



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

JSCF Meets Four-Year Match Goals

In 2016, the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska Community Foundation set match goals for the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation. In early October, ACF let us know that we met our match goals! Over the past four years, your generous donations totaled more than \$185,000 and Rasmuson Foundation will match \$185,000 to JSCF funds! This astounding increase in JSCF endowment funds will provide support to nonprofits in our area for years to come. Thank you to all JSCF donors!

JSCF Donors Join the Legacy Society of Alaska

In 2020, a year like no other, in addition to annual cash contributions and Pick.Click.Give. donations, 18 JSCF supporters signed "Declaration of Intent" forms to indicate future gifts to JSCF. These legacy gifts are valued at more than \$750,000. A portion (5%, up to \$5,000 per gift) of the assessed value of these legacy gifts is matched by Rasmuson Foundation; JSCF will receive \$23,800 in match dollars!

The "Declaration of Intent" form is a non-binding statement that indicates the signatory plans to leave something of value, (cash, stock, real property, etc.) to JSCF through his/her estate. A legacy gift is an opportunity to support JSCF now through match dollars and indicates a plan to support JSCF in the future. For more information, go to:

<https://jessicastevenscf.org/give-today/legacy-giving/>

New Match Goal for 2020

When we met the 4-year match, another Rasmuson match came our way. Through 2020, Rasmuson will match dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000, all cash contributions to JSCF's operating endowment and 5% of all legacy gifts, up to \$5,000 per gift. With your help, we can meet our new match goal for 2020!

For more information, go to: www.jessicastevenscf.org or contact any JSCF Advisory Board Member.



JSCF Welcomes a New Northern Valley Nonprofit

The JSCF Advisory Board warmly welcomes the Denali Education Center, a passionate and proven organization with a shared focus on education, the environment, and community engagement. We asked them to share their vision for their new Upper Valley campus...

In July, the boards of directors of Denali Education Center (DEC) and Northern Sunitna Institute (NSI) made the exciting announcement that they had merged organizations. Through this merger of ideas and resources, the expanded organization will now serve both gateway communities of Denali National Park and Preserve. While the name Northern Sunitna Institute will cease to exist, its values and history of service will continue through DEC. Although COVID-19 has impacted initial plans, DEC hopes to host a community celebration next spring when the building opens and programs resume.

Denali Education Center's mission is to promote understanding and appreciation of Denali through informative and inspiring programs. DEC received its 501(c)(3) charitable status in November 1989. Originally founded to support research in the park, the organization's primary focus shifted to educational programming as the park's priorities changed over the years. DEC offers residential education programs in partnership with nonprofit and affinity groups, including Road Scholar, which draws people from far and wide to DEC's Denali Campus for a full week of exploring and learning about subarctic plants, animals, and ecology. DEC also supports the Park through educational outreach, including summer camp programs for local youth, at-risk individuals, and youth and adults with developmental disabilities; naturalist-led day programs for

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park visitors; and lectures, concerts, and workshops for the local community.

DEC will plan similar activities on their Talkeetna Campus, with a few youth and community offerings in 2021. DEC's goals over the next years are to increase the number of offerings and to create a plan for the Talkeetna Campus to remove the current building and create a facility that will serve the Northern Susitna Valley year-round. Ideas for this facility include youth summer camps, after-school programs, and classroom space for lectures, workshops, and continuing education courses. DEC sees the potential in the Talkeetna Campus to become a Nature Center; a place to inform and engage visitors and locals alike while simultaneously inspiring our next generation of community leaders and stewards of Talkeetna, and all Alaska. DEC looks forward to working with the Talkeetna community and area nonprofits to create this plan to ensure the space and place reflect the character and intention of the community.

According to Jodi Rodwell, Executive Director of Denali Education Center, "We are thrilled for this merger, and the trust placed in us by the former NSI board, as we have always felt that the Talkeetna community is an extension of Denali, a sister gateway community to the Park. Our partnership with the National Park Service is sure to grow and our mission of connecting people to Denali will flourish in the Talkeetna community. We have a lot to learn about Talkeetna and the Northern Susitna Valley, and we can't wait to dive in!"

