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| **Grantee** | **Project** | **Amt** | **Summary from Grant Application** |
| **AOF Robotis** | Rockfish Barotrauma Signs | $500 | We would like to create a sign or signs to be placed either outside the harbor master’s office or in the harbor area near the cleaning stations or launch areas. The signs would be about rockfish barotrauma. They would explain how to properly release rockfish and what devices are available to do this. We are the Moosebots a group of students ages 9 through 11 from Moose Pass. We are proposing this idea as our project for First Lego League. We have been in contact with Brittany Blain-Roth (Assistant Area Manager) for Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Sport Fish, about this idea and she supports it. We also have the support of the Seward Harbor Master/Norm Regis. This would be a collaborative effort with ADF&G and the Seward Harbor. ADF&G is in the process of trying to get this information out to the local community. They are currently creating a brochure about this and their brochure may be incorporated with the sign. There are rules in other parts of our state making rockfish release devices mandatory for fishing guides.  Rockfish are dying because they are not being released properly. These are long lived species which are slow to reproduce. When they are brought up from the depths their stomach is extruded from their mouth because their swim bladder expands due to barotrauma. If they are properly released they have a very high survival rate. Many fishermen do not know how to release them or do not realize that they can survive if released properly. Our sign would give people information about how to properly release rockfish. |
| **Bear Creek Volunteer Fire & EMS, Inc** | Technical Rescue Equipment | $2,000 | Bear Creek Volunteer Fire/EMS is writing a proposal for grant funds for new rescue and life safety equipment. This equipment would be necessary to bolster and enhance systems found to need some improvement for alpine and swift water rescue and EMS operations. This funding will enable Bear Creek Volunteer Fire/EMS to be a better asset to the greater Seward area in these technical rescue operations. Bear Creek Volunteer Fire/EMS currently has rigorous swift water, high/low rope rescue, and alpine rescue training on a semi-annual basis. We provide this training to our department and the community first responders due to our ever-growing life safety needs and increasing number of volunteers. Bear Creek Volunteer Fire/EMS currently has 27 active volunteers on our roster, and the number grows every day. We provide professional and high quality services to our community with our current equipment, but with operational standards becoming more and more stringent as well as our department’s ever growing volunteer roster the amount and complexity of equipment grows at an even faster rate than ever before. We are asking for highly specialized equipment necessary to the life safety of multi-application technical rescues. These specialized items include static rescue ropes, specialized light weight carabiners, mechanical advantage block and tackle, surface water rescue dry suits, specialized rescue personal PPE for water rescues, and specialized belay/descender devices.  Because of our diverse geography and large outdoor recreational community, having a well-equipped technical rescue team is imperative to providing life safety services to the Seward communities and their residents. |
| **Boys and Girls Clubs** | Mentoring Program Curriculum | $911 | We are requesting funding to purchase The Committee For Children Second Step Learning program curriculum for grades 1 and 2 to be used in our OJP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) Mentoring program. The Second Step Program is a universal program designed to teach children how to understand and manage their emotions, control their reactions, be aware of others' feelings and have the skills to problem-solve and make responsible decisions. Each grade level kit includes easy-to-teach, short weekly lessons, engaging songs and games and daily activities and take-home materials to reinforce learning. This is an evidence based social and emotional program used in classroom settings and after school programs to teach and enforce social and emotional learning. We will utilize this program as our required 2nd evidence based program in our Mentoring Youth At Risk Program funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program. Our 1st evidence based program will be Project Learn, which reinforces the academic enrichment and school engagement of young people during the time they spend at the Club. We have been having behavioral issues with our younger Club members and would like to offer the Second Step program to help provide the tools necessary for kids to make positive choices in their behavior. Objectives will be to promotes success in Club members, increase program connectedness and a safe and respectful program environment by directly teaching young people the skills that strengthen their ability to learn, manage emotions, have empathy and solve problems. We would like to prevent problem behaviors, peer rejection, impulsivity, antisocial behavior and low academic achievement. The program is intended to help kids develop self-regulation skills, social - emotional competencies and school and Club connectedness. |
| **Independent Living Center** | TRAILS Support | $6,945 | This project will aid in the support of TRAILS-Seward recreational activities between the months of May and December 2017. Activities are typically broken down into monthly planning meetings, day trips to Anchorage/Soldotna/Kenai, local community activities, and multi-day, state wide, adventure trips called One Hit Wonders (OHW). Funds for this project will contribute to the purchase of supplies for eight planning meetings, transportation for six day trips, supplies and transportation for 16 local community activities, transportation and scholarship costs for four One Hit Wonders, purchase of supplies for fundraising, scholarship costs for trip to Denali for up to five people, costs of supplies for arts and crafts, and Wilderness First Aid training for TRAILS staff.TRAILS is an inclusive recreation program supported by the Independent Living Center (ILC). Activities are focused on individuals who experience disability and are designed to be inclusive. However, Seward