



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Legacies of All Sizes, Shapes and Forms

**Jo Kuchle, Advisory Board Chair**

Late in 2025, the Golden Heart Community Foundation (GHCF) received a lovely gift in memory of the late Rosamond Weller. That name may sound familiar to those readers who live in Fairbanks. Yes, it was that Weller, as in Weller Elementary. Ms. Weller was not only a long-time gifted educator, but also a donor to her community.

Ms. Weller was a Fairbanks educator for 37 years. When a new elementary school was built in 1993, there was strong public support to name the school after her. Weller Elementary was the first Fairbanks school named for a woman, and for a person who was still alive. After her death, those who knew her best knew that she would have wanted to give to GHCF, so they left a gift in her memory.

Artist Neville Abbot Jacobs was a "lover of wild and wonderful places" - sounds like Fairbanks! In her memory, her estate made a gift to the GHCF to memorialize her desire to benefit Fairbanks. Interior residents may have a Neville Jacobs painting on their wall. She painted landscapes that appeared on the Fairbanks phone book (some of us remember those) and for KUAC posters. Her estate sold her prints, watercolors, and other art to donate the proceeds to Fairbanks' arts non-profits. Her legacy giving was to arts organizations and GHCF.

Recently, we were contacted by the estate of another former Fairbanksan, Mr. James (Sandy) Irl Hamilton. The administrator of his estate, Winston Burbank, knew that Mr. Hamilton would want to make a gift to benefit Fairbanks students. Through GHCF's affiliation with our

statewide foundation, the Alaska Community Foundation (ACF), we were able to connect Mr. Hamilton's estate to the Don DeWitt Scholarship Fund at ACF that another beloved former Fairbanks educator had established at his death. The goal of Mr. DeWitt's gift aligned with what Mr. Hamilton had wanted to accomplish. Together, the legacies of these two donors can grow and provide more scholarships to Fairbanks students.

In 2011, at the Lathrop High School (LHS) Class of 1961 reunion, it was decided to establish a LHS scholarship fund with \$6,000. Two GHCF Advisory board members: CB Bettisworth (Class of 1961) and Margaret Rich (Class of 1968), and their friend Jeff Cook (Class of 1962) helped set up the fund at ACF that administered it for the benefit of Fairbanks LHS students. Today, anyone can contribute to the LHS Alumni Scholarship Endowment fund at ACF, which has grown from \$6,000 to \$231,565 and has helped multiple graduates.

All of these donors have something in common: they were or are ordinary Fairbanksans who wanted to do something for our community that will last long after them, and that will provide a better future for Interior Alaska residents. Ms. Weller and Mr. DeWitt were teachers; Ms. Jacobs was an artist; Mr. Hamilton cared about students. The LHS alumni wanted to help LHS students. Their legacies were not about leaving or giving huge sums of money, but they all wanted to do something for the community they once loved or still love. Each left a legacy that mattered to them.



GHCF's mission is to encourage Interior Alaskans to consider legacy giving - in whatever form. In order to encourage such giving, GHCF provides a place for donors to give to Interior Alaska through its Grant and Operating Endowments, but also provides a means to connect donors to other forms of giving - even if that giving is not something GHCF administers, but something that our statewide foundation does, like scholarships. GHCF wants Fairbanksans to leave something to Fairbanks, in whatever size, shape, or form that "works" for donors.

In 2024, GHCF launched the "High Five" campaign to encourage Interior Alaska residents to leave 5% of their estate or an asset to GHCF or another charity. "High Five" is another form of legacy giving. Donors do not have to give all - or even a significant portion - of their estate to create a legacy. Giving just 5% of something will create an enormous impact on our community for generations to come by growing our endowments, which already exceed three million dollars, and allowing us to make larger annual grants to causes in our community that people care about.

## What will YOUR legacy be?

GHCF welcomes the opportunity to discuss what YOU want your legacy to be. Maybe it's a gift to an established scholarship fund or a gift to us through our High Five Campaign, or perhaps you have something more specific in mind. Whatever size, shape or form you want your legacy gift to be, we will work with you or guide you to the proper people at ACF to help structure your gift in a way that meets YOUR giving goals. We look forward to connecting with you.

## Annual Donor Appreciation Event 2025

Thank you to **Mt. McKinley Bank** and **Pikes Waterfront Lodge** for generously sponsoring the 2025 donor event. The program MC, Kent Karns, introduced speakers with dynamic plans and ideas. We heard Mt. McKinley President David Durham's vision of the past and future, Fairbanks Concert Association's Marie Olesen about the impact of the grant they received, from GHCF, CEO Alex McKay about philanthropy in Alaska, and from GHCF Board Chair Jo Kuchle about legacy giving. There was great energy as old and new friends talked about great opportunities, while surrounded by an evening of possibilities.