Introducing our new 10 to 1 Program

In this unprecedented year of the Coronavirus, the JSCF will forgo our annual Donor Reception.

*If possible, we plan to resume this beloved tradition in 2021. In lieu of our annual soiree, JSCF decided to give back even more to a local nonprofit. **From January 1st to April 1st, for every \$10 you donate to JSCF, we will designate \$1 to a community nonprofit.** You can donate to any of our funds: the general endowment, operating endowment, or memorial fund (honors a loved one who has passed). Your donation will support our local nonprofits now and in perpetuity.*

With so many worthy organizations in the Northern Susitna Valley, we find the idea of choosing just one impossible, so we need your help. Every person who donates to JSCF between

October 1 to December 31, gets their name placed in a jar. We will choose one winner to choose one nonprofit on the air at KTNA in early January.

In a year where giving is more important than ever, this is one way we can thank our generous donors and give back to this gorgeous community we are lucky enough to call home. You can use the envelope provided or donate online at: <https://jessicastevenscf.org/donate/>

Here is a list of nonprofits you can choose from for the 10 to 1 Program:

- Denali Arts Council
- Denali Education Center
- Denali Nordic Ski Club
- Families in Crisis Fund (at SCHC)
- Friends of Talkeetna Library
- Gateway to the Arctic
- Sunshine Community Health Center
- Sunshine Station Childcare
- Susitna River Coalition
- Susitna Salmon Center
- Sunshine Transit
- Susitna Valley High School
- Susitna Valley High PTSA
- Talkeetna Community Radio, Inc.
- Talkeetna Community Schools
- Talkeetna Elementary PTA
- Talkeetna Elementary School
- Talkeetna Historical Society
- Talkeetna Youth Hockey
- Trapper Creek Community Schools
- Trapper Creek Community Services
- Trapper Creek Elementary School
- Upper Susitna Food Pantry
- Upper Susitna Seniors, Inc. (Meals on Wheels)
- Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District



COVID-19 Relief Grants to Upper Susitna Valley Nonprofits

Since the pandemic started, our area has been the beneficiary of several COVID-19 relief grants. The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF) and The State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services established the Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Fund (CNRF) to distribute CARES Act funds to nonprofits across our state. Several organizations in the Upper Susitna Valley received these awards. The Greatland Christian Church (aka Gateway to the Arctic) will use \$37,300 for food security projects, indoor gardening, and youth education. The Petersville Community Non-Profit Corp. in Trapper Creek received \$200,000 towards equipment for rural search and rescue/transport to EMS, as well as promoting safety measures related to COVID-19.

The AK Can Do grant program is another partnership between ACF, Rasmuson Foundation, and United Way of Anchorage, providing funds to organizations and individuals who have been financially impacted by COVID-19, with special attention given to those who may have received little or no funding through the CARES Act. Locally, Su-Valley High School and the Upper Susitna Food Pantry were both awarded major grants.

The Upper Susitna Food Pantry is using ACF and JSCF grants to purchase two vehicles for transporting food from Anchorage and the lower Valley to Talkeetna, deliver food to families who are isolating due to COVID-19, and to expand their storage capabilities, among other things. According to LouAnne Carroll-Tysdal, the Pantry's Executive Director,

“These grants have enabled us to keep our doors open; we never closed down, not even for a day-- we were able to expand our days, but the biggest thing these grants have done for us is to help sustain this community, to help give people hope.”

The CNRF grant program has awarded more than \$28 million across Alaska with additional awards to be announced soon and the AK Can Do funds provided close to \$2 million in grants to communities around Alaska, including \$660,000 to 576 struggling families for rent and utilities. The application for the fourth and final round of AK Can Do grants will open in January of 2021.

To learn more about ACF grant opportunities, go to <https://alaskacf.org/grants/>.



