



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Grants Double in 2020

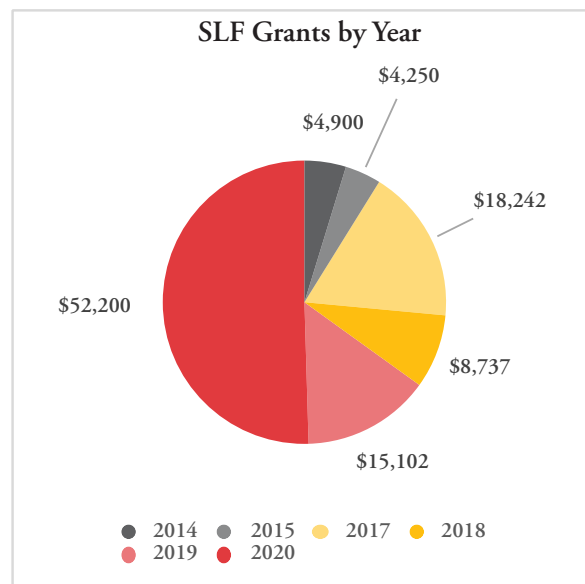


Sitka Legacy Foundation was established in 2013. Over our first five years of grantmaking, the generosity of our donors made it possible to award \$51,230 in funding to local organizations. In 2020, we were able to award 20 grants totaling \$52,200, including 11 grants announced in November. Grants this year represent more than double the value of our awards between 2014 and 2019.

New grants announced in November include:

- \$4,000 to Sitka Conservation Society for Sitka Mutual Aid grocery assistance
- \$3,000 to Mt. Edgecumbe Preschool for pandemic-related costs and operating expenses
- \$3,000 to Betty Eliason Preschool for toddler room improvements
- \$3,000 to Salvation Army for nutritional security
- \$2,500 to Alaska Arts Southeast for Sweetland Hall capital improvements
- \$2,000 to Sitka Babies and Books for “grab ‘n go” bags
- \$2,000 to Sitka Local Foods Network for St. Peter’s Fellowship Farm improvements
- \$2,000 to Catholic Community Service for Swan Lake Senior Center services
- \$1,500 to Greater Sitka Arts Council for operating expenses
- \$1,500 to Artchange, Inc. for Our Alaskan Stories: COVID-19 edition
- \$1,500 to Sitkans Against Family Violence for support during the holiday season

Thank you to all of the generous donors who have given to our endowments. Collectively invested, your gifts have grown, generating more funds to re-invest in our community. Your contributions have also leveraged matching gifts from The Alaska Community Foundation and Rasmuson Foundation, some of which we have used for grantmaking this year. Finally, thanks to our partners at First Bank, which provided \$5,000 in matching funds for this year’s grants. Together, we are helping Sitkans through the pandemic.

