



Seward Community Foundation

An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation

2024 Winter Newsletter



"A Note from our Chairman"

Mark Kansteiner, SCF Board Chair

What a good year 2024 has turned out to be. Thanks to the generosity of the Seward and Moose Pass donors, the Seward Community Foundation (SCF) has given out over \$106,000 in grants to our local nonprofits.



Some of these funds were given to the Seward Prevention Coalition to assist the Homeless Connection; Seward Mural Society for the new Jon Van Zyle Iditarod mural; Sustainable Seward to assist with electronics recycling; Resurrection Bay Historical Society for the Lydia Jacoby exhibit at the Seward Museum (if you haven't seen it, check it out); the Seward Arts Council to support Artists in School; Kenai Mountains-Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area to provide a local-hire teacher for outdoor education for Seward & Moose Pass students.

This adds up to over 1.3 million dollars that the Seward Community Foundation has distributed to our Seward & Moose Pass nonprofits. This proves the caring and generous nature of our community. Your contributions help all the nonprofits in Seward and Moose Pass by offering the financial support they need to meet their mission. The Business Partnership Program has continued to grow and has contributed over \$5,000 so far this year & over \$30,000 since its inception. The Pie Social drew 100-125 people and the three winners of best pie donated their grants to the Seward Arts Council, Youth 360 and the Boys & Girls Club. We're closing in on our \$20,000 match from Rasmuson Foundation and with your help we will get there.

Please consider the Seward Community Foundation in your end-of-year giving. After all, it is your gifts that make all of this possible. Remember the nonprofits and volunteers that give so much to our community. This holiday season please drive carefully but donate recklessly. On behalf of the SCF board, thank you for your continued support and we wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Board Member Spotlight

See who's joined our team!



Joel Williams

Originally from Seward, Joel now teaches mathematics at Seward High School and helps with the theatre program. He is a life-long Sewardite and is invested in the future of Seward, along with his soon-to-be-wife Samra, we welcome Joel to our board!



Jewel Williams

Coming to Alaska in 1987, Jewel graduated from Seward High in 1989 and is now proud to raise her two sons in Seward. Jewel takes pride in her work at the Seward Military Resort and has served for over 30 years. She is a world traveler and avid wrestling fan and supporter. Welcome Jewel!



Sadie Ulman

Arriving in Seward from Wisconsin in 2007, Sadie and her family are now proud to call Seward home. She is passionate about nature and immersing herself in our community. Sadie has experience with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and worked at the Alaska SeaLife Center. We welcome Sadie to our board!



Alissa Holcomb

SCF's new Program Manager, Alissa has been living and working in Seward since 2014 and is excited to continue serving the community through her new role.

Mark your Calendars!

Tuesday, December 3rd

Giving Tuesday - consider supporting your favorite non-profit.

Friday, January 3rd

Seward Community Foundation Grant Announcement
Come enjoy lunch on us at the Alaska SeaLife Center for the 2025 Major Grant Cycle.

January 6 - 31st

Major Grant Proposals Accepted
Proposals can request up to \$10,000. Go to sewardcf.org to submit a successful grant proposal. Strong proposals are those that have strong objectives, clear narratives, and other collaborative support.

January 1 - March 31st

PFD Application time - don't forget to PickClickGive to your cherished non-profit.

5th day of each Month

Mini-grants up to \$1,000 will be awarded throughout the year. Please note that the grant must be accepted by the 5th to be considered during that month. Also note that no proposals are accepted during the month of March due to Major Grant consideration.

Three Organizations- Three Missions- One Umbrella

Marc Swanson, Advisory Board Member

In this newsletter, the Seward Community Foundation is pleased to highlight three grant recipients from recent years. The unique missions of these organizations illustrate the diversity of the good works being done in our community.

Ice Cleats for the Kiddos

In 2023, Sprouts Preschool requested a mini-grant of \$480 to purchase ice cleats for their students. Winter conditions are never easy in Seward. It's doubly difficult when trying to take 3-5 year olds outside for fresh air and exercise. Teacher Tara Craytor states that trying to safely navigate 20 preschoolers across ice to their destination was... well, not easy at best. But this changed when cleats were purchased using SCF funding. She reports, "The ice cleats were amazing last winter and will be amazing again this winter.... We have an all outdoor learning day every Wednesday and the cleats have helped us expand our classroom."

Well done Sprouts!