community members without disabilities are also welcome to join and often do. The 2017 activity projection is similar to previous years with about forty activities and eighty participants. TRAILS is participant driven. The program offers peer support and promotes independent living skills and choices. TRAILS offers activities and community inclusion which has a broad and enduring effect on the well being of participants. Monthly planning meetings are held so that participants are informed of upcoming activities. The meetings also serve the purpose of giving participants an opportunity to provide feedback and input. Local activities have included berry picking, ice fishing, highway litter patrol, walks around town, visits to the sea life center, charter boat fishing, ceramics, arts and crafts, movie nights, holiday parties, birding, cuisine nights, grilling, and much more. TRAILS also sponsors OHW adventure style, multi-day trips outside of the community. Regular OHWs include horseback riding in Cooper Landing, dip netting in Kenai, kayaking in Resurrection or Kachemak Bay, adaptive skiing with Challenge Alaska at Alyeska Ski Resort, berry picking in Jakalof Bay in Homer, and performances at the Anchorage Center for Performing Arts. Funds from this project will be used to support Seward community members as well as local businesses as much as possible. The goal of this project is to provide affordable social and recreational opportunities to a minimum of 20 different individuals with disabilities living in Seward. It is projected there will be 80 participants in 40 different activities. Most TRAILS participants join in various activities throughout the year, thus there will be overlapping participants within the projected amount of 80. ILC has found that the peer support and recreation opportunities offered by TRAILS has a substantial impact on people's lives - empowering individuals with disabilities to progress from the group activities to individual pursuits. TRAILS raises awareness and visibility of the potential of those community members experiencing disability. TRAILS takes the ILC mission to the highest level, striving toward the vision of the independent living movement: "To maximize leadership, independence, productivity, and full inclusion and integration of individuals with disabilities into the main stream of American society." Our aim towards this missions is visible in the way that TRAILS activties are powered by the interests of the participants, and led and organized by participants whenever possible. This creates self-efficacy among the group and encourages community connection.The positive impacts of these events are numerous; most noticeable are increased self-confidence, increased happiness, adaptability, and enthusiasm. For the above reasons, we feel our project is a program that meets many needs of the people in our community and is in line with the SCF mission: "to enhance the quality of life in Seward/Moose Pass area by addressing and assisting local needs, funded from a permanent endowment actively supported by our citizens." |
| **Lowell Point Volunteer Fire Department** | Tanker/Pumper Gear Fit Out | $1,000 | We are going to buy small pieces of fire fighting equipment to fit out a newly acquired tanker to NFPA equipment specifications. This may include fire hose, fire nozzles, thermal imaging camera, gear holders, bunker gear, boots, and gloves. LPVFD recently acquired another fire fighting tanker that carries 4000 gallons of water. The increased capacity of water on scene will allow LPVFD to more effectively fight fires. The new tanker needs to be fit out with equipment for saving lives and fire fighting. This project will assist LPVFD increase its fire fighting rating with Insurance Services Office that rates fire departments nationally. This project will assist LPVFD with conform to the National Fire Protection Associations standards. Benefit to the community will include better life and property saving capability as well as lower fire insurance rates. |
| **Quetkcak Native Tribe** | Art Program | $1,000 | For the past several years Qutekcak Native Tribe (QNT) has offered Alaska Native art classes on Wednesdays to the community of Seward. Classes are open to all ages for anyone and everyone who would like to participate in the creation of an Alaska Native craft. The classes are taught by two Alaska Native artists, that are payed for their services. The classes are offered for free for students. Materials are also provided for students at no cost. In the past classes have consisted of carving, basket weaving, drum making, kuspuk sewing and more. The classes held at the QNT building have proven to be a great success.Building on the success of the previous 4 years of arts programming the goal of the classes will be to educate students, teachers and families about Alaska Native arts. In order to provide this service we will employ two local Alaska Native Artists. According to a survey conducted by the AIS, increased student and teacher interest in Alaska Native arts was listed as the district's greatest needs. This is a perfect opportunity for our artists to help assist and fill the gaps in the school curiculums. Partnering with the local schools and traveling our team to the classrooms will expose more youth. Our other objective is to travel to the nursing home. Most of the Alaska Native elders residing at Mountain Haven are far from their family and cultures, they get very depressed. It would be most beneficial to the elders to take our team to them. We could transport the artists and materials in order to provide art classes to any elder that would like to participate. We will continue to offer classes at the QNT building weekly from October-April or until art funds are exhausted. |
| **Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance** | School Yard Habitat Maintenance | $750 | The main goal of the Seward Schoolyard Habitat program is to provide an outdoor-based educational experience for local students while improving and restoring wildlife habitat. The project started in 2012, the gardens at Seward Elementary School were created and planted in 2013 -2015. Teachers, students, families, and volunteers have been maintaining the garden every since. The garden is in need of a replenishment of wood chips and gravel. RBCA is seeking grant funding to purchase and have gravel and wood chips delivered to the school, as well as to coordinate and hold a couple of volunteer days to spread the gravel and wood chips, and work in the garden.  Measures of success - Purchase and have gravel and wood chips delivered. - Hold two volunteer days to put the gravel and wood chips in and work in the garden.  - Feed volunteers and have bathroom facilities available to volunteers. |
