



# A COMMUNITY THAT CARES



2015 Annual Report

The **HOMER**  
FOUNDATION



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Design by Jody Mastey of Fiddlehead Creative

# A COMMUNITY THAT CARES

I am honored to work for an organization that is based on the simple act of caring. The Homer Foundation provides the connection, the structure, the funding, and the oversight for many acts of caring in our community. As a result, “A Community That Cares” seems a very appropriate theme for this report.

An annual report is a retrospective affair and this report is no different. Between these covers you will find lists of grants given, thank yous to our generous donors, highlights of accomplishments, and examples of the many ways our community cares. Our lead story explains how the Homer Community Chest supports the work of the Homer Community Food Pantry and their mission to provide for our friends and neighbors in need. Jan Knutson shares how she will care for her community in the future through a bequest designed to provide ongoing support to the programs she values most. We highlight our newest fund, the Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship Fund, a story of how one family has turned a tragic loss into a lasting memorial and an act of caring.

An annual report also reflects on the financial health of an organization. Within these pages, you will learn that the Foundation remains sound; however, we recognize that the returns on our investments have been in an extended

downturn, and in turn this affects our ability to support our community through our grantmaking. Investment Committee Chair, Phil Morris, addresses the Investment Committee’s concerns and outlook in his report on page 12.

In our 24 years operating as the steward of philanthropic community assets, we have sustained more financial ups than downs, and throughout it have maintained the public trust. Honoring that trust we will continue to work for the public good, meeting the needs of today while keeping our eye on the future.

For good. Forever.

Joy Steward

Executive Director

The Homer Foundation

## Help us meet community needs today

In response to the economic reality of fewer earnings to disburse, we are working to grow unrestricted dollars for current grant-making needs. An anonymous donor has pledged a \$15,000 challenge gift directed towards this goal. To date we have raised over \$8600 to match this gift. Please consider a contribution to help us meet this match, and care for our community’s needs today!



# COMMON INTEREST TIES US TOGETHER

I almost always sit in the same seat: four rows back, center section, left hand side, on the aisle. From that seat I have seen 60 or so documentary films in the 12 years of the Documentary Film Festival. Also from that seat, I've watched an even larger number of feature films. There's something comforting about living in a town small enough that you can always watch a movie from the same seat.

I am not alone in this habitual behavior. Others have favorite seats nearby and over the course of time you notice your neighbors. A familiar nod leads to a comment about the movie, leads to a wave at the coffee shop, leads to a shared table, leads to new friendship. They're my movie theatre friends. I have Senior Center friends, pizza-loving friends, sports friends, fishing friends, Nutcracker friends – any common interest or belief can create the roots of friendship.

If you are reading this report, I would say that we share a common interest: you must be interested in making the communities of lower Cook Inlet ones that have attributes that supplement the natural beauty and abundance of the place.

Next year will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this foundation. We've been fortunate to have been living in a time when there has been abundant financial resources from the state's oil wealth to support many of the nonprofit organizations and to construct buildings that may otherwise have never been built. That source of wealth is drying up. The challenge of tomorrow will be finding our way to survive the loss

of that dependable source of funding. Our first duty is to protect and maintain what we have. Our second obligation is to consolidate our resources – find combinations that work – create partnerships and consortium efforts to better and more efficiently deliver the services the community needs.

This applies to government as well as the nonprofit community. The flow of funds from sources other than the tax base has, for the last 35 years, been very significant. Municipal budgets are just as susceptible to the instant crisis of lost funding as the non-for-profit organizations. When you look at the "food chain" of funding – state gets federal; local gets state and federal; non-profit gets local and state and federal – you realize the amplification of lost revenues to the lowest tiers.

I believe that this is just the beginning of these government reductions and eliminations. Can we change our habitual behavior? I've moved to a different seat with new neighbors.

Ken Castner

Board Chair

Investment Manager

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Ken Castner**  
*Board Chair*  
*Investment*  
*Manager*



**Steve Albert**  
*Treasurer*



**Carol Swartz**  
*Vice Chair*  
*Audit Committee*  
*Co-Chair*



**Polly Prindle-Hess**  
*Secretary*



**Bonnie Jason**  
*Y.A.C. Advisor*



**Phil Morris**  
*Investment*  
*Committee Chair*



**Denise Pitzman**  
*Development*  
*Committee Chair*



**Buck Laukitis**  
*Audit Committee*  
*Co-Chair*



**John Mouw**  
*Distribution*  
*Committee Chair*



**Mary Epperson**  
*Trustee Emeritus*



**Flo Larson**  
*Trustee*



**Lindsay Wolter**  
*Trustee*



**Elaine Grantier**  
*Trustee*

*Not Pictured*

**Terri Spigelmyer**  
*Trustee*

## STAFF



**Joy Steward**  
*Executive Director*



**Julia Clymer**  
*Accountant*



**Heidi Stage**  
*Bookkeeper*



**Jane Miles**  
*Volunteer Admin*  
*Assistant*

*Photography by Madilyn Robinson of Madilyn Robinson Photos, except Mary Epperson, Terri Spigelmyer and Jane Miles.*

# HOW A COMMUNITY CARES FOR THOSE IN NEED

Many of us grew up playing Monopoly, so perhaps it is not hard to understand why the Foundation named a fund dedicated to supporting those in need in our community the “Homer Community Chest.” Unlike most funds at the Foundation, the Community Chest is not an endowed fund; it is a restricted, pass-through fund. That means 100% of the donations coming into the fund are distributed, and it is dependent upon new contributions to fill the coffers.

This revolving door approach to funding seems like a risky undertaking; however, since its inception in December of 2011, the fund’s revolving door has kept pace to the tune of \$54,000. Contributions have come in all sizes, at all times of the year. The founding donor wished to anonymously support those in need. This giving opportunity continues to be a perfect fit for donors who wish their giving to remain anonymous.

The Homer Foundation is in the business of managing philanthropic assets; they are not in the business of providing programs or direct services. To distribute monies to meet community needs the Foundation must depend upon reliable partners, which they have found in Homer’s vital nonprofit sector.

In the case of the Community Chest, the Foundation looked for partners that already had feet on the ground helping those in need. Furthermore, they needed partners that could respond quickly while still providing competent oversight.

The Homer Community Food Pantry, whose primary mission is to feed the hungry, has been providing support week in and week out since

the early 90’s, and is run completely by volunteers. When funding has been available, they have also provided emergency aid for things like housing, utilities, and prescriptions for individuals and families through a simple, but effective intake process.

After a joint meeting between the Foundation and the Food Pantry, the decision was made to utilize the Food Pantry as the Foundation’s primary partner for the distribution of Community Chest funds. The partnership exemplifies an oft used phrase at the Foundation, “Find good people you trust, and trust them to do good work.”

The Community Chest funds are used to meet nonfood emergency needs. Clients can access the funds through the Food Pantry during their weekly food distribution hours at the Methodist Church on Mondays, or by leaving a message on the Food Pantry phone which is checked routinely. A caring and compassionate volunteer completes an intake interview and qualifying clients receive a check made out to the landlord, utility company, pharmacy, etc., depending on their need.





