Resilient Communities
Response for Today, Strength for the Future
The Homer Foundation holds the following as core organizational values:

**Community**
- We are committed to building a strong community.
- We recognize the importance of equity, inclusivity and diversity.
- We value engagement with all members of our service area.

**Stewardship**
- We prudently manage donated funds.
- We responsibly and efficiently disburse funds to strengthen our community.

**Integrity**
- We maintain the trust of donors and community through forthright communication and timely action.
- Honesty and accountability will be synonymous with the Homer Foundation.

**Resilience**
- We are responsive, innovative and adaptive in finding ways to strengthen our community.
- We strive to endure for generations to come within a vibrant community.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of the greater Homer area by promoting philanthropic and charitable activities.
From the Executive Director and Board President

A Year in Review

Board of Trustees

2020 Community Grants

Grant Highlight: SPARC

Grant Highlight: Anchor Point Food Pantry

Scholarships

Grant Highlight: Center for Alaska Coastal Studies

Youth Advisory Committee Highlights

New Funds

Donor Story: Tom Collopy and Mary Frische

Leaving a Legacy

Financial Report

2020 Fund Balances

Donors

How to Give

Halibut Cove Live
What will historians say about 2020? Will they say, “It was a year filled with angst and unrest?” Or will they say, “It was a year when communities rose up stronger and helped those in need?”

2020 has been a year that demonstrated how quickly change happens. At the Homer Foundation, we were able to set up an expedited aid fund — and the community reaction was phenomenal. We raised over $63,000 through the COVID-19 Response Fund to help area nonprofits meet their increased challenges.

History called, you responded. Thank you.

We are proud of the role the foundation played — and will continue to play, in nurturing so much that is good and lovely in our community. And we add our voices to the wider chorus of thanks to all those in the health care, transportation and retail community who also rose to these challenges.

Beyond the response to the pandemic, the Homer Foundation was able to grow in important ways this year. A few highlights:

- Investments experienced real growth at a 5.42%.
- Launched a new family of non-endowed fund options.
- We increased our donor base by 25%.
- We had 4 new funds started totaling $187,352.
- We gave out 106 grants and scholarships for a community investment of $360,686.

Those grants and new funds represent an investment in the future of our greater area community, extending from Nanwalek to Ninilchik. Awards included substantial scholarships to help 13 young people build their dreams. Every year, giving out those scholarships is a special joy for us at the foundation.

The lesson of 2020 is that we need each other. The community foundation is a place where we can all come together to support those in need and extend the work of our many non-profits. It is an honor for us to play a part.

Whether you helped through a new fund, an anonymous gift, a donation through Pick.Click.Give or the COVID-19 Response Fund, thank you for joining with us this past year. The community of Homer and the southern Kenai Peninsula is stronger as a result.
A Year In Review

$360,686 distributed in grants and scholarships

- **66** Quick Response Grants Awarded
- **$5,000** Awarded through our Youth Advisory Council
- **21** COVID-19 Response Grants Awarded
- **19** Scholarships Awarded
- **$39,500** Awarded through City of Homer Grants Program
- **49** nonprofits supported through grants
- **286** total donors
When Giving Is All We Have

One river gives
Its journey to the next.
We give because someone gave to us.
We give because nobody gave to us.
We give because giving has changed us.
We give because giving could have changed us.
We have been better for it,
We have been wounded by it—
Giving has many faces: It is loud and quiet,
Big, though small, diamond in wood-nails.
Its story is old, the plot worn and the pages too,
But we read this book, anyway, over and again:
Giving is, first and every time, hand to hand,
Mine to yours, yours to mine.
You gave me blue and I gave you yellow.
Together we are simple green. You gave me
What you did not have, and I gave you
What I had to give—together, we made
Something greater from the difference
The Homer Foundation is governed by an all-volunteer Board of Trustees. Just as important as what we do, is the acknowledgment of those involved. We are so grateful for our dedicated board members for all of their time, talent, and treasure they give each year to the Homer Foundation and our communities.

**Van Hawkins**  
Vice President

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**New Board Member**

Ken Taylor  
Ken joined the board in 2019. He is enthusiastic to join the Homer Foundation board of trustees in his retirement. He brings a world of experience from his career with Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural resources. He has also served on environmental board such as the Great Land Trust and the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska. His passion for the outdoors will only strengthen our reach of the Homer Foundation.