| **SeaView Community Services** | Empowering Families Through Parenting Support and Education | $3,210 | SeaView is seeking assistance to provide training for Circle of Security ® Parenting ™ classes for two of our employees. “COS-P is a parent education program offering the core components of the evidence-based and internationally acclaimed COS protocol. This 4-Day seminar trains professionals to use an eight-chapter DVD or streaming video to educate caregivers. The program presents video examples of secure and problematic parent/child interaction in the zero to five age range, healthy options in caregiving, and animated graphics designed to clarify principles central to COS. Circle of Security Parenting implements decades of attachment research in an accessible step-by-step process for use in group settings, home visitation, or individual counseling.” The Parenting Classes are a series of eight (8) week classes with a duration of one and one-half (1 ½) hours per week. The objective of the program is to provide support through a structured parenting program to parents that are at risk, or have already, had their children taken out of the home. Seward and surrounding areas in our catchment, Hope and Cooper Landing and Moose Pass, do not have a parenting program to offer these communities, therefore, if the Office of Children’s Services (OCS) requires a parenting program for their clients, OCS must refer the clients to either Soldotna or Anchorage to receive these classes.In addition to OCS referrals, there are no parenting classes which can be offered to those in need that participate in SeaView’s Infant Learning Program or anyone in community seeking this type of service. Due to the inability to receive parenting classes locally, parents that are required by OCS to complete these programs must travel out of the area. If they are lacking the resources, some cannot meet the criteria needed to retain or reunify with their children. The program is also beneficial to parents not yet at risk, foster-parents, and anyone that is interested in education and support to learn ways to better parent their children.The training will be offered in May 2017 in Palmer, Alaska. Upon completion of the training, our staff will inform OCS that we are ready to take referrals and begin to advertise the classes to The Infant Learning Program (ILP) and in the community. We are anticipating being able to start the classes in early June, 2017.The goal of the training is to start a program to offer parenting support and education to the communities of Seward, Moose Pass, Hope and Cooper Landing.The objectives of the programs are to empower families by offering a high quality, researched-based, best-practice parenting program targeted to reduce at-risk, or out-of-home placements, and involvement with the Office of Children’s Services (OCS); encourage community members to become involved in foster-parenting; and proactively educate parents in the community to reduce OCS referrals.The impact of the program is focused on reduction of OCS referrals by offering parenting classes to new parents resulting in fewer OCS referrals in the future. Additionally, to offer a community-based resource for families mandated to attend parenting education classes that are a; professional, State of Alaska recognized, alternative for completing the requirement without having to travel out of their community to receive the service, therefore increasing the probability of completion of OCS requirements and reunification of the families. This training meets the mission of SCF by investing in a program that is focused on supporting and educating parents about positive parenting skills to strengthen families, reduce the risk of placing children out of the home, reunifying families whose children have been placed in State custody and helping new parents build stronger, more positive relationships with their children, thus helping to strengthen our community overall. |
| **SeaView Community Services** | Furniture for Group Home Residents | $3,000 | SeaView is requesting funding for furniture in the Evergreen Group Home common areas. The common areas include: living/TV room, sitting area, activity area and dining room. The funding would replace worn furniture in the living/TV room and dining room, and provide additional furniture for a sitting area and cabinet for storing supplies for activities.The current living/TV room couches and recliner have extreme wear (including holes in the upholstery and a broken frame). The dining room table has one broken leg that needs regular repair. Funding for furniture is also requested to create a separate sitting area where residents and visitors can be seated away from the TV. We also request funds to purchase a cabinet for storage of activity supplies, such as card games, board games and art supplies.The Evergreen Group Home meets the needs for community members with serious mental illness who need 24/7 behavioral supports. The group home setting provides that support with 24/7 staffing for up to 7 residents (this is the current number of residents). The Group Home is also a gathering place for other community clients experiencing serious mental illness. The Group Home residents host holiday parties, movie night, sports night, birthdays, barbeques and other special occasions where these other community members, families and staff are invited. Many times there are 20-40 additional people participating and using the furniture in the common areas. Due to the higher usage, the furniture has worn at a faster rate than originally anticipated and needs replacement. Adding another sitting area away from the TV area will allow residents to visit and socialize with community friends and family away from the distraction of the television. An enclosed cabinet is needed for activity supplies to keep things neat and readily accessible to residents. |