Electronic Recycling

For the past seven years, Sustainable Seward has held annual recycling events for electronic related items. Through the years SCF has been one of many fiscal supporters of this effort. In 2024, a \$1,000 mini grant was awarded to assist in this yearly event.

Lori Landstrom reported that the event continues to be successful throughout their seven year history. This year a total of 6,162 pounds of cords, antiquated electronics, games, etc were deposited. Throughout the years this brings a total of 42,067 pounds (that would be over 21 tons) of garbage kept out of the dump. When asked, Lori said her favorite items turned in for recycling were a hamburger phone and a vintage light saber.

Be looking for the next upcoming event next spring.



Homeless Connection

This year the Seward Community Foundation awarded a \$7500 major grant to the Seward Homeless Connection for Individual Assistance and Free Showers. Unfortunately Seward is not immune to the concern of growing homelessness. According to recent surveys our community will have between 10 to 20 un-housed families this year. The Homeless Connection has been working since 2018 to address the issue of housing instability and basic living needs. The issues are addressed simultaneously since many who are not currently homeless can suddenly lose stability when an unexpected expense arrives.

The most common requests for assistance are for heating costs in the winter, payment of overdue rent to prevent eviction, or payment of overdue utility debts to prevent utility turn-off. Clients are screened to determine need and assistance is usually limited to \$250. Payments are made directly to the creditor.

This targeted financial assistance and shower tokens program is a partnership of several organizations including Seward Community Library, He Will Provide Food Bank, Seward Community Health Center, Seward Senior Center, Qutekcak Native Tribe, SeaView Community Services, and the Seward Harbormaster.

These organizations recognize that the well-being and dignity of all individuals is critical to the health of a community.

Fiscal Sponsorship

Marc Swanson, Advisory Board Member

Although these organizations and their projects seem quite diverse, they do share one commonality. All were funded under the umbrella of the Seward Prevention Coalition (SPC).

Not all of the organizations doing good works in our area have the required 501(c) (3) designation to qualify for funding. The filing process can be both daunting and costly. However, it is not uncommon to have organizations request funds under the umbrella of an established organization with that designation. This is called a fiscal sponsorship.

SPC is a 501 (c) (3) that offers fiscal sponsorship to organizations that align with their mission of addressing the overall health and wellbeing of our communities. Katie Cornwell (Executive Director of SPC) states that one of the primary goals of SPC becoming their own 501 (c) (3) was to be able to act as the fiscal agent for smaller groups and organizations in Moose Pass and Seward without that designation. Katie is quick to point out that they also help mentor projects, connect people to resources, and provide guidance on how to successfully achieve organization's goals.

Seward Community Foundation is proud to be part of the network of people and organizations that make the Seward and Moose Pass communities vibrant and healthy.

A New Era of Collaboration with the Business Partner Program

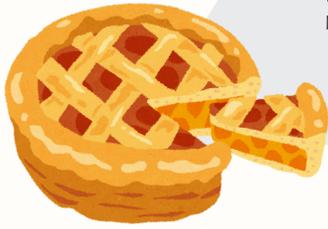
Sarah Spanos, Advisory Board Member

In our beautiful coastal town, local businesses thrive on the flow of tourism drawn to our Alaskan scenery and lifestyle. To expand on this economic initiative, Stephanie Millane from Sunny Cove Kayaking approached the Seward Community Foundation (SCF) with a request to add a donation button to her online reservation platform. SCF agreed, sensing an excellent opportunity. The program has grown into the Business Partner Program (BPP) which has enhanced SCF's ability to grow our local endowment assets for the betterment of the Seward and Moose Pass communities. As Stephanie Millane says "This is great public relations and marketing, it really is good for business." The BPP has been in operation since 2020. The program has raised over \$30,000 so far for our endowed funds! We are extremely grateful for our current Business Partners, Sunny Cove Kayaking, Exit Glacier Guides, Adventure 60 North, Pursuit Alaska Collection and the Seward Bike Shop for their continuing support of SCF.

Businesses can take part in this innovative program by adding a donation "add-on" button for SCF to their online reservation system. If a business is interested in participating, an SCF board member will assist in adding the "add-on" button to their online platform. SCF would be grateful and honored to include any business in this expanding program.

If you have questions or just want to learn more about the program please call, text or email Ginger Allen 907-440-4723 akvirginia1@gmail.com or Cindy Clock 907-362-1041 cindyclock@gmail.com or reach out to us at the Seward Community Foundation email, seward@alaskacf.org

In the end, the Business Partner Program has become more than an economic initiative—it has become a collaboration of generosity and a shared commitment to something greater than individual success.



