

YEAR OF THE PANDEMIC 2020 IMPACT REPORT



Our Mission ...to offer friendship, help and hope,
to our neighbors in need.

We Helped Families Stay Resilient with life-sustaining financial assistance

\$281,000
in financial assistance provided to
169 Families
representing
646 Individuals
who received assistance

276 People
were able to stay
Safely Housed
with
\$125,000 Rent
and mortgage assistance

300 Utility Bills
paid to keep
87 Families Warm
with
\$75,000
in assistance



We Connected

every month we delivered
Kidz Packs
to all of our Kidz Club families filled
with snacks, socks, activities, books
donated by the Library, and more!

When we shared how many of
our families would not have
much to celebrate; friends,
donors and businesses donated
Christmas Gifts
for
389 moms, dads, & kids



COVID closed Community Dinners
so we loaded up our van for
Homeless Outreach
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
our van filled with food and supplies
meets our homeless neighbors
where they are. We delivered
2,651 Big Bags of Food



Growing Together
teen moms and children met by
Zoom and had many fun,
socially distant activities.
This spring our
Student Leaders
partnered with Oxbow Farms to create
Family Community Gardens
at Frank Wagner Elementary

2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ending December 31, 2020

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



\$1,024,000

Total Support Income in 2020

- **\$179,000 INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**
- **\$ 33,000 BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS**
- **\$536,000 GRANTS**
(including \$348,000 in designated Coronavirus Emergency Relief financial assistance to families with \$126,000 in restricted assistance grants carried over into 2021, and \$33,000 fiscal agent grant in behalf of the Black Healing Fund)
- **\$276,000 GIFTS IN KIND**

\$ 874,000

Total Expense in 2020

- **\$577,000 PROGRAMS**
- **\$256,000 CORONAVIRUS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**
((\$223,000 in pass through Coronavirus Emergency Relief financial assistance disbursed to families plus \$33,000 disbursed as fiscal agent to Black Healing Fund)
- **\$ 31,000 ADMINISTRATION (3%)**
- **\$ 10,000 FUNDRAISING and MARKETING (1%)**



1¢
95¢

our cost to raise \$1 in 2020

of every dollar goes directly to programs that offer friendship, help, and hope to our neighbors in need

We are Grateful for the generous Coronavirus emergency financial assistance provided to our community by:

- The Community Foundation of Snohomish County (\$76,000)
- Snohomish County CARES Act Funding (\$74,000)
- City of Monroe CARES Act Rental Assistance (\$72,000)

Total funds noted as disbursed on reverse "Year of the Pandemic" report reflect the 12 months ending May 31, 2021



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Take the Next Step is a grassroots, faith-based nonprofit organization registered with the State of Washington and the Internal Revenue Service (20-3291700)



Offering Friendship, Help, and Hope to our Neighbors in the Time of the 2020 Pandemic

Since Washington State’s first Stay-at-Home directive came in March 2020, we’ve been hard at work in every one of our programs and throughout our community. We’ve never worked so hard to meet the needs of our neighbors and we have been joined by many, many generous folks from all across our community. Here’s just a glimpse into what has kept us busy and going these past nine months:

Community Resource Center

We connect with families and individuals by phone and text, and “in person” through Zoom. Pre-COVID, our Resource Center was open three days a week. Now our navigators are working five days and often into the evening. We hired a second Spanish-speaking family advocate / navigator to better reach out and serve our entire community.

Here’s an excerpt from a thank you text we received after passing along financial help to a struggling family:

Hello Mrs. Yesica, good morning, I am just bothering you to thank for what you are doing for me and my family and also to tell you that my son left the hospital on Saturday afternoon, thank God, God is great and despite the bad that has happened to us with this ugly disease, angels have sent us which are you, the people who work with you and the doctors who were watching over my son at night. I received the check that you sent us, thank you very much for what You did for us without knowing my family. I send you many blessings for being angels on earth, thank you very much, thank you. . .

From a grateful mother, who did her best to thank us even though English is not her first language. All of her family was quarantined and unable to work for several weeks. We were able to help them to pay rent and buy groceries.

Community Dinners now Homeless Outreach

When we could no longer serve our Community Dinners, we tried a curbside pick-up for a few weeks. Our meals served dropped from 70 to 10. We discovered that community was as, if not more important than, food. Not to be deterred, volunteer cooking teams and friends rallied to provide large grocery bag “Food Packs” for our hungry and homeless neighbors. Every Monday, Thursday, and Friday we drive throughout our community to deliver 20 – 30 Food Packs to homeless individuals and families.



Sadly, we see a growing number of elderly and families living in their cars.

Every week between Thanksgiving and Christmas, volunteers prepare Hope Packs filled with hygiene products, socks, gloves, hats, and special holiday treats. For Christmas week, our Hope Packs were a pair of sturdy rubber boots filled with all kinds of good things.

Kidz Club: Flexible and Caring

This fall, as restrictions eased, we tried a “mini-pod” Kidz Club for 15 kids and volunteers. They loved being together. This has been a very difficult time for children with schools closed and being confined to home. Students brought their Chromebooks, we read together, and helped with homework. With new restrictions, we suspended our trial run in November. We hope to pick it back up again in the new year.



We continue our weekly family-wellness check-in with parents and deliver Fun Packs full of all kinds of snacks and kid-things – including hundreds of books donated by the Monroe Library.

Growing Together Teen Moms Group

On Wednesday evenings, our Growing Together Director, Kara Dineen, and Sarah Lunstrum Zoom with young moms and their children. They share their stories, stay-at-home challenges with young, active children, and grow together, encouraging each other through this difficult time. Mentors check in with moms often. Many generous donations have provided formula, diapers (they’re really expensive!), wipes and more. We work hard to make certain everyone has what they need to survive and thrive through this time of the pandemic.

What’s next?

While we watch COVID cases soar, we are grateful to know a vaccine is on the way. But, we realize the pre-COVID life we all enjoyed will not return for perhaps most of 2021. We look forward to the time when we can be present with each other, re-start all our in-person programs, and work face-to-face with everyone in our community.

We also know very difficult times are ahead for our most vulnerable families. We are grateful to have endured as an organization through this first year of the pandemic and we are grateful for your commitment to the Next Step and the work we, together, can do to make our community a better place to live for every single person.