| **Seward Area Hospice** | Seward Area Volunteer Hospice Care | $41,382 | Seward Area hospice is ready to roll. We plan to be serving clients by April 1, 2017.With the support of the SCF, Providence Foundation, SeaView Services and many dedicated volunteers, Seward Area Hospice (SAH) has hit several milestones in the last 18 months:• Obtained nonprofit status• Adopted policy and procedures• Completed articles of incorporation• Established a board of directors• Completed a feasibility study • Completed a community needs assessment• Developed a personnel manual• Created a brochure and website (sewardareahospice.org)• Drafted a funding plan Since applying for a SCF minigrant in October 2016, SAH has applied for licensure with the State of Alaska which is required before we can offer services:• Developed an annual budget• Hired a paid program director • Hired a volunteer coordinator,• Recruited and trained 13 volunteers • Submitted application for licensing to State of AlaskaSAH established an office in a convenient downtown location, made possible by a generous donation for a rent of 25% previous value for a minimum term of 5 months. Furnishings were donated by Hotel 360 Seward.License application was submitted in January, 2017.It has been reviewed with “no concerns” and we expect official response by March, 2017.Thirteen volunteers have been trained. We expect to begin offering services by April 1, 2017.Our plan is to start with three clients and increase to ten the first year to ensure all services are in place and working well.An increase in the number of clients will be accomplished as funding, training, and volunteers allow. This has been a herculean effort in a small town from a dedicated circle of volunteers, friends and supporters. SAH is using a gift from Providence to fund the current operating budget through 2017 which will exhaust reserves. At this critical juncture we must find a way to fund consistent operations so we can concentrate on operating a quality program and implement a fundraising plan to meet the needs to finance it. A secure budget gives the stability we need to provide our employees, volunteers and most of all, our clients. SAH needs this support to begin operating now, while we concentrate client services, build partnerships to help reduce expenses and begin generating income from fundraising. A fundraising plan has been drafted with the help of training from Foraker. However, the amount of work to meet licensure requirements and launch services has simply overwhelmed the volunteer effort. SAH intends to contract for professional fundraising services to work with the board on finalizing the plan and implementing activities within it. We are seeking funding from the Providence Foundation to help fund our first two years of operation.Their grant cycle has changed to summer 2017 with notification in fall. Like SCF, Providence highly values collaboration on community projects.Funding from SCF will help us leverage matching funds from Providence. Intended outcomes for this two year period:• Offer licensed, operational volunteer hospice serving clients from Seward and the Eastern Kenai Peninsula• Implement a fundraising plan that supports a fiscally sustainable program for SAH, Inc.Our goal is to offer hospice services by April 1, 2017 and palliative care services as capacity allows. We intend to serve up to 10 clients in year one as we organize our volunteers and services and increase to at least 16 in year two as client base and volunteer availability allow. Primary Objectives: Operate a licensed Volunteer Hospice Strengthen families and improve quality of life for community members by caring for all who meet the criteria for admission to hospice Improve end-of-life knowledge and choices through community education Offer Bereavement Services for family and friends for up to 12 months following loss of a loved one Establish community partnerships through our fundraising and volunteer base for a sustainable and growing programIn our mission to provide compassionate end-of-life care to enable comfort, dignity, and choice for the individual and family we must develop a fiscally sustainable volunteer hospice to serve the communities of Seward and surrounding areas of the Eastern Kenai Peninsula. During this two year period of funding, our goal is to develop and implement a fundraising plan that can sustain services to meet community needs. We share a mission with the Seward Community Foundation and its donors, to improve the lives of Seward and Moose Pass residents in the areas of health and human services. SAH will work to support clients, their families and loved ones, to make the end of life at home a viable choice for Seward area residents. |
| **Seward Arts Council** | Lighting Equipment | $1,000 | It is the goal of the Seward Arts Council (SAC) to support the Port City Players and other associated organizations with the purchase of reusable lighting equipment. Our goal is to have the equipment available for performances of all kinds. During a recent production it became apparent that the current equipment is limited and potentially unsafe for long-term use. With additional lighting instruments and a control board we’ll be able to produce events in a wide variety of spaces. Under the advisement of local lighting professional Cliff Kreug, we can utilize the equipment in this upcoming production of You’re A Good Man Charlie Brown as well as in numerous productions to follow. We have not yet negotiated any payment details, but would like to include SCF, Mini-Grant monies in the final agreement. This support, in addition to the up-cycling of local equipment that needs repair, would enable more flexibility in performance spaces and increase the quality of said productions. The community benefit can be quantified in both entertainment and education. From visiting music events to local theater productions, the value is innumerable. As for education, local artists will benefit from learning how to use more current equipment. This grant would enable us to take the first step towards bringing local theatre to a modern age. Objectives: 1. To expand and improve the quality of lighting at local Seward performances.2. To educate young artists in contemporary technical production via: -Through practice with modern equipment, producing in various locations. -By engaging the local community members available to create more advanced understanding regarding the lighting profession.3. To help grow SAC as a local arts supporter, having a technical inventory available for use. |