Many fine agencies in Homer also provide emergency aid, but those that are government funded often have lengthy review periods that can take days or even weeks. It is important to the Homer Foundation and our committed Community Chest donors that this type of aide be easily accessible to those in need, when they need it.

If you wish to help others in our community, please consider the Homer Community Chest Fund at the Homer Foundation.

## Pay It Forward

In an effort to make the greater public more aware of Homer Foundation's mission to promote philanthropy, the board decided to submit a small article to Homer News once a month. The idea was welcomed by Editor Lori Evans whole heartedly. She also suggested we post nonprofit needs in conjunction with the article each month, an added bonus that has helped nonprofits reach out to the community for needed volunteers and other items.

I volunteered to find writer's for a year's worth of articles. Writers seemed honored to be asked, a lesson for all of us. When people are asked without pressure and allowed to be creative, ideas unimagined surface. I've been told by the community on the street, in the PO or social gatherings, "I really enjoyed the article in the paper about Pay It Forward." Homer is becoming more aware of how philanthropy, in its many forms, touches each of us in our community.

Perhaps with local belt-tightening and the Syrian crisis a new moral hunger has emerged as people realize the average person has philanthropic power using time and talent, not necessarily big money, and from that awareness hope and history intertwine to create a unified effort to better community.

Everyone loves a story, his-story, her-story, our-story, your-story! Contact us with your philanthropic idea or one you know needs to be shared. It may be the next Pay It Forward article in the Homer News.

All of the Pay It Forward articles may be accessed on the Homer Foundation website, [www.homerfoundation.org](http://www.homerfoundation.org).

Flo Larson



# BUILDING COMMUNITY ASSETS FOR TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER

**T**he strength of community foundations is the ability for individuals to collectively build permanent philanthropic assets for their community, and to use those assets to address needs and support causes they care about, today and far into the future.

Anyone may make a tax-deductible contribution to the Homer Foundation at any time. The size of your gift does not matter, we can all participate! Your gift will be acknowledged with a receipt, and unless you choose to remain anonymous, all gifts are recognized in our annual report. Contact us to learn more about how you can give back to your community through the Homer Foundation.

## **CASH GIFTS**

Cash is the simplest way to contribute to or through the Homer Foundation. Gifts of cash can be made directly to the Foundation using the contribution envelope found in this report, via credit card online at [www.homerfoundation.org](http://www.homerfoundation.org), or come see us in person. Alaskans may also make charitable gifts through Pick.Click.Give., the Alaska Permanent Fund Charitable Check-Off Program. The Foundation is an approved charity on a variety of corporate matching gift programs and online businesses such as Amazon.com (AmazonSmile) and EBay (PayPal Giving Fund).

## **NON-CASH GIFTS**

Donating appreciated assets such as real estate, publicly traded stocks, art work, fishing permits/boats, or other investments can save the donor significant capital gains tax liability, and the assets will be put to work to meet community needs.

## **PLANNED GIFTS & BEQUESTS**

The Homer Foundation can accept planned giving vehicles such as charitable trusts, charitable gift annuities, life insurance policies, and retirement plans. A bequest to the Homer Foundation is simple to include in your will, and we can provide sample language for you and your legal counsel. If you plan to leave a planned gift to the Foundation please be sure to let us know so we can include you in our Legacy Society.

## **PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS**

Starting a fund at the community foundation can achieve the same philanthropic goals as a private foundation. Consider working under the umbrella of the community foundation, you may receive superior tax benefits while saving on expense and management structure.



# A FOUNTAIN OF IDEAS

**M**ilton Berle said, “A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours.” I would say, in the case of the Development Committee, this is true. Our hours fly by—productively!


## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Check with your financial advisor for more information and ideas on ways to integrate your financial planning with charitable giving. We can also provide a free phone consultation with a planned giving professional through our partnership with the Foraker Group.

## CONNECT

Find out how we can help you achieve your philanthropic goals.

 907.235.0541

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Homer, AK  
lower level of the  
Kachemak Bay Title Building

 [info@homerfoundation.org](mailto:info@homerfoundation.org)

 [www.homerfoundation.org](http://www.homerfoundation.org)

 find us on Facebook

**Subscribe** to our e-newsletter

If last year was a year of listening, this was a year of starting conversations. We continue to organize monthly Op-Ed articles (headed up by Flo Larson) to engage the community in a dialogue about philanthropy. We have brought together teachers, administrators and community members to start a conversation about an educators' fund. And we have focussed on the words “Thank You” and inserted them into our many conversations with donors.

When I think of this Development Committee, I think of a fountain with ideas springing out of it and flowing around. What a group! No idea is too large or too small for conversation. We definitely spend hours in the right side of our brains. And out of those conversations come great ideas such as the Giving Salmon!

Have you ever heard the phrase, “A camel is a horse that was designed by committee”? If it were designed by the Homer Foundation's Development Committee, it would have been because it was right for the

environment. Camels make excellent horses in certain conditions! This group is strategic and aware of our environment, one of many benefits of listening to our donors. We hope to use the knowledge gained by our conversations to adapt appropriately and strategically to our environment as we continue to help the Homer Foundation and our community thrive.

So if you see any members of this committee (Joy Steward, Flo Larson, Polly Hess, Elaine Grantier or Lindsay Wolter), feel free to strike up a conversation about new funds, the Kachemak Bay books, the matching donation challenge, up-coming 25th Anniversary events, and any questions or suggestions you might have! Add your ideas to the fountain. Help us design that camel! And if you are wondering what the Giving Salmon is...yes, the committee is designing salmon next!

Denise Pitzman

Development  
Committee Chair

# WELCOMING OUR NEWEST FUNDS

A community foundation is a vehicle for those with a desire to give back to their community by creating a lasting legacy. Since 1991 the Homer Foundation has been that vehicle for the greater Homer area. The Foundation currently manages 54 permanent endowment funds and several restricted/temporary funds. The newest members of the Homer Foundation family of funds are the Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Homer Community Free Clinic Fund.

## NIKKI GERAGOTELIS (FRY) MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Nikki Geragotelis

May 19, 1983-October 10, 2013



This fund was established by the family and friends of Nikki Geragotelis in honor of the life she lived and to keep Nikki's memory alive by providing a scholarship to help graduating Homer High School students continue their education. Throughout her life Nikki had a "walk-on" spirit. Successful scholarship applicants will exemplify her sportsmanship, athleticism, integrity and hard-working nature. They will be someone like Nikki who always gave her best every time she stepped on the field whether at practice or for a game.

## HOMER COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC FUND

The Homer Community Free Clinic Fund is not only one of our newest funds, but one of Homer's newest nonprofits. Still in its infancy, supporters are working to establish a free clinic for the community of Homer. With foresight and vision they have established this charitable endowment fund as a repository for contributions to help them make their dream a reality, and to support the clinic far into the future.