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**Board of Trustees**

- Steve Albert  
  Trustee

- Liz Downing  
  Trustee

- Bonnie Jason  
  Y.A.C. Advisor

- Van Hawkins  
  Vice President

- Tom Kizzia  
  Secretary

- Flo Larson  
  Trustee

- Paula Martin  
  Treasurer

- Phil Morris  
  Trustee

- Denise Pitzman  
  Development Committee Chair

- Paul Seaton  
  Community Grants Committee Chair

- Terri Spigelmyer  
  Board President

- Carol Swartz  
  Trustee
Grants

General Operating Support $53,363

Agency Endowment
Annual Distribution
Alaska Marine Conservation Council........ $255
Bunnell Street Arts Center ....................... $307
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies ............. $1,497
Friends of the Homer Public Library ........... $2,690
Homer Animal Friends ............................. $429
Homer Community Food Pantry .................. $607
Homer Council on the Arts ....................... $283
Hospice of Homer ................................ $1,258
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust .................... $885
KBBI ............................................. $1,105
Pratt Museum .................................... $911
Homer Mariner Fastpitch Softball ............... $550
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic .......... $386
City of Homer Grant
Municipal Pass Through Fund
Bunnell Street ..................................... $2,000
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies ............. $1,000
Cook Inletkeeper ................................ $1,000
Homer Community Food Pantry ................. $5,700
Homer Council on the Arts ....................... $1,000
Homer Farmers Market ......................... $5,700
Homer Hockey Association ....................... $2,000
Hospice of Homer ................................. $5,700
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic .......... $7,000
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust ................... $1,000
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club ...................... $2,000
KBBI ............................................. $5,700
SPROUT ......................................... $1,000

General Operating Support
David and Mary Schroer Fund
KBBI ............................................. $1,200

People’s Choice Award
Opportunity Grants Reserve
Homer Cycling Club ....................... $500
Pratt Museum ................................ $500
SPROUT ................................ $500

Education $22,700

David and Mary Schroer Fund
Homer Flex School ........... $500
Cooking Equipment
Homer High School .......... $2,000
Positive Behavior Supports
Homer Middle School ........ $3,000
Athletic Program Support
McNeil Canyon Elementary School ........ $3,000
Equipment, Materials, and Learning Opportunities
Paul Banks School ........ $3,000
Library Updates
Pratt Museum ............... $1,225
School Field Trip Program at Pratt
Pratt Museum ............... $1,250
Transition to Digital Education Programs
West Homer Elementary .......... $3,000
Interactive Displays
KLEPS Fund
Pratt Museum ............... $1,225
School Field Trip Program at Pratt
Pratt Museum ............... $2,500
Transition to Digital Education Programs
Voznesenka School ........ $2,000
Close-Up Washington DC and NYC

Conservation/Environment $9,848

Kathy and Roger Herrnstein Fund
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies ........ $500
Digital Education Program
Martha H. Briscoe Environmental Science and Conservation Fund
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies ........ $2,500
Youth Program Services in the time of COVID-19
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies .... $2,500
Beluga in a Box
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust ............... $2,348
Moving Away from Paper
Willow Fund
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society ........ $2,000
Yes to Better Bags

COVID-19 Response Grants $36,599

Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Anchor Point Food Pantry ............... $7,000
Anchor Point Senior Center, Inc ............... $4,200
Alaska Coalition for Veterans and Military Families ........................ $500
CICADA ...................................... $2,500
Haven House ................................ $2,500
Homer Community Food Pantry ................ $2,850
Homer Farmers Market ........ $2,500
Homer Senior Center ......................... $4,750
Hospice of Homer ......................... $799
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic ........ $7,000
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust ............... $1,000
Kachemak Nordic Ski Club .................... $2,000
Ninilchik Community Library ................ $2,500
Ninilchik Senior Center, Inc ............... $2,500
Voznesenka Community Council ............. $2,500

The Homer Foundation 2020 Annual Report
COMMUNITY GRANTS COMMITTEE: Being the new Grants Committee Chair has been a rewarding experience. It has been inspirational to see so many caring community members donating their time to consider the many non-profit designed projects which promote resilience in our area. Both the quick response and special COVID-19 grant systems have been very effective enhancing our communities.

Paul Seaton  Community Grant Committee Chair
In 2016, the Soccer Association of Homer (SAH), led by Board members Daniel and Lisa Zatz, decided to build a new indoor recreation space in Homer, in order to develop youth soccer in the Homer area and support other healthy recreation for all ages. The doors opened in fall 2017 staffed by a combination of part time employees, volunteers and a full time Executive Director. Currently, SPARC serves about 4,000 individual users annually. Through 2019, the SPARC facility logged 25,670 person/visits since opening. The Homer Foundation provided over $10,000 in support for SPARC during this year. This support came at a critical time when there was so much uncertainty about the future of SPARC due to COVID-19. President Will Files says, “Our organization would not have been able to move safely forward if it weren’t for the Homer Foundation.”

“I can’t emphasize enough how much I look forward to playing pickleball at the SPARC Center; four courts offered 2-3 times weekly for 2 hour sessions. Wonderful people sharing great exercise and camaraderie—so appreciated and needed in our community. Thank you! SPARC!!”

