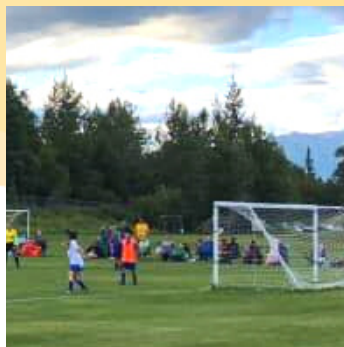




COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Over \$48,000 Granted Since 2018

With the help of our generous supporters, Palmer Community Foundation (PCF) has awarded \$48,850 to Palmer-area nonprofits since we began in 2018. Our local Advisory Board is grateful for the opportunity to award grants to the organizations making a difference in the lives of our friends and neighbors. It is why we do this work! Each year, PCF uses returns from our

permanent grantmaking endowment to support projects that enhance the quality of life for our community. As our endowment grows, it offers an increasingly large resource to meet local needs. With your help, we are building a legacy of philanthropy for our community. Learn more about each of our grantees at www.palmercf.org.

Arts & Culture

- Big Cabbage Radio
- Mat-Su Community Chorus
- Veterans Retirement Home

Community Development

- Alaska Family Services
- Alaska Farmland Trust
- United Way of Mat-Su
- Visit Palmer

Youth Services

- PUMC Lunch Bag Project
- PHS Sandwich Project
- Palmer Soccer Club

Health & Wellness

- Connect Vets
- Family Promise Mat-Su
- Mat-Su Senior Services
- Mat-Su Services for Children and Adults
- Palmer Emergency Food and Community Services

Outdoor Recreation

- Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers
- Skeetawk/Hatcher Alpine Xperience
- Mat-Su Ski Club
- Mat-Su Trails and Park Foundation
- Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center



GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Homelessness, suicide, and unemployment rates are at an all-time high for veterans. With 7,500 veterans living in the Mat-Su valley, this is an issue that hits close to home. That's where Connect Vets comes in. Robert Gordon started Connect Vets to address these problems through skills training, housing, and mentoring programs. As Robert put it, "We help them transition from helping our country fight wars to helping our community in all aspects of life."

Their current project, a series of metal fabrication workshops, was funded in part by a grant from Palmer Community Foundation. These workshops provided valuable occupational training for vets, helped them build a support network of their peers, and gave them a sense of purpose as they give back to our community. In three days, the group of veterans built batting cages and created two foul ball poles by the Borough building for the Palmer Little League. This type of community project is just one example of how Connect Vets removes barriers for veterans in need.

Connect Vets' recently built skill center offers a space where vets can work on projects in their auto shop or crafts area. The organization also provides temporary housing for veterans in emergency situations. "We don't want to duplicate what other nonprofits are doing," Robert Gordon said when asked about Connect Vets' vision for the future, "We

strive to be a working organization that provides routine needs such as employable skills, temporary housing, and a space to fix things that are broken. Our organization helps our veterans help themselves."

Connect Vets provides a sense of community to veterans, a sense of belonging, as well as a sense of wholeness, wellness, and inclusion through activities and events. It gives them something to look forward to and someone else who relies on them. This is important when struggling with depression and suicidal ideology. "Our organization has saved lives and we've created a sense of community and hope for our veterans." PCF was proud to learn that because of our decision to support Connect Vets, Alaska Community Foundation



and Combat Motorcycle Association also chose to give grants to Connect Vets this year. PCF is grateful to have Connect Vets as part of our community.

Little League game in front of the foul ball post built by Connect Vets

DONOR HIGHLIGHT:

Bob & Carolyn Covington

Longtime Palmer area residents, Bob and Carolyn Covington, treasure the Palmer area. The Covingtons spent their working years in education. Bob was principal of the Mat-Su Correspondence School, now Mat-Su Central, and Carolyn worked with vocational students in the local work study program. Throughout the years, they volunteered in many community activities.

Today, they are taking a less active role in the community but are generous donors to the Palmer Community Foundation. This is their way of doing “anything we can do,” to strengthen the Palmer story. For them, the uniqueness of a project that brought struggling Midwest farm families to this area set the stage for the Palmer of today.

For a while, Carolyn worked for Director of Agriculture, Roland Snodgrass, who told the stories of how his dad, M.D. Snodgrass set up experimental farms in Palmer, Fairbanks, Kenai, and Kodiak. Roland became known as the “father of Alaska agriculture,” and was instrumental in starting the local college. All of these stories solidified the Covington’s appreciation for Palmer’s past and promise. When they learned of PCF from an advisory board member, they signed up for a convenient monthly donation schedule. Carolyn noted, “We want to do



Bob & Carolyn Covington

anything we can do; even a small amount can make a difference.”

Bob and Carolyn support the ongoing mission of the Palmer Community Foundation, especially its goal to retain and build on the uniqueness of the Palmer Area. Thank you, Bob and Carolyn, for your ongoing donations.

Don't Forget to
Pick.Click.Give.
when you apply
for your PFD!

2022 Competitive Grant Program

It's our favorite season at PCF, grant award season! Every year proceeds from our permanent endowment are used to award grants to charitable organizations in Matanuska watershed communities. Our 2022 competitive grant program will open on February 1st and run through March 15th. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 and support a variety of community needs such as health and wellness, education, outdoor recreation, arts and culture, and community development. We seek projects that have an impact on a broad range of residents and show collaboration with other organizations. For more information about the 2022 PCF competitive grant program, please visit our website at www.palmerpcf.org/grants.

Palmer Community Foundation

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Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Join our

Advisory Board

Are you interested in making palmer a better place to live, work, and play? Consider joining the Palmer Community Foundation Advisory Board! We need people who have connections to the community, care about the future, and want to give something back. Apply for a seat on the PCF Advisory Board today to get involved.

LEARN MORE ON OUR WEBSITE

palmercf.org/advisory-board



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- Jamie Allison
- Patricia Chesbro
- Jim Cooper
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