



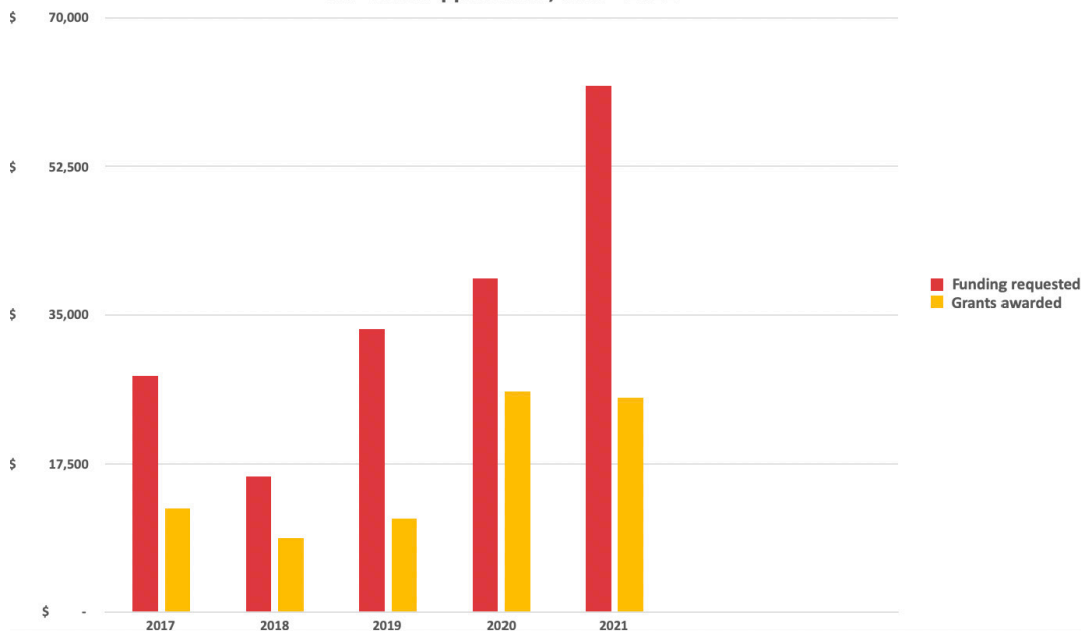
# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## 2021 Grant Awards: Community Need Increases Due to Pandemic



Every year, Sitka Legacy Foundation solicits grant applications from nonprofit and faith-based organizations, local government and tribal entities for work that benefits residents of Sitka. In 2021, applications increased by 57 percent. This reflects a statewide trend: community needs have grown due to the pandemic and organizations have found it more difficult to raise funds.

SLF Grant Applications, 2017 - 2021



SLF received 22 applications for a total of nearly \$62,000 in grant requests in 2021. The Foundation awarded \$25,300 in funding to 17 organizations.

# SLF Grant Awards: October 2021



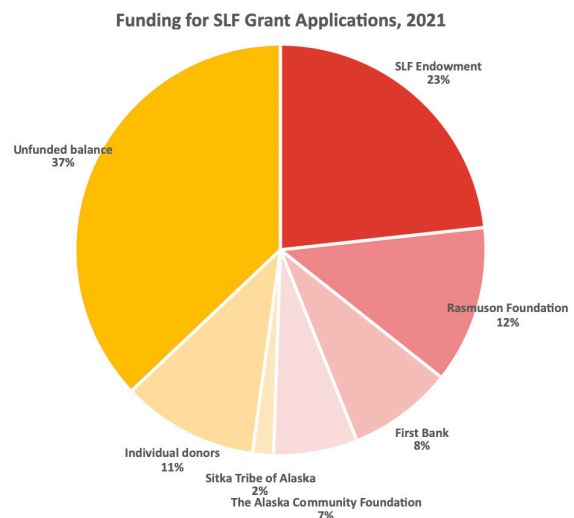
We love to talk about the projects we fund. We wish we had the resources to do more. In 2021, our endowment generated \$14,075 in income and growth for grantmaking. That represents progress, but it still falls far short of meeting the needs of our community.

