



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION



## Pharaohs, Pyramids, and Philanthropy...Oh my.

By Jo A. Kuchle, Chair

Recently my husband, Gene, and I were blessed to travel through Egypt and visit the Great Pyramids of Giza. The things ancient Egyptian pharaohs did to prepare for “their next life” was awe inspiring. The Great Pyramids are thousands of years old – dating back to 3500 B.C. In America we are impressed when things are hundreds of years old, but the pyramids remind us of what can stand for thousands of years. The pyramids are also disconcerting. The pharaohs spent their wealth – and that of their citizens – for their afterlife. They relied on slave-labor, community resources, and vast amounts of gold, for their enshrinement, with no thought of their people. Their “god” status made them spend time and resources on their death – not the lives of their people. Death on the Nile indeed.

The pyramids are engineering and archeological wonders, and a testament to what the oldest known human civilization could do, but is it the best way to memorialize a community’s potential and prosperity? These lofty aims have been studied and argued for 5000 years, raising questions about what makes some civilizations great and prosperous, while others fail. What has made Fairbanks prosper? Its history, its people, its majestic land? Is that enough and will it always be so? That depends on its leadership and its

people. Board member Bert Bell opined that current Fairbanksans had the Pioneers to thank for establishing a foundation for this community. Bert believes that it is the responsibility of current residents to ensure our community thrives for future generations; and GHCF is the best way to insure that happens.

GHCF is about to achieve a major milestone - \$1 Million in our grant endowment. This significant event makes sure that causes that Fairbanksans care about - shelters, food, arts, and services - continue. GHCF is our “pyramid” - not to memorialize death - but to provide for the living, so that we can reach prosperity and achievement. This mission includes us all – not just wealthy rulers. GHCF allows us to build the future of this community – our home.

We will achieve this \$1 million milestone - and the next and the next. We are sure it won’t take millennia. We hope you will share this mission so when future Fairbanksans look back, they don’t see a past built of stone and sand, but a thriving community that exists and prospers for all.

### Pictured above:

1. Board Chair Jo Kuchle with husband in Egypt.
2. Board members Bert Bell & Kate Lamal volunteering at KUAC phonebanks in October.
3. Walter Harper Project sculptor Gary Lee Price.
4. Jo Kuchle and Board Vice Chair Cynthia Klepaski at GHCF booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair.



## Grantee Highlights

### No Limits Warming Shelter

At the GHCF August board meeting, Roscoe Brittan, No Limits Program Manager, gave a presentation about their new Warming Station. In 2020, the GHCF gave a grant to help fund the Warming Station which is an extension of the No Limits Warming Center. The Warming Station is a mobile unit which can go anywhere the most vulnerable population of the community are located and help meet their needs. The ultimate goal is to get a homeless individual permanently housed.

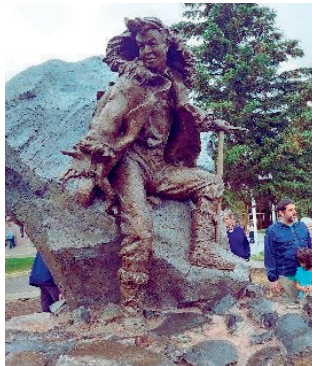


Roscoe Brittan, Program Manager in front of the new No Limits Warming Center in Fairbanks. No Limits, Inc. is a member of the Fairbanks Housing and Homeless Coalition

For information on all grants,  
Visit our website [www.goldenheartcf.org](http://www.goldenheartcf.org)

### The Walter Harper Project

Earlier this year, GHCF donated \$2,500 to help fund a life-size bronze statue of Walter Harper, the first person to summit Denali. The statue was unveiled in July, in front of the Doyon building near the William R. Wood footbridge. It is entitled "A Hand Up" because Harper's incredible feat gave a hand up to other mountaineers who followed. The sculptor, Gary Lee Price said at the unveiling that he encouraged people to reach out and grasp hands with Harper.



The Alaska Legislature established June 7th as Walter Harper Day thanks to the efforts of Fairbanks Senator Click Bishop. The act recognizes Harper's role in the success of the first summit of Denali, as well as his "superb subsistence skills, his integrity, his strong sense of identity and purpose, and his ability to navigate comfortably in both the Athabascan culture and other cultures of the United States."



### Advisory Board Highlight:

#### Jean Tsigonis

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, attended the local schools, and graduated from Lathrop in 1970. I went to college, medical school, and residency in the states. However, I was able to attend my first year of medical school through the WAMI (now WWAMI) program at UAF, in 1974-75. Later, in 2016, I received an MPH through UAA. I am a strong supporter of education.

I initially homeschooled our five children, then enrolled them in the local public schools. They all attended UAF. I was on the Advisory Committee, then Advocacy Committee for UAF for several years. I have also been on the board for the Resource Center for Parents and Children, the Alaska State Medical Board, and Past President of the Alaska Academy of Family Physicians. I recently retired from Tanana Valley Clinic, after practicing my entire medical career there. My passions are health care, access to care, Senior care, and prevention of burnout. I enjoy being on the GHCF Board. The mission of ACF, of which GHCF is an affiliate, says it all: Our mission: Inspiring the spirit of giving and connecting people, organizations, and causes to strengthen Alaska's communities now and forever.



Why do you donate to the GHCF?  
"You cannot love Fairbanks without loving the Golden Heart Community Foundation, and the good work it does to make sure that Fairbanks is taken care of today, and in the future:"

Bob Groseclose  
Lifelong Fairbanksan  
Attorney, CSG, Inc.

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 DONORS (to date)

## a/k/a The \$1 Million Donor Club

**There is still time to join and help us reach our first \$1 million in the Grant Endowment!**

### Business Donors

Alaska Community Foundation  
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IMO = In Memory Of    IHO = In Honor Of

\*Advisory Board Members    PM=Program Manager    L=Legacy Members



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Jean Tsigonis

## **Program Manager:**

Michelle Kraus

## **What is the Golden Heart Community Foundation**

Vision: The Golden Heart Community Foundation (GHCF) strives to build a lasting endowment with community donations to support causes that Interior Alaskans care about.

Your gift to the GHCF will be part of this long-term endowment. The principal of the endowment is never spent but rather invested. The earnings are granted to local nonprofits serving the Fairbanks North Star Borough area.

A donation to GHCF is an investment in the future of the Interior.

To Donate:

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Scan the QR Code to the right OR  
Mail your donation to GHCF  
P.O. Box 73183  
Fairbanks, AK 99707



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**Golden Heart Community Foundation**  
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PO Box 73183

Fairbanks, AK 99707

[www.goldenheart.org](http://www.goldenheart.org) | [goldenheart@alaskacf.org](mailto:goldenheart@alaskacf.org)