Jeanne Doty
For privacy purposes you can call me Bob. I am a married man with three children. My family and I have resided in the Anchor Point area for the past several years. I had a good job in Homer and was able to take care of the needs of my family.

In May my work started slowing down and by the middle of July my employment was terminated. Having gone through all my savings just to keep up on the living costs, I found myself in a position where I was no longer able to take care of our basic needs.

I found out about the Anchor Point Food Pantry through a friend of ours. It took me a few more weeks to gather the courage to go to the pantry to ask for help. I went to the Anchor Point Food Pantry where I was even embarrassed to give my name, but I was treated with kindness and made to feel welcome. The pantry, and the hot meals that they hand out every week, has helped relieve some of the stress of daily living.

Although I am out doing a continual job search, because of the pantry and the services that they offer to families like myself, I feel more relaxed and more hopeful for tomorrow. The pantry has not only helped us with their services, but they have connected us with the Salvation Army food program as well which has filled our cupboards even more. My family and I are truly grateful to the pantry and to their generous staff.” —Bob

The Anchor Point Food Pantry serves the local Anchor Point area and surrounding rural areas. The pantry has always served a hot meal and a fresh produce line on Mondays, including one bag of groceries a month per household. Prior to March, the average week saw 35 households. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, families can receive a weekly bag of groceries and a hot meal for every member of the household. The pantry has more than tripled the weekly clientele. The pantry has received $7,000 in grants from the Homer Foundation to meet their evolving needs.

Homer Foundation
COVID-19 Response Fund

On March 25, 2020 the Board of Trustees created a new fund for the Homer Foundation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund is being used to support our local non-profits and the vital services they provide. With the changes to aid available, we anticipate more requests due to the impacts from this pandemic. This fund allows for flexibility for the agencies to apply as needed and for the Foundation to meet changing community needs.
Congratulations to the 2020 recipients

Alain and Daniel Rieser Scholarship
Anthony Melkomukov ........ $3,000

Beluga Tale Nonfiction Writing Scholarship
Anthony Melkomukov ........ $3,000
Ruby Allen ......................... $3,000

Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship Fund
Amber Bridgeman .............. $1,000
Jacob Clark ........................ $1,000

Fish and Wildlife Scholarship Fund
Autumn Carlson ................ $2,000

Health Care Providers Scholarship Fund
Ruby Allen ......................... $1,000
Amber Bridgeman .............. $1,000
Megan Kirsis ...................... $3,000

Heather Pancratz Memorial Fund
Sophia Klaich ....................... $500
Zachary Trail ....................... $500

Homer Community Science Scholarship Fund
Ruby Allen ........................... $1,250
Abigail Middleton .............. $1,000
Rio Schmet Pitcher ............... $750

Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic Scholarship Fund
Autumn Carlson .................... $2,000

Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship Fund
Colby Marion ....................... $5,000
Abigail Middleton .............. $1,000

Nursing Studies Scholarship Fund
Annali Metz ........................ $1,500

Sutton James Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund
Anthony Melkomukov ........ $1,000

Scholarships
$32,500 Awarded to Area Students

This year the Homer Foundation awarded nineteen scholarships totaling $32,500 to area students. These scholarships are supported by permanent endowments administered by the Homer Foundation and would not be possible without the vision and generosity of community donors. Since the Foundation began administering scholarships in 2000, it has awarded 289 individual scholarships totaling $335,990.

“These scholarships have value well beyond the monetary. They also send the important message to each recipient and their family: ‘You have a future and we believe in you.’” said Homer Foundation Executive Director Mike Miller.

The success of the Foundation’s scholarship program depends on our school counselors and staff who are on the front line, connecting students to scholarship applications, and the dozens of volunteers who make up these committees, sharing their time and expertise to read and rate applications, assuring a fair and equitable selection process.

Because of the donors who had the vision to establish these scholarships, and the community members that continue to support them, these endowed funds will be here to support the education of our youth far into the future. Tax exempt donations to support these scholarships, or any of the 68 funds managed by the Foundation, are appreciated and will help extend the reach of this amazing local program.
Megan Kirsis is attending the Teachers College at Columbia University this fall. She will be studying Communication Sciences and Disorders pursuing a Master’s of Science in order to become a speech and language pathologist. "The recognition and support I have received from the Homer Foundation has substantially enriched my future opportunities. It’s provided me with the ability to offset the rising costs of room and board in New York City, as well as to purchase textbooks and clinical session supplies. For these reasons, I am incredibly thankful to the Homer Foundation, and to each of the Scholarship Committee members for all of your generosity. I have been very fortunate to have been raised in our wonderful town and I’m excited with the prospect of bringing my new career back to Alaska.”

