



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



The Golden Thread of our Foundation

The fiber of the Golden Heart Community Foundation (GHCF), an Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation, is woven from threads of community support, board dedication, collaboration of nonprofits, and the strongest fiber of all, the value of giving. This thread began weaving through Alaskan communities dating back to 1903. GHCF donors and grantees have been folded into this fabric of community support that was inspired in the early part of the last century by Ed and Jenny Rasmuson.



E.A. Rasmuson and Jenny Olson met and married in Yakutat, Alaska in the early 1900's. She was a missionary and he

was a teacher to Tlingit children. By 1918, they had moved to Skagway. Ed completed his law education and exams and became the US Commissioner of Skagway. Not long after that Ed took over the beleaguered Bank of Alaska. Jenny, even in the days of few women in business, sat on the board of directors for the bank and became a civic leader in her own right.

In 1949, Ed passed and left the bank to his son Elmer. In honor of her late husband, Jenny created Rasmuson Foundation in 1955. Elmer inherited Ed and Jenny's passion for working to strengthen Alaska and all who inhabit this state, be it two-legged, four-legged, or

those with scales and fins. Elmer also served on many boards from fisheries to universities.

When Elmer passed in 2000, he left his fortune to charity and much of it to Rasmuson Foundation. The first grants offered by Rasmuson Foundation totaled \$250. Ed, Elmer's



son, assumed charge of National Bank of Alaska (formerly known as Bank of Alaska) and negotiated its sale to Wells Fargo. Much of the proceeds from that sale went into the endowed funds of Rasmuson Foundation. In 2015, the total amount of grants paid out by Rasmuson Foundation was \$25 million. Today, Ed, as well as third and fourth generations of Rasmusons, are at the helm and continue the legacy of strengthening Alaskan communities.

The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) was established in 1995 to grow philanthropy, and assist individuals and organizations in creating charitable funds. As ACF evolved and grew, they partnered with Rasmuson Foundation to launch the Community Asset Building Initiative (now known as the Affiliate Program). The philosophy was, and still is, that the members of a community know best what that community's needs are. GHCF is now in the throes of reaching our 2017 fundraising goal in order to receive matching funds that Rasmuson Foundation and ACF have generously pledged. Thanks to many businesses and individuals, our community is strengthened and our fiber is strong.

Where We Are Today

E.A. Rasmuson’s work ethic and modesty are what made him a great man. GHCF’s Advisory Board embodies these characteristics. It is a firmly held belief of those on this board that the work done for GHCF is done for the benefit of our community.

Today, we have almost reached our 2017 goal of raising \$75,000. Rasmuson Foundation and The Alaska Community Foundation have generously pledged up to \$185,000 in matching funds during the next four years to support GHCF. That means if you give now, you can double the impact of your gift because it will be matched dollar-for-dollar! It is amazing to see our endowment grow, and our ability to shore our community in numerous ways as a result. Here is a “by the numbers” look at where we are today:

1,700	Community Foundations worldwide
750	Community Foundations in the U.S.
10	Affiliates of The Alaska Community Foundation
8	Interior Agency Funds with The Alaska Community Foundation
2013	Year GHCF was established
119	Founding Donors
9	Known Legacy Donors
\$413,426	Raised for GHCF from 2013-2017
\$24,550	Grants awarded through 2016
\$15,000	Available to grant in 2017

Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter

About us...

The Golden Heart Community Foundation (GHCF) is a permanent charitable fund for the Fairbanks and North Pole areas, and surrounding regions. Your gifts will be part of a long-term endowment, allowing you to invest in our community’s future and contribute to our quality of life. These charitable contributions will connect donors with causes they care about and catalyze community planning between individuals, organizations, and governments.

Locally advised, GHCF is focused on the needs of the area through a permanent endowment that makes annual grants to nonprofit groups serving our community.



Kate Lamal

Board Highlight - Welcoming Kate Lamal

I first learned about the Golden Heart Community Foundation when my husband and I were redoing our will. We wanted to leave some of our estate to support our Fairbanks Community, our home for so many years. When we learned about the Golden Heart Community Foundation, it fit our needs perfectly. I am honored to be on the Advisory Board to promote the concept of a Community Foundation and to help the endowment grow. I know there are so many people out there like my husband and me that want to directly support Fairbanks today and in the future, and the Golden Heart Community Foundation is an avenue to help them complete their wishes.

GRANTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival

Opening day of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival (FSAF) was warm, sunny, and full of artistic electricity. The energy was palpable. The creative spirit is strong in Fairbanks. Terese Kaptur, Executive Director of FSAF, was fast on her feet, both mentally and physically. Her strong, confident, and positive leadership was apparent. In this busy moment, every interaction and exchange of information was concise, upbeat, and pleasantly to the point.



Dori Nix is the Artistic Administrator for the Festival. Dori brought the notion of an app to the board of FSAF. In a previous job with a museum, Dori learned about an app that helped patrons navigate the museum, functions, fundraisers, and events. She presented the idea to the FSAF board and was charged with investigating how it could work here. Dori found an app template that looked promising. Attendify satisfied the needs of FSAF, and what the app lacked, James Wardlaw-

Bailey was able to code to tailor the app to meet the needs of FSAF instructors, artists, and the students/attendees. The result is a slick app that is user-friendly, interactive, and keeps pace with this busy organization. Since not all of the classes, workshops, and events were on the UAF campus, the app was particularly useful in helping people navigate when and where classes were held. The app can also track users for messaging through push notifications, almost like a text chain within the FSAF app users. Well done, FSAF!

2017 GHCF Grant Program

Each year, GHCF seeks grant applications from qualified, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations (or equivalents) that support charitable organizations and programs in the Fairbanks/North Pole area. Grants may support a broad range of community needs, including health and wellness, education, the great outdoors, arts and culture, and community development. Typical grant awards range from \$500-\$1,000.

Our 2017 competitive grants cycle was open from September 1 to October 16 and grant awards will be announced in early November. For more information, please visit our website at www.goldenheartcf.org.

Imagination Library



Emily Vockroth is the Executive Director of the North Star Imagination Library. Since 2008, this statewide program is managed by an all-volunteer board. The mission of this program is to spark a lifetime love of reading and learning. Emily and her volunteers mail books to registered children ages five and under, host reading and activity events a few times each year, and throw an annual fundraiser in November called Champions for Children.

The founder of the Imagination Library, Dolly Parton, makes the books very affordable but does not provide money for the purchase or mailing of the books. Monthly costs for this program average around \$7,000. Emily's role has evolved from registering children into the program to mostly fundraising the money needed to purchase and mail the books. She works out of her home and it's a true family affair; Emily's father created and maintains the website and her husband keeps the Facebook page updated. Emily is an early education, pre-school teacher by trade, but she's an Imagination Library Super Hero at heart!



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