Sitka Homeless Coalition	Preliminary survey of land for community cabin project	\$ 2,300
Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust	Fish donation program	\$ 2,000
Brave Heart Volunteers	General operating support	\$ 2,000
Catholic Community Service	Support for Swan Lake Senoir Center	\$ 2,000
Outer Coast	"Service Pillar" Program	\$ 2,000
Sitka Babies and Books	Grab N'Go Bags	\$ 2,000
Sitkans Against Family Violence	General operating support	\$ 2,000
The Salvation Army	Nutritional security	\$ 2,000
Sitka Sound Science Center	Event tent	\$ 1,500
Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)	General operating support	\$ 1,500
Alaska Arts Southeast, Inc.	Sitka Fine Arts Camp Financial Aid for Sitka Students	\$ 1,000
Raven Radio Foundation KCAW	Sitka's Silver Linings: A Community Listening Project	\$ 1,000
Sitka Local Foods Network	Farmers Market support	\$ 1,000
Sitka Maritime Heritage Society	Accessibility for Japonski Island Boathouse	\$ 1,000
Sitka Trail Works	Sitka Youth Outdoors Program	\$ 1,000
Artchange, Inc.	Untold Stories; Sitka Tells Tales	\$ 500
Sitka Conservation Society	Salty Spoke Bike Coop	\$ 500
Total grants		\$ 25,300

## 2021 Grants and Funding Sources

As we seek your help in building our endowment, we are also working to find other sources of funding to meet immediate community needs. When possible, we direct grant applicants to other funders. We are also grateful to Rasmuson Foundation, First Bank, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, and several individual donors for supporting needs that exceeded funds available from our endowment this year.

Be on the lookout for our news about great projects in search of champions. In addition to giving to our endowment, we hope you'll consider supporting some of the work we were unable to fully fund in 2021.



# Endowment Growth Update

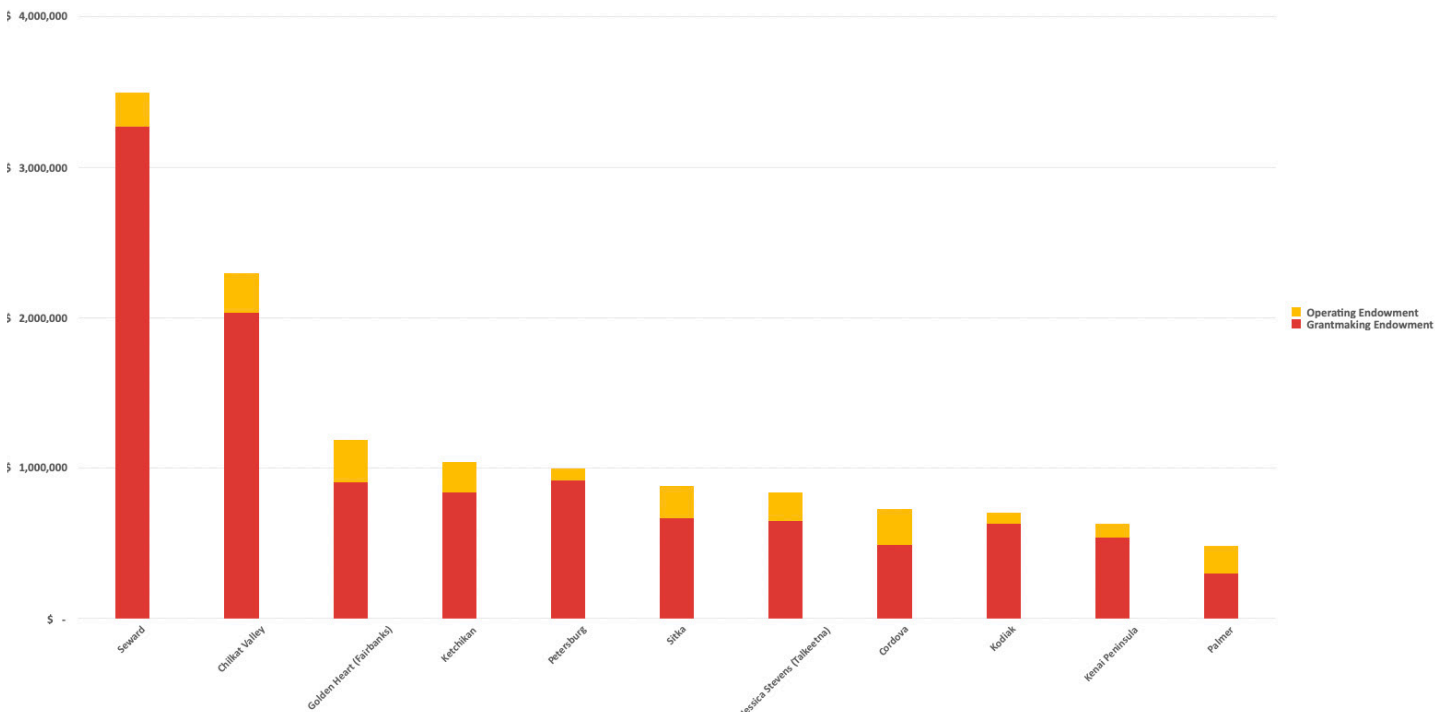


Sitka Legacy Foundation has two endowments: the Sitka Legacy Fund for grantmaking, and an endowment that supports our long-term operational needs. As of September 30, Sitka Legacy Fund had a value of \$662,156, representing growth of 11.3 percent in 2021. Our operating endowment value was \$211,931, representing growth of 25 percent this year.<sup>1</sup>

