



# Bethel Community Services Foundation 2020 Annual Report



# Grant Highlights



*Photo: Award recipient Richard Lincoln and family.*

Richard Lincoln, a health aide of five years from Tununak, now works as an SI in Bethel. He recounted a bout of COVID-19 pneumonia that required hospitalization, depleted his PTO and mandated weeks of quarantine for his family. “The emergency funding I received went towards food. We would have struggled more deeply into debt with all our bills. I am thankful to the people who donated to this emergency fund. It was an integral part in assisting my family.”

## Community Health Aide Emergency Fund

In the pandemic year of 2020, the Community Health Aide Emergency Fund made 47 awards to current and former health aides to help cover costs associated with a current personal or family emergency. A panel of health aides reviews all applications and approves awards. The average award in 2020 was \$518.

Of those receiving awards in 2020:

- 32% were experiencing a financial hardship
- 19% had out-of-town medical needs
- 16% had a COVID-19-related emergency
- 14% had medical concerns
- 13% had a death in the family

Donations to this fund can be made at [bcsfoundation.org](https://bcsfoundation.org). Click Donate and select “Community Health Aide Emergency Fund.”

## YK Delta & NW Arctic Health Fund

This year, the YK & Northwest Arctic Health Fund made two grants—one in the YK Delta region, and one in the Northwest Arctic Region. Kuspuk School District was granted \$15,000 to support implementation of improved mental health programming for K-12 students in nine communities (Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, Napaimute, Crooked Creek, Red Devil, Sleetmute, and Stony River). Kotzebue's UAF Chukchi Campus was granted \$15,377 for the development and standardization of their Cultural Knowledge and Inupiaq Language Program. For more information about this grant and the 2020 grantees, visit

[www.bcsfoundation.org/arctic-health-fund](https://www.bcsfoundation.org/arctic-health-fund).

*Photo: Students engage in team-building games (credit: Kuspuk School District).*



# New Funds



## Housing for All

The Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition was initiated in 2016 by Tundra Women's Coalition and includes six organizations, including the Foundation. The mission of the Coalition is to address homelessness as a community by gaining an understanding of the factors involved and providing the appropriate resources and infrastructure. The **Bethel Housing and Homelessness Coalition Fund** was established in late 2019 to build a sustainable funding pool for Coalition initiatives and projects such as guest speakers, Project Homeless Connect events, and the continuation of a contract with project analyst Ariel Herman. Herman analyzes data on homelessness to inform the Coalition's work. A full length story about the Coalition's history and Project Homeless Connect can be found in the 2019 Annual Report at [www.bcsfoundation.org](http://www.bcsfoundation.org).

## Sourdough for a Cause

Since her early days of fundraising for a community pool, Beverly Hoffman has been an outspoken and proactive advocate for community spaces that encourage recreation and healthy activities. In recent years, Hoffman has included the **Community Gym Fund**- established to support Phase II of the YK Fitness Center- among her causes to champion. Hoffman has been known to raise funds by selling bubbling jars of her renowned sourdough starter, which she estimates to have originated in the late 1800s. When sourdough rose to popularity during the early months of 2020, as many people tried their hand with baking to pass the time in quarantine, she saw a huge opportunity. The Alaskan Sourdough she advertises has a truly Alaskan history. "I got my starter 44 years ago from my folks," she says. Before that, it had passed hands from a State biologist who had worked in Bethel at the time, and an old miner in Southeast Alaska who said it arrived around 1898 during the Alaska Gold rush. Hoffman stocked up on flour and took to Facebook to advertise her 120-year-old fermented delicacy. She asked for a \$15 minimum donation which she divided three ways: to the Community Gym Fund, the Lifesavers Endowed Fund, and to cover supplies.



