



Seward Community Foundation

*An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation*

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

December 2022

## GRANT HIGHLIGHT: GARDEN BY THE BAY, FIVE YEARS LATER



This year the Seward Garden by the Bay enjoyed its fifth year of providing space for folks to nurture heads of lettuce and their green thumb fantasies. Developed initially with start-up funds from the Seward Prevention Coalition, organizer Callie Bacon and other garden visionaries gained traction by partnering with the University of Alaska to use the land west of the Rae Building. The project required additional funding for garden box materials, topsoil, and equipment to bring their idea to fruition. The Seward Community Foundation saw the potential for the community garden and the hard work of the volunteers and awarded the organization a grant of \$8,151 to build 30 raised bed boxes.

After five seasons, the Garden by the Bay has been a successful program that has impacted many. The plots provide interested community members with garden space, and some plots are set aside to grow vegetables for the He Will Provide Food Pantry. According to Callie, over 100 pounds of produce has been distributed yearly through the Food Bank program. Another benefit of the Garden is that it allows people to learn how to garden organically without pesticides or unnatural fertilizers. Every year organizers test the soil to determine what natural amendments are needed to beef up the nutrients.

Since its inception, the Seward Garden by the Bay has been self-sustaining from the annual fees set at \$35-\$50 for a garden plot. New gardeners are welcome each year. According to Callie, a fair number of plots open each year as people learn about organic gardening and become more comfortable setting up garden space in their yards. If you are interested, a lottery is held in the spring to fill the vacant boxes. Interested? Questions? You can contact Sarah Walters, President of Seward Garden by the Bay, at [sewardgardens@gmail.com](mailto:sewardgardens@gmail.com).

This award was granted during the 2017 Major Grant Cycle by the Kaanta Community Fund for the Beautification of Seward, the Larson Family Fund, and the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund. Since then, this investment has been self-sustaining by garden members and volunteers. Garden by the Bay is a prime example of how investing in the community has a long-range impact far into the future. Happy gardening!



## PUFFIN PEN PALS AND CITIZEN SCIENCE



For years the Alaska SeaLife Center has had an ambassador animal program utilizing trained seabirds. The hope was to expand this program to support local education in Seward and Moose Pass, not only at the school level but also to other groups such as the Boys & Girls Club, the Seward Senior Center, and the Mountain Haven Assisted Living Center.

The COVID-19 pandemic altered the scope of the initial proposal into a three-pronged project: Puffin Pen Pals for early elementary students, a Citizen Science project for high school students, and a chance for folks from Seaview to visit the Alaska SeaLife Center.

The *Puffin Pen Pals* three-week program allowed Seward Elementary Pre-K and 1st-Grade students to write to a puffin. Each week had a different focus: students would ask questions

to their adopted bird focused on shelter, food, and social interactions. The program aimed to develop knowledge and empathy about the animal. The puffins, Rain and Dory, would respond with answers and photos of themselves at the SeaLife Center. The program culminated with a field trip to the Center to meet their feathered pen pals.

The Citizen Science High School Project (*Pioneers*) continued a program established in 2018. According to Tuula Hollmen, an Alaska SeaLife Center scientist, the idea was for students to supply weekly shore-based seabird observations that could corroborate with the existing vessel-derived database. In exchange, students would have the opportunity to replicate the work of a scientist. Each year since 2016, the program would end with a student lead presentation for the community. Tuula was especially pleased with the results of the student research as the data aligned well (and thus validated) the less frequent vessel-derived numbers. In addition, during unusual weather episodes, students have identified birds along the waterfront that normally would be seen far offshore. This popular program started with a handful of students and has grown to 27 participants this year. This project was funded by the Paul and Sharon Ruppel Fund and the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund.