## IN RECOGNITION

Liz Johnson

Nov. 1, 1938-July 15, 2015



The Homer Foundation extends our sincere condolences on the passing of Liz Johnson. Liz came to the Homer Foundation in 2007 to establish a scholarship in memory of her husband, A.W. "Bill" Johnson who had recently passed. Bill had been a lifelong educator





and she wanted to set up a scholarship for local graduating seniors pursuing post-secondary education and a career of teaching. Shortly after Liz passed this summer, her sister Rosalie Carter came to the Foundation to request a name change to the fund. Liz, after all, had been a lifelong educator as well, and her sister requested the fund's name be changed to the Bill and Liz Johnson Teacher Education Scholarship, as a lasting memorial to them both. In her obituary the family indicated that it was Liz's wish that any memorial donations be sent to the Bill and Liz Johnson Teacher Education Scholarship Fund at The Homer Foundation, "...to help graduates of Homer prepare themselves to find the same joy and fulfillment in teaching that Liz and Bill enjoyed."

Contributions to these funds or any of the existing funds managed by the Foundation are an excellent way to support your community, either with a lifetime gift or through a bequest. Contact the Homer Foundation to learn how you can support the causes that you care most about.



## New Fund to Support Educators

The Homer Foundation would like to thank all of the dedicated educators, current and retired, who have participated in our exploratory process to create a new endowment that will provide support for and recognition of public school teachers on the lower Kenai Peninsula. Enthusiastic donors have raised over \$4400 to make the new Educator's Professional Development Fund a reality. The fund will remain an "Acorn Fund" until it reaches the \$10,000 threshold, before any distributions can be made. Once it reaches that goal it will support a competitive small grants program which will provide financial assistance to area K-12 public school teachers for the purpose of professional development. Recipients will be announced at an annual awards event designed to celebrate all area public school teachers.

There are continued opportunities to become involved. We welcome any level of participation and encourage you to join this dynamic group and/or contribute monetarily to the creation of this fund. Contact the Homer Foundation for more information.



# 2015

## FINANCIAL SUMMARY, UNAUDITED<sup>1</sup>

### REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Contributions.....	\$ 212,525
Net Earned Income .....	\$ 37,028
Investment	
Gains (Losses) <sup>2</sup> .....	\$ 424,719
Distributable Investment	
Earnings .....	\$ 68,243
Total Revenue	
and Support .....	\$106,923

### EXPENSES

Grants from	
Participating Funds.....	\$ 71,170
Grants from	
Restricted Funds.....	\$ 91,158
Other Distributions.....	\$ 40,314
Personnel <sup>3</sup> .....	\$ 52,519
Operating &	
Program Expenses.....	\$ 43,149
Total Expenses.....	\$ 298,310

### INCREASE/DECREASE IN NET ASSETS

**\$405,233**

### DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES

**\$33,358**

### NET ASSETS

As of June 30, 2014..... \$2,181,548

As of June 30, 2015..... \$1,776,315

<sup>1</sup> The Homer Foundation's investments are managed by board member Ken Castner in a volunteer capacity. The investment manager works closely with the Homer Foundation Investment Committee chaired by Phil Morris. Both Morris and Castner have held state and federal Investment Advisor Registrations. Audited Financial Statements are available upon request, as are IRS Form 990 (or 990T)

<sup>2</sup> Realized & Unrealized Gains(Losses)

<sup>3</sup> Salary, Taxes, Benefits paid from unrestricted funds

## DID YOU KNOW?

? The first community foundation was started in Cleveland, Ohio in 1914.

? The Homer Foundation was the first community foundation established in Alaska in 1991. There are now four community foundations and nine affiliate community foundations in the state.

? The Homer Foundation has distributed \$2.4 million to the community since 1992.

? Thirty-five community members have served as Trustee for the Homer Foundation.

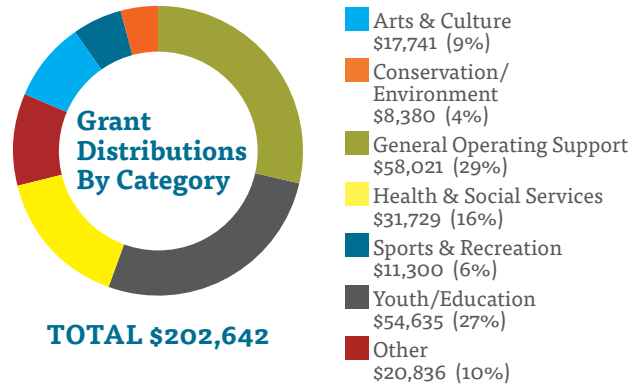
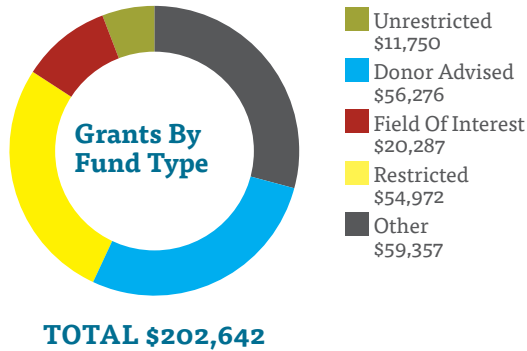
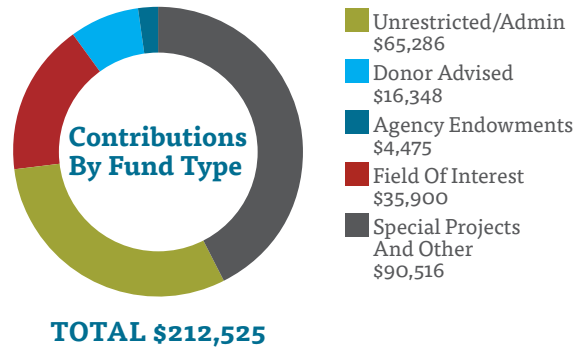
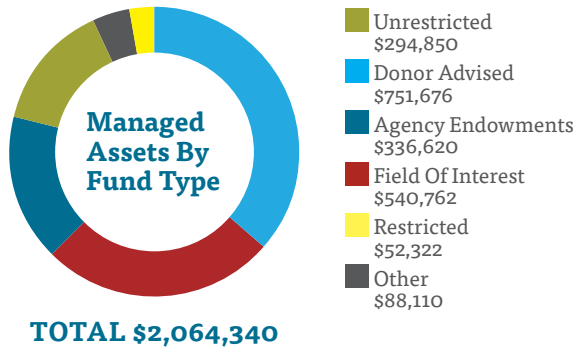
? Founding donors for the Homer Foundation were Tom Bodett, Steve and Noko Yoshida, and the late Judy Strydom.

