Newtok Storytelling Project

Bethel Community Services Foundation, KYUK, and the Newtok Village Council (NVC) are teaming up to create an educational media campaign aimed at engaging the public on the issue of communities threatened by the impact of climate change. The Newtok Storytellers Media Campaign is a platform with which local community members can tell their own stories about their community. The village of Newtok on the Bering Sea coast is currently working to relocate to a new site, called Mertarvik, several miles away. The village has anticipated the relocation as erosion caused by permafrost degradation continues to gouge chunks of the village riverbank. Homes and other infrastructure in Newtok are imminently threatened. The Charlotte Martin Foundation has committed $10,000 to the Newtok Storytellers Media Campaign. With partners based in the YK Delta, the series will focus on the issues facing Newtok, related to the rapidly changing climate. It will document the community life and the people who live there, an aspect which is usually lacking in mainstream media coverage of Newtok. The Foundation’s role will be coordination of project-related meetings and travel, and attaining funds from state and national philanthropic sources. This project will run from June 2018 to June 2019. You can support this and other Newtok projects through the website newtokmertarvikrelocationfund.com

Healing Through Music and Dance

The Foundation welcomes its newest project fund, an initiative to help youth in remote Alaskan villages recover from trauma through creation of music and dance. Internationally acclaimed harmonica virtuoso, Mike Stevens, has been visiting remote sites in Canada and the YK Delta since 2013 to perform and teach young people to express their feelings in healthy ways. Through drumming, song, dance, beat-boxing, and composing, indigenous youth have discovered ways to express themselves in a safe and nurturing environment. Stevens works with teachers and elders to provide students with an experience that aligns with their local environment. Students work individually and in teams to create stories and works that give them strength and inspiration. Contributions to this fund by visiting www.bcsfoundation.org and clicking on the Donate tab.

Best wishes to our Americorps VISTA, Matthew!

The Foundation had the pleasure of welcoming VISTA volunteer Matthew Morgan to Bethel for a year-long stint. During this time, he lent his skills to multiple projects including helping one of our partner nonprofits, Bethel Friends of Canines (BFK9) with capacity building. In July, Matthew completed his term with the Foundation and started working as BFK9’s first full-time employee. Best of luck from the BCSF team! See a full feature on Matthew in the 2018 Annual Report.
Summer 2018

John Active Memorial Scholarship Fund

Following the passing of the YK Delta’s legendary radio and television personality, Aqumgaciq John Active, KYUK and BCSF established a scholarship fund in his name. This scholarship will support college students with ties to the YK Delta who are studying journalism, indigenous languages, multimedia and/or communications - fields greatly impacted by John’s work as a pioneer in native media and a passionate advocate of Yup’ik language and culture.

Individual or corporate contributions to this scholarship fund can be made by visiting www.bcsfoundation.org and clicking on the Donate tab or at bit.ly/JohnActive.

Please remember our suite of permanent funds in your estate plan. Contributions of funds, property, stock, and more through your estate will be a lasting gift. Permanent funds help the causes you care about and improve the quality of life in our community for generations to come.

You can create a fund for a project or purpose you feel passionate about with our Foundation. Work with BCSF staff to develop a fund agreement that details the purposes and intention of the fund, and how distributions will be made. Options may range from having a permanently endowed fund to a fund that spends both its principal and interest. A fund agreement can be found at bcsfoundation.org under the Resources tab. To open a fund, contact Michelle at michelle@bcsfoundation.org or call (907) 543-1812.

In June, the Foundation received a $10,000 grant from the Richard L. and Diane M. Block Foundation, based in Anchorage. The grant funded much-needed renovation on the main cabin at BCSF’s fishcamp on the Kuskokwim River. BCSF loans out the fishcamp for teen camps such as the Teen’s Acting Against Violence (TAAV) summer leadership camp, Teens Lead Ahead.

The Foundation granted Girl Scouts of Alaska $1,500 for the traveling day camp which provides outdoor, hands-on activities for girls K-12 in 19 communities in Southwest Alaska. The camps allow girls to create art, engage with elders and the community, learn about STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and participate in outdoor activities.

Wells Fargo and Kusko Cab have already committed to being 2018 #BethelGives campaign supporters. Wells Fargo at the $5,000 level and Kusko Cab at the $1,000 level. To support the #BethelGives campaign, contact Lisa at 907-545-1855 or lisa@bcsfoundation.org.

Skim our 2017 Annual Report to learn about past and ongoing projects.