



SEWARD
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation

Spring Newsletter

May 2024



**"The whole is greater than the sum
of its parts." - Aristotle**

Aristotle couldn't have been more right when it comes to the team here at The Seward Community Foundation. It's been an awesome start to 2024 and we can't wait to tell you all about it!

2024 Major Grant

Recipients



Marathon Wrestling Club

The Marathon Wrestling Club, a local Seward wrestling club, requested funding to help pay for lodging for the coaches and wrestlers while attending nine wrestling tournaments around the state, including a tournament in Sitka. The club participates in many fundraisers that include assisting wrestlers that are unable to afford wrestling gear. The Seward Community Foundation (SCF) is happy to assist with travel costs for the club and offer huge accolades to the club on producing top level wrestlers. – Sarah Spanos

Seward Prevention Coalition

The Seward Prevention Coalition was awarded four grants. One for HYPHER, one for the Seward Homeless Connection, one for the Transitional Housing Program “Safe Stay” Services for Safe Harbor, and one for Youth360.

Happy Youth Programs and Educational Resources, HYPHER, was awarded funding for a children's pop-up museum in a space dedicated for children to learn through play. The exhibit space is created with specific learning objectives for different age levels. In this exhibit children will learn about the process of farm to market, looking at bees, chickens, and gardening. This summer, the “Lil’ Farmer’s Market pop-up will be at every Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings in Seward.

Seward Homeless Connection received funding to assist with individual assistance and free shower program. The individual assistance program is managed through an on call phone, clients will be screened with a short survey to get data about whether they are currently homeless, what their biggest needs are, how much money it would take to fully cover their need, and a few other demographic questions. If the request seemed legitimate the organization will offer up to \$250 in assistance toward those needs. Free shower vouchers are available to redeem two shower tokens for showers at the Seward Harbormaster’s office.

Seward’s Safe Harbor (Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Program) DVSA is requested funding to continue their Transitional Housing Program operating in conjunction with their “Safe Stay” services. Victims of violence would receive assistance

with the costs associated with securing housing for them and their families who would like to remain in the Seward community. The SCF realizes that day to day living in Seward typically is not an issue for most but those that go without, truly appreciate the assistance. SCF connects people who care to the causes that make a difference and matter most to them. – Sarah Spanos

The Seward Prevention Coalition has implemented the Youth 360 Icelandic Model of preventing risk factors and surrounding our youth with preventive factors. Data collection is a primary method of identifying these risk factors that allow us as a community to implement changes in our local youth's environments to help prevent risk factors that are specific to our kids. This grant helps the Seward Prevention Coalition pay for the data collection resources through Planet Youth for the timely collection and dissemination of this critical data. - Ryan Fisher

Seward Arts Council

The Seward Arts Council was awarded funding for a part time administrative assistant that will help lessen the workload on their dedicated volunteers, allowing them more time to focus on their specific roles within the arts council. The goal will be to have the administrative assistant become self-funding within one year. The SCF could not survive without the amazing help from our program manager. We hope the administrative assistant will be just as valuable to the Seward Arts Council.

Seward Arts Council was also awarded a grant for Seward Artists in School. Through this grant, the council will strive to build relationships between the talented professionals who live here and our students, filling the gap of much needed art and music in our schools. The council will provide art-based educational opportunities during the summer and fundraise for Seward Artists in Schools for future years. – Sarah Spanos

Seward Nordic Ski Club

The Seward Nordic Ski Club was awarded funding to go towards the purchase of a new trail grooming machine. This machine is a sophisticated drag that uses two rows of grates raised and lowered as needed and a track setter that makes grooves for classic skis. The grooming machine will be used on several Iditarod Trail loops near Bear Lake down to Nash Road, about 15K of trail, allowing their volunteer groomers to effectively groom the newly established Nordic ski trails with classic ski tracks. – Sarah Spanos

Seward Community Health Center

The Seward Community Health Center (SCHC) was awarded funding to purchase an at-home sleep study machine to decrease the number of patients who need to travel and take time off work (and life) to coordinate pickup and return of ordered home sleep studies. The SCF is happy to help reduce the need for healthcare travel to conduct sleep studies. – Sarah Spanos

TRAILS

TRAILS is a program of the Independent Living Center whose mission is to make accessible and inclusive recreation possible to everyone within our community. These year round activities allow participants enriching experiences all over Alaska. TRAILS activities are not free and this grant helps the organization offer scholarships to participants who are in need of financial assistance and experience a disability. – Ryan Fisher

