



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Planting Seeds

By: Jo Kuchle

Once upon a time, in the not so far away land of Fairbanks, Alaska, lived a couple that worked hard, loved their community and raised their family. One day their financial advisor planted. Their advisor suggested they learn about an organization called the Golden Heart Community Foundation (GHCF) that could help them support their beloved home's future while meeting their

own giving goals. With their advisor's gentle encouragement, a family member attended a gala event, learned about GHCF and how its purpose was to build an endowment for the long-term future of their enchanted home. They nurtured this idea and when the time was right, they made a one-million-dollar gift to GHCF, because they wanted to make sure that Fairbanks was always a happy place.

This "fairy tale" has been a long-term goal for all of us at GHCF, one that we have worked for and hoped to achieve since GHCF's launch in 2013. On August 21, 2024, in a historical first, this "fairy tale" came true by GHCF receiving a generous gift of \$1,000,000 from an anonymous donor. "Yes Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus." All because a small seed that was planted by a professional advisor made sense to this donor. The donor attended a Fall "thank you" event at their advisor's suggestion. They learned more about what GHCF means to our community and how building our endowment can help for years to come. This generous \$1 million gift will still be working and growing for this community 100 years + from now, because it will be invested and earning money with an endowment that will never go away. The earnings will be granted out to causes in this community that we care about – and that makes Fairbanks wonderful.



Small seeds can make a significant impact. Whether they yield a big tree or a small flower, **all these gifts** added up make a measurable and sustainable impact. All of us can plant seeds by spreading the word about GHCF's purpose of building a "permanent fund" that will benefit this community in perpetuity. Whether that is from large gifts or small, **all gifts matter** to help make good things happen. GHCF's grantees are widespread and diverse; a complete grantee list is the www.goldenheartcf.com website.

Just last year our Grant Endowment reached its \$1 million milestone, and we celebrated. We wondered if it would take another 10+ years to make the next million; and now, less than one year later - with one generous gift - that endowment is now over \$2.2 million. This only happened because someone talked about our mission and spread the word to someone they knew. We hope you too will spread the word about GHCF's mission. You too can help make fairy tales come true, just by planting a few small seeds.



Advisory Board Highlights: GHCF at the Tanana Valley State Fair



The theme of this year's fair was "Thank you for Bee-ing a Friend," and our Advisory Board Co-Chair Cynthia Klepaski had our booth beautifully decorated accordingly!



Top Right: Katie Yarrow and Kate Lamal greet visitors to our booth.



Lower Left, Bookmarks and gifts were handed out to visitors.



Lower Right, Kent Karns and Paula Earp welcome fair visitors to the booth.



Thank you, Tsigonis Family, for sponsoring this Newsletter!!!

Bob and Jean Tsigonis have enjoyed successful careers in Fairbanks, raised their children here and continue to support the community through good works. Bob has been a supporter and sponsor of our newsletters through his company "Lifewater Engineering" and Jean is an active advisory board member also serving on our Grant Committee. We appreciate the Tsigonis Family for their support, dedication, and generosity toward GHCF and the Fairbanks North Star Borough community

"I enjoy being on the GHCF AB. The mission of ACF, of which GHCF is an affiliate, says it all: Inspiring the spirit of giving and connecting people, organizations, and causes to strengthen Alaska's communities now and forever.

~ Jean Tsigonis (Donor, GHCF AB)

Save the Date!!!
Our annual fundraising event is Thursday, November 7th at 5:30 PM at Pike's Waterfront Lodge. See you then!!!

Grantee Spotlight: The Fairbanks Children’s Museum

Fairbanks Children’s Museum received a grant for the **Baby Mingles Program** to serve caregivers of newborns, babies, and toddlers. Baby Mingle is free, brings families from all walks of life into the museum environment and raises awareness about early childhood resources. By offering a regular opportunity to caregivers to meet and interact with others.



This program helps caregivers form connections, make friends and share stories. Access to community resources helps to build a strong parental support system and improves overall mental well-being. Peer-support and the feelings of belonging foster opportunities to share experiences and parental challenges while enhancing caregivers’ ability to cope with these stressors. This is especially important in the postpartum period and during a child’s first years of life as caregivers may face feelings of isolation and insecurity about parenting choices and child development. The Baby Mingles Program contributes to the creation of a robust social network, which in turn fosters parental resilience and adaptability in the Fairbanks Community.