*Photo: Beverly Hoffman (second from right) with several basketball players at the old Armory gym. A fire damaged the gym and it is now demolished- leaving a need for community gym space.*

**A contribution is your opportunity to share what is important to you and to invest in the future of the YK Delta.** You can give online at [bcsfoundation.org](http://bcsfoundation.org), by mailing a check to PO Box 2189, Bethel, AK 99559 or contacting Michelle DeWitt at [michelle@bcsfoundation.org](mailto:michelle@bcsfoundation.org).



# Initiatives

*Collaboration was essential during the COVID-19 pandemic*

## Bethel Winter House



*Photo: Renovations are ongoing at the Bethel Winter House facility, located at the “old senior center” at 127 Atsaq Road.*

As COVID-19 impacted all of our community members across the region, concerns for our most vulnerable neighbors- those who are unhoused- were expressed by many. Historically, Bethel Winter House (BWH), our local nonprofit organization serving unhoused adults, has operated only seasonally and out of donated or rented spaces, most recently the Bethel Evangelical Covenant Church. With the threat of the virus and a need for more space, BCSF and a team of committee members- BWH board, TWC’s Executive Director, and a project manager- began the process of identifying possible locations and funding sources for a permanent shelter. With thanks to the City of Bethel, which donated the former senior center to BWH, the efforts of the committee and a number of funders, BWH occupied its first-ever permanent facility in December 2020. BWH’s goal is to be open year-round, at first overnight, and slowly offer more daytime services as funding, staffing and capacity increases.

## Food Security

Food insecurity remains a major concern during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Bethel Lions Club Food Bank saw a major increase in requests- from about 150 enrolled households to 278 enrolled households by 12/31/2020. To meet the growing need, the “Food Security Collaboration” identified tasks and strategies that would help improve the food security safety net in Bethel. BCSF received City CARES funds for food security, wrote grants, coordinated with the Bethel Lions Club and hired employee Carey Atchak as well as a contractor, Robert Hodges, to ensure that Food Bank was delivered to every household when it was unsafe to operate with the typical in-person pick-ups. The team also implemented the USDA Farmers- to-Families Produce/Protein/Dairy box program for all community members, helped operate the Food Pantry, and delivered food through the end of 2020.



*Photo: Food Security Coordinator Carey Atchak delivering produce/protein/dairy boxes.*



# COVID-19 GRANTS

## City CARES Funds Support Bethel Nonprofits & Businesses

The City of Bethel partnered with BCSF to support the nonprofit community. BCSF received CARES funds from the City. With these funds, BCSF designed three programs to meet community needs. Additionally, the Foundation assisted the City in developing an economic recovery grant program for local businesses.

### Relief & Recovery Grants

**20 grants**

**\$577,500**

Grants to made and implemented by BCSF to local nonprofits and religious institutions to cover COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue.

### Response Grants

**4 grants**

**\$242,053**

Grants made and implemented by BCSF to fund innovative COVID-19-related programming, adaptations and collaborations.

### Individual & Household Grants

**1,508 grants**

**\$656,500**

Funding directed by BCSF for grants made and implemented by TWC to individuals and households to cover COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue.

### Business Recovery Grants

**112 grants**

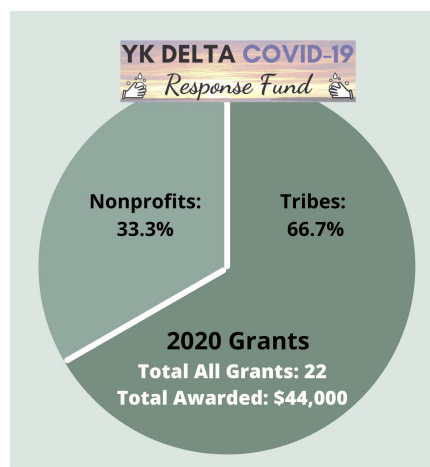
**\$1,563,575**

Grants made by the City of Bethel with technical assistance provided by BCSF for design and implementation. Funding helped local businesses recover from COVID-19-related expenses and lost revenue.