? The Homer Foundation received \$11,700 last year through the Alaska PFD charitable check-off program, Pick.Click.Give

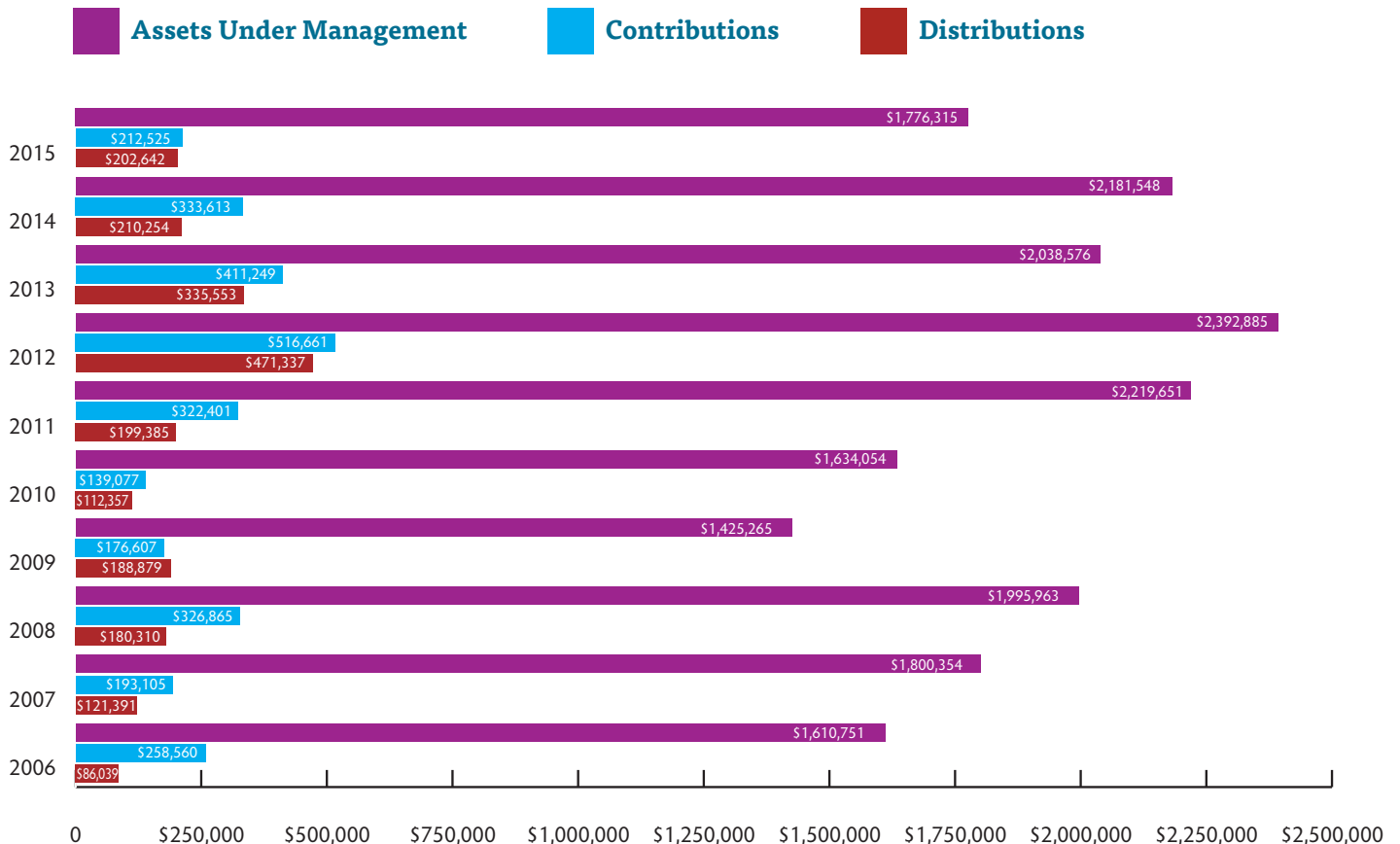
? The Homer Foundation oversees 52 diverse endowment funds, offers 13 different scholarship opportunities, manages several restricted funds, and maintains the Unrestricted Fund to provide the most flexibility in meeting changing community needs.

? The Homer Foundation celebrates its 25th Anniversary next year. Look for fun celebratory events to come!





## ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT, CONTRIBUTIONS and DISTRIBUTIONS



# OUR INVESTMENT

**A**fter several years of adequate to outstanding performance our investing strategy took a turn for the worse in fiscal 2015. We were not content to ignore the deteriorating debt situation and the lack of improvement in the economy as the Federal Reserve searched for a solution to a problem of its own making. During our fiscal 2015, the S&P 500 index enjoyed a 7.14% gain, almost all of which was obtained in the first half from July to December. During all of fiscal 2015 our portfolio weathered a 19.2% loss. Even with a large cash position we were unable to withstand the historic trashing of the commodity markets, where we have been concentrating our efforts. In addition the income received from our call strategy fell short of our expectations with an income generated of \$34,591.45. Distributable investment earnings from all sources totaled \$68,243.00, also below expectations.

So as the year progressed we took some steps to try to minimize the impact of our investment setback. In mid-year, the investment committee agreed to deploy the cash position of the Schwab portfolio into the equity market guided by the InvesTech model portfolio which has an enviable track record of profits over a thirty-five year period with relatively conservative recommendations. With the balance of the portfolio we will continue to pursue the call strategy which has been markedly successful through a moderately long time frame in generating outsized income. The metal and commodity stocks are at record low valuations while the equity market are near all time highs and continue to ignore deteriorating fundamentals. We believe that in the near future we will have a turnaround in our fortunes and in the meantime we

will rely on InvesTech's model to guide one half of our portfolio through the minefield of the current equity prices. InvesTech has a history of being willing to hold cash in the face of deteriorating fundamentals and their model portfolio is currently 27% in cash.

In order to mitigate the loss of income from 2015, we have arranged a \$15,000 challenge grant to raise \$30,000 for direct distribution into the needs of the non-profit community. Perhaps some of you reading this would be interested in supporting in this grant program. If so, please contact Joy Steward, our Executive Director.