| **Seward Band and Choir Boosters Association** | Expanding music opportunities at Seward Schools through additional instruments and artist concerts | $5,000 | We are requesting funds to expand the keyboard/percussion instruments for the Seward Middle School, as well as providing opportunities for the Seward Elementary, Middle, and High School students to see performances by professional musicians.Specifically, funds would provide an additional marimba ($2500) and an additional xylophone ($1000) as requested by the Seward Schools music teacher, Dr. Mark Turner. Dr. Turner has been working with the middle school students with an existing marimba. An additional marimba and xylophone would allow more students to be able to learn how to read music notes on instruments combining keyboard and percussion skills. In 2016, students did public concerts with the existing marimba at the Seward Holiday Bazaar and at Hotel 360 North. Additional concerts will occur in spring 2017 as well as winter 2017 in the following school year using the requested instruments.Funds are also requested to bring at least two professional musicians to the Seward Schools. We are currently coordinating three professional musicians to come to Seward. Rick Brooks, a fingerstyle guitarist from Anchorage; Stevan Morris, handpan player from Los Angeles; and Al Petteway, virtuoso guitarist and instructor at Acoustic Alaska Guitar Camp. We are requesting $1500 to support bringing at least two of these artists to schools (another $500 will be provided by our association).Last year, we also brought two professional musicians to the three schools which were well received by the students and the community. With this grant, we hope to continue to inspire Seward school kids through musical opportunities. We hope that kids will be inspired to join music classes and exploratories. Kids already playing music may be inspired to practice more and become even better musicians than they currently are. Because music is frequently one of the first subjects to be cut in tough budget times, our organization believes that it is critical to bring music to school kids as much as we can, in different forms.Seward Community Foundation's mission is "to enhance the quality of life in the Seward/Moose Pass area by addressing and assisting local needs." Music greatly enhances the quality of life for many people including children. In our small community, bringing musical opportunities to our youth creates the foundation for music appreciation throughout their lives. We are requesting funds for Seward Schools by adding another marimba and xylophone to the middle school instruments, and bringing professional guitarists to perform at the Seward schools as part of the school day to touch more than 600 kids from the three schools. Public concerts by the professional musicians (funded outside of this grant through purchased tickets) will also reach approximately 100 community members. Both of these efforts will greatly improve and enhance the quality of life of at last 700 people in the Seward/Moose Pass communities. |
| **Seward Library Association** | Friends of the Library Strategic Plan | $1,500 | SCLA is wanting to do a strategic plan. We feel that a process for the board to work through strategic planning will help us in our work to support the library museum and the community and help keep our association viable for the future. From the website of Foraker: "We believe that thoughtful strategic planning is the foundation for success in all organizations...A strategic plan will be clear about "who you are and where you are going"During our Strategic Planning process, our board feels that it would be best to have our time with a facilitator be broken into two days of 4 hours per day. No plan of this kind has ever been completed for SCLA and we want to be able to do a quality job. The process will include: Defining our Core Purpose, Defining our Core Values, Defining our Long-term strategic direction and Defining our Short-Term Direction and updating our Mission Statement.The goals of our strategic plan is to have a defining sense of 'Who we Are', how we can keep SCLA viable for supporting the library museum into the future. The library museum enhances the quality of life for all the community of Seward, Moose Pass and beyond. From infants, toddlers, school age, high school, college, elders and visitors, the library museum sees them all and provides services that are open and available to all at no cost. |
| **Seward Library Association** | Photo Collection Materials | $1,000 | The Association would like to organize and properly care for the Library's photo collection. We have approximately 4000 photos in 8 collections of early Seward pioneers and the first settlers of Seward. Irreplaceable if not cared for properly. We have a volunteer starting the spring of 2017 that is going to be trained by current museum staff to correctly handle and assess our photos to start the project. We would like to purchase 10 of each of the following: D-Ring Albums with slipcases, 8 mil polypropylene album pages for 4" X 5" prints (25 per pack), 8 mil polypropylene album pages for 8 1/2" X 11" prints (25 per pack) and 8 mil polypropylene album pages for 5" X 7" prints (25 per pack). All materials must be archival quality. Storage in archival products will slow the aging process and add years of life to the items helping to prevent damage and deterioration. Archival products cost more and are harder to find and acquire than standard materials/products.  Our objective is to organize our photo collection so that is can be used by researchers for historical reference and information. Researchers range far and wide from local to international historians, school teachers and students. We would like to make sure the photos are protected properly as they are reviewed, copied and stored. |
| **Seward Little League** | T-ball Batting Helmets | $480 | We are requesting funding for 24 Tee Ball helmets for the Seward Little League baseball program. The helmets we are currently using are too large and are unsafe to use.We hope to obtain new helmets for the kids so that they can continue to be safe while playing baseball. The objective is to make sure we have the proper size helmets for all the kids. We currently have larger sized helmets that don't fit quite a few of a the smaller kids. This causes the helmets to cover their eyes while batting and running which means they can't see the ball and other kids so they don't run into them. With the approval of the grant for the helmets we can lower registration fees for the players and hopefully attract more interest in signing up. |
