

Sitka Legacy Foundation
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COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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About Us



The Sitka Legacy Foundation is a permanent charitable fund for the communities in the Sitka area and one of 11 Affiliates under the umbrella of The Alaska Community Foundation. SLF's goal is to support local resiliency and self-reliance by promoting individual, family and business philanthropy and providing grants to local projects and organizations. SLF 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.

Thank You



The Sitka Legacy Foundation permanent endowment has grown to \$421,840. Like the Alaska Permanent Fund, this endowment is not spent but is managed to provide a yearly dividend that comes back to the community through grants to local causes. Your donation to SLF continues to have a long-term benefit to communities in Alaska far into the future.

Fall 2019



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SLF Announces 2019 Grants



Thirteen organizations will receive a total of \$16,045 in grants from SLF for projects that benefit Sitka. The awards include:

- Alaska Arts Southeast, \$1,000 for financial aid for Sitka students to attend Fine Arts Camp
- Betty Eliason Child Care Center, \$1,000 for toddler classroom furniture
- Brave Heart Volunteers, \$1,000 to support the companionship program
- Catholic Community Service, \$2,000 to support meals at Swan Lake Senior Center
- Friends of Sitka Circus Arts, \$500 to support youth scholarships
- Hames Center, \$1,500 to support teen nights
- Mt. Edgecumbe Preschool, \$1,000 to support an intergenerational music program in partnership with the Pioneer Home
- Raven Radio Foundation, \$1,575 to replace live coverage equipment
- Sitka Homeless Coalition, \$1,470 to purchase tent cots and blankets for a new men's winter shelter
- Sitkans Against Family Violence, \$2,000 for supplies for the renovated shelter
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), \$1,000 to assist Sitka elders and residents with disabilities with living independently
- The Salvation Army, \$1,500 for the Sitka food pantry
- The Uncommon Music Festival, \$500 to support Conversations with Whales: Facing Ecological Change as a Community.

SLF received 18 grant applications in 2019, which is a record since the fund was established in 2013. Requests totaled \$33,344, exceeding funds available for grantmaking by more than 100 percent.

More than half of the grants awarded in 2019 were paid for by income generated from SLF's permanent endowment. Thanks to First Bank for a special gift of \$5,000 to support grants for projects that benefit residents of our community with low and moderate incomes. Rasmuson Foundation also provided \$2,500 in funding for 2019 grants.



Program Manager Robin Sherman and SLF Advisory Board member Mollie Kabler with 2019 grant recipients, credit James Poulson/Sitka Sentinel

Donor Profile: Harvey and Kathleen Brandt



“We’re not rich, but we have enough to share,” says Harvey Brandt. After a lifetime of work in education and a modest life in Sitka, Harvey and his wife Kathleen enjoy sharing their savings with their children, grandchildren, church and community.

The Brandts came to Alaska from Kansas on their honeymoon in 1966. After a brief visit, Harvey observed that it’s impossible to know a place unless you live there. “Let’s go teach in Alaska for a year or two,” he suggested. Fifty-two years later, the Brandts are deeply engaged in the community. They are part of an active and devoted congregation at Sitka Lutheran Church, where they organize and house summer volunteers and offer weekend activities for local youth during the school year.

Harvey and Kathleen make modest annual contributions to Sitka Legacy Foundation. This is a little like supporting a church – their donations may be small, but lots of small donations build a strong foundation. The Brandts are planning to leave charitable gifts to the community in addition to providing for their children and grandchildren in their wills. They hope other Sitkans will do the same. Legacy planning is about more than money, Harvey explains. Passing along the tradition of generosity is just as important.



Board Member Profile: Brian Hames



Brian Hames was six years old when the Lloyd F. Hames Physical Education Center opened on the SJ campus in 1987. “Why is Grandpa’s name on that building?” he remembers asking his parents. Roger and Mary Hames explained that his grandfather was involved in the college and donated money for the gym, and they named the building to thank him for his service. It was an early lesson in the Hames family tradition of community engagement.

Hames left Sitka for college at Western Washington University. He majored in International Business, then got a job at a Seattle-based firm that manages global supply chain logistics. “I wanted to work at a company where my last name didn’t matter,” he explains. After several years in different roles with the company in Washington and Tennessee, Brian was ready to come back to Sitka. “Getting so far away gave me a good perspective on everything this place has to offer,” he explains.



The multitasking Brian Hames tends bar at a fall celebration for SLF donors.

Brian says that his parents never pressured him to work in the family business, but they were happy when he chose to do so. He is currently the store manager for Watson Point Liquors and Cascade Convenience, with “other duties as assigned” including troubleshooting IT for Hames Corporation and performing community service. He got his first opportunity when Mike Venneberg asked Roger Hames whether one of his sons would be willing to join the SLF Board. “Dad encouraged me to say yes,” smiled Brian.