Respectfully submitted,

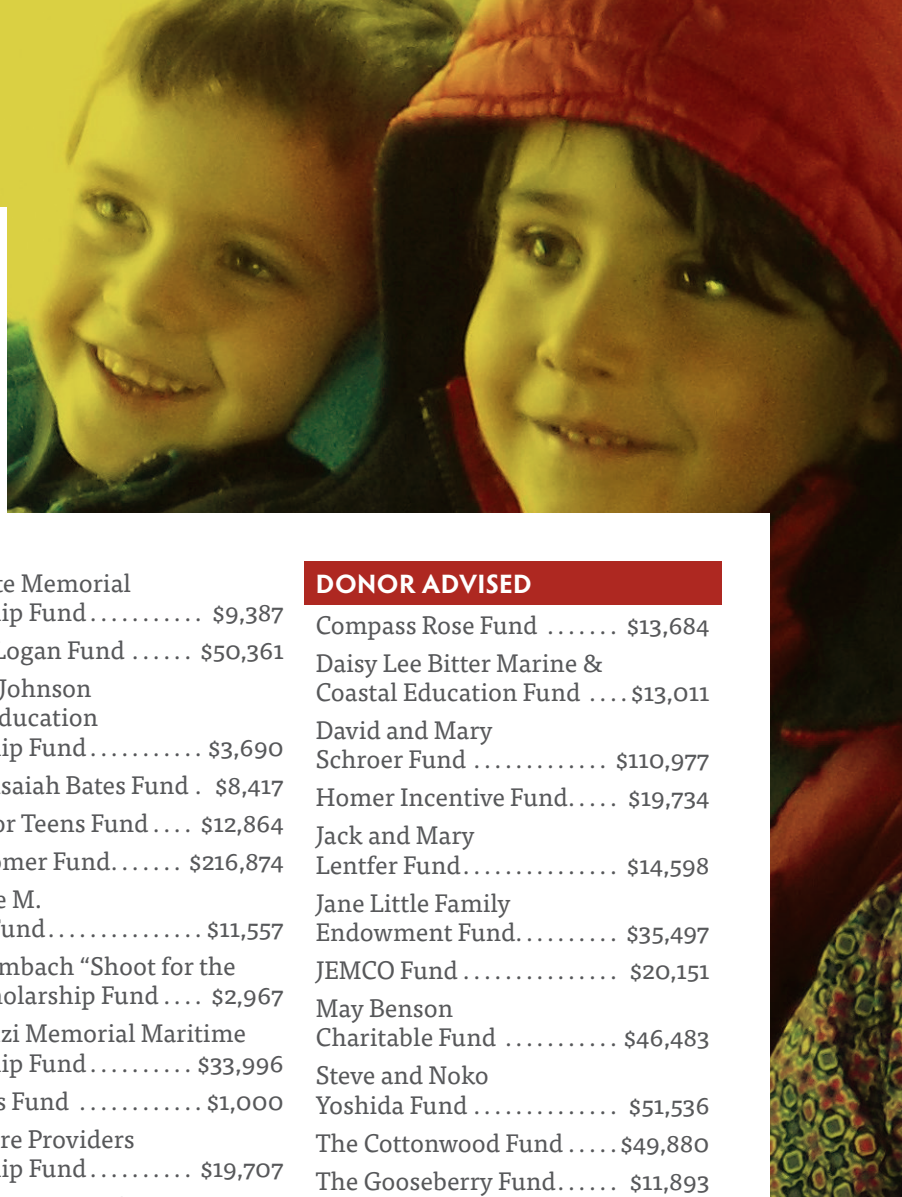
Philemon D. Morris

Investment Committee Chair



# 2015

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Homer Foundation and Julia Park Howard Unrestricted Funds .....	\$170,553
Homer Foundation Admin Fund .....	\$30,713
Aquila Fund .....	\$93,584

**TOTAL** **\$294,850**

### AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Alaska Marine Conservation Council Fund .....	\$8,972
Bunnell Street Arts Center..	\$8,734
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies Fund .....	\$25,370
Friends of the Homer Public Library Fund.....	\$88,051
Homer Animal Friends Fund.....	\$13,534
Homer Community Food Pantry Fund.....	\$17,935
Homer Community Free Clinic Fund .....	\$9,722
Homer Council on the Arts Fund.....	\$9,920
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic Fund .....	\$11,466
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Fund .....	\$31,073
KBBI-Bev Munro Endowment Fund.....	\$35,636
Peter Larson Compassion in Action Fund.....	\$44,195
Pratt Museum Fund .....	\$32,014

**TOTAL** **\$336,620**

### FIELD OF INTEREST

A Music Education Fund In Memory of Renda Horn ...	\$32,299
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Alice Witte Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	\$9,387
Ashley J. Logan Fund .....	\$50,361
Bill & Liz Johnson Teacher Education Scholarship Fund.....	\$3,690
Brother Asaiah Bates Fund .	\$8,417
Choices for Teens Fund ....	\$12,864
City of Homer Fund.....	\$216,874
Constance M. Benston Fund.....	\$11,557
Diane Wambach "Shoot for the Stars" Scholarship Fund ....	\$2,967
Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship Fund.....	\$33,996
Educator's Fund .....	\$1,000
Health Care Providers Scholarship Fund.....	\$19,707
Homer Community Science Scholarship Fund.....	\$18,003
Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary Club Fund .....	\$21,293
Homer Mariner Fastpitch Softball Fund .....	\$12,570
Jessica Stevens Memorial Fund .....	\$11,084
Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic Scholarship Fund ....	\$4,667
Kachemak City Fund .....	\$10,366
Kevin Bell & Family Hockey Fund .....	\$5,462
Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship Fund.....	\$9,814
Ptarmigan Arts Scholarship Fund.....	\$17,137
Rotary Club of Homer Downtown Fund.....	\$8,122
Sheldon Youth to Youth Fund .....	\$7,999
Spay & Neuter Fund .....	\$11,127

**TOTAL** **\$540,762**

### DONOR ADVISED

Compass Rose Fund .....	\$13,684
Daisy Lee Bitter Marine & Coastal Education Fund ....	\$13,011
David and Mary Schroer Fund .....	\$110,977
Homer Incentive Fund.....	\$19,734
Jack and Mary Lentfer Fund.....	\$14,598
Jane Little Family Endowment Fund.....	\$35,497
JEMCO Fund .....	\$20,151
May Benson Charitable Fund .....	\$46,483
Steve and Noko Yoshida Fund .....	\$51,536
The Cottonwood Fund ....	\$49,880
The Gooseberry Fund.....	\$11,893
The Jenson Fund.....	\$52,306
The KLEPS Fund .....	\$94,686
The Tin Roof Fund .....	\$149,624
The Willow Fund .....	\$67,617

**TOTAL** **\$751,676**

### OTHER

Repair & Replacement Fund/Kachemak City.....	\$87,212
Restricted Funds.....	\$52,322
Non Cash Liabilities .....	\$66,105
Earnings Pending Distribution .....	\$67,003

**TOTAL** **\$140,432**

**TOTAL ASSETS UNDER  
MANAGEMENT** **\$2,064,340**

**LESS FUNDS HELD  
FOR OTHERS** **\$288,025**

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** **\$1,776,315**

# CARING ABOUT OUR KIDS' FUTURE

The education of Homer area youth has been a priority with many Homer Foundation donors because they believe that education is the key to the future success of our kids. Thanks to these donors, our scholarship funds will be here to support the education of our youth far into the future. You can join them by showing your support with a tax exempt donation to any of these scholarship funds.

Today the Foundation administers 11 different scholarships. This year eighteen awards were made totaling \$20,150.



Jonas Noomah, HHS graduate and recipient of the Beluga Tale Fiction Writing Scholarship

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

### Homer Community Science Scholarship

For post-secondary education in the life sciences. The fund was established by retired Homer High School Science teacher, Stan Eller, and is supported by community donations.

Cheyenne Smith, HHS ..... \$750  
Sabina Karwowski, HHS ..... \$500

### Alain and Daniel Rieser Scholarship

Recognizes a graduating senior with a flair for foreign language and an interest in foreign cultures.

