

The background of the cover features a close-up of purple flowers, likely hydrangeas, with soft, out-of-focus petals. Overlaid on this are three white, stylized human figures with their arms raised in a 'V' shape, suggesting growth or community. The figures are positioned on the left side of the cover, with one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom.

**THE  
ALASKA COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION 2021**

**GROWING  
TOGETHER**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**OUR MISSION  
IN ACTION**

# Give With Us Grow with Us



NINA KEMPEL, PRESIDENT & CEO

JIM PALMER, BOARD CHAIR

Dear friends,

The Alaska Community Foundation is deeply grateful for the support of the donors, partners, and volunteers that have helped our mission succeed. Over the past year, we have all been impacted in some way by COVID-19. Although our experiences may be different, our community came together — as neighbors helping neighbors — to support each other through this crisis.

It's times like these when community foundations like ours are positioned to respond quickly to urgent needs. Because of projects like AK Can Do, the Coronavirus Nonprofit Relief Fund, and the subsequent partnerships and opportunities, we have mobilized over \$50 million in community support to help our neighbors facing hardship. Thanks to the incredible donors, nonprofit partners, and community leaders who stepped up to meet this challenge, our collective response demonstrated the power of our community and what we can accomplish together.

Now our state faces an incredible opportunity that requires us to think beyond simply returning to the way things were before the pandemic. We know that our neighbors who faced inequities before the crisis were hit disproportionately hard. This moment in time calls for us to chart a new course for a more equitable and brighter future for Alaska. But it will take all of us working together to realize our shared vision for Alaska, where everyone can thrive. That's why The Alaska Community Foundation exists. For nearly three decades, The Community Foundation has worked to bring people and resources together, channel ideas into action, and invest in solutions. And the work to protect and support our community is more important now than ever.

This report features the impact that The Community Foundation, our donors, and partners had in 2021. These stories highlight the importance of your support and how it enables us to be responsive to all kinds of situations, represent a cross-section of communities across our state, and channel the lived experiences of the people who need our help the most.

Thank you to Inspire the spirit of giving and connecting people, organizations, and causes to strengthen Alaska's communities now and forever.

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink are displayed. The signature on the left is 'Jim Palmer' and the signature on the right is 'Nina Kempel'.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE TO ACF AND YOUR COMMUNITY



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# Featured Grant

## SOCIAL JUSTICE FUND

In 2021 ACF celebrated five years of distributing grants from the Social Justice Fund. The fund was opened at the end of 2015 and gave out its first grant in 2017. John Rubini and Clare Bertucio generously established the Field of Interest Fund with a \$1 million pledge to support organizations leading progressive and social justice work in Alaska. Their generosity encouraged others to give, and the fund has continued to grow and impact the lives of thousands of Alaskans most in need of consideration and care.

The fund supports community-based organizations that focus on the root causes of social, economic, and environmental injustices. It seeks to include those impacted by inequities as decision-makers and leaders.

Social justice can mean many things, and the fund's advisory committee thoughtfully considers each application.

Grants are awarded based on the needs of those underserved communities, taking into account how the organization's mission will enhance the lives of all Alaskans. In 2021 eighteen grantees received funds. The causes included those without basic needs, children and youth, and cultural heritage restoration. Choosing Our Roots Center used the funding to purchase items for those experiencing homelessness in Bethel to facilitate essential connections to services and support systems. Facing Foster Care in Alaska allowed foster kids to share their experiences with child welfare professionals across the state. AtuĀ Forever: Restoring Attuans' Freedom used the funds to create an agency to support the Sasignan people's work toward restoring and rediscovering their cultural heritage.

The fund has granted over \$1M to 103 organizations. The fifth annual round of grants saw seventy-one applicants. Thanks to so many generous donors, it will continue to make a difference in Alaska for generations.

## Getting to the Root of the Cause



**SEE STORIES**

**Social Justice Fund Grantee**

In the summer of 2021, See Stories, in partnership with Bitanga Productions, led a virtual film workshop with teens across Alaska called International Crossroads: Students Create Mini Films About Their Culture & Stories. This workshop was adapted from the original vision as they struggled to recruit youth on Kodiak for the program and realized that COVID-19 had impacted the educational experiences of opportunities for Alaskan youth.

