

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACT

Will Peterson
Jessica Stevens Community Foundation Advisory Board
will@jessicasfoundation.org
907-250-1477

Mariko Sarafin
Affiliate Program Officer
msarafin@alaskacf.org
907-334-6700

Jessica Stevens Community Foundation Offers Emergency Funds for Wildfire Relief Efforts

Talkeetna, ALASKA – The Jessica Stevens Community Foundation (JSCF) is pleased to announce emergency financial support will be granted to two Talkeetna organizations that have been responding to the needs of the community during the McKinley Fire.

In a special meeting of the JSCF Advisory Board on Thursday, August 22, the foundation decided to grant emergency funds to the Upper Susitna Food Pantry and KTNA Talkeetna Community Radio.

The Food Pantry has opened its doors and shelves to the many individuals and families that have been displaced by the fire. Preparing and serving 3 hot meals a day to displaced residents has taken a toll on the resources of the Food Pantry. JSCF is pleased that a grant of \$3,958 is being awarded to the Upper Susitna Food Pantry. Funds for this grant come from the Talkeetna Bachelors Society Fund, an endowment fund created to help women and children in crisis.

Our public radio station KTNA is being awarded \$2,000 to support its effort of providing timely, accurate information regarding the fire. Whether it is road closures or detailed reports on the fire, KTNA has enabled all of us to have a shared knowledge of what is happening with the fire and the people impacted. KTNA has also just learned that its state funding has been cut, reducing its total operating budget by some 25%. Funds for this grant come from the JSCF's Memorial Endowment Fund.

In addition, JSCF will produce a "Fire Wise" workshop this winter. Recognizing that this will not be the last wildfire we face, JSCF asks, "Is your home safe?" JSCF would like to assist in creating a safer environment. JSCF will be planning this event over the next couple of months. The McKinley Fire has created an immediate crisis, but the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation has been able to respond to the immediate and long-term needs of Upper Susitna Valley communities.

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About the Jessica Stevens Community Foundation

The Jessica Stevens Community Foundation (JSCF) is a permanent charitable fund for the communities in the Upper Susitna Valley area and one of eleven Affiliate Community Foundations under the umbrella of The Alaska Community Foundation. JSCF's goal is to encourage compassionate health care, innovative education, active enjoyment of the natural environment, and community enrichment through the arts and cultural expression. JSCF is focused on keeping resources invested locally in a permanent charitable fund to help meet today's needs and provide a reliable source of funding for the future. For more information, visit www.jessicastevenscf.org.

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About The Alaska Community Foundation

Established in 1995, The Alaska Community Foundation is a statewide platform for philanthropy that connects people who care with causes that matter. Holding approximately \$100 million in more than 500 funds for the benefit of Alaskans, ACF grants \$4-5 million each year to charitable projects and nonprofit organizations across the state. Our mission is to inspire the spirit of giving and connect people, organizations and causes to strengthen Alaska's communities now and forever. For more information, visit www.alaskacf.org or call 907-334-6700.