| **Seward Middle School** | Maker Lab | $3495 & $1000 | This spring I will be re-purposing the woodshop/art room at Seward Middle and turning it into a Maker Lab. My favorite definition of a Maker Space comes from Diana Redina, a revered resource in the field, "A makerspace is a place where students can gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials.". These spaces are popping up in libraries, schools, universities and community programs all over the country. Maker Spaces provide the tools, resources, and environment for people to create and investigate anything that interests them. Teachers, volunteers and librarians act as facilitators throughout the process. The Maker movement is an independent and self-driven experience, yet a collaborative process. Our lab will house everything from robots and power tools, to green screens and sewing machines. First, we need funds to purchase the tools and materials that will enable students to create amazing projects, explore current technologies and develop new skills. We need a wide variety of materials in order for this class to serve a diverse set of students and their goals. It needs simple things like Legos, duct tape, glue guns and tools, but also more expensive ones like codable robots, animation/movie recording equipment, electrical circuit sets, and sewing machines. I want the Makerspace to have the materials to inspire or facilitate the goals, creativity, and innovations of all kinds of students. To make the room an inspiring and functional maker space we will need to do some basic renovating. We want to create a green screen, build a Lego wall, and of course come up with an effective system for organizing and maintaining materials/technology. There will need to be communal spaces for design and processing ideas, celebrating projects and instructional guidance. The lab has already become home to the Gifted and Talented Program and Student Leadership Team at SMS. This spring we will host our first Maker Exploratory class 4th quarter 2017. The following year it will be expanded to twice a year offerings, with weekly after school hours with the hopes of hosting robotics/coding clubs in the future. The course will take students through an introduction to the Design Process, important habits of minds for makers, and safety in the lab. Next we will provide students with a baseline introduction to each focus area; engineering, coding/robotics, electrical circuits, textiles, digital recording/production, and upcycling/repurposing and then a introduce a “challenge” or competition to stimulate creativity and innovation. Finally, the students will design their own "Passion Project" or Individualized Learning Goal for something they want to produce, master, learn or try. The rest of the course will be spent on these projects. Once we have some consistency and success we will open our doors to other visiting classes/schools and develop some mentoring programs with Seward Elementary and Connections.The vision is to create a space where kids can learn to innovate, create, experiment, and explore safely and competently. We are preparing students for the jobs of the future, the ones that haven’t even been created yet. To do that they need to become comfortable with failure, excel at problem solving, and flourish in a self-driven environment. In our lab students will develop a greater sense of independence, confidence, and self-reliance. Maker spaces are a perfect venue for learning grit and persistence; two mindsets that will serve them well. The class will help students utilize the engineering/design process, an effective system for innovation and experimentation. We will apply all these new habits of mind and skills to our explorations of robotics, coding, electrical circuits, digital media, art and engineering design challenges. Other times we will work backwards and develop understanding by reverse engineering, hacking or fixing toys and electronics. Another theme will be “repurposing” or “upcycling”, taking what might be thrown away and giving it new life as art, fun or function. As a result students will start to see problems, areas of need or excess as opportunities for invention. We are also hoping to to host a yearly “Repurposing/Upcycling Show" exhibiting student projects. In our Maker Space students can set out to learn a new skill or technology. SMS facilitators would help them plan action steps, timelines, and connect to resources. Maker Spaces are often the missing ingredient that encourages a student to pursue goals and curiosities, that otherwise might go unrealized. For example, the lab will be stocked with the equipment necessary to learn animate, produce short films, or other digital media. This will allow students to create projects for use in their other academic classes. How awesome is that. The lab will serve as a home base or catalyst for future robotics teams and coding clubs, as well as a place for students to tinker. Eventually, students will create tutorials and instructional guides for future classes. There is no question that Maker labs are a highly effective means of teaching students 21st century skills, helping to ensure gainful employment and fulfilling lives. An endeavor like this will require a much larger skillset than any one staff member can offer students. The instructor will work as a facilitator, “a guide on the side” rather than as a traditional instructor or “sage on the stage”. SMS will invite local craftsman, artists, technicians, and gurus to work with our students regularly, and seek distant mentors utilizing technology. This lab WILL plant the seed of Maker culture in our school, community and help growth mindset permeate our building. The potential positive impacts of Maker Spaces are numerous and well documented. (\*see attached Impact of the Maker Movement (Rep.). 2014) We will be building the capacity and confidence of these students to create, collaborate and innovate. |