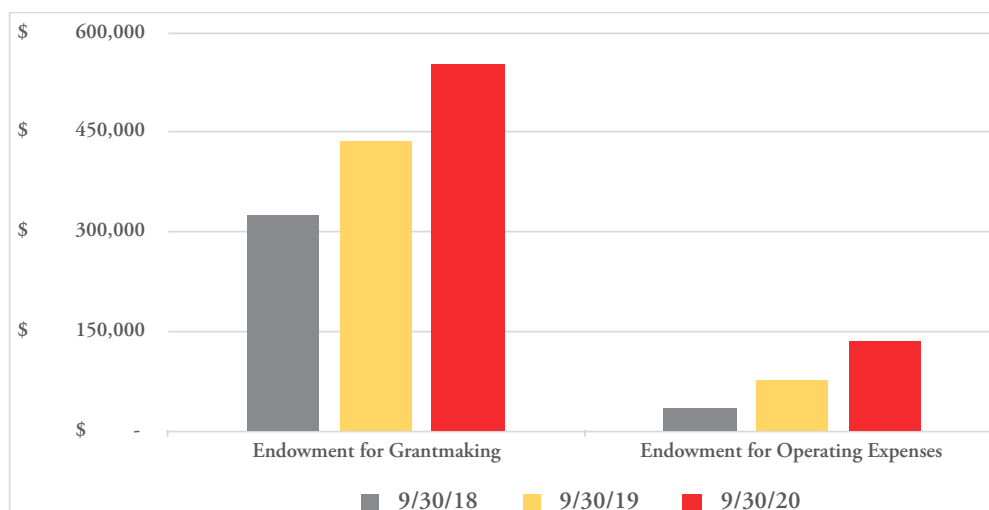


# Endowment Growth Update



Pandemic notwithstanding, donors continue to give to our permanent and operating endowments in 2020. As of December 1st, we have received \$50,183 in endowment gifts from individuals and businesses this year. As a result of contributions made in 2019, we also received \$80,000 in matching contribution from Rasmuson Foundation in 2020.

Rasmuson Foundation will continue to match all gifts to our endowment for operating expenses in 2020 – this is the fund we are building to support our administrative costs in the long term. There is also a special matching incentive for declared legacy gifts to our grantmaking endowment through December 31 of this year – please contact program manager Robin Sherman for more information.



## Have you considered making a legacy gift that will benefit our community in perpetuity?



### Planned gifts can be made by:

- A bequest to Sitka Legacy Foundation in your will or trust. You can identify a specific amount to be donated, or designate a percentage of your assets after bequests are made to your heirs.
- Designating Sitka Legacy Foundation as a beneficiary of your retirement account(s) or life insurance policy.
- Donating a paid-up life insurance policy.

### Bequests can be made to:

The Alaska Community Foundation/Sitka Legacy Foundation  
EIN #92-0155067, a tax-exempt organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3)

For more information, contact our program manager, Robin Sherman, [rsherman@alaskacf.org](mailto:rsherman@alaskacf.org), or a member of our team at The Alaska Community Foundation.

# Sitka Legacy Foundation Leverages City CARES Act Funds for Nonprofits



The City and Borough of Sitka received \$14 million in federal CARES Act funding for pandemic response, relief, and recovery. SLF has been working with the City to use some of that funding for nonprofit support and services since May.

Over the summer, the City offered grants of up to \$10,000 to local for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations; grant sizes were based on 2018 or 2019 revenue. Forty-seven nonprofits received a total of \$280,000 in this round of grants, accounting for a little less than 10 percent of funds disbursed.

In October, the City offered another round of business and nonprofit grants. Based on recommendations from SLF, the City established separate criteria and a different process for the new nonprofit funding. These nonprofit grants will be based on the importance of services that organizations provide to the community, their economic impact, their record of performance and their need for funds. The City anticipates allocating approximately \$400,000 to nonprofits through this process. It received applications from 19 organizations totaling \$482,000. A committee of Sitka Legacy Foundation Advisory Board members reviewed these applications in November and made recommendations to the Assembly on funding. Assembly decisions are anticipated in December.

In addition to these grants that provide broad support to Sitka nonprofits, the City also allocated funding for new pandemic response and relief services, including food and housing assistance, a jobs program and mental health support. SLF worked with local nonprofits and Sitka Tribe of Alaska to help structure these programs to provide maximum benefits to Sitka residents.

*In its application for City CARES Act funds, Brave Heart Volunteers wrote, “with a 47% loss of revenue, our future is at risk. We want to continue serving Sitkans to build a stronger, healthier community. Lockdowns and quarantines have left our world with a new epidemic of widespread loneliness, hopelessness and sorrow... Our work as a heart-based organization helps alleviate or eliminate the suffering of others and these CARES Act funds will help us persist in our mission beyond the pandemic, when people need us more than ever.”*

# Grant Spotlight: Health Summit, Chamber Team Up to Keep Sitkans Safe



The pandemic has been especially challenging for teens, who need social interaction with friends even more than younger children or adults. In May, Sitka Legacy Foundation approved a grant of \$4,000 to Youth Advocates of Sitka to support healthy summer activities for Sitka teens. The Alaska Community Foundation matched our grant with funds from AK Can Do, a statewide pandemic relief effort. YAS also received funding from The Crossett Foundation.