Above Alex McKay, CEO of Alaska Community Foundation

Right: Mindy O'Neal and board member Bert Bell





**The Golden Heart Community Foundation will be at the Tanana Valley State Fair again this year on Senior Day, August 5<sup>th</sup>. Stop by our booth and say hello!**



Veggie: Mushroom

All is Fair  
in Love  
and  
SPORE

**COLORS**

× **Crimson** ×

× **Taupe** ×

× **Jasmine** ×

**FLOWER**



Zinnia



## Thank You Anchor Point Foundation!

Anchor Point Foundation (APF) is a husband-and-wife Colorado-based fund with Alaska connections. The wife was raised in Alaska and has strong ties to Alaska. APF reached out to GHCF two years ago to inquire about our grant process. APF wanted to contribute to Fairbanks non-profits and sought a simple method to professionally support good causes. GHCF provided them a path to responsibly give to Interior non-profits.

In 2024, APF matched all GHCF grants 1:1, totaling \$35,000. This past year, they not only matched all grants 1:1, totaling \$45,000, but also donated to the GHCF operating fund. This was a huge bonus for all GHCF grantees and for us! We can not thank APF enough for their support.

## Tim and Theresa Jones

It is with mixed feelings that we say so long to Tim Jones and his wife, Theresa. Tim and Theresa are heading to Washington to be closer to their adult children and grandchildren. Tim has been on the Golden Heart Community Foundation (GHCF) advisory board (AB) since the beginning in 2013. He has been the secretary for almost that long. He has made the Doyon Utilities conference room available for GHCF monthly meetings. He and Theresa have been generous donors to GHCF. We will miss Tim's calm, professional input during our meetings.

To Tim's credit, he found a good replacement on the GHCF AB. Virginia Supanick, is joining the board.

We wish Tim and Theresa the very best in the next chapter of their lives.

# Nonprofit Spotlight

## North Star Ballet

By Samantha Reynolds

I am thrilled to share some wonderful news regarding the North Star Ballet Black Box Theater — the project GHCF so generously supported. We successfully hosted our inaugural performance, Sound Meets Movement, (which GHCF also sponsored - thank you!) in our fully operational new space! The event was a tremendous success.

The response was overwhelming. We initially planned for two performances in October, 2025 but due to rapid sales, we added a third show, and all three performances sold out completely.

It was equally amazing that the evening went so smoothly in spite of it being the very first performance in that space. The venue felt "finished" which is a missing element to comparable spaces in town. This new venue fills a real need in Fairbanks.

Once again thank you, GHCF, for being an instrumental supporter of this project and our first-ever Black Box performance. We are over-the-moon thrilled to have the Black Box Theater, both for our dancers and as a versatile, much-needed venue for the entire community (it will be used again this weekend by the Fairbanks Concert Association for their Well-Being Concert series).



Photo of the Black Box Theater by Padilla Photography

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## Meals on Wheels Fairbanks

In roughly the last 10 years, deaths linked to malnutrition have skyrocketed by a factor of six, making it the fastest-growing killer in the country, according to data from the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention. One metric indicated sizable differences: age. Those aged 85 and older die from malnutrition at a rate about 60 times higher than the rest of the American population, with deaths in that group increasing about twice as fast.

The Fairbanks Senior Center, also known as the North Star Council on Aging, was very appreciative of the grants from Golden Heart Community Foundation and the matching grant from Anchor Point Foundation. Those grants helped fund the Meals on Wheels program to provide 714 hot meals to home-bound seniors, ensuring dignity and nourishment for those most in need. The Fairbanks Senior Center sincerely thanks both GHCF and Anchor Point Foundation.

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS

## Business Donors

Alaska Airlines (employee match)  
Alaska Community Foundation  
Anchor Point Foundation  
The Art Center  
Bettisworth North Architects &  
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- Schikora, Rick & Cheryl



**Golden Heart Community Foundation**

An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation

# Smart Giving Strategies from Alaska Community Foundation

Presented by Meghan A. Muñoz, CPA, CFP®, CDFA®, Partner, Chief Financial Officer, and Senior Financial Advisor at Alaska Wealth Advisors.

**Tuesday, April 21 | 12:00 – 1:00 PM**

**Virtual webinar via Zoom**

Meghan will share practical, timely insights on ways individuals can make the most of their charitable giving based on new tax rules, including the benefits of:

- IRA beneficiary designations for legacy giving
- Making charitable gifts from retirement accounts.
- Donating appreciated stock
- The new “above-the-line” charitable deduction
- “Bunching” donations

Please contact the GHCF Program Manager, Shea, at [goldenheart@alaskacf.org](mailto:goldenheart@alaskacf.org) to get the Zoom link.

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**Thank you Denali State Bank  
for Sponsoring this newsletter!**



Incredible things happen when organizations put community first. Both Denali State Bank, celebrating its 40th year, and GHCF help make Fairbanks great. GHCF has awarded 143 grants totaling \$320,000! Together, our future looks bright!

**Golden Heart  
Advisory Board**

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**Program Manager**  
Shea Monsey Linnell

**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.

**Scan the QR code to  
learn more about the  
Golden Heart  
Community Foundation  
or make a donation on  
our website.**



goldenheart@alaskacf.org  
www.goldenheartcf.org

Fairbanks, AK 99707  
PO Box 73183

**Golden Heart  
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