JSCF Healthy Community Grants

In August of this year, the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation awarded our annual Healthy Communities grants to eleven nonprofit organizations in the Upper Susitna Valley. Every year, JSCF supports nonprofit organizations serving the communities of Caswell, Sunshine, Talkeetna, and Trapper Creek. The areas of interest important to JSCF include basic needs, health, the arts, education, and improving the environment. Grant awards come from the interest earned on the various JSCF endowment funds, creating sustainable, charitable resources forever.

In 2020, JSCF awarded grants to fill a wide variety of needs. The grantees are: Denali Arts Council, Denali Nordic Ski Club, Gateway to the Arctic, Sunshine Community Health Center, Sunshine Station Childcare, Susitna River Coalition, Talkeetna Community Radio, Talkeetna Elementary School PTA, Talkeetna Historical Society, Trapper Creek Community Services (Free Box), and Trapper Creek Elementary School. Details on the 2020 grant awards are available on JSCF's website at: <https://jessicastevenscf.org/grants/>

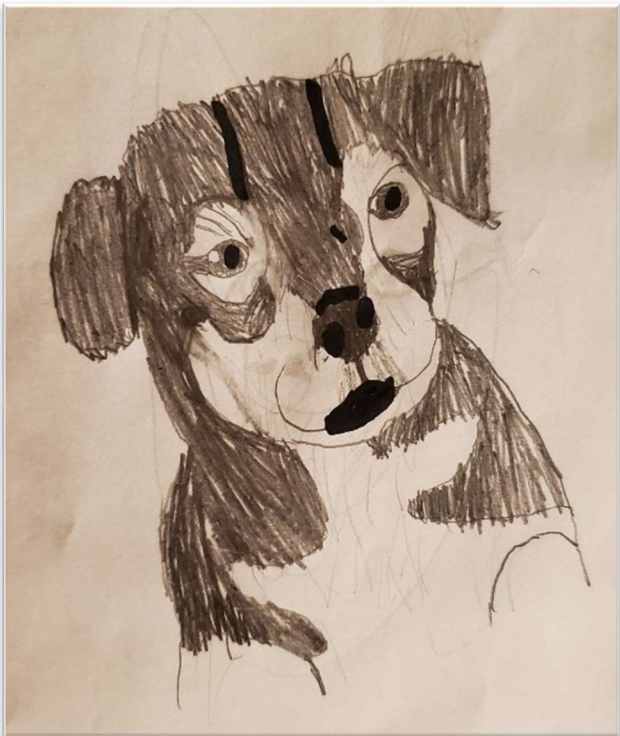
JSCF Grantee Highlights

The Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School (SVS) Afterschool Art club reported having great success using their grant award despite significant interference from the coronavirus pandemic. The students all left school in March but were still able to digitally complete several projects. Their artwork was used for the play “The Importance of Being Ernest” which was shown via Instagram. Students also worked with Denali Arts Council to host a virtual art show, showcasing SVS emerging Young Artists.





Another JSCF grantee, Talkeetna Elementary School PTA, used their award to “provide a skilled, professional, and certified teacher to 118 students for their art education.” The teacher was able to meet the goals of delivering art lessons and displaying students’ artwork throughout the school. Students attending Talkeetna Elementary School received an average of 65 minutes of art instruction each week until the state mandated school closure. “Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to meet our goal of an all-student art show for the parents and community in the spring, however, students were able to share art with their school community through Google Classroom,” Talkeetna Elementary PTA.



Your donations make possible JSCF Healthy Communities Grants which support the nonprofits serving our community now and for years to come.

JSCF Focus - Compassionate health care, innovative education, social engagement, active enjoyment of the natural environment, and creative artistic expression...

JSCF’s Goal - We are dedicated to helping build healthy communities in the Northern Susitna Valley by raising a perpetual endowment to address community needs now and far into the future.

JSCF’s Local Advisory Board

Will Peterson(Chair), Cici Schoenberger, Kathy Trump, Maureen Gualtieri, Jenny Packer, Stacie Smiley, and Graham Knapp

Emeritus Board Members

Robert Ambrose, Chris Mannix, Joe Page, Sondra Porter, and Ruth Wood

Program Manager: Christie Seay

For more information: www.jessicastevenscf.org

Contact us at: jessicastevens@alaskacf.org

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