Over the summer, YAS provided daily programming for youth with grant funds. Activities included outdoor sports, hiking, berry picking and art projects. The highlight was a two-night camping trip to Fred's Creek Cabin on Kruzof Island. Ten youth learned shelter building skills, wilderness safety, and engaged with their peers in an adventurous and safe outdoor experience. Executive Director Charlie Woodcock writes, "YAS recognized the strain that COVID -19 has placed on many of our youths' social relationships and opportunities for connection. The Sitka Legacy Foundation allowed us to foster opportunities for growth, expression and connection, in a time that is uncertain for many of our youth."



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– CHARLIE WOODCOCK



## Thank You Note from Port Alexander



In May, Sitka Legacy Foundation approved its first grant for a project in Port Alexander. The funds were given to the City to address basic needs. PA residents Sarah Cordova and Molly Kimzey write:

“Thank you for the funds from the Sitka Legacy Foundation. With the \$1,000 grant we focused on the youth in our community. We were able to get each child or family a subscription to a 3-month crate that focuses on their interests. With the lack of school for the last 3 months of the year, summer camp cancelled and socially distancing this has been a hard summer for kids. We have 13 kids from three to 16 years old, and with their subscriptions some are learning about different countries with a new box/country each month that has info/craft and meals, new craft skills like wood burning and basket weaving for a couple of the older ones, a survival box with how to survive info/activities/stuff, and for the young ones they are doing the Kiwi crate summer camp for kindergarten that teaches skills and have fun activities that are self-contained. Thank you for the opportunity to do this for the youth in our community. They are all looking forward to mail each week now and the activities are great for this rainy summer we are having.”



Sitka Legacy Foundation thanks Rasmuson Foundation for their ongoing financial support of our Affiliate, and for their grants to local nonprofits that sustain our community. Your generosity inspires us and enables our work. Gunalchéesh!



# End of Life Planning: It's Easier Than You Think



Several recent studies have reported that fewer than half of Americans have a will. Only a third have advance medical directives, also known as “living wills.” When a person dies without a will, state law determines the fate of their assets. In the absence of advance medical directives at the end of life, gravely ill individuals may receive unneeded and unwanted care. Even worse, family members may disagree about the amount and type of care that should be provided, making a challenging time harder for everyone.



As a service to Sitka residents during the pandemic, Sitka Legacy Foundation recently offered a free workshop on end-of-life planning with local attorney Brita Speck. The online presentation provided an overview of key concepts, legal principles, and documents, and provided guidance on how to get started on an end-of-life plan.

Participant Toby Campbell wrote, “It was very helpful to hear all of the important bits of information articulated so beautifully...also that it’s not an intimidating process. It was very straightforward, and a great incentive for us to get started!”

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– TOBY CAMPBELL

## 2020 Donors

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Kris Wilcox\*

\*Made a gift through Pick.Click.Give.

### Become a Donor

Four ways to give to Sitka Legacy Foundation:

1. Make an online gift on our secure pledge page, [sitkalegacy.org](http://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](mailto:rsherman@alaskacf.org)

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[sitkalegacy.org](http://sitkalegacy.org)



**Sitka Legacy Foundation**  
*An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation*



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

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## About Us



Sitka Legacy Foundation is building permanent endowments for Sitka and communities on Baranof Island. We are one of 11 local 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. Our permanent endowment funds are professionally invested to provide a reliable source of funding for the future, while generating income to benefit Sitka in the present.

## Thank You



Sitka Legacy Foundation's permanent endowment has grown to more than \$535,000. Like the Alaska Permanent Fund, the principal of our endowment is not spent, but managed to provide yearly income that comes back to the community through grants to local causes. Your donation to SLF will generate long-term benefits for Sitka far into the future.