



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

The Palmer Community Foundation (“PCF”) hosted our annual Community Celebration for the first time since the COVID pandemic. We were thrilled to see our community come together at the Palmer Senior Center to celebrate the great philanthropic accomplishments over the last couple years. We also celebrated PCF giving out over \$70,000 in grants since our founding 5 years ago. A big thank you to the vendors who provided food, decor, and music for this event including: Turkey Red, Alaska’s Best Philly, Indigo Valley Cake, Alpenglow Flower Farm, and 3000-21. The highlight was hearing from our grantees.

Bright Light Books Project - Brings new life to books being recycled, find new homes, and share their pages with more people. The grant PCF provided will help build more bookshelves by wood shop students at Mat-Su Career Tech High School.

Alaska Family Services Women’s Shelter - Provides support to women and children fleeing domestic violence, offering them a safe space. The PCF grant allowed them to fence off a secure outdoor area for their residents.

Alaska Wildbird Rehabilitation Center - Protects and rehabilitates wild birds that are found hurt in Alaska. Our grant helped them fix portions of their habitats that were badly damaged.

Connect Vets - Helps veterans transition into civilian life by teaching them skills, and offering support. Our grant helped provide valuable occupational training through metal fabrication workshops.

To learn more about other grantees and work they are accomplishing through grants received by PCF go to palmercf.org

Thank You to the local businesses who helped make our celebration happen!



Alaska's Best Philly's



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WITH LISA WADE

This October, Palmer Community Foundation hosted an exploration of the history and significance of land acknowledgement led by presenter Lisa Wade, Nay'dini'aa Na' Kayax (Chickaloon Village) Traditional Council Executive Director. As a community foundation striving to be regionally responsive, we were curious about the intention behind recognizing Alaska Native people and the historic lands on which we now live and work. We sought Lisa out for her expertise and insight.

Her traditional council's mission-driven work is to “perpetuate our ancestors' beliefs, customs, traditions and values, and steward our environment to help our citizens thrive.” She has served as an educator, advocate, and place-based leader for her community for decades and was the obvious person to call on to help us better understand the role of land acknowledgement in our community.

Lisa clarified that land acknowledgement should not be compulsory. Organizations or individuals that choose to make them establish a reasonable expectation of accountability and trust. It represents a real and significant promise, one that should only be entered into after deep consideration and thought, which is ultimately demonstrated not by words, but through actions over time.

Organization introspection is required to build internal clarity, reach consensus, and draft language representative of the driving intention behind a land acknowledgement. Beautiful and cherished things, both tangible and intangible, almost always embody a kind of elemental simplicity, one that belies the complex self-examination and deliberate learning and execution required to realize it. Land acknowledgement demands an equally tangible commitment.



To paraphrase, land acknowledgement positively invites truth and respect into gatherings and demonstrates recognition and reverence for Alaska Native people. It is an authentic and meaningful gesture of good intention and can serve as an antidote to heal ongoing and past harms. Land acknowledgement demonstrates a desire to build equitable relationships, renew trust, and advance together in shared good faith. Lisa offered three guiding principles;

1. Start with self-reflection. Ask ourselves why we are pursuing this.
2. Do your own homework to learn about the indigenous people and communities in your region.
3. If you need help, respectfully seek out indigenous people for their guidance and expertise and listen to it.

Ultimately, a land acknowledgement explicitly verbalizes an organization's recognition and regard for Alaska Native community members and their traditional lands. Hopefully, it also reflects an already existing bond and shared practice of community care.

Find more resources about land acknowledgement or watch the discussion with Lisa Wade at palmercf.org/2022/10/22/land-acknowledgement

BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Ashley Kincaid

I have lived in Alaska for 12 years and was “transplanted” to this amazing state by my husband who was born and raised in Palmer. On our first date he was emphatic in his storytelling of Palmer, its importance in his upbringing, and desire to move back to Palmer for the rest of his life. After moving here I completely understand why. I am happy that we have the ability to raise our three children here in Palmer.

Since moving to Palmer I worked in the non-profit sector for six years before “retiring” to be a stay at home mom, run a sole-proprietor graphic design business and been active in the Palmer Lions Club. Through these experiences in the community I have loved getting to know many of the families who have a rich history with Palmer and exemplify the sense of community/values that it stands for.

I was drawn to the Palmer Community Foundation with its ability to be a foundation that is both sustainable on its own through growing its endowment fund and with its ability to provide grants for any non-profit/philanthropic organizations that will help improve our community and



Ashley & Levi Kincaid

continuing the mission to keep it the amazing place it is to live. I love the small town feel, neighbors helping neighbors, and sense of community that is core to the many who call it home. Palmer is full of amazing people who care and support one another, and I want to be a part of continuing it's wonderful legacy.

Win a \$100 Gift Card to Feather and Flour

Palmer Community Foundation is Giving Back on Giving Tuesday. Donate between November 1st and November 28th to enter to win a \$100 gift card to Feather and Flour. Get 2 entries by donating to our Operating Endowment and 1 entry for donating to our Palmer Community Foundation Fund (Granting Endowment Fund). You can get 3 entries total. The winner will be drawn on November 29th. Go to palmercf.org/donate to donate today.

A promotional graphic for Give Back Tuesday. It features a dark background with yellow and white floral patterns. The text reads: "#GiveBackTuesday", "Palmer Community Foundation is giving back for Giving Tuesday.", "Win a \$100 Gift Card to Feather & Flour", and "Donate between November 1st-28th to be entered to win. See description for more details. Winner will be drawn on Giving Tuesday, November 29th." The Feather & Flour logo is prominently displayed in the center, featuring a feather and a wheat stalk.

Palmer Community Foundation

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For the  **of Palmer**



Palmer Community Foundation

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