Ruby Allen is also attending Columbia University, to study biology and dance. Ruby was the recipient of three of our scholarships, the Beluga Tail Non-Fiction Writing Scholarship, the Health Care Providers Scholarship, and the Homer Community Science Scholarship. Recognizing the latter two scholarships, “Thank you for your generosity, which has allowed me to help pay to attend my ultimate dream college of Columbia University in New York City. I plan to study medicine in the hopes of making a difference in the longevity of people in under resourced communities. As I complete my education at Columbia University, I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift. Because of your scholarship, I will be able to also attend medical school after my undergrad with minimal student debt.”

Colby Marion is attending Arizona State University to study Aerospace Engineering. Colby is a recipient of the Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship awarded to student athletes who demonstrate excellent character, both on and off the field. Colby writes, “I cannot thank you enough for the gracious scholarship you have awarded me. Since I was young I have always dreamed of going to college. Now that the time has come, it is because of awards like the Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship, I will be able to see this dream of mine come true. I have never been so happy in my life when my name was announced for the scholarship. I think it is amazing there are so many scholarships available on the local level here in Homer, Alaska. For not being a large town, foundations like yours are crucial to higher education for the graduates of Homer. I am certainly thankful for your amazing contribution to my future.”

Anthony Melkomukov is attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks to study Chemical Engineering. Anthony was the recipient of three of our scholarships, the Beluga Tail Non-Fiction Writing Scholarship, the Alain and Daniel Riser Scholarship, and the Sutton James Miller Memorial Scholarship. Recognizing the latter, he says “I’d like to offer my most sincere thanks to you for awarding me this scholarship. Getting any college degree is a long and difficult process, with those qualities only being exacerbated by the enormous price tag. Though some may consider your $1000 to be just a start when held up to a $100,000 price tag, I am immensely grateful and assure you with every fiber of my being that I will put it to good use.”

Abigail Middleton is attending Valparaiso University in pursuit of a degree in Bioengineering. Abigail received a Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship as well as a Homer Community Science Scholarship. “I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of these scholarships. Thank you for your generosity, which is allowing me to make the transition to college easier with the support from my hometown. I would like to thank you to all the people in our community that have made the Homer Foundation Scholarships available to the graduating students in our area. It means a lot to be a part of this community, so much kindness and support. My goal is to work on teams that will develop and improve new technology to be used for medical purposes and building artificial limbs and organs!”
The backpack of a CACS educator is usually full of all sorts of wonderful tools and treasures: beach and plant ID guides, hand lenses, old smushed granola bars, interesting shells and rocks. This summer, the backpacks had a few extra things in them — extra cloth face coverings, gloves, bottles of hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, thermometers, health screening forms, and everything else needed to implement a detailed COVID-19 mitigation plan in an outdoor setting. An immense amount of behind the scenes work allowed them to create safe and fun-filled outdoor learning opportunities for all ages during this unusual summer.

The impact of the Coastal Studies camps and field trips will reach well beyond this summer. Young people were learning and laughing and being active outside, even as they all figured out how to navigate through a global pandemic. A day camp parent explained “because of how you handled mask wearing and hygiene my girls are well prepared for in person school.” A trip to the Peterson Bay Field Station was described by a middle school teacher as “such a gift to these kids that are entering high school in such uncertain times” and a parent called day camp a “critical spirit-lifter” after a spring full of so many disappointments. In these ways, these opportunities during summer 2020 will have long-lasting positive effects, both practical and profound ways.

Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies received $3,000 in grant funding from the Homer Foundation to help make this summer happen.
This year our Youth Advisory Council (YAC) was a little different from the past. The reason for this was the worldwide breakout of Covid-19. However even with the struggles, we were able to complete most of our goals.

This year YAC was given $5,000 to fund organizations in Homer who provide opportunities for young people. We received six applications from organizations in Homer. These organizations were asking for grants to put on events, activities, and programs that would benefit the youth in our community. We met five times during the April and May to discuss and debate, and finally determine which projects to fund.

We could no longer meet in person so we began having online Zoom calls every Friday. These calls, though limiting, allowed us to stay connected so we could keep making decisions.

Though this year was abnormal, it was very productive and showed that even in times of struggle, our world and community is strong enough to still get the important things done and to remember to keep helping each other.