Rafael Bitanga taught the film and storytelling course. He led students by creating short documentary films about the intersections of their educational journeys and COVID-19. The project focused on guiding high school students through the process of creating films about their experiences in high school about the global pandemic and how they had to pivot their learning.

Additionally, students had the opportunity to produce two-minute personal narrative videos that encompassed who they were and their future aspirations. The student's used the resulting video shorts for college scholarship applications and admissions requirements.



# Partners and Community Leadership

## 2021 CAMPS INITIATIVE

In 2021 partnerships were vital to continuing to address the increased need caused by the pandemic. Thanks to the ever-thoughtful and socially conscious staff of Rasmuson, a partnership was formed to help ensure that summer camps and day camps were able to function and offer a much-needed reprieve from the isolation of 2020.

The Department of Health and Social Services, Rasmuson Foundation, the Municipality of Anchorage, and The Alaska Community Foundation worked together to offer grants from the “Open for Summer” Camps Initiative. The Initiative’s goal was to help children and teens across the state take full advantage of the vast array of summer programs available, including day camps, outdoor camps, culture camps, faith-based camps, museum camps, and learning pods. The grants improved the overall quality of the camp experience and increased the number of young people who could access these valuable programs.

SOLID  
ROCK  
MINISTRIES  
Camps  
Initiative  
Grantee



*Playing to learn helps children grow strong and healthy*



TAKSHANUK WATERSHED COUNCIL  
Camps Initiative Grantee

SITKA SOUND SCIENCE CENTER  
Camps Initiative Grantee

"The beneficiaries of these funds were twenty-six low-income young people at risk for mental illness or addiction because of their family histories. These young children and teens soaked in the exceptional mentoring and attention they received, preventing and addressing budding symptoms of depression and anxiety. This program stimulated their young minds and gave them quality adult attention and nurturing around learning skills from traditional crafts: furniture-building, fabric arts, ceramics, world cultural cooking, tai-chi, hip-hop dance, rock painting, fingerplays, berry picking, and songs and stories from around the world.

It worked wonders! 100% of the youth involved report being excited and inspired by the skills they learned."

LYNN CANAL ADVENTURES  
Camps Initiative Grantee

"Support from the Alaska Community Foundation, Rasmuson, and the State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services made three memorable and impactful weeks of camp for aspiring teen runners, their families, and friends. In all, support from this grant allowed us to safely serve more than 100 Alaska youth this summer (a doubling of our capacity from the previous year), expand the number of camps offered, and end with ZERO COVID cases! After an isolated school year of Zoom classes, canceled extracurricular activities, and limited in-person gatherings, we were proud to get back to developing healthier, more connected communities by running for Alaska's youth."

# ARPA Nonprofit Recovery Fund

(ANRF)



SENIOR CITIZENS  
OF KODIAK  
ANRF Grantee

The Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED) and the ACF partnered in 2021 to award \$10.7 million to 99 nonprofits, just the first round of a project that continued in 2022 and ultimately give out nearly \$20 million to 193 nonprofits.

Alaska's nonprofit sector was essential in the state's pandemic response and recovery, delivering programs and services that address the needs of their local communities. The ARPA Nonprofit Recovery Fund grants help them continue the support in 2021 and mitigate the lingering health and economic impacts of COVID-19.

The enormous response to the funding opportunity underscored Alaskan communities' persistent challenges with over 200 applications in the first round.

The ACF team conducted extensive outreach regarding funding through our networks and partner organizations, with a particular focus on outreach to rural Alaska. Informational sessions were conducted with regional partners to further awareness in as many communities as possible.

Grants were awarded to nonprofits across the state, including Aleutian Chain, Bristol Bay, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Bering Straits, Arctic Slope, Interior, Copper River, Prince William Sound, Southcentral, and Southeast. The grant distribution prioritized nonprofits supporting public health, food security, mental health, housing, and basic needs to better serve vulnerable populations – including youth, seniors, and persons with mental and physical disabilities.

