



Jessica Stevens Community Foundation

An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation

Spring, 2019

COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Rasmuson Match Grant

Jessica Stevens Community Foundation begins its 3rd year of a matching fund challenge through the Rasmuson Foundation & ACF. As in the past two years, for every dollar you donate, the grant challenge will match it, which makes your donation go twice as far. This year, we must raise \$30,000 in order to obtain the matching funds, and again your generosity is the key to our success. You can designate gifts to any of our funds- general endowment, memorial, and operating endowment. Thanks to all you have done to help grow our funds. The more we have invested, the more we can give back to our communities.

Healthy Communities Grant

May 1 – June 30

Spring is upon us, the time of year we love most here at Jessica Stevens Community Foundation as we launch our annual Healthy Communities Grant cycle. We look forward to funding worthy projects in the Northern Susitna Valley communities aligned with our key areas of interest: compassionate health care, innovative education, social engagement, active enjoyment of the natural environment, and creative artistic expression. If you are an eligible nonprofit with an interesting project that benefits our community, consider applying. For more info, contact Maureen Gualtieri at maureen@jessicafoundation.org.

Grantee Highlights

Kathleen Retires

JSCF has been a strong supporter of the Talkeetna Community Schools Program due to the diligence of the coordinator Kathleen Fleming in seeking grants to offset budget cuts over the years. Talkeetna and Trapper Creek are the only community schools programs remaining in the MatSu Borough. The program has been threatened over the years, but an active letter writing campaign by the community proved the popularity of the program for those of us in the Northern Susitna Valley, and we have been fortunate to locate funding to support the program. After 30 years, Kathleen is now set to retire.

Chances are if you can identify a bird, plant a garden, harvest honey, knit or spot constellations in the night sky you may have learned your skill in a Community Schools class. One of Kathleen's long-time, favorite programs remains after-school roller skating. It has been on the schedule since 1992, and now parents who participated when they were in elementary school are skating with their kids.



The Free Friday Night Movies are another popular activity. Every Friday night during the school year, Kathleen offers a blockbuster movie or a commemoration of a milestone, like the 40th anniversary of *Romeo & Juliet*. Sometimes the movies are targeted for kids and sometimes adults. The biggest turnout for a movie was for *Frozen*. 110 kids, parents, and adults without kids.

She is throwing a retirement party on Friday, May 10th at the Denali Arts Hangar. Kathleen said, "I fully understand that my feelings of success in this job are mostly because of the willingness of local folks to volunteer to teach classes and pay to participate. So, I want my retirement party to be a community event. Everyone who taught a class will get a special invitation, a way I can say thank you. Plus, everyone who participated or suggested classes or made funding grants or who I worked with, and Talkeetna Elementary School retirees are invited." A band will play starting at 7pm with a speech at 8.

Advisory Board Changes

In recent months, we have added two new Advisory Board Members, Andi Manning and Graham Knapp. Andi moved to Talkeetna in 2011 and has used her experience to better our community and state. As Andi stated in her interest letter to JSCF, "I am a registered nurse by trade and have a passion for serving others." Andi served on two state-wide boards focused on healthcare, as well as three local boards. She brings her can-do attitude and her business and financial acumen to JSCF. Andi generously donates her time and ability, because as she stated, "I love our community and the people who reside here!"



Graham Knapp is probably best known as the co-owner of the Grove and micro green farmer, but what is not as well known about Graham is his background in public health. He graduated from college with a degree in microbiology where he studied infectious diseases. He changed his commitment to public health from an academic exercise to become a practitioner by growing healthy food for his family and the local community. Graham joins JSCF board with a commitment to make our communities better through active engagement. As he stated, "It would be incredibly rewarding to help facilitate public health efforts in the upper Susitna Valley." We welcome them and look forward to their contributions to our work.



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

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.

Advisory Board

Will Peterson, chair
Cici Schoenberger
Kathy Trump
Maureen Gualtieri
Jenny Packer
Stacie Smiley
Andi Manning
Graham Knapp

Program Manager: Christie Seay

For more information: Visit us on Facebook and on our website www.jessicastevenscf.org

Email us at: jessicastevens@alaskacf.org or cseay@alaskacf.org



At the end of 2018, we said goodbye to a long-term Board member, Sondra Porter. She served JSCF in many ways. She will be so missed but will remain a Board Member Emeritus and continue to offer her words of wisdom to us as we move forward. Thank you Sondra for your dedication!

Program Manager Change

Jessica Stevens Community Foundation is proud to announce community-member Christie Seay as the new Program Manager. Christie fulfills many roles around town-- bookkeeping, part-time at KTNA, manager of a guest house, and Chair of the Community Assistance Program Committee for the Talkeetna Community Council. Christie brings her love of our community and her experience with computer programs and finances to our team. Welcome aboard Christie!

Requests

Email Addresses

We are updating our donor database and need many email addresses. We would like to begin to send some news out via email whenever possible. Please send your email address and phone number and any changes to your address to our program manager at cseay@alaskacf.org.

Volunteer for a Committee

At times, we have a need for members of our communities to work on some of our subcommittees, especially the Grants and Fundraising committees. If you have an interest in serving on a subcommittee or the Board, please contact one of the current Board members.