Endowment growth is generated by contributions from individuals and businesses, matching contributions from Rasmuson Foundation, and an increase in the value of the funds, which are professionally invested by The Alaska Community Foundation (ACF).

Sitka Legacy Foundation is one of 11 local Affiliates of ACF. The chart below shows the value of all Affiliate endowments as of August 2021. Endowment values for the community foundations in Seward and Chilkat Valley reflect significant legacy gifts from local residents. As a result of these gifts, Seward Community Foundation recently reached a milestone of awarding more than \$1 million in local grants since its establishment in 2008.

For information on how to make a legacy gift to benefit Sitka in perpetuity, please contact us at [sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org](mailto:sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org), or Elizabeth Miller at The Alaska Community Foundation, [emiller@alaskacf.org](mailto:emiller@alaskacf.org).



<sup>1</sup> Growth includes \$25,000 in matching contributions from Rasmuson Foundation in 2020

## Grant Spotlight: Sitka Babies & Books



Sitka Babies and Books encourages Sitka children to become lifelong readers through parent-child programming. This all-volunteer organization provides books, activities, and parent education and support during the first three years of a child's life.

Babies and Books programs are usually offered in-person at Sitka Public Library. The pandemic required wholesale reimagination of their offerings. In 2020, Sitka Legacy Foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant for "Grab-and-Go" bags with books and craft materials to support activities related to the books. Six different free bags were provided to families over the course of the year. The program was so successful that SLF renewed the grant in 2021.

Sitka parent Rebecca Peterman has been participating in Babies and Books since her son was an infant. She explains that the Grab-and-Go bags allowed her child to stay connected to other kids with books during the 2020 lockdowns. "My family initiated several video-conference calls with friends. The kids shared what they made with their kits and talked about the theme.

*"My family initiated several video-conference calls with friends. The kids shared what they made with their kits and talked about the theme. Without a single child entering the library, Babies and Books still succeeded at bringing families together and promoting literacy."*

— REBECCA PETERMAN

Without a single child entering the library, Babies and Books still succeeded at bringing families together and promoting literacy." She adds that her son, now six, checks out 20 library books every two weeks because he learned to love reading through the program. For more information on the program, email [sitkababiesandbooks@gmail.com](mailto:sitkababiesandbooks@gmail.com).

## So Many Ways to Give!

Your gift is a permanent investment in our community. Four ways to donate:

- Make a one-time or recurring gift on our secure pledge page, [sitkalegacy.org/donate](https://sitkalegacy.org/donate)
- Mail a check made out to ACF – SLF to us at PO Box 2354, Sitka, AK 99835
- Make a pledge through Pick.Click.Give. when you file for your PFD
- Contact us or ACF about making gifts of stock, real estate, IRA distributions or planned gifts, [sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org](mailto:sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org) or [emiller@alaskacf.org](mailto:emiller@alaskacf.org)

Donors are welcome to make anonymous gifts on our website or by contacting ACF. Sitka Legacy Foundation does not receive information about the identity of donors who request anonymity. We appreciate your generosity even if we are unable to thank you personally!

## Donor Profile: Bob & Kim Hunter



Bob Hunter first came to Sitka as a medical student in 1976. “I was here in January,” he recalls. “It was cold and dark and rainy, and I loved it.” He returned with his wife Kim in 1980, and has been practicing medicine in town for more than 40 years.

Both Hunters grew up with family traditions of giving. Kim grew up in a single-parent household with three sisters. “We didn’t have much,” she recalls, “but we knew we were better off than a lot of people.” Her family supported a child overseas through the Christian Giving Fund, and was involved in Girl Scouts. Bob’s parents were medical professionals who strongly supported their local library.

The Hunters support many charitable causes in town. When their first child was born, they donated books to the Sitka library in his name. Kim has been active in the Lutheran Church for decades, and has been a Brave Heart Volunteer since 2013. She worked as a nurse at Fine Arts Camp one summer and has supported Alaska Arts Southeast financially and as a board member. The couple are longtime Raven Radio members and volunteers, and they donated to help build the Community Playground.