Golden Heart Community Foundation proudly supports
The Children’s Museum.



Grantee Spotlight: Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels is free to all seniors over sixty living in the Fairbanks North Star Borough who cannot provide or prepare adequate nutritious meals because of physical, mental, or financial limitations that compromise their overall health and safety. Meals are cooked and prepared daily at the Fairbanks Senior Center according to a ten-week menu cycle developed with the approval of a nutritionist, as required by the Department of Health & Social Services, to ensure balanced nutritional intake for seniors. Along with the meals delivered daily, Meals on Wheels staff and Nutrition Volunteers prepare and freeze one hundred extra meals per day for outlying routes delivered weekly and for recipients who need extra meals for the weekend.

Delivering the meals is more than just distributing food. The added factor of having a daily wellness check from a caring volunteer can help prevent loneliness from becoming a debilitating factor for seniors. Meals on Wheels volunteers develop a positive rapport with the seniors, and seniors know they will have daily interactions with a volunteer who truly cares about them. The human contact that comes with every delivered meal gives real sustenance to seniors and helps keep them safe. If something is wrong with a senior or their living environment, a Meals on Wheels volunteer or staff member will notice and provide assistance or call for help. Silver Squad Wellness volunteers also place regular wellness calls to Meals on Wheels recipients. These calls provide additional wellness checks and social touchpoints for seniors.



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 DONORS

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Lamal, Thomas and Kate * IHO Charlene Stewart's 90th birthday
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Tsigonis Family – Fall Newsletter Sponsors
Unsicker, Linda
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Thank You!

GHCF Community Gifts



Dave Winfield Statue Project



Sculptor Gary Lee Price with Dave Winfield

Photo by Dan Bross

Golden Heart Community Foundation made a gift of \$2500 toward the Dave Winfield Statue Project.

Dave Winfield came to Fairbanks for the Statue's presentation at the Midnight Sun baseball game in June. At the event he stated, **"I love you guys and hopefully you look at me as an honorary Fairbanksan and Alaskan...I appreciate you so much."**

Winfield said he hopes the statue represents something to future generations.

"Of people that either live here, come through here, play baseball here, if I can inspire them to be better people, contributors to society, then I'm happy."

Dave Winfield followed Friday's statue unveiling by throwing out the first pitch at the annual Midnight Sun baseball game, which the Goldpanners won. The Winfield statue temporarily displayed at the Curling Club Friday, will be permanently installed at a nearby location.

Original article by KUAC.org 6/24/2024 by Dan Bross

Noel Wein Library Renovation Project

GHCF made a gift of \$2500 toward the Library Renovation Project for new furniture for the expanded facility.

The library reopened June 1st and has been busy with thousands of visitors every week. Renovation Highlights include renovated public spaces to improve library services and efficiency for all ages and a Teen Room with current technology, age-appropriate materials, study areas, computer lab, and adaptable space.

The renovation added 4,000+ square feet to the building, providing convertible programming spaces for children, tweens, and teens, as well as family reading areas and access to our beautiful gardens. Also added, a business center for small business creation and growth, the Countryman Café coffee shop and used bookstore. The enhancements have been a huge success, and the library continues to be a Fairbanks Gem.



How to Donate

Donating is easy and safe through our website at www.goldenheartcf.org/donate or scanning this QR code, it could not be easier. Sometimes, it is just easier to write a check and mail it to GHCF, PO Box 73183, Fairbanks 99707



However you choose to donate, or if you have already donated- *THANK YOU!!!*

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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. The endowment funds are professionally invested to provide a reliable source of funding for the present and long-term future. The GHCF also supports local resiliency and self-reliance by promoting individual, family, and business philanthropy. A donation to GHCF is an investment in the future of the Interior.

Find us on Facebook. Look for “Golden Heart Community Foundation” and “Like” our page to get the latest news about the GHCF, local nonprofits and funding opportunities.

<https://www.facebook.com/GoldenHeartCF>