## GRANT HIGHLIGHT: SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL



Seward High School students and their teacher approached the Seward Community Foundation to help refurbish the school greenhouse. In recent years it had become outdated and was in need of new grow lights, various materials, and seeds to grow vegetables. The goal was to integrate the green house into the existing science curriculum while providing good veggies to snack on. Although the project was somewhat delayed due to late arrival of the grow lights, students report that the greenhouse was successfully up and running. They were able to experiment by growing a variety of plants in a variety of conditions. The one condition they did not expect was other students coming in and 'interacting' with the plants (which could be interpreted as 'consuming.'). As reported, a lock was added courtesy of grant funds.

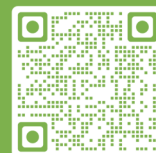
It is hoped that in future years, the garden will provide enough product to sell and if so, the profits will be reinvested into the program. Way to go, kids! This mini-grant was provided by the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund.

**THANK YOU** Alaska Community Foundation and Rasmuson Foundation. Your continued support means the world to our community!



## YEAR-END GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your generous contributions continue to make a lasting impact in the communities of Seward and Moose Pass. We hope this newsletter serves as **Good News** about how your support benefits our community and its members. Please consider a year-end gift to SCF and feel good knowing that your financial contribution supports your community, far and wide.



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## IRON MOUNTAIN FFA COMPETES AT NATIONALS



The Iron Mountain Future Farmers of America (FFA) received a \$1,000 mini-grant in October 2022 to support the team as they competed in the 95th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. The team presented on climate change and the effects of ocean acidification on Alaska's fishing and tourism economies. The team won first place at the Alaska State FFA Convention in April 2022 and was excited to represent Alaska at the national competition.

The team comprises five members: seniors Teak Barhaug and Aly Guernsey, junior Trevor Guernsey, and sophomores Katie VanBuskirk and Jordan Hartman.

Missing the finals by one place, the team finished 17th out of 34 teams (the top 16 teams ranked in the finals). "One of the biggest challeng-

es of taking this presentation to Nationals was making sure that people in landlocked states understand the issue," said Iron Mountain FFA member Aly Guernsey. "The changes happening in Alaska due to climate change directly affect the lower 48."

As seniors, both Teak Barhaug and Aly Guernsey are making the most of their final year as Iron Mountain FFA members. Teak was nominated as the 2022-2023 Alaska State FFA President and represented Alaska at the National Convention on the National Delegate Committee. While preparing for the presentation on climate change, Aly Guernsey was offered an internship at the Alutiiq Pride Marine Institute in Seward. "These opportunities have meshed community contacts with lead individuals, professors, and government agencies whom the members would not have had if not for participating in this event," said Kim Barhaug, Iron Mountain FFA Advisor. "It has been wonderful to watch them grow and gain valuable knowledge and relationships that will advance them in future education and careers." This grant was funded by the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund.

## MARINERS MEMORIAL RECEIVES WAVE WALL REPAIRS



The Seward Mariners Memorial Group received a \$1,000 mini-grant in May 2022 for funds to repair the aluminum wave wall. The 35-foot aluminum wave wall, installed in October of 2014,

sustained damage to the outside of the structure over the winter.

The Seward Mariners' Memorial sits on the south harbor uplands overlooking Resurrection Bay and the Seward Small Boat Harbor. The site includes a lighthouse adorned with plaques that honor the lives of mariners lost at sea or who had devoted their lives to the ocean. Complete with cleat benches and flower gardens, the Mariners' Memorial provides a beautiful location for the reflection of lost loved ones. It also offers excellent views of boats and wildlife coming to and from the harbor and Resurrection Bay.

The lighthouse is bordered by a "wave wall" with blue lettering and a compass rose that serves as a windbreak.

Earlier this year, the harbor crew noticed a few letters had sustained damages over the winter. With the funds from the mini-grant, Seward Mariners' Memorial Group was able to hire Catalyst Marine to repair the letters of the wall and bring the memorial back to its original glory.

Although the Seward Mariners' Memorial Group is working toward becoming self-sustaining, the memorial currently depends on donations and grants for upkeep and repairs. To donate to the Seward Mariners' Memorial, visit its website at [www.sewardmarinersmemorial.org](http://www.sewardmarinersmemorial.org).

Funds for this grant came from the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund.