| **Seward Nordic Ski Club** | Nordic Ski Grooming Fleet Improvements | $5,000 | The Seward Nordic Ski Club (SNSC) consists of an average membership base of 150-200 with an occasional high of 350. This membership base extends from Seward northward to Moose Pass with a small percentage of members located between Moose Pass and the Avalanche Acres subdivision. SNSC is requesting $10,000 to be utilized towards the purchase of a new snowmachine to assist with grooming approximately 28 miles (45 km) of Nordic ski trails. Our oldest snowmachine groomer is 9 years old with approximately 4,000 grooming miles on it. It has been beleaguered with electrical issues this season and is in need of replacement. A replacement snowmachine costs approximately $12,500 without the purchase of extras such as hitches, additional wiring harnesses, spare belts, cover, etc. SNSC is prepared to make up the difference between the requested amount and the actual cost via funds from our general fund. The SNSC intends to purchase the snowmachine locally to contribute to the local economy as well as benefit from a local service provider should the need arise. The purchase of a new snowmachine will not only allow our volunteer groomers to more effectively groom the established nordic ski trails (Exit Glacier Road, Bear Lake, 12-Mile/Divide, Trail Lake Campground) but also consider future Nordic ski routes nearer the community of Moose Pass. This will be especially helpful during winters of lower than average snow amounts.  The Seward Nordic Ski Club hopes to attain funds to purchase a new snowmachine groomer to replace aging equipment within our grooming fleet. This equipment is essential in maintaining the network of groomed Nordic skii trails within the communities of Seward and Moose Pass. These trails are used by other recreationists as well. Participation in outdoor winter recreation, such as Nordic skiing, is essential for the well-being of persons during the winter months. Promoting and providing groomed trails for Nordic skiing and other uses directly relates to the mission of the SCF by enhancing the quality of life of the local residents. |
| **Seward Prevention Coalition** | Grantsmanship Training Program | $940 | Seward Prevention Coalition would like to send one of its members to The Grantsmanship Training Program (GTP). GTP is a 5 day interactive training by The Grantsmanship Center. Synopsis of training includes: planning programs, writing proposals, finding & working with funders and extensive planning exercises. During the 5 day training, teams draft and review real grant proposals. According to their website, “The Grantsmanship Training Program pioneered the Listen & Discuss, Do & Review curriculum – the most effective approach for adult learners. Our trainers use hands-on exercises so that you retain what you learn. You leave the training with a copy of each proposal created and reviewed in class, a workbook of proposal components for your own organization, a network of colleagues to contact, and 12 months of follow-up support from the Center via our Membership Program.”Seward Prevention Coalition became a 501 (c) 3 in April of 2016. Currently the coalition receives a majority of its funding from the State through a Federal Grant. This funding from the State is allocated for very specific initiatives and programs focused on preventing underage drinking. This year we are fortunate enough to have travel and per-diem funding for this training but don’t have funds for the actual registration fee. Early registration fee is $895 and we hope to secure funding by the end of June to meet the early registration deadline for trainings offered this summer. One of the main reasons for becoming a nonprofit is the ability to diversity our funding sources by applying for additional grants. Sending a member of our coalition to the Grantsmanship Training Program is a great start to achieving our goal of multiple funding sources.The coalition member will present at a coalition meeting as well as apply for grants on behalf of the Seward Prevention Coalition. One of the many benefits of attending this training is a Full Alumni Membership for 12 months at The Grantsmanship Center. This includes having one of the trainers review a grant proposal before it’s submitted as well as access to GrantDomain. GrantDomain is The Grantsmanship Center’s database of foundation, corporate and federal grant makers. The Seward Prevention Coalition looks forward to utilizing this training opportunity to help achieve one of its primary goals of diversifying our funding sources.The more coalition members who are trained in grant writing, the more likely we are to broaden our funding sources and in turn increase the variety of programs offered in the greater Seward/Moose Pass area. Each year the coalition hears about programs that could benefit our community and in the past since we were not a 501 (c) 3, we were limited due to State funding restrictions and could not offer the program. We appreciate this opportunity to ask for financial assistance and hope the Seward Community Foundation chooses to fund this training. |
| **Seward PTSA** | Theater For All – Cascada De Flores | $5,000 | National PTA has a long-standing commitment to quality arts education by empowering PTA's across the states to establish or enhance arts programs in the areas of visual arts, photography, music, dance, literature, films, and theater. Theater For All brings live, professional, family oriented entertainment to Seward and the surrounding area youth. PTA Arts Chair, Amy Hankins, continues to work with Alaska Junior Theater to bring professional theater experiences to our youth. Seward PTSA's Theater For All Program and Seward Community Foundation developed a relationship in 2014 when we began working on the important Theater For All goal by bringing Jabali African Acrobats to our schools and community in 2015 and Scrap Arts Music in 2016. Based on the highly favorable reception of our first and second year, we've committed to continue this important endeavor. Building on experiences from the last two years we will seek to follow the same path by partnering with other non-profits in our community for funding as well as selling tickets to a public performance. Together these partnerships have built an excellent model of success. Professional theater rarely reaches Seward and is not always family oriented. It is cost prohibitive to transport loads of children to Anchorage for a theater experience. Many youth and families do not have the opportunity to travel to Anchorage or Soldotna to experience professional theater due to cost and transportation difficulties. Seward Arts Council has provided opportunities for local theater and some professional theater over the years. Seward Music Association has brought professional musicians to Seward. Both of these organizations are supporting the Theater for All goal with a financial contribution. Our project is intentional in