SCF Pie Social... Helping to BAKE our Community One Pie at a Time

Sarah Spanos, Advisory Board Member

On October 5, we celebrated community spirit and deliciousness at our Pie Tasting Social, drawing between 75 and 125 attendees for an afternoon of sweet indulgence! The event flowed seamlessly, making it hard to count everyone, but the excitement was palpable.

Guests enjoyed an incredible variety of pies and whipped cream, thanks to the generous contributions from our talented bakers. A big thank you to our eight pie donors: Dave and Dana Paperman, Colleen Kelly, Cindy Clock, Andrew Scrivo, Katie Shepard, Alissa Holcomb, Vanessa Verhey, and Mason Seiver. Your delicious creations made this event a hit!

We were thrilled to announce the winners of our pie contest:

1st Place: Vanessa Verhey: \$250 mini grant to the Seward Arts Council

2nd Place: Andrew Scrivo: \$250 mini grant to Youth 360

3rd Place: Mason Seiver: \$100 mini grant to the Boys and Girls Club



While we collected \$15 in donations, the focus of the event was not on fundraising, but rather on raising awareness of SCF and strengthening community ties.

Huge thanks to our dedicated volunteers—Katie, Mark, Cindy, Sarah, and Ginger—for their hard work and support. Special appreciation goes to Katie for her fantastic ideas and organization. We were also glad to see Sadie and Alissa join us for the festivities.

Overall, the Pie Tasting Social was a wonderful success, filled with laughter, great conversations, and, of course, pie! We look forward to more events that bring our community together.

For updates on future events, follow us on Facebook and Instagram or visit our website at <https://sewardcf.org/>



\$97,689 Awarded to 20 Organizations for 33 Programs!

2024 Mini Grants

Seward Prevention Coalition Keep Kids Fed Program	\$1,000.00
Moose Pass Volunteer Fire Company MPVFC Kitchen upgrade	\$1,000.00
Kenai Mountains Public Media Capacity, redundancy and resilience for enterprise networking and communications	\$1,000.00
Cooper Landing Emergency Services Inc Avalanche Safety Program	\$1,000.00
Seward Community Health Center Diabetes Education for Seward Residents	\$1,000.00
Moose Pass Public Library Moose Pass Interactive Historical Map	\$835.00
Seward Arts Council National Poetry Month (with the vision of scaling up to become the Seward Poetry Festival)	\$925.00
Seward Prevention Coalition Sustainable Seward - Electronics Recycling	\$1,000.00
Seward Arts Council Elementary School Sign Repainting - 905 Sealion Ave	\$1,000.00
KPBSD - Seward Elementary School Snow School Exit Glacier Field Trip	\$400.00
Resurrection Bay Historical Society Lydia Jacoby Museum Exhibit & Interactive'	\$1,000.00
Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance Schoolyard Habitat Upkeep	\$1,000.00
Marathon Wrestling Club Equipment Purchase	\$814.98
Seward Volunteer Ambulance Corps Vacuum Mattresses	\$1,000.00
Bear Creek Volunteer Fire & Emergency Medical Services Inc Three-way Siamese attachment, Rural Hitch	\$964.58
Seward Arts Council "Iditarod Trail" 2024 Mural Project with Master Artist Jon VanZyle.	\$1,000.00
Seward Arts Council: Seward Community Band Conductor stipend, room rental, music purchase	\$1,000.00
Alaska SeaLife Center Livestreaming the 2024 UAA College of Arts and Sciences Community Lecture Series	\$1,000.00
Kenai Mountains Public Media Emergency Alert System full compliance and operation	\$750.00

2024 Major Grants

Seward Prevention Coalition Youth360- Planet Youth Partnership	\$10,000.00
National Forest Foundation Waterfall to Ptarmigan Trail	\$1,000.00
Marathon Wrestling Club Marathon Wrestling 2024 Team Lodging	\$6,158.00
Seward Prevention Coalition HYPER: Lil' Farmer's Market Pop-up Exhibit	\$1,500.00
Seward Arts Council Seward Arts Council - Administrative Assistant	\$8,500.00
Seward Nordic Ski Club Iditarod Ginzu Groomer and Tracksetter	\$7,500.00
Independent Living Center or ILC TRAILS Support FY25	\$4,300.00
Seward Community Health Center Reducing the Need for Healthcare Travel	\$3,500.00
Seward Iditarod Trail Blazers Inc. Lee Poleske Memorial Statue and Bench	\$1,000.00
Seward Senior Center The Silver Screen	\$4,492.00
Seward Prevention Coalition Seward Homeless Connection: Individual Assistance and Free Shower Program	\$7,500.00
Seward Prevention Coalition Transitional Housing Program	\$10,000.00
Kenai Mountains -Turnagain Arm National Heritage Corridor KMTA and the SCF – Expanding Access to Equitable Outdoor Education for Seward and Moose Pass Youth	\$10,000.00
Seward Arts Council Seward Artists in Schools	\$4,550.00



Thank you, Donors!