John Shank, HHS ..... \$2500

### Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship

Established in memory of Drew Scalzi. The underlying philosophy of the scholarship is to nurture young adults pursuing their careers in the maritime field or who are from fishing or maritime families.

Jane Rohr, HHS ..... \$1000  
Clem Tillion, HHS ..... \$1000  
Larson Fellows, HHS ..... \$500  
Robert Hockema, HHS ..... \$500

### Health Care Providers Scholarship

Supports local students committed to pursuing a career in a health care field.

Leah Bailey, 2008 HHS graduate  
*Physical Therapy* ..... \$2500

### Beluga Tail Non-Fiction and Beluga Tale Fiction Writing Scholarships

Reward graduating seniors that demonstrate exemplary skills in fiction and non-fiction writing.

Robert Hockema, HHS,  
*Non-Fiction* ..... \$2500  
Jonas Noomah, HHS,  
*Fiction* ..... \$2500





# DEAR JOY,

**T**his last year at Linfield has been one for the books! Before school even started, I was able to travel to Baltimore to attend an International conference for my fraternity, which was life changing to say the least. After this, I was able to lead a group of students in the same pre-orientation program I was a part of my freshman year. These two experiences were very rewarding to me and have taught me so much about myself and what it means to be a good leader. Once school actually started, I was already headfirst in all of the activities I was involved in. I spent the school year as a member of the Activities Board planning special events for the campus as well as maintaining my position as a Student Ambassador for the Office of Admission.

I declared my major this year as well. I am happy to say that I am now an Anthropology major and Visual Culture minor. I love being able to say that I am truly happy about the degree that I have chosen and I hope to continue to use all of the experience that I have procured throughout the years in combination with this unique major.

I haven't set my mind of a "set" career path after I graduate. I guess that is the cool thing about Anthropology; it is very versatile. I do have an interest in event planning, corporate management, museum science/gallery management, and research. That being said, I will be spending my fall semester studying in Vienna,

Austria! I am truly honored and excited that I get this opportunity because I have always had a dream to travel to Europe and study there. Now that dream is becoming a reality.

When I return from Vienna, I will be continuing my degree studies as well as spending some time on myself (I have a tendency of volunteering for a lot of things, ha). I also plan on participating more in my fraternity and Greek life as a whole.

Thank you for your continued support! I really appreciate all that you guys have done for me.

Best,

Cruz Morey



Cruz Morey is the 2013 recipient of the 4 year Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic Scholarship award.



# YOUTH CARE

**H**omer is special because it has so many people and organizations caring for the community. As a member of Y.A.C., the Homer Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee, I volunteer alongside a group of young students who gather donations and then give grants out to youth organizations around town. I know many students have benefitted from Y.A.C. grants. I also know that every student on the committee cares greatly for our community and we try very hard to help everyone that we can.

From a young age I have been helping our community by assisting my parents at the Emblem and Elks clubs. Every year the Emblem Club sponsors an Easter egg hunt and I have volunteered at the event for as long as I can remember. First, it was helping dye 1000 Easter eggs. Now it is being the Easter Bunny, a "bunny helper," or laying eggs out in the yard. I have also supported the Elks' various Wounded Warrior and Veterans events. The first Wounded Warrior event that I helped with was when my dad hosted a pig roast for a Kenai River fishing tournament. This year I volunteered at the Veterans Stand Off at the Elks Lodge. I was assigned to serve food, but even the little things matter when you are helping people.

A volunteer activity I have added this year is helping at Pick-n-Pay. Although I began working there because I needed to earn service hours for my Confirmation class, I now look forward to it as something my sister and I do to spend time with our aunt and help people in need. I have also supported the community through

Girl Scouts. One year our troop provided child care at the daycare center that was set up for the people building the new park. Further, most every year we decorate Share the Spirit tags, bake cookies for the Pratt Museum's stocking stuffer, cook hot dogs for the Special Olympics Spit Run, and hand out water at the Spit Run.

Throughout my life I have been encouraged to help out in the community. This has inspired me to continue to volunteer even as I grow older. I have plans to join the Emblem Club next year, not only to help the community but also to help the Emblem Club. I plan on participating in Y.A.C. throughout my high school career, and hope that more students will join, because I believe that Y.A.C. has a wonderful impact on students and our community. I realize that I am lucky to grow up here in a community where we are taught to be responsible for and care for one another.

Cora Parish

Freshman at Homer High School

# 2015

## DISTRIBUTIONS

### IMMEDIATE RESPONSE GRANTS

#### Brother Asaiah Bates Fund

Homer Head Start  
Art Enrichment ..... \$1,000  
Homer Head Start  
Kids on the Bus ..... \$1,000

#### Constance M. Benston Fund

Homer Animal Friends  
Spay & Neuter Program ..... \$400  
Homer Council on the Arts  
Constance M. Benston  
Music Scholarship ..... \$400

#### Daisy Lee Bitter Marine & Coastal Education Fund

Fireweed Academy  
Kasitsna Bay Field Trip ..... \$1,200

#### David & Mary Schroer Fund

Homer Middle School  
After School Activities ..... \$3,000  
Homer Foundation  
Youth Advisory Committee  
Y.A.C. Grants ..... \$1,000  
Mariner Fastpitch Softball  
Equipment ..... \$500  
Pratt Museum  
High School Intern Program ..... \$500

#### Homer Incentive Fund

Homer Flex School  
Nature Literacy  
Stewardship ..... \$1,700  
Homer Flex School  
Building Relationship ..... \$1,400

#### Homer Kachemak Bay Rotary Club Fund

Karen Hornaday  
Park Fire Circle ..... \$200

#### Jack & Mary Lentfer Fund

Kachemak Heritage Land Trust  
Energy Efficiency  
Upgrades ..... \$1,000

#### JEMCO Fund

Homer Council on the Arts  
Youth Arts Program ..... \$1,000

#### Jenson Fund

Pratt Museum High School  
Intern Program ..... \$1,500

#### Steve & Noko Yoshida Fund

Rotary Club of Homer Downtown  
Undoing the Knot of Violence ..... \$500

#### Spay & Neuter Fund

Homer Animal Friends  
Spay and Neuter Clinic ..... \$1,337

#### The Cottonwood Fund

Friends/Homer Public Library  
Presentation Equipment ..... \$2,291

#### The Gooseberry Fund

HF Youth Advisory Committee  
Y.A.C. Grants ..... \$864

#### The Horn Section

Homer Council on the Arts  
Youth Arts Program ..... \$1,500  
Homer Youth String Orchestra  
Club Suzuki Mini Institute ..... \$500

#### Jane Little Family Endowment Fund

Rotary Club of Homer Downtown  
Undoing the Knot of Violence ..... \$500  
Homer Community Food Pantry  
Food Purchase ..... \$1,000  
Hospice of Homer  
General Operating Support ..... \$1,000  
Rotary Club of Homer Downtown  
Send Student to RYLA ..... \$600

