



www.thezonespokane.org

2020 Impacts:

Update to the Community

In an unprecedented time of pandemic, we came together, created new partnerships, and took action to increase equity and opportunity. Here are a few outcomes to celebrate:

The ZoNE Grows!

- Over 15 new partners joined The ZoNE, including Multicare, Family Promise of Spokane, Spokane Housing Ventures, Latinos en Spokane, Northwest Harvest, Peer Spokane.
- Our staff/contractors/interns increased from 7 to 12, including Marshallese, Arabic-speaking, Latinx and Russian/Ukrainian cultural connectors.
- We joined WA Cradle-to-Career Advocacy Network with 10 place-based collaborations.
- The ZoNE Resident/Family contact list grew to over 550 households.

Increasing Social Connections

- With funding from Innovia, The ZoNE catalyzed 4 youth and adult peer groups in NE Spokane, hosted virtually by Strong Women Achieving Greatness (SWAG), World Relief, Peer Spokane and Children's Home Society. 75% of participants reported strong sense of belonging to community after completing peer groups compared to 41% when starting.
- In partnership with Spokane Schools, The ZoNE is in the second year of placing Family Resource Coordinators (FRCs) in seven Northeast schools to increase family engagement and student success. FRCs have activated: a walking school bus program; an elementary attendance board; clothing closets, increased parent programs, and supported food and virtual learning needs during pandemic, among other achievements.
- Over 35 ZoNE families with children ages 0-6 have participated in [Circle of Security parenting classes](#) (in English and Spanish), creating stronger emotional attachments.
- The ZoNE publishes a COVID-19 resource guide so Northeast residents can connect to priority health, employment and food resources. [Available in English and Spanish.](#)

Equitable Employment Opportunities

- The ZoNE Employment Pathways Action Team created an 8-week Basic Skills Employment course to prepare adults in NE Spokane, specifically single-parents, for higher-skilled employment opportunities. We are aiming to offer this course in 2021.

- We are participating in a WA Dept. of Commerce-funded childcare project with Community-Minded Enterprises and other organizations. Our role is to gather insights from residents to pilot childcare options for families working or seeking employment.

Access to Healthy Foods

- A coalition of partners has met bi-monthly since March and activated resources to support family food security, including Gonzaga University, Spokane Schools, Sodexo, Second Harvest, NW Harvest, Communities in Schools and other organizations. Together, we delivered over 61,000 boxes/meals to households in NE Spokane as a COVID-19 response (in addition to Spokane Schools meal kits, Second Harvest food distributions and Bite to Go backpacks). This coalition also raised funds, gathered, and distributed over 2,000 toiletry and cleaning supplies, and distributed over 3,000 face masks.
- The ZoNE is a leader in activating county-wide food security responses to the pandemic, which has now turned into a standing Spokane County Food Security Taskforce, coordinated through SRHD. Now, this coalition is [piloting a healthy food delivery system](#) county-wide we are hoping to make permanent in Spokane.

Expanded Learning for Children and Youth

- Since 2018, The ZoNE has convened partners to increase after-school and summer programming in NE Spokane with a goal of doubling the number of children and youth participating by 2022 (from 1250 to 2500). As of June 2020, 1,271 new students participated in programming. In Summer 2020, in-person programming could not occur, but partners led by Spokane Schools distributed over 3,000 learning kits to 1,394 kids in the ZoNE.
- Students participating in Summer in the ZoNE show increased attendance, less behavioral challenges and increased social-emotional scores compared to their peers.

Other key accomplishments

- The ZoNE (previously known as The Zone Project) worked with residents and community partners to create a new name and website: www.thezonespokane.org
- The ZoNE was active in starting the Spokane County Census Counts Committee. We hired 5 census outreach workers/cultural connectors and, despite restrictions caused by COVID-19, we engaged directly with 2,094 households, of which we helped 225 complete their census. On top of this, we reached 17,184 people on social media platforms.
- We hosted a one-day Leadership Skills program for over 40 NE residents, and co-designed an 8-week Leadership Skills with residents and Gonzaga University to offer in 2021.
- We published a [ZoNE Northeast Youth Assessment](#) and continue to listen to residents, using texting/email surveys to gather priorities and key insights (housing stability, school family survey) to share back with our community and leaders so we can work together towards systems change and encourage investments that help families thrive.

Join us in our work! Visit www.thezoneproject.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).