“I like being involved with an organization whose mission is Sitka,” Hames says of his service on the SLF board. It has given him an opportunity to learn about community needs and where progress is being made, and to make connections with other nonprofits and donors. He is especially interested in ensuring that Sitka remains a viable place to live for a wide range of people. He also serves on the board of Sitka Community Land Trust, and is excited about developing new affordable housing in town.

Now that he works in a company and a place where his last name does matter, Brian Hames appreciates his role in maintaining the family’s legacy. “My grandpa talked about the importance of giving back,” he says. “He thought that was part of the responsibility of being successful.”

Become a Donor



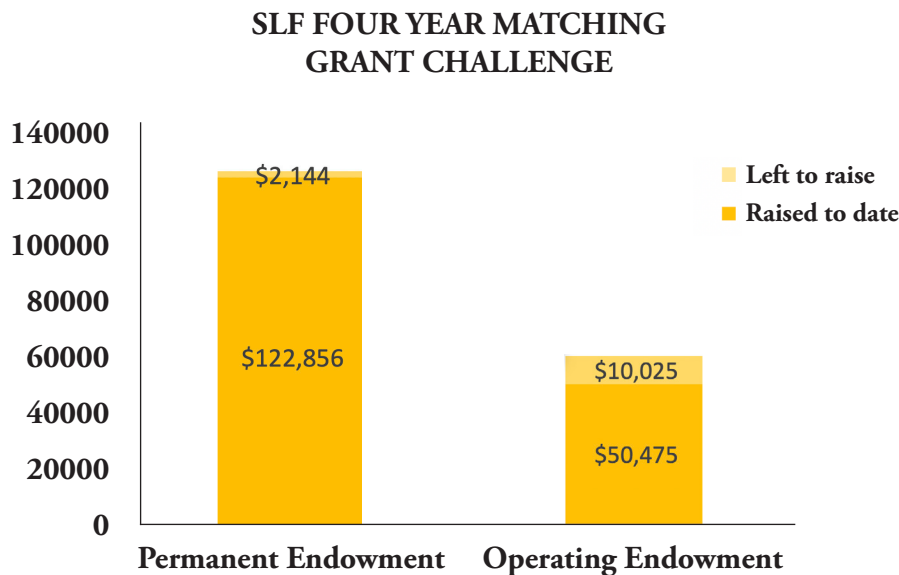
Four ways to give to Sitka Legacy Foundation:

1. Make an online gift on our secure pledge page, <https://www.sitkalegacy.org>
2. Mail a check made out to ACF – SLF to us at P.O. Box 2354, Sitka, AK 99835
3. Make a pledge through Pick.Click.Give. when you file for your Permanent Fund Dividend
4. Contact program manager Robin Sherman about gifts of stock, real estate, IRA distributions or estate gifts, rsherman@alaskacf.org

Matching Grant Challenge: Almost There!



SLF is in year three of a four-year fundraising campaign to increase our endowments. During the campaign, The Alaska Community Foundation and Rasmuson Foundation will match all contributions to the SLF permanent endowment up to \$125,000, and up to \$60,000 in gifts to an endowment that generates income for our operating expenses. As of October 31, SLF has raised \$173,331 towards the combined \$185,000 four-year goal (see chart). With continued support from generous donors, we are confident we can raise the remaining funds by the end of 2019, a full year ahead of schedule.



To give us even more of an incentive to raise funds locally, Rasmuson and ACF have announced a special challenge. If SLF can meet our initial goal of securing \$185,000 by the end of this year, Rasmuson Foundation will provide an extra \$25,000 in matching funds for two types of gifts made prior to December 31, 2020. Gifts to the SLF operating endowment will be matched on a 1:1 basis. Declared legacy gifts to our permanent endowment will be matched on a 0.05:1 basis. For more information or to discuss legacy gifts, please contact SLF program manager Robin Sherman, rsherman@alaskacf.org, or ACF Philanthropy Advisory Anne Garrett in Anchorage, agarrett@alaskacf.org.

Giving Tuesday! Help Local Charities on December 3rd



After supporting Sitka businesses on Black Friday, please join Sitka Legacy Foundation in kicking off the 2019 holiday season of giving on December 3. Galanin + Klein will host a special “Giving After Hours” in partnership with the Sitka Chamber of Commerce and Sitka Legacy Foundation. SLF donors are invited to join us for drinks and snacks from 5:00pm – 7:00pm at Galanin + Klein at 203 Lincoln Street. Please email Robin Sherman, rsherman@alaskacf.org if you plan to attend. Guests are encouraged to bring a voluntary gift by check or cash to the Salvation Army to help our neighbors in need. SLF will match these gifts up to a total of \$375.

If you are unable to join us on December 3, please consider making your annual gifts to SLF and our local nonprofits on this national day of giving.