The Hunters give to Sitka Legacy Foundation in addition to all of the other local organizations and projects they support. “We give as much as we can to our favorite charities,” says Bob, “but our contributions are not a game changer. “Combining our gifts with those from other people through the Foundation really makes a difference.” They appreciate matching contributions from Rasmuson Foundation, which make their gifts go farther. They also like SLF’s local Advisory Board. “It’s great to have a lot of different people with their own loves in the community supporting things that we may not necessarily think of,” Bob observes. Finally, he continues, “When we give to other organizations, they need the money and they spend it. Our donations to the Legacy Foundation stay there and build – after we are gone, our money can keep giving to the community that we feel so strongly about because it has been so good to our family.”





## Board member Profile: Jenilyn Lo



Advisory Board member Jenilyn Lo moved to Sitka in 2018 to join the team of SEARHC medical providers.

Jenilyn is a nurse anesthetist who maintains privileges at Harborview Hospital in Seattle. This connection gave her a unique perspective at the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. With a firsthand view of how quickly the virus was spreading in Seattle, Jenilyn played a leading role in developing policies at SEARHC to prevent and contain infections in Sitka.



Jenilyn and her husband, also a SEARHC provider, have a daughter who was born at Mount Edgecumbe hospital in 2019. Their family of three enjoys biking, hiking and boating in Sitka. As the parent of a young child, Jenilyn is especially aware of the shortage of childcare in Sitka. Her primary goal in working with the Legacy Foundation is to help make Sitka more affordable for all generations, from her own toddler to the children, adults and elders that she sees as a community health care provider.

## Give us your thoughts...on giving!



Sitka Legacy Foundation and Sitka Public Library are sparking a community conversation about giving this holiday season. We asked Sitka residents to send us small works of art – poetry, prose, spoken word, video & other visual media – that express their family, cultural and faith-based giving traditions. We are working with Sitka Public Library to share our community's diverse giving traditions this holiday season. Keep an eye out for giving stories on our Facebook page and website, in local media and at Sitka Public Library in December. Father Ishmael Andrew, the Orthodox Priest at St. Michael's Cathedral in Sitka, writes:

*In the Yup'ik culture, we have a tradition to give especially first harvested subsistence food of the season usually to an elder, widowed, or a family that is unable to hunt due to other traditional reasons, for example, if a close family member passed away, the family usually doesn't do any subsistence activity for a certain period of time. I remember bringing the first seal I caught to an elder. I also remember hunting for geese and when I brought home my catch, my parents told me to bring them to a widowed woman. These are just few examples of shared and harvested subsistence food experiences I can recall growing up. These beautiful traditions are still going strong in the Yup'ik communities in the Yukon Kuskokwim area.*

## 2021 Donors

Dave & Lauren Allen  
Catherina Allgood-Mellema\*  
Monique Anderson\*  
Anonymous\*  
Patricia Atkinson  
Charles Bingham\*  
Harvey & Kathleen Brandt  
Grace Brooks & Charles Morgan  
Alan Brown\*  
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Janet Clarke\*  
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Connie Sipe  
Julia Smith\*  
Pam & Scott Steffes  
Andrew Thoms  
USI Insurance NW  
Mike and Tonya Venneberg  
Lori Whitmill\*

## Become a Donor

Four ways to give to Sitka Legacy Foundation:

1. Make an online gift on our secure pledge page, [sitkalegacy.org](https://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 Elizabeth Miller about gifts of stock, real estate, IRA distributions or estate gifts, [emiller@alaskacf.org](mailto:emiller@alaskacf.org)

## Year-End Gifts



For every donation made to either one of our endowment funds in 2021, Rasmuson Foundation will match the gift with a contribution to our operating endowment, up to \$30,000. They will even match five percent of the current value of planned gifts!

Our combined endowments are getting close to the million-dollar mark! With your generous gifts, we hope to achieve that milestone in 2022.

Sitka Legacy Foundation  
PO Box 2354  
Sitka AK 99835

Phone: 1-855-336-6701  
Email: [sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org](mailto:sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org)  
[sitkalegacy.org](http://sitkalegacy.org)



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



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## Advisory Board

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Mollie Kabler  
Jenilyn Lo  
Chris Kowalczewski  
Christine McGraw  
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Shauna Thornton  
Mike Venneberg

## 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.

## Land Acknowledgement



Sitka Legacy Foundation respectfully acknowledges the traditional first people of Sheet' Ká, who have lived on Tlingit Aaní from time immemorial.