You are wonderful! We couldn't do this work without you!



All gifts made in 2024

Reierson, Ronald (Skip) and Kimberly (Kim)
 Spanos, Sarah and James
 Paperman, David Berr
 Stirling, Daniel J
 Kanaras, Konstantinos
 Moriarty, Dr Michael P.
 Fisher, Ryan
 Arnold, Teri L
 Haddow, Amy C.
 Chen, Alice and Hunt, Robert
 Exit Glacier Guides
 Seward Bike Shop
 Boyle, Jennifer
 Sunny Cove Kayaking
 Adventure Sixty North
 Seward Chamber of Commerce,
 Convention & Visitor's Bureau
 Stegmaier, Rachel
 Luther, Jolund and Monica
 Ellingson, Ashley
 Smith, Christiana
 Myers, Joanne M.
 Dunham, Beverly D.
 Jaffa, Bruce and Carole

Clock, Cindy L. and Eric
 Jumper, Inc.
 Shoemaker, Phyllis A. and Moore, Fred
 Kowalski-Rogers, Kimberly
 Johnson, Anna
 Blakeslee, Rachel
 Smith, Melanie K
 Swanson, Marc and Loretta
 Kusano, Aaron
 Seward Properties, LLC
 Kansteiner, Mark and Kelly, Colleen
 Forests Tides and Treasures
 Carmen Joy Davis Fund
 Megan Cacciola Fund
 Rasmuson Foundation
 The Alaska Community Foundation
 Luttrell, Mark and Ghicadus, Ann
 Pfeiffenberger, Jim and Susan
 Lillemo, Kris
 Malcolm Byars, Catherine R.
 Eavis, John H. and Eileen
 Bardarson, Dot E.
 Benoit, Mary Ann
 Hetrick, Jeff, Rose, Willow, Teal and Corey

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our wonderful donors for your continued support. Your generosity helps the Seward Community Foundation make a real difference in our community.

As we look ahead, we want to remind you that Pick, Click, Give is right around the corner! Starting January 1st, you can choose to donate a portion of your PFD to support the causes you care about most. We hope you consider supporting us again this year.

Thank you for being part of something bigger!



In Memory:

Sarah Spanos in memory of Kaye Adelman
 Rhonda Spurr in memory of Davorie Kowalski
 Ashley Ellingson in memory of Terry LeClair

In Honor: Dan Stirling
 Mary Ann Benoit
 Joshua Girard
 Craig Ambrosiani

Tribute Gifts

Honoring Lives, Inspiring Change

The next time you make a donation to SCF, consider making a donation in memory or honor of a friend or loved one, as a meaningful way to pay tribute to their legacy and support the causes they care about.



SCF Endowments are Growing!

Current Balance: \$4,281,877.15
 Total Contributions: \$3,605,816.12
 Total Grants Awarded: \$1,457,290.87

SCF Legacy Bequests

Amy and William Hankins
 Kimberly Reierson
 Ronald (Skip) Reierson
 A Friend of Seward
 Jim and Virginia Allen
 Paul and Sharon Ruppel
 Mark Beals and DeAnna Hill
 Colleen Kelly and Mark Kansteiner

Anonymous
 John and Eileen Eavis
 Ryan Fisher
 Jim Fredrickson
 Amy Haddow
 Ellen V. O'Brien

Seward Community Foundation

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Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Pick, Click, Give.
JOIN US IN CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE.
Happy New Year
PDF APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 1ST!



ADVENTURES SIXTY NORTH



Business Partner Program Members

Board and Staff

- Mark Kansteiner, Chair and Grants Team Lead
- Tekla Seavey, Treasurer
- Katie Shepard, Secretary
- David Paperman
- Ryan Fisher
- Ginger Allen
- Marc Swanson
- Jennifer Boyle
- Sarah Spanos
- Sadie Ulman
- Jewel Williams
- Joel Williams
- Cindy Clock
- Alissa Holcomb, Program Manager

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