## Individual Philanthropy Addresses COVID-19 in the Delta



Donors were quick to come together and establish the YK Delta COVID-19 Response Fund. In 2020, the fund made 22 awards to 15 grantees for a total of \$44,000.



### Sample Funded Activities:

- Quarantine worker to keep a log of people arriving in the village and notifying them of quarantine requirements, and assisting with food and fuel delivery to quarantine homes.
- Providing heating fuel or food to households whose work income has been disrupted by COVID-related furlough.



# Scholarships

## John Active Memorial Scholarship

The 2020 John Active Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 was awarded to Leisha Lozano of Kongiganak. Lozano is studying social work at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Through her schooling, she hopes to gain skills that will allow her to share her Yup'ik language and culture. According to Lozano, "My community was a place in which you would hear elders teaching in our traditional Yup'ik language. They told stories of their lives in the past, they told people about the Yup'ik values, they told people survival stories. I want to continue that trait, to be one of the people who fight to stop the decrease in my Native language. I want to be the person who shares my knowledge with others. Most importantly, I want to make my ancestors proud. Ciulianka angnivkarciquanka."



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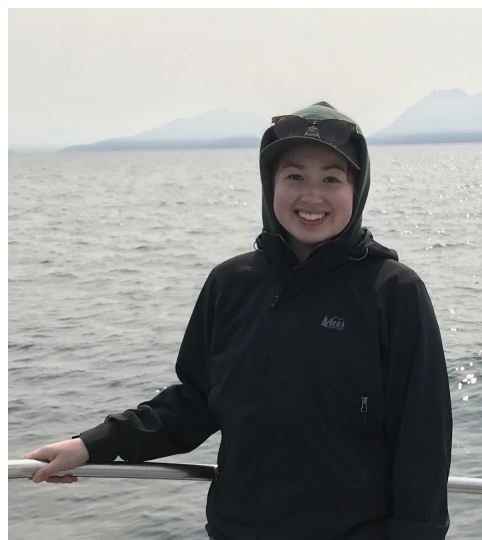
**“ While working at KuC when Mary Pete was director, learning of her many roles involved with education, the community, and our culture was truly inspiring. To receive a scholarship in her name is a very deep honor. ”**

**- R. Anvil**

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## Mary Ciuniq Pete Legacy Scholarship

For the first time since its inception in 2018, the Mary Ciuniq Pete Legacy Scholarship Fund was able to grant out two awards. Kailyn RubyAnn Anvil and Brittney Boney, both from Bethel, received academic scholarships of \$1,000 each. Anvil received an AAS in Nursing through UAA in December and is pursuing a BA in Elementary Education through UAF at the Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel. Anvil says that with her education, she hopes to "encourage learning and cultural appreciation as KuC and Mary Pete have done for me." Boney also received an AAS in Nursing through UAA at the Kuskokwim Campus in December. She says, "I can't wait to give back to my community that has supported my journey through nursing school."



*Photos Top: Leisha Lozano.  
Bottom Left: Brittney Boney.  
Bottom Right: RubyAnn Anvil  
and her daughter, Mariava*



# Thank You TO OUR 2020 DONORS

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Alaska Community Foundation  
Alaska Mental Health Trust  
Alaska State Council on the Arts  
Amazon Smile Foundation  
Arctic Chiropractic LLC  
Art Guild of the YK Delta  
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## Community Spirit - Mask Sewing

2020 was a year that will long be remembered for many things, but one of the most inspiring for us was the way that the Bethel community came together in the early days of the pandemic to ensure that everyone in the YK Delta had access to masks. At a time when commercial masks were backordered by months, the Foundation teamed up with YKHC to coordinate a community mask sewing effort with the goal of quickly getting masks into the hands of people throughout the Delta. YKHC Dental donated hundreds of yards of sterile wrap and community members donated time, fabric and sewing skills with an absolutely incredible result- in a matter of weeks, community volunteers sewed **more than 6,000 masks**, which were immediately distributed for free across the YK Delta through YKHC's subregional clinic network.

