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Betty Eliason Childcare Center gets first Alaska grant from Freeman Foundation

In 2024, The Alaska Community Foundation received an inquiry from the New York-based Freeman Foundation about funding early childhood education in small, rural, and Indigenous communities in Alaska. The Foundation proposed starting with small grants totaling \$50,000, and asked ACF for guidance on recipients. ACF staff recommended three organizations that received grants from its local Affiliates in 2023, including Betty Eliason Childcare Center.

BECC received \$15,000 to fund books, toys, equipment and supplies for all three of its classrooms, including cribs, strollers, and bikes, kitchen items and snacks, upgrading learning environments for children from 30 families in Sitka.

The Freeman Foundation grant to BECC is a great example of how the Affiliate program leverages philanthropic resources that small Alaska communities might not be able to access independently.



Local matchmakers build community

Sitka Legacy Foundation is partnering with local businesses to encourage community giving. Participating business owners pledge to match gifts to our main endowment per quarter. If the match is met, the business chooses a local nonprofit to receive a \$500 grant from SLF.

Thanks to Sitka Work & Rugged Gear for pioneering this program and contributing \$1,500 to match gifts made between October and December 2024. Owners Jessica and Joe Ieremia chose Sitka Golf Association to receive a \$500 grant. "Becoming a Local Matchmaker puts Sitka Work & Rugged Gear in a unique position, one that supports all of Sitka's local non-profits," says SLF Advisory Board member Jessica Ieremia. "We believe a strong community is one where everyone works together for the common good. And as a local matchmaker, we can help make that happen."

Harry Race and White's pharmacies are now matching up to \$1,500 in gifts through June 30.

Want to sign your business up to be our next matchmaker? Contact us, sitkalegacy@alaskacf.org.

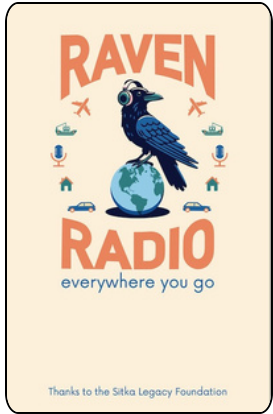


2024 grants

Sitka Legacy Foundation awarded a total of \$26,500 in grants to nine local organizations in 2024, bringing total awards to \$232,678 since 2014.

3 to 5 Preschool	\$5,000
Alaska Native Brotherhood Sitka Camp 1	\$1,000
Artchange, Inc.	\$1,500
Catholic Community Service	\$3,000
Mt Edgecumbe Preschool Inc	\$5,000
Raven Radio KCAW (CoastAlaska)	\$3,000
Sitka Conservation Society	\$1,000
Sitka Homeless Coalition	\$5,000
Sitka Recreation Foundation	\$2,000
Total	\$26,500

The 2024 grant to Coast Alaska for KCAW funded a new mobile app for Raven Radio. Local and far-away fans of the station can now listen to local news, morning interviews, music programs and favorites such as The Library Show, Sitka Sports, and Gunalchéesh! The app is also a convenient way to donate to Raven Radio. Download the app from your favorite source to start listening.





SLF is ready to help Sitka in emergencies

When a local disaster like the 2015 Sitka landslide happens, everyone wants to help, right? But what's the best way to do it? Now Sitka Legacy Foundation has a tool to get donations to where they are needed, fast.

Our new Emergency Response Fund for Sitka at The Alaska Community Foundation has been established, and will accept donations in the event of a local disaster. These funds will be distributed to nonprofits and Tribal entities that are prepared to respond. In some cases, recipients will use the funds to maintain their services, such as setting up alternative internet connectivity in the case of an outage. Grantees can also use the disaster fund to provide direct assistance to households, such as food or shelter. The fund is intended to quickly solicit donations and put them to work immediately, not to replace gifts to individual community organizations.

SLF will be contacting nonprofits about the new fund. We hope we don't need to activate it, but if disaster strikes, we will partner with the community to help.

Photo credit: Ben Mirus, USGS



Welcome to Jennifer MacDonald

Sitka Legacy Foundation is pleased to welcome Jennifer Mac Donald as our new part-time program manager. Jen has worked in various roles for the USDA Forest Service from 2005 to present (15 years in Sitka with the Tongass National Forest). Jen is excited to be supporting the Sitka community in this new role and can be reached at jmacdonald@alaskacf.org.

2024 Gifts to Sitka Legacy Foundation

We received \$74,800 in contributions from 53 donors in 2024, plus \$32,500 in matching contributions from The Alaska Community Foundation in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation. The median gift was \$300.

Gunalchéesh to all of our 2024 donors: The Alaska Community Foundation, David & Lauren Allen, Rob Allen & Robin Sherman, Catherine Allgood-Mellema, Anonymous (3), Arrowhead Transfer, Inc., Patricia Atkinson, Harvey & Kathleen Brandt, Grace Brooks, Guy & Amy Brooks, Alan Brown, Susan Brown, Jeff Budd, Megan Cacciola, Carmen Davis, Valerie & Brent Edwards, First Bank, Fisherman's Quay LLC, Susan Fleming, The Freeman Foundation, Myron Fribush, Robert Gorman, Sandra Hanson, Paulla Hardy, Rebecca Himschoot, Dan Jones, Kim Kirkness, Kara Knox, Christine Kowalczewski, Aaron Kusano, Law Office of Brandon C. Marx, Michael Lehenbauer, Susan Litman, Theresa Mackey, Kevin McClear, Rich & Suzy McClear, Blake McHugh, James Mellema, Barbara & Stephen Morse, Lowell Thomas Murphy, Dean & Dorothy Orbison, Cameo Padilla, Rasmuson Foundation, Judith Reis, Connie Sipe, Sitka Rotary Club, Julia Smith, Pam Steffes, Libby Stortz, Kelly Sweeney, Mike & Tonya Venneberg, John & Karen Weitkamp, and Whites, Inc.

If we missed you on this list in error, please accept our apologies and let us know!

2024 Fund Balances

As of December 31, 2024, the value of the Sitka Legacy Fund (grantmaking endowment) was \$796,744. Our operating endowment, which funds administrative expenses, was valued at \$387,304. Our funds are professionally managed by The Alaska Community Foundation.

Thank you, Northrim Bank!

Thank you to Northrim Bank for a generous \$5,000 contribution to be used for grants to Sitka nonprofits. These funds will be included in our regular grant cycle later in the year.

Give to your community

Gifts to our endowments benefit Sitka in perpetuity. In 2025, Rasmuson Foundation and ACF will match up to \$20,000 of gifts to the Sitka Legacy Foundation endowments, as long as at least \$10,000 is contributed to our Operating Endowment. Donate today by check or online, or contact us or our team at The Alaska Community Foundation about including a gift to Sitka Legacy Foundation in your estate plan. Use our QR code, click on the button below, or write a check to The Alaska Community Foundation and mail to Sitka Legacy Foundation, P.O. Box 2354, Sitka, AK, 99835, and write "SLF" in the memo line.



Give Now



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