ANRF was a significant opportunity for support in delivering programs and services, especially for those organizations that did not receive pandemic relief funding in 2020. ANRF grantees across the state used their funds to address their community's most pressing needs. This included food and other household support and facility renovations to ensure their mission's safe continuation.

## ALASKA CHILDREN'S TRUST (ACT) ANRF Grantee

With inflation on the rise and considerable economic uncertainty challenging families, access to diapers can be a significant issue for many Alaskans. ACT used a portion of its grant to help parents facing economic hardship and barriers due to the high cost of diapers. On average, children use 12 diapers daily, and families spend nearly \$100 a month to keep their babies healthy and dry. By providing access to free diapers, ACT reduces the economic burden and increases children's overall health. This service also gives families the resources to place a child in daycare and return to work as care facilities require parents to provide diapers. Thanks to the ANRF funding, the program was able to help families across the state.

# Hilcorp Giving Program

There is a long legacy of generous corporate giving in Alaska, but in 2019 Hilcorp changed corporate giving in Alaska at the very root. Unlike traditional corporate giving programs Hilcorp empowers employees to give to nonprofits that affect their everyday lives

*The transformation of the corporate sponsorship model to grassroots giving*

and personal causes. It is a change, to be sure. Access to these newfound philanthropists is no longer a form or a phone call. What was once a corporate ask is now a grassroots appeal. Each Hilcorp employee is an independent grantee with the power to make real change for nonprofits that touch their hearts, uphold core values, or realize their hopes for the future. It is deeply personal and can produce collective giving with employees uniting to support more significant needs. A conversation at a friend's house may bring an organization a substantial grant, a passionate coach may find his team funded for years to come, and a PTA may receive funds to put all their pie sales to bed for good.

Hilcorp's goal is to create lifelong philanthropists. In the two years, they have invested \$\$\$ in encouraging their employees to give back to their communities. The result of this program has been an inspiration and an eye-opening look at what causes are essential to regular Alaskans when provided a means to give back. Most Hilcorp employees have never been awarded a grant or had the resources to donate large sums of money. As the program administrator, we have seen the program start as a tiny seed and grow into a massive resource for nonprofits across Alaska. It has been a privilege to take on the project and work with so many individuals to help them realize their philanthropic goals and the joy of giving.



# FEATURED VOLUNTEERS

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEES

### *Giving Time to Create Opportunity*

Some of the most important work done at ACF is realized with the help of volunteers. Most notably are the scholarship committees. In 2021, over 30 committees comprised of a total of 142 generous individuals giving their time to review a total of over 1012 scholarship applications. Each scholarship has various criteria and requirements, and frequently committees have multiple components to review and assess. Each application is a snapshot of the hopes and dreams of young students taking their first steps into adulthood. The process can be both heartbreaking and inspiring.

"We are often too quick to judge young people as adults," said Jewel Jones, committee member for the Toby Gamble and Janet Helen Tolan Gamble Educational Fund. "I never come away disappointed after reading these amazing personal essays and about sacrifices many have made to achieve their goals. Some have family support, but many do not. What they have in common is a solid foundation and determination to move forward in their academic pursuits."

ACF salutes every committee member that donates their time to the scholarship program. Between 2019 and 2021, ACF more than doubled the number of scholarship funds, with 40 scholarships available in 2021 and over \$375,000 awarded to over 115 students. Scholarship committee members are honored to serve, many volunteering years after year with a focus on assisting the most-worthy Alaskan students.



**HEATHER FLYNN**  
Committee Member,  
Sven & Lorraine  
Eriksson Alaska Fund

"As an early board member, I served on the committee of the first scholarship fund established at ACF. It was, and remains, dedicated to high school graduates who study in Alaska and remain in Alaska to build Alaska. It has funded engineers and music educators, satisfying the desire of the donors to build Alaska both physically and culturally.

The Andreisen girls from Sitka, a near homeless young man from Ketchikan, and a Hmong student from Anchorage stand out as wonderful recipients. And it's a joy to continue to give scholarships year after year to deserving students, thanks to the generosity of the Erikssons."



