Salishan Gardens - HumanGood Affordable Housing | Nourish Pierce County |
| City of Tacoma Fire Department | Harvest House | Oasis Youth Center |
| College Success Foundation | Helping Hand House | Olive Crest |
| Communities in Schools of Lakewood | Homeownership Center of Tacoma | OnePierce Community Resiliency Fund |
| Communities in Schools of Peninsula | Homeward Bound in Puyallup - New Hope Resource Center | |

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| Open Life Church | Springbrook Connections | The Moore Wright Group |
| Orting Food Bank | St. Leo Food Connection | The REACH Center |
| Our Sister's House | St. Vincent de Paul of Tacoma | The Salvation Army |
| Pacific Lutheran University | Step by Step Family Support Center | The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic At Valley Cities |
| Palmer Scholars | Summer-Bonney Lake Family Support Center | The Wishing Well Foundation |
| PCAF | Sumner Community Food Bank | TOGETHER! |
| Peace Community Center | Sumner-Bonney Lake Family Support Center | Town of Steilacoom |
| Pierce County Fire District 16 | Tacoma Arts Live | Treehouse |
| Pierce County Juvenile Court | Tacoma Community College | Trinity Lutheran Church |
| Pierce County Project Access | Tacoma Community House | Trinity Neighborhood Clinic |
| Pioneer Human Services | Tacoma Farmers Market | Trinity Presbyterian Church |
| Plateau Outreach Ministries | Tacoma Fire Department | True Vine Senior Citizens Center (a division of the Barbara Jean Brown Foundation) |
| Prairie Ridge Community Coalition | Tacoma Kidz | United Way of Pierce County |
| Progress House Association | Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness | University of Washington - Tacoma |
| Puyallup Food Bank | Tacoma Pierce County Health Department | Center for Applied Urban Research |
| Puyallup Tribe of Indians | Tacoma Public Schools Daycamp | University Place Presbyterian Church |
| RAIN Incubator | Partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of South Puget Sound, Greentrike, MetroParks Tacoma, YMCA Pierce & Kitsap County | Valeo Vocation |
| Rainbow Center | Tacoma Rescue Mission | Wakulima USA |
| Raising Girls | Tacoma Special Needs PTA | Washington Children's Support |
| Rebuilding Together South Sound | Tacoma Urban League | What a Blessing Street Outreach |
| Recovery Café of Orting Valley | Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity | White River Education Foundation |
| Redeemer Lutheran Church - Hope for the Future | Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers | White River School District |
| Sabala International Center | TeamChild | White River Senior Services |
| Sacred Bridge | The Coffee Oasis | World Relief Seattle |
| Salvation Army Northwest Division | The Islamic Center of Tacoma | yǝhaw` - Indigenous Creatives |
| Sea Mar Community Health Centers | | YMCA of Pierce and Kitsap Counties |
| Share and Care House | | Your Money Matters Mentoring |
| Shared Housing Services | | YWCA Pierce County |
| Sound Outreach | | |
| Spana-Park Senior Citizens Organization | | |