Seward Trail Blazers

This grant goes to the building of a bronze statue of the late Lee Poleske, a beloved

longtime Seward resident who was dedicated to our community's historical preservation. The statue will hopefully be added to the waterfront walk path and allow visitors to sit on a bench next to the statue of Lee, overlooking the bay and its wildlife. - Ryan Fisher

Kenai Mountains Turnagain Arm National Heritage Center (KMTA)

KMTA is Alaska's only National Heritage Area. In recent years KMTA has implemented outreach educational opportunities for youth. Students from Moose Pass and Seward have been primary beneficiaries of this component. This grant will provide funding for a second instructor to expand the educational program opportunities for students. – Marc Swanson

National Forest Foundation

For years, various entities have worked to establish the INHT (Iditarod National Historic Trail) from Seward to Fairbanks. The NFF (the non-profit funding raising arm of the US Forest Service) has received a SCF grant to support the construction of the southern portion including the bridges over Ptarmigan and Waterfall Creeks. This project will not only be a benefit to recreational residents, but will draw visitors which will ultimately provide a financial boost to adjacent communities. – Marc Swanson

Seward Senior Center

The Seward Senior Center has plans to convert their basement from a storage area into a relaxing theatre space "offering older Alaskans weekly movies that move the soul, touch the heart, and provide entertainment" for this demographic. SCF funds will be used to purchase furniture and create a space that is inviting and comfortable. – Marc Swanson

Hats Off to Our Donors & Major Grant Recipients Event



The hats were tipped and the superlatives were flying at the 2024 SCF Donor Appreciation

Event. Every year following the major grant cycle Seward Community Foundation brings donors and grant recipients together for a night of celebration and festivities. Katie Shepard took the reins for the conceptualizing and planning of this event. And it did not disappoint.

The theme of the event was “Hats Off to You” as recognition for the good works being done by the local organizations and to the donors who provide the means to make these happen.



The event started right at the gate with guests ‘dancing a jig’ in celebration of the event. Then a fine spread of Apollo pizza and mingling ensued. Guests had been encouraged to wear ‘notable hats’ which would add to the ‘superlative’ nature of the theme which were later voted on to receive the chance to grant \$250 to their favorite nonprofit.

The formal program began with an introduction by board president Mark Kansteiner and a thank you (and reminder) from board member Dave Paperman to Past, Present, and Future donors. The rest of the evening was awarding grant recipients with their award. (See below). The organizations had an opportunity to showcase their projects and thank donors whose generosity made it possible.



The event culminated with cake and two drawings were completed. The winner for the ‘superlative hat’ went to Christiana Smith who donated her \$250 grant to Save Our Seward Pets. Another drawing was held from donors that contributed during the event and this went to Rhonda Spurr who gave her \$250 grant to Seward Senior Center.

Seward Community Foundation would like to thank those attendees for their continued support. During the event SCF received 28 donations for a total of \$4263. Your generosity and support for local organizations is very much appreciated.

Thank you, Katie!!!

Hats off to fellow SCF board member, Katie Shepard. The Hats off theme was Katie's conception and she was able to orchestrate a wonder event. Katie, thanks for all you do!!!



Every volunteer hour from our amazing advisor team and every dollar donated makes a HUGE impact here at the Seward Community Foundation when it comes to supporting local projects. Please consider clicking below to join your neighbors in supporting our work!

[Donate now](#)

Welcome Sadie Ulman to the team!

The Seward Community Foundation is excited to welcome our newest Board Advisor Sadie Ulman. Sadie first moved to Seward with her husband Sean in 2007 from Wisconsin after getting a job working in Alaska on nesting birds. A masters degree and a couple stints with the Alaska Sea Life Center later and Sadie finds herself well settled in Seward with a job studying tundra nesting birds with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

“I love the supportive, small town community of Seward. The mountains and ocean provide unlimited adventures,” says Sadie. She and Sean have two children whom they “love the idea of raising our kids in a place with so much depth.”

Sadie has lived in Seward long enough to be well ingrained in Seward’s community and we are lucky to have her volunteer her time with the Foundation. Sadie comes from a small town in Wisconsin where she also volunteered and was involved in her community.

She says, “I wanted to join the SCF board to help give back and to work towards continuing to improve our local communities.” The SCF is unique in that we work on a broad range of projects, helping to fund our nonprofits that support our Seward and Moose Pass communities. While Sadie loves “seeing those projects continue to expand over the years,” we are fortunate to have her sense of community service with the SCF for the next several years.



Thank you VERY MUCH to our donors!!!!

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