Lucas Story
Spencer Co

2020 YAC Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$400</td>
<td>Homer High School Student Council, AASG Fall Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>Soccer Association of Homer, SPARC rental fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,400</td>
<td>Homer Hockey Association, Microbell program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>South Peninsula Behavioral Health Services, ReAKtion Club</td>
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Making Donor’s Dreams a Reality

New Funds

**Storyknife Writers Retreat Agency Endowment Fund**
This fund was started by Dana Stabenow, the Storyknife board president, to benefit a new writers retreat in Homer. Stabenow says she was inspired by her own experience at a similar retreat. She writes “Hedgebrook is a retreat for women writers on Whidbey Island. I was lucky enough to be accepted as a resident there in 1989, the year it opened. At Hedgebrook, for the first time in my life I met people who acted like writing was a real job. ‘Sit down,’ founder Nancy Nordhoff said my first evening when I got up to help clear the table after dinner. ‘You’ve already done your work for the day.’ At Hedgebrook, I was given, gratis, a beautiful cabin in which to work and each evening at dinner the company of other women writers with whom to talk shop and tell war stories. Hedgebrook gave me credibility and community and confidence. It made me who I am, and is everything I hope Storyknife will become.” This agency endowment fund will provide an annual award to the new Storyknife Writers Retreat, providing unrestricted operating dollars to this non-profit, so they can spend less time fundraising and more time focusing on their mission.

**Girl Scouts Travel Fund**
Tina Seaton established this fund this year, and told the Foundation “As a young girl scout I was able to attend canoe camp and a Jamboree where I met girls from across the nation. These were incredible growth experiences where I learned to appreciate people that were very different from me. I was challenged both physically and mentally. I was out of my comfort zone but I found I could handle it and enjoy it! I sold cookies to help make those trips happen, and my parents were able to pay the majority of the cost. Over the years I’ve spent as a Girl Scout volunteer I’ve seen the struggle involved for girls and troops that want to take on major travel experiences. Though I know that fundraising is an important learning step in the process of preparing for a trip I wish to provide a supplement that can bring travel into the realm of possibility for a girl that does not have the necessary financial resources. Whether traveling with a troop across the bay for science based programming, to a state-wide Encampment, or an International trip to a Girl Scout center in India, Mexico or Great Britain, all can provide amazing opportunities for girls to grow and learn about themselves and the world.” Like all donor advised funds, as the donor Tina and her successors will be involved in these awards.

**Bryce Golden Fund for Behavioral Health**
This donor advised fund was established by Jessica Golden as a way to honor the life and passion of her late husband, Bryce Golden. She says, “Bryce once told me that his goal in every interaction was to walk away leaving the other person feeling happier than when they met. Not only clients and family, but strangers as well. He wanted to and succeeded in moving through this world a source of calm, acceptance, and radical empathy. After 24 years in behavioral health, Bryce was diagnosed with terminal cancer just one month after his 40th birthday and one month shy of receiving his state licensure as a therapist. The Bryce Golden Fund was created to honor his legacy of compassion and to support behavioral health opportunities in Homer. Bryce believed in chances: first chances, second chances, third. Nothing brought him more joy than seeing others succeed. He believed that people can rise above their bad beginning. For this reason, the fund was set up to have a two-prong approach: providing
The Homer Foundation offers a variety of fund options to help you meet your philanthropic goals. From donor advised funds, where you engage in active grantmaking recommendations, or field of interest funds designed to support a specific need within the community, to unrestricted funds which rely on the Foundation’s knowledge of community needs for grantmaking decisions, our funds allow you to choose your level of participation. You can establish a fund using cash, securities, closely-held stock, mutual fund shares, real estate, business interests and many other types of assets. Contact the Homer Foundation for more information.

Nursing Studies Scholarship
Longtime friend and board member to the Homer Foundation, Steve Albert decided on creating this Field of Interest Scholarship Fund. He reflects “Establishing the Nursing Scholarship meant a lot to me. Having been so fortunate and lucky to have been married to two wonderful Registered Nurses, I decided to establish this scholarship as a means to honor all that my first and my current wife had done to improve the lives of the many patients that they served here in Alaska. A Nursing Degree can be an expensive proposition. By reducing the cost of that degree through the establishment of this scholarship, more individuals would have the ability to become Nurses. To be a nurse provides numerous opportunities to improve the lives of others.”

Sutton James Miller Memorial Scholarship
After Vernon and Rachel Miller tragically lost their son to SIDS, they wanted to find a way to memorialize his life. They chose to open a Field of Interest Scholarship fund for annual awards to students of Homer High School. “We chose The Homer Foundation for our son’s memorial: The Sutton James Memorial Scholarship, because this will forever benefit Homer’s youth. How the amazingly compassionate the staff shows throughout the process of establishing your fund, paired with the never-ending support, secured our decision. We will continue to benefit each year from being able to stay active for our unique vision. We are proud to be a part of choosing the recipient, fundraising, announcing the award to the outstanding Homer graduate. It is a wonderful feeling knowing that we are honoring our precious son’s memory, while creating new ones to last a lifetime.”

