

# \$16,000 in scholarships available through Foundation

The Homer Foundation manages permanently endowed scholarship funds that provide annual awards to area students for a variety of educational endeavors. The scholarships that are currently available will provide over \$16,000 in support for area students. These include the Alain and Daniel Rieser Scholarship for foreign language study/travel, the Homer Community Science Scholarship supporting post-secondary education in the life sciences, the Health Care Providers Scholarship supporting students serious in pursuing a health care field, the Drew Scalzi Memorial Maritime Scholarship supporting students of fishing families and/or students wishing to pursue a career in Alaska's maritime industry, and the Diane Wambach "Shoot for the Stars" Scholarship supporting education and training for young people with a plan to pursue their dream, and the Beluga Tail / Tale Writing Scholarship that will provide awards in both creative and nonfiction writing.

Applications are now available and may be requested via mail, phone or email, picked up at the Homer Foundation or the Homer High School Counselor's office, or downloaded from the Foundation's web site at [www.homerfund.org](http://www.homerfund.org).

The application deadline is 4 p.m. April 23rd.

Contact Joy Steward at the Homer Foundation for more information, or if you are interested in establishing a scholarship fund or contributing to one of our existing scholarship funds, 235-0541 or [jsteward@homerfund.org](mailto:jsteward@homerfund.org).

The Homer Foundation currently manages 10 different scholarship funds. All Foundation assets are pooled for investment purposes and the earnings distributed back to the community for charitable purposes. Scholarship funds are only one of the many ways the Foundation supports our community.

**Foundation-managed scholarship application deadline is April 23 at 4 p.m.**

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
HOMER AK  
PERMIT # 15

**The HOMER FOUNDATION**  
*Connecting generosity to community need*

Joy Steward, Ex. Director 907-235-0541 (voice)  
907-235-2021 (fax)  
jsteward@homerfund.org  
www.homerfund.org  
PO Box 2600  
Homer, AK 99603

**The HOMER FOUNDATION**  
*Connecting generosity to community need*

Volume 1 | COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS | April 2009

## YAC RECOGNIZED: Group wins statewide award

Five years of philanthropy and grant-giving aimed at Homer's youth was rewarded earlier this winter when the Homer Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee garnered statewide recognition for its efforts.

The committee received the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in November. This statewide award is presented to an individual or youth group who has demonstrated exceptional achievements in philanthropic activities through the development of new projects, leadership, volunteer service or direct financial support of nonprofits. Through exemplary service, this individual or group serves as a positive role model for the philanthropic process in action to other youth throughout Alaska.

"YAC members have developed attitudes, values and skills that enable them to effectively contribute to the betterment of their community, and as a result, the youth of Homer have more activities available to help them make healthy choices," said Homer Foundation Executive Director Joy Steward.

Since 2004, the Homer Foundation's student-led Youth Advisory Committee worked with advisor Bonnie Jason to infuse the Homer area with more than \$22,000 in grants to support programs and services that engage Homer's youth in healthy, affordable and easily accessible activities. YAC's 2009 grant recipients include South Peninsula Haven House, Homer Boys and Girls Club, and Kenai Peninsula Project GRAD.




Homer High Senior and longtime YAC member Patrick Schneider accepts the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award at the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals on Nov. 14 in Anchorage.

### Update on CABI Challenge Grant

The Homer Foundation successfully completed both phases of the Community Asset Building Initiative, sponsored by the Rasmuson Foundation and managed the Alaska Community Foundation. The Homer Foundation has received \$10,000 to distribute as grants to benefit the Homer community. In addition, earnings from a new \$150,000 Homer Foundation Endowment Fund at ACF will also benefit the area.

## Having the vision to build permanent philanthropic assets

**inside**

- 2** Letter from the Executive Director
- 3** Giving of Grants: Grantmaker profile
- 
- 3** Grantmaker Audrey Waldorf presents thoughts on giving to Homer.
- 3** Pick. Click. Give. program relaunches.
- 4** Foundation poised to distribute \$16,000 in scholarships

Created in 1991, the Foundation currently manages 40 charitable funds, with assets of \$1.98 million. In the 17 years since inception, the Homer Foundation has invested over \$1 million in the community through grants programs, donor advised distributions and special projects.

### Mission:

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

### Goals:

- \* Develop a permanent endowment for the community.
- \* Meet prudent standards in the stewardship of philanthropic assets.
- \* Promote effective and responsible grant making designed to serve current and future community needs.
- \* Demonstrate community leadership in identifying problems and designing philanthropic solutions.
- \* Assist donors in fulfilling their philanthropic goals by providing a variety of philanthropic mechanisms.