2019 Donors through October 31

Rob Allen & Robin Sherman	Phyllis Hackett*	Northrim Bank
Catherine Allgood-Mellema*	Barbara Hames	Kerri O’Toole*
Harvey & Kathleen Brandt	Brian Hames	Cameo Padilla
Grace Brooks and Charles Morgan*	Roger & Mary Hames	Susan Padilla
Alan Brown*	Paula Hardy	Judith Reis*
Joel & Terry Brown	Dan & Karen Jones	Shawn Rivera*
Scott & Cleo Brylinsky	Mollie Kabler	Mariko Sarafin*
Jeff Budd	Diane Kaplan	Connie Sipe
Larry Calvin	Jacob Kirkness*	Sitka Community Hospital
Norman & Toby Campbell	Kim Kirkness*	Sitka Vision Clinic
Brenda Campen	Kara Knox*	Gary Smith
Dennis & Bobbie Carlson	Chris Kowalczewski*	Julia Smith*
Susan Erickson	Cindy Litman*	Colin Starrett
Esme Figueroa*	Wendy, Dave & Elliot Longtin	Pam & Scott Steffes
First Bank	Kevin McClear*	Libby Stortz*
John & Kris Fulton	Blake McHugh	Shauna Thornton
Brit & Jerrod Galanin	Lynn Murphy & Peter Shwartz	Venneberg Insurance
Karen Grussendorf	Mary Beth Nelson & Steve Paustian	Lori Whitmill*

*Made a gift through Pick.Click.Give.

Celebrating Our Success




Since SLF was founded in 2013, Sitkans have contributed more than \$236,000 to our endowments. On September 5, SLF donors celebrated five years of community impact with an evening cruise, drinks and treats at a fabulous island property in Sitka Sound. Special thanks to Allen Marine Tours, Hames Corporation and property owner Rick Fuller for making this delightful evening possible.



SLF Advisory Board member Connie Sipe and donor Norm Richards at Twin Islands


Maximizing our Charitable Resources: Sitka Funders Discuss Collective Impact

 The website TaxExemptWorld lists 152 nonprofit organizations in Sitka. Guidestar, another nonprofit information website, lists 64 local nonprofits. The actual number of active local charities is likely between those two estimates; though neither list includes regional and statewide organizations with a presence in our community. With at least six dozen nonprofits looking for additional resources to provide services in Sitka in the context of less funding from the city and state, foundations and donors face increasingly hard choices between worthy causes. Sitka Legacy Foundation recently convened more than a dozen local, regional and statewide funders to discuss increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of grantmaking at the local level. Local funders present at the event included Allen Marine, Hames Corporation, the Sitka Permanent Charitable Trust, Rotary, the White Elephant and White's Pharmacy. Representatives from Alaska Children's Trust, First Bank, GCI, Rasmuson Foundation, The Alaska Community Foundation and United Way of Southeast Alaska traveled to Sitka for the event. SEARHC sent a representative and provided the services of Community Health Educator Doug Osbourne, who facilitated the meeting.



Attendees shared information on their grantmaking and discussed strategies to enhance collaboration. As an outcome of the discussion, SLF will work to compile a resource guide on local, regional and state funding for nonprofits, including a calendar of grant opportunities. Grantmakers also agreed to encourage collaboration among nonprofits seeking funding, and will consider special funding for collective impact projects.

Grant Spotlight: ORCA Goes Fishing

 Fishing is one of the great joys of living in Sitka. Salmon are an important source of nutrition, and hooking and landing a fish on a rod and reel also feeds the soul. Southeast Alaska Independent Living is committed to ensuring that all residents of our community have the opportunity to go fishing. In 2018, SAIL received a grant from SLF to purchase rods, lures, swivels, a tackle box, a bucket and a fillet knife for use in their Outdoor Recreation and Community Access (ORCA) program.

SAIL's Sitka program manager Rick Peterson reports that 13 seniors and 8 local residents with disabilities took advantage of the organization's community access fishing program in 2019. Participants learned how to cast spinning rods and retrieve lures, how to fight and land fish from shore and how to fillet their catches. Participants went home with pinks, chums and one king salmon for dinner and the freezer.

The fishing program was popular with SAIL's clients who experience cognitive impairments. Peterson reports, "Nick chose to use a push button reel and a lure with no hooks. He understood that he couldn't catch any fish without hooks, but he liked the color of his chosen lure, and he was happy as a clam just casting and reeling. Peter, on the other hand, wanted to catch fish. He used a spinning reel with a good salmon lure, and he got assistance with casting. He caught a large sculpin and put it in a bucket for everyone to see. When Nick saw Peter's catch, he wanted to use a spinning reel and lure with hooks, too. Nick also hooked into a sculpin. He watched it on his line for a long time before it fell off. It was a day full of smiles!"



Peter shows off his catch



Help Us Save Paper!

Sitka Legacy Foundation likes to communicate electronically whenever possible. Please let us know if you'd like to receive our newsletter and other communications by email in the future. You can reach us at sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org.