Thank you to our 64 generous **Pick.Click.Give.** donors. Your gifts totaled \$5,550!

## THE LARSON FAMILY FUND



The history of the Seward Community Foundation is rich in a legacy of individuals giving back to their community. Some of these selfless individuals give back by donating to the Foundation, volunteering to serve on its Board of Advisors, or creating a fund in their family's name. These acts of kindness show a willingness to give to their community and make it a better place to live. Darcie Larsen is one of these individuals whose legacy with the SCF is wrapped not only in the Fund set up in her family's name but as someone instrumental in forming the Foundation back in 2008.

Darcie was born and raised in Seward, spending summers on her family's commercial fishing boat in SE Alaska. While fishing, Darcie spent time exploring the community libraries of the small ports her family would call on when coming ashore. Knowing their daughter was on a fishing boat and spending so much time at sea, her family recognized early the importance of Darcie learning to swim. The small community pools also became a favored destination when pulling into port. With help from family friend Maxine who had a swimming pool at their home in Seward, Darcie became a confident swimmer. Her parents also took her to Haines, where Darcie's Great Aunt was the founding fundraiser to build the new state-of-the-art Haines library. From Darcie's telling, growing up accessing these community resources gave her an appreciation of how important it is for kids to have access to libraries and swimming pools in their local community.

Before the SCF came into being, the local nonprofits had to compete for funds. In 2008 a group of local community members wanted to build a playground on the waterfront but faced the daunting task of raising \$200,000 to build it. Many said it wasn't possible to raise that much money, but Chellie Skoog put together a team of volunteers to help raise funds. Darcie was a part of this effort, and not only did they raise the original amount, but they exceeded it by \$50,000. That effort gave Seward our beloved waterfront playground, where kids occupy most of the daylight hours.

Spring boarding from the playground's success, many members of the playground group decided it was time to establish a community foundation that would work on behalf of all local nonprofits. Darcie was invited to be one of the original members of this group of founders of the Seward Community Foundation, which included: Chellie Skoog, Paul Ruppel, Darcie Larsen, Margaret Anderson, Julie Tauriainen, Kim Reiersen, Patty Beals, Judy Christiansen, and Vanta Shafer. This group wanted

to build the idea that area nonprofits are essentially working together to better the community, not in competition. With guidance from the Rasmuson Foundation, the SCF was established under the Alaska Community Foundation's umbrella, making Seward the first community outside of Anchorage to solely decide who to grant their funds to. Rasmuson Foundation believed that each community knew best how to spread available funds. With generous donations from the community, personal contributions from the founding members, and a Rasmuson Foundation match, the Seward Community Foundation was established.

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## MAJOR GRANT CYCLE OPENS SOON!



It's time to mark your calendar for the Seward Community Foundation's 2023 Major Grant Cycle, which will open from January 9<sup>th</sup> to February 3<sup>th</sup>. Applications will be accepted from

qualified, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations (or equivalents, such as Tribal entities, schools, and faith-based organizations) that support charitable organizations and programs in the Seward/Moose Pass area. Grants may support a broad range of community needs, including but not limited to health and wellness, education, the great outdoors, arts and culture, and community development. Grant applications are available at [www.sewardcf.org/grants](http://www.sewardcf.org/grants) and must be submitted online by 5:00 pm AKST on February 3, 2023.

A new year brings new hope and new projects. We can't wait to support Seward and Moose Pass nonprofits in 2023!

## NEW SLEEVES AROUND TOWN



Be on the lookout for Seward Community Foundation coffee sleeves adorning your next cup of coffee or tea to-go. The SCF is always trying to get the word out to our community about how they can help our local nonprofits succeed. The coffee sleeves are a simple

message to remember the power of your lasting donation to the SCF and the wellness of our community. The Mudd Hutt, Ranting Raven, The Cup, and the Frontier Trading Post are participating coffee shops to date. Would you like to participate? Shoot us an email at [seward@alaskacf.org](mailto:seward@alaskacf.org).