#### Jessica M. Stevens Memorial Fund

Homer Council on the Arts  
Youth Arts Program ..... \$1,000

#### The KLEPS Fund

Pratt Museum  
High School Intern Program ..... \$500  
Chapman School  
iPad Project ..... \$4,896  
Paul Banks School  
iPad & iPod Project ..... \$3,690

#### Rotary Club of Homer Downtown Fund

Rotary Club of Homer Downtown  
Student to RYLA ..... \$150

#### Sheldon Youth to Youth Fund

HF Youth Advisory Committee  
Y.A.C. Grants ..... \$213

#### The Willow Fund

Bunnell Street Arts Center  
Creative Placemaking ..... \$3,000  
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club  
Equipment Purchase ..... \$3500  
Homer Youth  
String Orchestra Club  
Suzuki Mini Institute ..... \$672  
Cook Inletkeeper  
Electronics Recycling Project ... \$2,600  
Hospice of Homer  
Technology Upgrade ..... \$4,000  
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust  
Land Stewardship ..... \$3500

#### Unrestricted Fund

Homer Cycling Club  
Share the Road/Blender Bike ... \$2,750  
KBBI Kachemak Bay  
Broadcasting Inc  
Equipment Replacement ..... \$5,000  
Kachemak Bay Running Club  
Race Equipment ..... \$500  
Friends of  
Kachemak Bay State Park  
Kachemak Bay Water Trails ... \$2,000

### Y.A.C. GRANTS

Homer Council on the Arts  
Art Camp ..... \$1,500  
Homer Youth  
String Orchestra Club  
Music Purchase ..... \$500  
Popeye Wrestling Club  
Equipment ..... \$1250  
Homer Wilderness  
Leaders (HoWL) DiRtBaG  
Service Corp excursions ..... \$1,300  
Project Grad  
Summer Institute ..... \$1,000

### SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

See page 14 for a complete listing of the 2015 Scholarship recipients.





## FOR GRANT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

☎ 907.235.0541

📍 3733 Ben Walters Lane  
Homer, AK  
lower level of the Kachemak  
Bay Title Building

@ info@homerfoundation.org

🌐 www.homerfoundation.org

### CITY OF HOMER GRANTS PROGRAM

Sprout .....	\$3,000
Bunnell Street Arts Center.	\$3,000
Center for AK Coastal Studies .....	\$3,200
Cook Inletkeeper .....	\$3,000
Homer Community Food Pantry.....	\$3,375
Homer Council on the Arts.....	\$3,000
Hospice of Homer .....	\$3,245
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic .....	\$3,000
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust .....	\$3,000
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club.....	\$3,200

### HOMER COMMUNITY CHEST

Homer Community Food Pantry.....	\$15,006
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### PROJECT GRAD KENAI PENINSULA

Gear Up Scholarships.....	\$5,000
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### OTHER GRANTS

#### Employee Matching Grants

KBBI .....	\$100
Homer Council On The Arts ..	\$250
Pratt Museum .....	\$500
Hospice of Homer .....	\$100
Big Brothers Big Sisters.....	\$50

#### HF Annual Meeting People's Choice Awards

Friends of the Homer Public Library.....	\$500
Homer Community Food Pantry.....	\$500

### PASS THROUGH GRANTS

City of Homer Climate Action Plan Implementation .....	\$930
Homer Council on the Arts General Operating Support.....	\$250
KBBI Kachemak Bay Broadcasting Inc. General Operating Support ..	\$250
South Peninsula Haven House General Operating Support.....	\$250
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies General Operating Support.....	\$250
Homer Wilderness Leaders (HoWL) General Operating Support.....	\$200
Hospice of Homer General Operating Support.....	\$500

Cook Inlet Keeper General Operating Support.....	\$100
Friends of the Homer Public Library General Operating Support.....	\$100

### AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUND EARNINGS

AK Marine Conservation Council.....	\$767
Bunnell Street Arts Center....	\$186
Center for AK Coastal Studies .....	\$767
Homer Community Free Clinic Fund .....	\$484
Homer Council on the Arts ...	\$848
Homer Community Food Pantry.....	\$1,240
Pratt Museum .....	\$2,733
Hospice of Homer .....	\$3,772
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic .....	\$896
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust .....	\$2,657
KBBI Bev Munro Endowment .....	\$2,784
Homer Animal Friends .....	\$1,156
Friends/Homer Public Library.....	\$6,815



# 2015

## DONATIONS BY FUND TYPE

### UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

#### Homer Foundation Unrestricted Fund

Anonymous  
Vicki and Steve Albert  
Anette Avant  
*Kenai Physical Therapy*  
IBM Charitable  
Contributions/  
Robert Burns  
Bob Brant  
Tracie & Eric Brown  
Keith Brownsberger  
Janie & Jim Buncak  
Libby Bushell  
David &  
Christianne Caffee  
Nancy Lord &  
Ken Castner  
Nancy Chastain  
Carol Swartz & Bob Cole  
Mary Frische &  
Tom Collopy  
Carol Comfort  
Piano Studio  
Lilia & Nelson Co  
Lucy Cutting  
Ann & Walter Dixon  
Brenda & James Dolma  
Richard Donovan  
Jenny Carroll &  
Paul Dungan  
Nancy Lee Evans &  
Charles Evans  
Fantasy & Creative Tours  
Johanna & Doug Fraiman  
Charles Francis  
Christie & Ty Gates  
Betty Jo Goddard  
Elaine Grantier  
Maynard Gross  
Nell & Rich Gustafson  
Claudia Haines

Pauli & Harmon Hall  
Shawn Hansen  
Erik Henrickson  
Polly Prindle-Hess &  
Bruce Hess  
Homer Ukulele Group  
Shila & Michael Hough  
Tom Kizzia  
Bonnie Powell &  
Blake La Rue  
Flo Larson  
Betsy & David Lawer  
Sue Post & Jim Levine  
Victoria Lord  
Jillian Lush  
Mildred Martin  
Paula & Joseph Martin  
Sue Mauger  
Diane & Mike McBride  
Catherine &  
Michael McCarthy  
Karen Berger &  
Steve McCasland  
*Homer Brewing Company*  
Roberta  
Copeland-McKinney  
Sandy & Lee McDaniel  
Jo and Peter Michalski  
Lolita Brache &  
Jane Miles  
Philemon Morris  
Pat & Chris Moss  
Ardith Mumma  
Jacqueline & Clay Norvell  
R. Oberlitner  
Shirley Fedora  
& Bill Palmer  
Barbara & Lance Petersen  
Denise &  
Gordon Pitzman  
Gail & Lawrence  
Radcliffe