### Board of Trustees:

Connie Alderfer, Chair  
Carol Swartz, Vice Chair  
Buck Laukitis, Secretary  
Mary Epperson, Treasurer  
Bonnie Jason  
Ken Castner  
Ann Keffer  
Phil Morris  
Susan Cushing  
Virginia Wise  
Dan Westerburg  
Ron Senungetuk

### Staff:

Joy Steward, Executive Director

### letter



from the executive director

Paying attention is a big part of what the Homer Foundation does. The board and I pay attention to what is happening in our community. What new projects are underway? What are the emerging needs? Intuitively we know that these challenging and uncertain times will create greater needs for some of our neighbors. We encouraged support of the Homer Community Food Pantry recently with a matching grant, hoping it would spur others to give more generously in anticipation of that need.

We monitor our investments carefully. Investment earnings are what allow us to meet changing community needs. We have a commitment to long-term strategic investing, recognizing that markets expand and contract. We stay abreast of federal tax code that effects charitable giving. Loosening the tax code to allow

a charitable contribution from an IRA allowed Audrey Waldorf of Tacoma, WA, to support several programs in Homer that her children and grandchildren participate in and who is highlighted in this newsletter. President Obama recently said that altruism, not a lower tax bill should be reason for donating to charity, and has proposed lowering tax deductions for charitable contributions.

The Homer Foundation will track these and other proposals that may impact charitable giving and inform our donors, but in my experience, altruism has always been the trigger for charitable giving in Homer, while tax advantages at times make it possible for the donor to give more.

Warmest regards,  
Joy Steward, Executive Director

## New Chair Named to Board

Connie Alderfer has been named the new chairwoman of the Homer Foundation.

Outgoing chair, Ken Castner has held the seat for the last 16 years. Castner retains a seat on the board, continues as the Foundation's Investment Manager, and chair of the Finance Committee.

Alderfer has served on the board since March of 2005, most recently holding the position of chair of the Distributions Committee, where she

oversaw the distribution of approximately \$120,000/year in grants and other distributions. In 2008 Alderfer also guided the HF through a community assessment tool called a "Community Scan," to help the Foundation plan for more strategic grantmaking.

At their January meeting the Foundation recognized outgoing board member Curt Olson for his service to the organization, and welcomed three new board members, Virginia Wise, Ron Senungetuk, and Dan Westerburg, at their March meeting.

## Time to apply for next Pick. Click. Give.

The first year of the Pick. Click. Give. Campaign has been called a success as preliminary figures indicate more than 5,100 Alaskans gave \$545,000 through their Permanent Fund Dividend. Specific organization contribution totals and final figures will be available in October when dividend checks are disbursed. This project was an effort to encourage charitable cash giving in Alaska, a state that lags behind all other states in charitable contributions reported to the IRS. This year 333 organizations were on the list of qualified nonprofits. Thanks to the wonderful donors that have contacted us to let us know that they picked the Homer Foundation as a recipient for a charitable contribution from their PFD! Your tax receipt will come directly from the PFD program. We look forward to thanking you personally next fall when the gift is complete.

Looking ahead to next year, local nonprofits need to know that the application for the 2010 PFD Charitable Contributions program is now available. Even if the nonprofit qualified last year they need to reapply. The deadline to submit the application and supporting material is June 15, 2009. We strongly encourage you to turn in your application by May 30, 2009 so that they can contact you if there is missing information. The application is available at <http://www.pickclickgive.org/blog/index.cfm/2009/2/12/2010-PFD-Charitable-Contributions-Application-Now-Available>. We hope that all eligible organizations take time to apply. Please feel free to call the Homer Foundation if you need more information on the Pick. Click. Give. program.

## April time to celebrate people in action

April 19-25 is National Volunteer Week: Celebrating People in Action ([www.pointsoflight.org](http://www.pointsoflight.org)). This was brought to my attention by my longtime administrative volunteer, Audrey Morris, when she announced last week that she planned to come in to the office every day that week to volunteer. The purpose of the event is to recognize the incredible asset volunteers are to our organizations and our communities, so I wanted to take this time to recognize her spirit of volunteerism, and encourage all of us to follow her lead and stretch beyond our normal volunteer activities in support of National Volunteer Week.

# Giving of Grants

A profile of a  
Homer Foundation grantmaker

*Audrey Waldorf*



"I am very interested in the Homer community. We have always been warmly welcomed there. It's a special place."

### Vital Stats

- Based in Tacoma, Wash., Audrey Waldorf's Homer connection comes from her sons, Wally and Warren, who live with their families in the Homer area.
- The family's Alaska connection began when Audrey's husband, Jon, studied geology at the University of Alaska in the early 1950s.
- Has donated to the Homer YAC program, the Homer Youth String Orchestra Club, the Friends of the Homer Library and the St. John's Catholic Church music program through the Homer Foundation.

### Why she gives:

"I give to Homer because I have two sons living up there, and Wally and Carol's two children were born in the Homer hospital," Audrey Waldorf said.

After talking with her son about how best to donate to the community, she made the decision to use the Homer Foundation as a means of giving, and Audrey was able to make her charitable contribution directly from her IRA account.

"It turned out that using the Homer Foundation was an easy way to most help the community," she said. "I'm very interested in the Homer Community. We have always been warmly welcomed there. It's a special place."