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The Future of Tulalip Bay

Tribes Contribute to Tsunami Relief Efforts

When the devastating tsunami hit Southeast Asia on December 26th, millions of lives around the world were changed forever. The Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors decided to help by making a financial contribution to support the on going relief efforts of Mercy Corps. At a media briefing in Seattle on January 13th, Board Members Mel Sheldon and Les Parks presented Mercy Corps with a check for \$150,000.

Mercy Corps, founded in 1979 by Dan O'Neill, is an international family of humanitarian agencies

that reaches more than six million people each year. Mel Sheldon, Secretary of the Board, and Les Parks, Board Member, presented O'Neill and Margaret Larson, Program Documentation Officer for Mercy Corps, with the donation. Larson had returned only a day earlier after spending time in Indonesia's Aceh Province during initial relief efforts. "I have worked in the field for over 25 years," Larson said, "and I have never seen anything like what I saw in Indonesia."

Parks and Sheldon presented



The Tulalips present Mercy Corps with a check for Tsunami relief.

the check on behalf of the Board, the Tulalip Tribes Members, their employees, and the patrons of their businesses. "The Tulalip Tribes are honored to be part of the compassionate work you are doing. Know that your good work in this world is not going unnoticed," said Parks.



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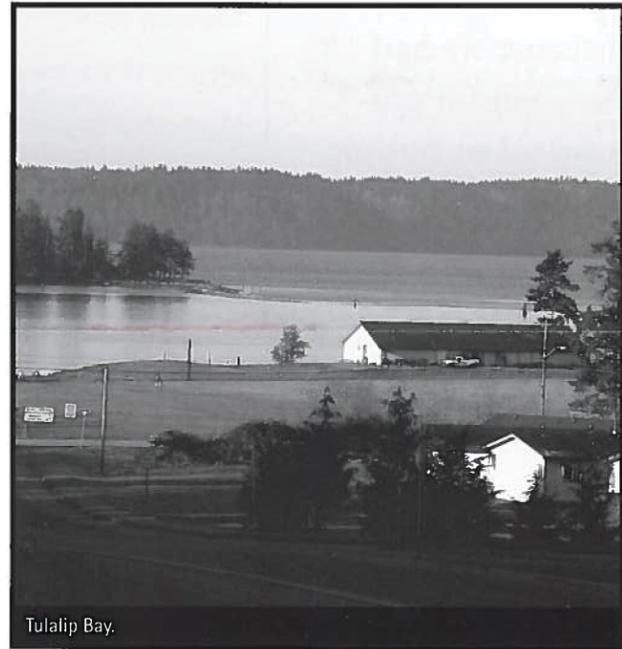
"The Bay is unique and uniquely part of who we are as a People."

— Stan Jones, Sr.
Tulalip Tribal Chairman

The Future of Tulalip Bay

In late December, after much deliberation and careful review of all possible options, the Tulalip Tribes Board of Directors announced their plan to address the dangerous erosion of Mission Beach Bluff and the severe environmental degradation of the waters in Tulalip Bay.

The plan focuses on two specific areas of leased Tribal lands. An independent geotechnical survey found that 32 leased lots on Mission Beach, all of which are situated in a landslide area below Mission Beach Bluff, are in danger of future landslides. When these



Tulalip Bay.

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New Facility for "Our Children"

In 1996 the Child Welfare Clinic for the Tulalip Tribes had a staff of five and lacked the resources to offer many services on-site. Less than ten years later, the program has a staff of 40 and is poised to move into a brand new, fully-equipped, 10,000 square-foot facility.

The clinic was originally designed to monitor compliance with the Federal Child Welfare Act.

Linda Jones, now General Manager for the Tribes, was brought on to serve as the program manager in 1996 and quickly saw ways in which the program could grow and improve. She understood that in order to best serve the children of their community, the program needed to look through the eyes of their children when making decisions.

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The future of Tulalip Bay – continued



leases reach their end date, they will not be renewed by the Tribes.

All other leased lots around Tulalip Bay will be offered a new one-time 15-year lease. This 15-year lease provision allows leaseholders to plan and prepare for their options, which could include leaving their house at the end-of-the-lease-period-or-moving their house to fee land.

The policy change will pave the way for the clean-up of Tulalip Bay, which has been severely contaminated by an inadequate infrastructure and an aging sewer system and wastewater treatment plant.

According to Stan Jones, Sr., Chairman of the Board, the decision to change the leasing policy was not made lightly. "We made this difficult decision because we

had to – not for our own sakes, but for the benefit of our children and our children's children," Jones said. "The Bay is unique and uniquely part of who we are as a People. We are committed to taking the steps necessary to restore this area and clean up these waters so that we can maintain the integrity of the Bay for generations to come."

This policy change is in keeping with the Tribes' overall vision for the area – to restore the environmental health of the Bay, Mission Beach, and surrounding areas and to reposition the Bay as a cultural center for the Tulalip Tribes. In the past several years the Tribes have had to post "No Swimming" signs because

of unsafe levels of bacteria in the Bay. The culture of the Tribes centers in and around the water, therefore the environmental degradation and limited access of the Bay were affecting the very essence of the Tribes. The vision for the future use of the Tulalip Bay area includes the establishment of natural areas and



Tulalip Bay.

parks around the Bay, as well as a restoration of marine life to the Bay, including shellfish and salmon that previously inhabited the Bay.



Aerial Image of Tulalip Bay.

New Facility for "Our Children" – continued

"I remember being very concerned that the reservation was lacking any form of on-site child therapy," Jones said. At that



The new, 10,000 sq. ft. beda?chelh facility.

time, all therapy needs were sent off the reservation to private child psychologists. Jones, along with clinical consultant Pat Donaldson, initiated a hiring trend that resulted in the development of a multi-disciplinary team, tailored to meet the needs of the Tulalip community.

With the help of various private and Federal grants, the clinic – now called beda?chelh – has grown both in size and impact.

"beda?chelh" means "our children of the past, of the present, and of the future," explains Margaret Henry Hayes, beda?chelh's current manager. "The name fits so well with our expanded approach to child and family services." Bolstered resources and a larger staff have paved the way for the expansion of services. With an

800% increase in child therapy cases on the reservation, the clinic now sees over 250 children a week (though the number of families involved in the program account for less than one percent of the Tribes' total population). beda?chelh has developed culturally appropriate programs and has found great success through its

integration of various forms of therapy, including storytelling in the native tribal language and the use of a "gym-bus" to improve children's motor skills.

In addition to offering child therapy services, the program has developed into an advocacy center for both domestic violence and sexual assault as well. By bringing together various partners from the County and State, they have built a comprehensive program that is uniquely qualified to act as an advocacy agent for the Tribes and its community members.

The new building, adjacent to the homeless center, will be a tremendous asset to beda?chelh. Therapists will no longer have to practice in old, window-less exam rooms. Instead, each therapist will

have their own room; there will be rooms designated for art therapy, family meetings, and forensic interviewing; and there will be a brand new playground for the children to enjoy.

beda?chelh hopes to move into their new facility in early March.



Paving the Way with Porous Concrete

The new beda?chelh facility incorporates an innovative way to address run-off from the new parking lot. By using porous concrete, drain water will be directed back into the aquifer instead of into catch basins and into the Bay; the aquifer will be replenished as if the building wasn't there. The concrete exemplifies the Tribes' focus on environmentally-friendly policies.

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