providing an annual, age appropriate, theater experience to Seward's youth. This is a benefit to our community since we do not have professional theater available in Seward. This opportunity helps those who cannot readily travel to Anchorage or Soldotna, and those seeking enrichment closer to home. Gas, hotel, and ticket costs make theater cost prohibited for many families in our community. Our lower price makes this opportunity affordable for more of our under-served residents of Seward and the surrounding area, which in turn helps to provide free performances to area youth. Theater for All will reach over 650 Seward and Moose Pass school aged youth, including area home-schoolers, school staff, and up to 120 community members and families who attend the paid public performance. Our house-bound resident elders at Mountain Haven Assisted Living do not easily and realistically have access to the theater. The Theater for All program has been able to provide a free show, on site, to our elders at a time of their life when enrichment is critically necessary for quality of life. |
| **Seward Senior Center** | Precious Cargo On Board | $1,000 | SSC is requesting funds to supplement the senior transportation program, a free will donation program for individuals, 60 and older. The center provides daily transportation for local area seniors, so they might access medical services; post office; banks; senior shopping; and of course, all of the senior center sponsored programs.  Those that rely on transportation services are now unable to drive due to aging disabilities, cannot afford to own a car or to pay the outrageous taxi fares ($8 one way for downtown area and $18 out to Bear Lake).  To continue to provide accessible transportation for the elderly of Seward, some whom are wheelchair bound and some whom require assistance to and from the vehicle. This program is offered to the senior for a free will donation, in regards and compliance to the Older Americans Act. To transport seniors in the most efficient manner, operating a mini van with multiple riders at one time.  Improve the conditions of the low income senior, frail and elderly of Seward. |
| **Seward Senior Center** | Modernization of Senior Services | $10,000 | The Modernization of Senior Services project is committed to creating an environment that anticipates, stimulates and will meet the evolving current and future needs of the Alaskan population aging into senior services. The Seward Senior Center seeks to modernize the office setting by constructing a private office space, improve lighting and sound, increase visual safety for staff and seniors, to honor those we serve with the greatest social needs, by providing a private setting for social services. In partnership with multiple private foundations, the Kenai Peninsula Borough, City of Seward, State of Alaska (Older Americans Act funds), Kenai Peninsula United Way and the Five and Dime Club, together we will improve personal outcomes and upgrade the integrity of senior social services, by upholding the dignity of the most vulnerable population of Seward, from Lowell Point to Moose Pass. In today’s senior services, staff counsel seniors in a public setting, making them feel overwhelmed and sometime uncomfortable when having to share personal information about themselves or their beloved. If staff are meeting with someone in the office, then anyone else will not inquiry in the office to have their needs met, and this is not a good business practice today. Many seniors are very sensitive to not distract or disturb office staff when they see someone in the “hot” seat, so they graciously say they will come back at another time. That is like having a busy signal on an archaic phone, when your doors are open for business, but assistance is not available. We can change this paradigm by modernizing the office space to allow for daily personal privacy and be able to respond to the multitude of general inquires at the same time, five days a week. We want to come to the aid of the frail and elderly of Seward, as well as attract the younger, healthier senior adults who will also require social services as they age into senior services. SSCI provides the community of Seward a multi-faceted facility to enrich and empower our aging community, which baby boomers are aging into senior service across the nation at 10,000 per day. That is about one Seward resident turning 60 every other week and 30 Seward residents per year, aging into senior services. The center currently serves more than 150 different seniors in a variety of social services, on a monthly basis. In preparation of these forecasted changes in senior services, the center is making every effort to design an organization that is relevant and integrated into moving forward to meet the future needs of the aging population of Seward. We stand strong in our convictions as an organization lacking confidential space, and this project enhancement will deepen the vitality of this organization. In turn, a project of this magnitude can build trust and confidence with the greater senior population of Seward. Seniors at one day or another, turn to us for Social Security and Medicare enrollment; how to navigate life when you have lost your lifelong spouse; what to do when you or a family member has suffered a debilitating illness or injury and the list goes on in senior services. Our success as an organization is when we can help transform a frown to a smile, help lighten the load of life’s unexpected turns, and easy the burden that many have to carry alone into the golden years. The center is also a lifeline to Adult Protective Services, when we become advocates for the most vulnerable individuals in Seward. An elderly man taken advantage by his “so called” roommate, who is forcing him to sell his home. An elderly woman who adult children live in another state and she is now showing the tale tell signs of Alzheimer’s disease. The new widow who has no a clue or incentive about how to continue living without his/her spouse. The recovering stroke victim that needs extra attention or assistance in form completion, are all examples of the population that we serve, five days a week, at no cost to the individual. These are not easy times for the defenseless, and here at the center, staff strive to keep seniors out of harm’s way through critical advocacy and encouragement for the frail and elderly of Seward. |
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