## MINI-GRANTS AVAILABLE MONTHLY

Mini-grant applications, up to \$1,000, are accepted monthly by the 5th of the month. Visit our website for details.

## BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHT:

MARK KANSTEINER



Mark started out in Times Beach, Missouri. He went to high school & college in Indiana. After a few months as an emergency room technician, Mark moved to Wyo-

oming to work for the Forest Service. From there, he got a job on Prince of Wales Island out of Ketchikan and on to Kenai Lake in 1979. Then seasonal work for different agencies found him working at Beaufort Lagoon on the Arctic Ocean, then wildland fire fighting and being Smokey the Bear out of Copper Center and Big Lake. On to Kodiak, doing fisheries research and dodging bears at Karluk Lake while maintaining a home base in Seward. During the oil spill, he captured oiled birds and sea otters. 1998 was a big year for Mark. He found full-time work in Seward as an aquarist and diver at the SeaLife Center and met his wife-to-be, Colleen. After seven years, he returned to seasonal work as a Kenai Fjords National Park logistics coordinator. Retiring in 2017, he wanted to give back to the community. Having been in so many places in Alaska, he's seen how nonprofits help those in need. He has served on the Puffin Public Broadcasting and Seward Senior Center boards and works on the local election board.

Mark says, "I am glad to be a part of Seward Community Foundation because it's an opportunity to be involved in the improvement of the overall health and welfare of our community. The SCF endowment helps all the nonprofits in the Seward/Moose Pass area by offering the financial support that they need to meet their mission. Our local nonprofits provide services that otherwise might not be available. Being able to participate in this process is an honor."

# Save The Date

Wednesday, January 11th

*NONPROFIT LUNCHEON*

## CALLING ALL COMMUNITY HEROES!



Are you or someone you know making a difference in our community? If so, we would love to hear about it! Drop us a line and say what organization you volunteer for, what you do, and why. Include a picture, too! We might feature

you and the organization on our blog! Email: [seward@alaskacf.org](mailto:seward@alaskacf.org)

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### LARSON FUND HIGHLIGHT

Within the first year, Darcie knew she wanted to make an impact even more significant than being a founding member of the Foundation, so she donated funds to establish the Larsen Fund. What made her particular Fund unique was that Darcie understood the community's needs would change over time, and she wanted her Fund to be flexible to meet those needs. Her Fund was the first advisor-directed Fund, meaning the board would use the proceeds as deemed necessary. Darcie says, "Whatever the community needs, that's where the funds should go."

Her Fund has given grants to the Tsunami Swim Club, Alaska Sealife Center, Marathon Wrestling Club, Seward Nordic Ski Club, and the Seward PTA, to name a few. Speaking with Darcie, you cannot help but hear how important community involvement is to her and what it meant to her growing up with parents who stressed being involved. You can find Darcie behind the score counter at most Seward basketball games, keeping the scoreboard accurate, which she has done for over 20 years. You can also find her scoring and volunteering at local swim meets. The Fund means a lot to Darcie, "It's my way of giving back," she says. You can go to many community events in Seward and meet some of the SCF founders or past board members who have given their time to the success of the Foundation. Each has a unique story as to why being involved in their community is important to them. While wrapping up my engaging interview with Darcie, she again expressed how giving back to the community is a lifelong commitment. "Are they doing a match before December 31st? I need to get my check in."

Thank you, Darcie, for your philanthropic heart and vision! Your generosity has given so much to area residents. If you would like to donate to the Larson Family Fund, or another Seward Community Foundation Fund, scan the QR code with your mobile phone's camera, then click the link.



Scan to Give

# thank you

Your generous support means everything! Here's to you in the new year!