Library Endowment Fund
The Library Advisory Board affiliated with the City of Homer Public Library voted this past year to create an Endowment Fund to benefit the Homer Public Library. Marcia Kuszmaul, chair of the Library Advisory Board, and library director David Berry say this fund continues a long tradition of community support for Homer’s library. “In the 1940s, the Homer Women’s Club founded a library in a 600-square-foot cabin. Later generations renewed the commitment to their community and their library, investing in new buildings, inventing new programs, and adjusting to changing technologies. Now, we carry that commitment forward again with a new endowment fund that will support local literacy and lifelong learning for generations to come.” This fund is a field of interest fund, with the revenue from the fund being used to purchase materials for the library’s collection, purchase or upgrade library equipment, or for improvements or repairs to library facilities and services.
Twenty-five years ago, when we were plotting our escape from city life, my wife and I happened upon Homer. In addition to the phenomenal beauty of this place, the positive sense of community that we observed made it clear to us that we should be here.

It took some time for us to figure out how to participate in and contribute to community life here. As most of us do, we focused on organizations that have goals consistent with our own. Those consumed the majority of the time and financial assistance that we can provide. We quickly realized that legitimate needs addressed by organizations other than those we supported were also vital to the community and were worthy of and in need of support. We looked for an organization that dealt with needs beyond those we were addressing.

Enter the Homer Foundation.

We support the Homer Foundation because it deals responsibly and effectively with a broad spectrum of community issues. Financial contributions to the Homer Foundation are invested and disbursed responsibly. Members vet and find consensus on proposals and grant requests from non-profits within the community. Funds are awarded to worthy recipients and causes in a manner that avoids politics and bias. The organization adheres to standards as high those we set for ourselves.

The Homer Foundation is truly an asset to our community.
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. You can integrate charitable giving into your financial planning by checking with your financial advisor for more information and ideas. Please consider adding your name to this list of generous visionaries by leaving a legacy to your community through your estate plan and joining the Homer Foundation’s Legacy Society. Your gift can be a catalyst for change and an inspiration to others. Contact the Homer Foundation to become a Legacy Society member today.
As Treasurer of the Homer Foundation, I oversee the Foundation’s priorities of financial stewardship and honest, transparent accountability. The Foundation chose a world-renowned investment manager, one committed to low fees, who conduct expert research as their basis of investment advice, have extensive experience working with nonprofits, and are among the most trusted asset managers: Vanguard. While these are uncertain economic times, Vanguard provides the Homer Foundation with a prudent method to manage donated funds with a long-term strategy.

In the last fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, the investment strategy provided 5.42% in gains, a strong ending point as the S&P 500 gained 5.41% over the same time. In addition, donors of all types sent in more for Homer Foundation programs and funds. In total in FY20, donors provided $567,854 to serve our community, including in part: $63,366 for the Covid-19 Campaign, $25,000 to Community Chest, and $39,500 for the City of Homer Grant Program. A total of $183,775 was added to our investment base because of new donations. The Grants Committee has done a great job of moving donations back to the community. With the Homer Foundation’s Finance Committee and Foundation staff, we strive for full financial accountability, including an annual financial review by an outside entity. We hope to have the invested funds available for decades into the future!

Paula Martin
Treasurer

### Revenue And Support

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Net Earned Income</td>
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<td>Investment Gains (Losses)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue and Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$717,611</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<td>Grants from Restricted Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Distributions</td>
<td>$121,154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td>$80,504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating &amp; Program Expenses</td>
<td>$48,973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$485,745</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Donated Good and Services** $19,100

**Net Assets as of June 30, 2019** $2,666,537

**Increase/Decrease in Net Assets** $231,866

**Net Assets as of June 30, 2020** $2,898,403

The Homer Foundation’s Investments are managed by the Vanguard Group. The investment manager works closely with the Finance Committee, chaired by Paula Martin. The Homer Foundation has a full Financial Review conducted by an outside CPA firm. The Financial Review is available upon request, as is our IRS Form 990. Please note, this is an unaudited financial summary.
Financial Impact in Review

Vanguard Performance by Quarter

Assets Under Management *Includes all special projects*

Contributions

Total $3,202,249
- Donor Advised $1,103,637
- Field of Interest $1,000,809
- Restricted $136,080
- Unrestricted $536,583
- Special Projects and Other $408,826
- Other $16,314

Total $567,854
- Donor Advised $208,921
- Field of Interest $150,969
- Unrestricted/Admin $142,346
- Special Projects and Other $80,170
- Agency Endowments $25,459
Family of Funds

**Unrestricted Funds**
Homer Foundation Opportunity Fund
Julia Park Howard Unrestricted Fund
Steve and Noko Yoshida Fund
Aquila Fund

**Restricted Funds**
Homer Community Chest Fund
Homer Foundation
COVID-19 Response Fund
Youth Advisory Committee Fund

**Agency Endowment Funds**
Alaska Marine Conservation Council Fund
Bunnell Street Arts Center
Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies Fund
Friends of the Homer Public Library Fund
Homer Animal Friends Fund
Homer Community Food Pantry Fund
Homer Council on the Arts Fund
Homer Mariner Fastpitch Softball Fund
Kachemak Bay Family Planning Clinic Fund
Kachemak Heritage Land Trust Fund
KBBI Public Radio Endowment Fund
Peter Larson Compassion in Action Fund
Pratt Museum Fund
Storyknife Writers Retreat Fund

