

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Chilkat Valley Community Foundation, an *Affiliate* of ACF  Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter.

Summer 2021

Emergency Response Fund Update

Your gift to the Chilkat Valley Community Foundation (CVCF) Emergency Response Fund (ERF) is helping individuals and families impacted by the December 2020 weather disaster that so deeply affected the Chilkat Valley. More than 400 donors like you from across the globe have given \$140,000. Some gave because of a direct connection to Haines through families or travel, while others gave because of longtime friendships with someone who lives here, because they read local author Heather Lende's blog, or simply because they were moved by the stories of this devastating disaster. Whatever your reason, **we can't thank you enough!**



Woody Slate with his new chainsaw

ERF gifts have already helped meet basic housing, access, debris removal, and structure stabilization needs; have replaced destroyed furniture and equipment; and have helped meet other essential needs. But efforts to repair disaster-related damage will be a long term project. Currently, area-wide, 23 households are still in temporary housing situations six months after the disaster, at least 28 housing units are unavailable for adequate occupancy, and 9 -10 housing units are fully destroyed. There are numerous cases of erosion, flood damage and debris accumulation. And, as the spring melt continues, additional devastation continues to be exposed and new needs are emerging.

To assist those in need, the CVCF Advisory Board has awarded \$68,000 of ERF dollars to Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), a local nonprofit. SAIL hired Amy Mae as a Case Manager to help handle disaster-related long term recovery efforts. Mae understands firsthand the challenges faced by the many individuals displaced by the disaster: she and her husband had to abandon their Beach Road home on December 2 and are still displaced because of the ongoing lack of access. The couple has relocated five times since the slide, and for months lived with donated or borrowed clothes, linens and kitchen items. They recently received an ERF grant to purchase a mattress and bed frame, which Mae says "has been such a gift. To have a bed of one's own, to drift off at night feeling comforted and supported, and to wake up rested are feelings that I am grateful for."

One of the other grantees is Woody Slate. He and his wife Colleen moved to Haines in 2019 to fulfill a lifelong dream of living in Alaska. Woody reports that on the day of the slide, they "packed a single bag in about two minutes, called our children to tell them what had happened, and headed off down the cliff to the water and (rescue) boats. Colleen asked if there was anything I couldn't live without, that I needed to take, and I told her 'Just my life.'" About three-quarters of their property is now covered with rock and mud debris and fallen trees. Their grant was used to purchase a chainsaw to clear the downed trees.

Another grantee is Vanessa Wishstar. She and her husband Steve and two small children have had to abandon their Beach Road residence and home office. Vanessa says, "The slide shook our entire world - electrical wires flinging like rubber bands, trees crashing, the earth felt like it was falling apart everywhere and the sound that ripped through our psyche was crushing. Months later while trying to get my life back on track I got notified that I was eligible for the SAIL/CVCF grant for assistance for my business to operate again. It has been my joy to share how this little office birthed itself from the monetary support (of ERF donors)."

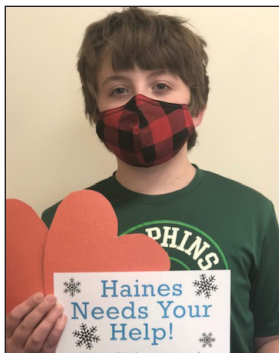
The Haines Long Term Recovery Group was formed in December to coordinate recovery services related to the disaster. This group consists of volunteers from the main sources of funds for recovery: CVCF, SAIL, Haines Salvation Army, and Chilkoot Indian Association (CIA), as well as the local Ministerial Association and representatives from state and federal disaster-assistance agencies. A grant of \$6,000 was made from the Emergency Response Fund to CIA to help fund a critical Long Term Recovery Group Coordinator to help organize the activities of these volunteers. This grant matched funds that CIA contributed towards the position.

CVCF Advisory Board members are working to assure that ERF monies are available for serving needs that other agencies can't provide, and to help as new needs emerge. To quote from Lende's January 8, 2021 blog, "The CVCF fund won't turn back time, but it will help us pick up some of the pieces, and take care of those people, places, and organizations needing assistance." Thank you for helping us pick up those pieces!