January 1 through December 7

Jennifer Anderson  
Nancy Anderson  
Teri Arnold  
Denise Atwood  
Callie Bacon  
Brooks Chandler  
Lois Daubney  
John Eavis  
Harold Faust  
Susan Faust  
Martha Fleming  
Cora Hall  
Marques Hall  
Teal Hall  
Lynn Hohl  
Judith Kepes  
Allen King  
Tina King  
David Kingsland  
Charles Kinney  
Jack Kinney  
Johanna Kinney  
Patty Krasnansky  
Lori Landstrom  
Anastasia Lane  
Hilda Lespron  
Patricia Linville  
George Long  
Katherine McCoy  
Izabella Miranda  
Bonnie Moore  
Sandra S. Hanson  
Janine Niebrugge  
Ronald Niebrugge  
Michael O'Connor  
Debra Perala  
Jesse Pike  
Judith Renwick  
Luke Rosier  
Heather Shank  
Carmen Joy Davis Fund  
The Hankins Family

Phyllis Shoemaker  
Michele Skoog  
Melanie Smith  
Randall Stauffer  
Gary Steele  
Sandra Stolle  
Marc Swanson  
Tom and Mary Tougas  
Dan Walker  
Madelyn Walker  
Sarah Walters  
Andrew Wilder  
Julie Wilder  
Kirstie Willean  
Kalani Woodlock  
Dr. Michael P. and Maya Moriarty  
Darcie Larson  
Ryan Fisher  
Anonymous  
The Hetrick Family  
Skip and Kim Reierson  
Amanda Renee Strickland  
Eric and Cindy Clock  
Tara L. Riemer  
Jim and Sue Pfeiffenberger  
Emma Rose Dieter Trust  
Jack Edwin Richardson  
Seward Bike Shop  
Kostas Kanaras  
Sunny Cove Kayaking  
Janel Hodge  
Exit Glacier Guides  
Mark Kansteiner and Colleen Kelly  
Warren and Mary Huss  
Buchannon Crouch  
Marc and Letty Swanson  
Mona Painter  
Casie Warner  
Rasmuson Foundation  
Janet I. Trettner  
Bruce Knofel  
James and Kathy Fredrickson

Rolfe McCoy  
Paul and Sharon Ruppel  
John Lithiaem  
Brandon Barson  
Mary Ann Benoit  
Seward Chamber of Commerce  
Sharyl Seese  
David and Dana Paperman  
Kris Lillemo  
Aaron Kusano  
Daniel Stirling  
Willow M. Hetrick  
Shawna Cooke  
Rita Selden  
Apollo Restaurant LLC  
Catherine R. Byars  
Peter Michalski  
Amy C. Haddow  
Teri and Charles Arnold  
George E. Long  
Mariko Sarafin Fund  
Adventure Sixty North  
Nicole Lawrence  
Pam Parker  
Craig Smoot  
The Foraker Group  
Carol Hatch  
Ariadne Schablein  
Jennifer Desermia  
Tyrell and Tekla Seavey  
Clare Sullivan  
Phyllis A Shoemaker  
Melanie K Smith  
Laura Johnson  
Dot E. Bardarson  
Mariko Sarafin and Erin Nelson  
Sue E. Brudenell  
Brendan and Jillian Ryan  
Carmen Davis  
Alaska Community Foundation  
James and Virginia Allen

## NONPROFIT HIGHLIGHT: POP-UP SKI CLINICS



Seward Nordic Ski Club offers pop-up ski clinics for anyone interested in trying the activity. During the winter, SNSC will offer two-hour sessions using new, high-quality equipment furnished through a \$1,000 mini-grant from the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund. These sessions will be provided when conditions permit.

According to MaryLynn Barnwell, SNSC President, interest in the Pop-Up Clinics has surpassed her expectations. Those interested fall into three groups: Those who have always wanted to give it a try, those who have tried skiing in the past and want to see if it is a sport they want to pursue, and those who are recently moved to Seward and would like to find out what the whole Nordic skiing thing is about. Do you want to learn something new or sharpen your skills? Give MaryLynn a shout at [sewardnordicski@gmail.com](mailto:sewardnordicski@gmail.com).