Janie Leask & Don Reed  
Arlene Ronda  
Luana Stovel & Jim Rowe  
Mary & Donald Sanders  
Bonnie Jason & David  
Schneider  
Theodore Patrick  
Schneider  
Tina & Paul Seaton  
Spencer Shroyer  
Susan McLean & Hal  
Smith, *recognizing friends*  
*Chuck & Patti Jay and Steve*  
*& Robbie Coffey*  
Katherine Smith  
Heidi & Tim Stage  
Andrea Steward  
Victoria Steik  
Nadya Klingel & Mel  
Strydom *The Grog Shop*  
Joy Steward & Stu  
Schmutzler  
Julia Clymer & Karl  
Stolzfus  
Kira & Sandy Stuart  
Teresa Sundmark  
Mary & Emmitt Trimble  
Caroline & Franco Venuti  
Brad Walker  
*Keen Eye Collections*  
Jennifer & Eric  
Waltenbach  
Sue Wohlgemuth  
& Ken Landfield  
Lindsay Wolter  
Ruth Woodring  
**Julia Park Howard  
Unrestricted Fund**  
Virginia Howard Mullan  
& Michael Mullan

### AGENCY ENDOWMENT FUNDS

#### Aquila Fund

Ann & Ron Keffer

#### Friends of the Homer Public Library

Anonymous  
Friends of the Homer  
Public Library

#### Peter Larson Compassion In Action Fund

Mary & Donald Sanders

### FIELD OF INTEREST FUNDS

#### Constnace M. Benston Fund

McKibben Jackinski &  
Sandy Mazen

#### Homer Mariner Fast Pitch Softball Fund

Mary Lou Kelsey  
& Bill Bell

Larson Fellows

Lisa & Robert Fellows

Sarah Fellows

#### Jessica Stevens Memorial Fund

William H. Stevens  
& Family

#### Kevin Bell & Family Hockey Fund

Mary Ferguson Bell

#### Music Education Fund in Memory of Renda Horn

E. Margaret Brummell

Dee & Roger Clyne

Ann & Ron Keffer

Josephine Walker

#### Sheldon Youth to Youth Fund

Josephine Schawillie

#### City of Homer Fund

City of Homer



## SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

### Health Care Providers Scholarship Fund

Anette Avant *Kenai  
Physical Therapy*  
Theodore Barton M.D.  
Bobbie Behrens, MD  
Mary Lou Kelsey & Bill  
Bell  
Maura Jones  
Erica & Jay Marley  
Lynn Burt & Jim Meesis  
Emilie Otis  
Dr. Susan Polis  
Karen Northrop & Doug  
Reid  
Dots Sherwood *Homer  
Veterinary Clinic*  
ZiZi Zoubek, DDS

### Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic Scholarship Fund

Dr. Paul Raymond  
**Ptarmigan Arts  
Scholarship Fund**  
Ptarmigan Arts Gallery  
**The Nikki Geragotelis  
(Fry) Memorial Fund**  
Family and Friends of  
Nikki Geragotelis (Fry)  
**Homer Community  
Science Scholarship  
Fund**  
Nancy Levinson  
**Drew Scalzi Memorial  
Maritime Scholarship  
Fund**  
Teresa & Neil Ferguson  
Andrew McFarland  
Pat & Chris Moss  
Barb Scalzi and Family

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

**David & Mary  
Schroer Fund**  
Dave & Beth Schroer  
**Jack & Mary  
Lentfer Fund**  
Mary & Jack Lentfer  
**The Willow Fund**  
Anonymous  
**JEMCO Fund**  
Elaine Grantier  
**The KLEPS Fund**  
Tina & Paul Seaton

## RESTRICTED FUNDS

**Homer Community  
Chest**  
Anonymous  
**HF Youth Advisory  
Committee**  
Pauli & Harmon Hall  
Shirley Fedora & Bill  
Palmer

## City of Homer Grants Program

City of Homer  
**Pass Through Funds**  
Charles Evans & Nancy  
Lee Evans  
Anonymous

## IN KIND DONATIONS

Alaska Coastal Marine  
Ken Castner  
Kirsten & Mandy Dixon  
Eric Fenger  
Foster & Company  
Aaron Apling-Gilman  
Pauli & Harmon Hall  
*Quiet Place Lodge*  
Madilyn Robinson Photos  
Ravn Air  
The Grog Shop

# CARING FOR YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH A BEQUEST

I've been connected to the Homer community since visiting here for the first time in the early 1970's and falling in love with the majestic beauty of the area. It reminded me of both my Norwegian heritage and the small farming and lakes community of Alexandria, Minnesota where I was born and raised. When we lived on a houseboat on Seattle's Lake Union, my husband, Ed Hutchinson brought me fishing here and I caught a 300-pound halibut. We were lured to Alaska and purchased recreational property in Seldovia. A dream came true when we moved to Homer permanently and I joined the Homer Chamber of Commerce as their Visitor Center and Special Events Manager in 2015.



I've traveled on the Marine Highway Inside Passage ferry many times and became fascinated with the Alaska Native tradition of Potlatch-giving back to those who have given to you. When I recently updated my Will, I thought of the Homer Foundation as a way to leave a bequest and give back to this community in perpetuity.

My professional career has been in the field of fund-raising on all levels including being the Major Gifts and Endowment Director for several non-profit organizations. I know the

benefit of working with and leaving bequests to a Community Foundation like the excellent one we have in Homer. I read in our local newspapers the thank you letters from young people who receive scholarships and the non-profit organizations who receive grants to continue their significant programs and services in our community to people of all ages through the Homer Foundation.

Please join me as you do your own estate financial planning and consider leaving a bequest to the Homer Foundation as your own legacy to this majestic community.

Jan Knutson



## Bequest By Will

Including a charitable bequest in your will is a simple way to leave a legacy to your community.

You can give cash, appreciated stocks, or other assets. Some of the most tax-efficient asset types to give through your estate plan come from retirement plan accounts.

Through your will, you can choose to give a stated dollar amount, a specific property, a percentage of your estate, the remainder after distributions to other beneficiaries, or you can make your gift contingent on certain events.

You may give an unrestricted gift, or you may determine the name and purpose of the fund you would like to establish.

Your gift will be placed into an endowment that is invested over time. Earnings from your fund are used to make grants addressing community needs. Your gift—and all future earnings from your gift—is a permanent source of community capital, helping to do good work forever.


When you decide to include the Homer Foundation in your will as a bequest we can help you or your attorney with recommended language.

Please call us for more information on how you can leave a legacy to your community through your will.



## CONNECT WITH US

Find out how you can leave a legacy to your community through your will.

 907.235.0541

 3733 Ben Walters Lane Homer, AK  
lower level of the Kachemak Bay Title Building

 [info@homerfoundation.org](mailto:info@homerfoundation.org)

 [www.homerfoundation.org](http://www.homerfoundation.org)

 find us on Facebook

**Subscribe** to our e-newsletter

# HALIBUT COVE LIVE 2015

**T**wo weekends, two fabulous bands, three amazing chefs! That describes Halibut Cove Live 2015. Thanks to the vision and generosity of Pauli and Harmon Hall the Homer Foundation was able to present our sixth year of these unique fundraising events. We think we have found the perfect formula.

## SUCCESS FORMULA





## What to Expect in 2016?

Visit [HalibutCoveLive.com](http://HalibutCoveLive.com) for updates!





The Homer Foundation  
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