**Field of Interest**
A Music Education Fund
In Memory of Renda Horn
Alice Witte Memorial Scholarship Fund
Ashley J. Logan Fund
Bill & Liz Johnson Teacher Education Scholarship Fund
Bluegrass Fund
Brother Asaiah Bates Fund
Choices for Teens Fund
City of Homer Fund
Constance M. Benston Fund
Diane Wambach “Shoot for the Stars” Scholarship Fund
Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship Fund
Educator’s Professional Development Fund
Fish and Wildlife Scholarship Fund
Health Care Providers Scholarship Fund
Heather Pancratz Memorial Fund
Homer Community Science Scholarship Fund
Homer-Kachemak Bay Rotary Club Fund
Jessica M. Stevens Memorial Fund
Kachemak Bay Medical Clinic Scholarship Fund
Kachemak City Fund
Kevin Bell & Family Hockey Fund
Library Endowment Fund
Martha H. Briscoe Fund
Nikki Geragotelis (Fry) Memorial Scholarship Fund
Nursing Studies Scholarship Fund
Ptarmigan Arts Scholarship Fund
Rotary Club of Homer Downtown Fund
Sheldon Youth to Youth Fund
Spay & Neuter Fund
Sutton James Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund
Thor’s Scholarship

**Donor Advised**
Bryce Golden Fund for Behavioral Health
Compass Rose Fund
Cottonwood Fund
Daisy Lee Bitter Marine & Coastal Education Fund
David and Mary Schroer Fund
Girl Scouts Travel Fund
Gooseberry Fund
Homer Incentive Fund
Jack and Mary Lentfer Fund
Jane Little Family Endowment Fund
JEMCO Fund
Kathy and Roger Herrnsteent Fund
KLEPS Fund
May Benson Charitable Fund
Tin Roof Fund
Willow Fund
What Homer Foundation Offers Our Donors

2020 Donors

$10,000+
Anonymous (2) - The Gossenbrook Fund
Anonymous (2) - Opportunity Fund
City of Homer
City of Homer Grants Program, Library Endowment Fund
Dana Stabinow
Storyville Writers Retreat Agency Endowment Fund
Paul & Tina Seaton
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, Opportunity Fund, KLEPS fund, Girl Scouts Travel Fund, Nikki Geragotelis Memorial Fund
Philanthropist
Opportunity Fund, Nikki Geragotelis Memorial Fund
Rachel & Vernon Miller
Sutton James Miller Memorial Scholarship Fund
Rasmussen Foundation
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Steve & Vicki Albert
Nursing Studies Scholarship, Fish and Wildlife Scholarship Fund

$5,000+
Anonymous
Bryce Golden Fund for Behavioral Health - In Memory of Bryce Golden
Anonymous
Homer Community Chest
Anonymous (2)
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Curt & Lorna Olson
Homer Community Science Scholarship Fund
Dave & Beth Schroer
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, David & Mary Schroer Fund
Julia S Bevins
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Richard Leiner
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund

$2,500 – $4,999
Bill & Dorothy Fry
Opportunity Fund, The Nikki Geragotelis Memorial Fund, Diane Wambach “Shoot for the Stars” Scholarship Fund
Denise & Gordon Pitman
Opportunity Fund, Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, Nikki Geragotelis Memorial Fund
Elsie Grantier
Youth Advisory Committee - restricted
Kathy & Roger Hermsmeier
Kathy and Roger Hermsmeier Fund
Peggy Bosron & Frank Floyd
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Terri Spiegelman & Andy Haas
Friends of the Homer Public Library Endowment Fund, Opportunity Fund
Hass & Spiegelman Inc.
Tom Boedelt & Rita Ramirez
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund, Opportunity Fund

$1,000 – $2,499
Angie & Chris Nueseby
Opportunity Fund, Prattman Arts Scholarship Fund
Anna Lazo, LLC
Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship Fund
Anonymous (2)
Homer Foundation COVID-19 Response Fund
Anonymous (2) - Opportunity Fund

The Homer Foundation helps connect your generosity with community needs you care about. Whether you’re giving to one of our many established funds or creating a fund to steward what you are passionate about, your gift creates a legacy of impact for generations to come.