### MINI-GRANTS AWARDED: AUGUST THROUGH NOVEMBER

Seward Senior Center	Get a Grip!	\$1,000
Alaska SeaLife Center	Octopus Environment Enrichment	\$500
Alaska SeaLife Center	2022 Community Holiday Party	\$1,000
Bridges Community Resource Network, Inc.	Peninsula Period Network - Period Product Drive	\$1,000
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	National FFA Convention	\$ 800
Seward Arts Council	Seward Native Roots 2022 Mural Project	\$1,000
Seward Elementary School	Seward Elementary Student Leadership Team Recycling Program	\$1,000
Seward Elementary School	Science Lab Supplies	\$1,000
Seward Area Hospice Incorporated	Hospice support on behalf of Marilyn Sutherland	\$500
Seward Senior Center	General operating on behalf of Marilyn Sutherland	\$500
Seward PTA	Artists in the School Program Support	\$1,000
Seward Arts Council	Port City Players' Rocky Horror Performance	\$600
Seward Community Health Center	Medical Travel Assistance	\$1,000
Alaska SeaLife Center	SCF Advisory Board in memory of Sawyer Nichols	\$1,000

## SEWARD AREA QUILTERS HONOR AREA VETERANS

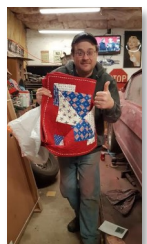
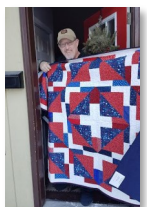


In October, the Seward Area Quilters (SAQ) received a \$1,000 mini-grant to purchase materials for their Seward and Moose Pass Veterans Quilt program. There are over 200 veterans that reside in the Seward and Moose Pass area, and it's the SAQ's goal to handmake and present a quilt to each of them. They hope that gifting the quilts will show appreciation for the veterans' service in the armed forces.

Over 20 volunteers make up the Seward Area Quilters group. In addition to making quilts for veterans, they also create quilts for the Baby Welcome Wagon for new parents in the community. Each quilt takes between 15-25 hours to complete. The group purchases the materials at Seward's local quilting store, Sew N Bee Cozy, which supports the Veteran's Quilt program by providing a substantial discount.

"I have been lucky enough to present some of these quilts and see firsthand how we are touching the lives of these veterans," said Seward Area Quilter Melody Moline. "Their hugs, stories, and tears have been heartwarming and motivate us to ensure that we reach all of the vets in the area."

So far, the Seward Area Quilters have delivered 151 quilts to veterans in the Seward and Moose Pass areas. They have over 40 quilts to sew to meet their goal. However, with the knowledge of the American Legion 5, the Pioneers of Alaska, and community members, the list of local veterans continues to grow. "The group believes that the community appreciates these handmade gifts," said Melanie. "We will continue to support community programs as they arise." Funds for this grant came from the Seward Community Foundation Unrestricted Fund.



## ADVISORY BOARD

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ahankins@alaskacf.org



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



After the tribulations of 2020 and 2021, I am more thankful than ever during this holiday season. Things are returning to normal; the snowbirds (both winged and two-legged) have dispersed, people are skating on Second Lake, the tree up by the Lowell Point Tunnel glows, and the ASLC holiday party and other events are all back 'on'.

Thanks to the generosity of the Seward and Moose Pass Community, the Seward Community Foundation accomplished so much in 2022! SCF provided \$124,560 through 61 grants, received \$5,500 from 65 donors through the Permanent Fund Pick.Click.Give. program, hosted the 2nd Annual Community Picnic, and sponsored a mini-convening to help local nonprofits become even better at accomplishing their goals. We were able to do all this with a small group of Advisory Board Members, volunteers, and our part-time Program Manager.

As we gather for the winter holidays with family and friends, please take a quiet minute to look around your community. Remember the nonprofits and volunteers who make every season bright for the Seward-Moose Pass community. I am thankful for so many things; my family and our good health are always top of the list. But also for living in this community with you as my neighbors at this time. It is like I won the lottery. I hope you feel that way too.

On behalf of the SCF Board of Advisors, thank you for your support this past year. May we all have a safe and successful end to 2022 and the beginning of 2023.

~ Dave Paperman, SCF Advisory Board Chair

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4  
Mailing Address Line 5



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