Chilkat Valley Community Foundation

An Affiliate of The Alaska Community Foundation



Hearts for Haines

Former Haines resident and fifth grader Winter Cheney had only recently moved to his new home of Cornwall, Connecticut when he learned of the December 2020 storm disaster in Haines. Winter thought of all his friends back in Alaska and knew he needed to help.

With the aid of his school counselor, Winter and his classmates launched the “Hearts for Haines” fundraiser. The fifth graders cut out paper hearts, which donors then sponsored with a gift to the ERF. The hearts were all displayed in the school’s gathering room. Many students sacrificed their recess time to write on the hearts and add to the display. Winter said, “The hearts represent love for those in need and showing your desire to help.”

The class had set a goal of \$500 for the fundraiser, and then soared way past that amount, eventually sending more than **\$2,900** to the CVCF Emergency Response Fund. Such an inspiring act of kindness, from a group of fifth graders and their community nearly 4,000 miles away!

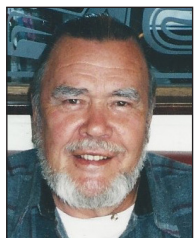
Pour the Love

The Juneau brewing community raised **\$18,000** for the CVCF Fund this winter, which was matched dollar for dollar thanks to The Alaska Community Foundation and Rasmuson Foundation. WOW, that’s **\$36,000** raised! Following December’s devastating weather event, four breweries—Alaskan Brewing, Barnaby Brewing, Devil’s Club Brewing and Forbidden Peak Brewery—coordinated their “Pour The Love: Juneau Breweries for Haines” fundraiser. For this month-long event they created a beer passport, which included one specialty beer from each brewery. After visiting the four breweries and filling the passport, customers could turn it in and receive a “Pour the Love” t-shirt designed by Haines-raised artists Celia Bower and Tulsi Zahnow. Out-of-towners could also support the event by purchasing t-shirts online.

Andy Kline from Alaskan Brewing explained the brewers’ sentiments, “We in the brewing community feel like there is a special bond because Haines hosts the Great Alaska Craft Beer and Home Brew Festival.” Skye Stekol of Forbidden Peak Brewery said, “We want the whole community to turn out for this, so we are looking forward to pouring a lot of beer for Haines.” Haines Brewing wanted to be involved too, and sent kegs of beer to The Hangar and The Island Pub for the event.

We tip our mugs to the breweries and to everyone who participated. THANK YOU, and “Hop Hop Hooray!”

Congratulations to our 2021 Art Jess Scholarship Recipients



The Art Jess Scholarship is for Alaska Native, American Indian, or Hawaiian Native students residing in Alaska, with preference given to Chilkat Valley residents and to students already in post-secondary studies. This Native scholarship is the only fund CVCF has that may be granted outside our community. We proudly announce the five recipients for 2021.

Ashley Williamson, from Klukwan, is a junior at Fort Lewis College. She is studying psychology and wants to become an occupational therapist. She aspires to use her future career to share her respect for her Native Tlingit culture. Williamson has been a recipient twice before, and this year was awarded \$1,500.

Suann (Renee) Endicott lives in Anchorage and studies liberal arts at Alaska Pacific University. She has been active during COVID, volunteering at a food bank and writing to isolated elders. Her goal is to one day effectively advocate for Alaska’s indigenous and black communities. She received \$1,500.

Jessalyn Swanson is a senior at Kotzebue High School and plans to go to the University of Washington. She wants to become a pediatrician, and sees a need to serve her Kotzebue community with good, affordable healthcare. Her award is \$1,000.

Nyche Tyme Andrew is a senior at Robert Service High School in Anchorage. She plans to study political science and government at an Ivy League university, and hopes to someday create programs that improve the lives of Native Alaskans. We awarded Tyme Andrew \$1,000.

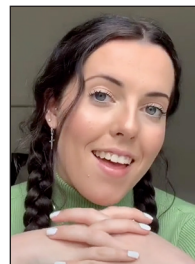
Samuel Beans-Polk is a Bethel High School senior and wants to attend Western Washington University to study architecture. Beans-Polk wants to help the economy of Bethel and inspire the young minds of tomorrow. His positive personality shone in his application, and he will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. *(No photo available)*



Williamson



Endicott



Swanson



Tyme Andrew

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