We offer:
❖ Flexibility and Focus – You decide how, when and where to spend your money. The Homer Foundation helps you transform your passions into action.
❖ Efficiency – Giving through us reduces or eliminates the overhead, time and expense of running a private foundation.
❖ Financial Stewardship – We help you achieve maximum tax advantages and work with your financial advisors and attorneys to incorporate giving into your plans.
❖ Support and Leadership – Homer Foundation staff and board help identify local needs, so your donations can make the greatest difference.
❖ Anonymity - We honor all requests for privacy and are here to help you reach your philanthropic goals at your own comfort level.
Together we are building permanent philanthropic assets for our community.
Community Foundations provide the ability for individuals to come together and build permanent philanthropic assets for their community. We can use these assets to enhance the quality of life and provide critical services close to home. The Homer Foundation provides a trustworthy and highly personal approach to giving. You are the most important part of this process.

**Ways of Giving**

Our donors have found many creative ways to make a tax-deductible donation to support their community. Here are just a few!

- Add the Homer Foundation to your estate planning
- Make the Homer Foundation a beneficiary of a retirement account or a life insurance policy
- Donate cash, stocks and securities
- Donate through corporate employee matching funds
- Donate a property such as a home, car, art work, etc.

**Make a Gift**

To make a gift to the Homer Foundation, you may need the following information:

- **Our EIN:** 92-0139183
- **Our Physical Address:** 3733 Ben Walters Lane, Suite 7, Homer, AK 99603

Contact the Staff at the Homer Foundation with any other questions. We are happy to help you.

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**Building Community Assets For Today, Tomorrow, Forever.**

Donors to our foundation often tell us their gifts are an expression of how lucky they feel to be part of this community. It’s been a tough year for organizations, ours included, as we had to cancel our main fundraiser, Halibut Cove Live. But it’s no surprise that everyone pitched in and, as our neighbors always do, rose to the occasion. Thank you to everyone who donated Halibut Cove Live tickets back! We saw an outpouring of giving to our special COVID-19 fund, and overall donations were up from previous years. These gifts cycle back into the community in countless ways.

Our list of donors continues to grow, and so does the roster of our Legacy Society, whose members have included bequests to the foundation in their estate planning as a way to give back to the community. Our dream is to someday reach a corpus of $20 million - a carefully invested endowment that could provide major funding every year for our many wonderful non-profits. We’re making real progress in that direction. Thank you for your generosity this past year!
IRA Charitable Rollover Gifts

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to help charities like the Homer Foundation and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to a charity, without having to pay income taxes on the contribution. This can be accomplished with an IRA Charitable Rollover gift.

You might have to withdraw money from your IRA at some point. Once you turn 70½, you must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) each year from your IRA, and the RMD amount increases with your age. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this requirement is waived for 2020, but could still be applicable starting again January 2021. You are taxed on the RMD at ordinary income tax rates, and if you do not take your full RMD, you may be subject to a tax penalty.

What is an IRA Charitable Rollover gift? An IRA Charitable Rollover gift is a distribution from your IRA that is paid directly to a charity of your choice. You cannot claim an itemized charitable deduction for this gift, but it is not included in your income and you pay no income taxes on it.

The Benefits of an IRA Charitable Rollover gift. An IRA Charitable Rollover gift offers several benefits. Because the transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, you benefit even if you do not itemize your deductions. This is especially relevant beginning this year, since the standard deductions have been increased, making itemized deductions less appealing.

How do you make an IRA Charitable Rollover gift? The process is simple. All you need to do is instruct your IRA custodian to make a distribution from your IRA directly to the charity or charities of your choosing. Your IRA custodian should include your name and address, as well as any specific instructions you have for the use of the gift, along with the payment.

Halibut Cove Live

If you’ve ever had the pleasure of attending Halibut Cove Live, you understand why it has been such a great fundraising event for the Homer Foundation. As you sit on the deck listening to live music float up from the water, eat outstanding food, and watch the sea otters paddle by, you can agree with the ticket-holder who declared, “We are the luckiest people in the world!”

We unfortunately needed to cancel this summer’s events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, our hosts, Pauli and Harmon Hall of Quiet Place Lodge, and staff are already planning next year’s events. We want to ensure we maintain the special experience of these events, and are creatively brainstorming ways to make another memorable Halibut Cove weekend happen in our ever-evolving world.

Halibut Cove Live continues to be our most important fundraiser and outreach activity. We look forward to presenting the 10th year of this unique event next summer. Be sure to check halibutcovelive.com for further details. We look forward to dancing with you in Halibut Cove again soon!

Halibut Cove Live
Ways to Give to the Community Foundation

**Leave a Legacy:** Leaving a gift to your community in your estate planning is a wonderful way to give back and ensure that your charitable vision endures forever.

**Contribute to a Fund:** Anyone can be a donor and we welcome gifts of any amount. When you contribute to an existing fund such as our Opportunity Fund, your gift will be used to support building a stronger, more vibrant community.

**Establish a Fund:** Establishing your own named fund is a great way to support your passions, receive an immediate tax benefit, and recommend grants to nonprofits doing the work you care about. We can structure your fund to meet your philanthropic goals.