**JEWEL JONES**  
Committee Member,  
Toby Gamble and  
Janet Helen Tolan  
Gamble Educational Fund

"Over the years there have been many applications that have inspired me. I particularly appreciate those students who come from low-income or underserved backgrounds or those who are first in the family to seek higher education.

The high cost of today's college tuition puts attendance out of reach for too many students. Recent awards from the Gamble scholarship fund has been significant help for many applicants helping them achieve their dreams "



# FEATURED SCHOLARSHIP

## THE ANCHORAGE INDEPENDENT LONGSHORE UNION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Anchorage Independent Longshore Union (AILU) Legacy Scholarship Fund at ACF was among the 52 new funds opened in 2021. It was created to support some very special next-generation students. The fund will mobilize resources for the children and grandchildren of Alaska's longshoremen to improve their access to a college education or vocational training.

The Anchorage Independent Longshore Union has served Alaska for fifty years and is responsible for about 80% of the state's freight needs. Members describe their involvement in AILU as an intensely communal experience; cargo ships must be unloaded as quickly as possible regardless of the circumstances, so union members work side by side in all weathers and at all hours. They share a deep dedication to providing for Alaskans and share long personal histories.

"Lifelong friendships develop over careers that often span thirty and even forty years," said an AILU representative. "In some cases, childhood friends work side by side for decades."

In an organization characterized by such long relationships, members watch one another's lives unfold; they see their children grow up and go to college. Watching these young people face the hurdles of rising post-secondary education rates, some AILU members decided it was time to find a sustainable way to provide for the next generation.

In the fall of 2021, members banded together to raise funds and begin the process of creating the AILU Legacy Scholarship Fund with The Alaska Community Foundation.



## *Helping Alaska's Next Generation Grow Up Stronger*

They intentionally named it not after one person but after the union as a collective.

AILU members consider the fund long-term investment in the futures of their children and grandchildren. Members are encouraging fellow members to direct assets from their wills to the fund, making it a multi-generational project that will outlive its creators and benefit their descendants for years to come.

# FUNDHOLDER

## FEATURE *Leaving Seeds for Success to the Next Generation*

NONA RENN

For over 40 years, Jack and Nona Renn were familiar faces at Anchorage's high school football pitches. An avid fan of the game, Jack acted as an on-field football official from 1981 to 2015 in local and state games and tournaments and then continued as a clock keeper until 2018. His wife Nona was forever by his side, soon becoming the first female chain gang official for Alaska high school football.

The two were inseparable, sharing in the joy of their mutual love for the game and cruising worldwide between their beloved sports seasons.

Upon Jack's death in 2019, Nona was left wondering how best to honor his memory. The answer came to her quickly: football, of course. She started researching and, within a few months, had opened the Jack and Nona Renn Anchorage Football Fund with The Alaska Community Foundation. Nona's vision was clear: she wanted to direct her funds into something that would outlive her, carry Jack's legacy onward and continue supporting the community they had both loved long after she was gone.

She stipulated that this fund was not to be a scholarship; it would only help one student at a time, and her mission was to help eleven – a football team's worth.

"I believe in our youth," she says. "They are where we should invest because what they learn now carries over into adulthood."

He directed funds toward gear, training equipment, and in-state travel for teams – but not entirely for free. As teams began receiving grants from the Football Fund, Nona remained highly involved with the process. She attended every game and fostered close relationships with coaches, listening to their feedback to ascertain what they needed most. In return for her funding, she required that the teams engage in community service.



"I think it's important to teach kids from an early age to give back to their communities," she says.

Under her guidance, the high school teams performed community service for food banks, the Salvation Army, the ARC of Anchorage, and even the Alaska Zoo – the last of which involved animal costumes and such an enthusiastic audience that zoo management asked the team to come back and do it again.

Nona didn't stop there. The year after the fund's opening, she opened another: the Jack and Nona Renn Anchorage Girls' Flag Football Fund. ("I've seen some girls who are even better quarterbacks than the boys," she laughs.)

With each of her funds, Nona invests her time and energy in getting to know the recipients. She says that attending the football games brings her joy, and seeing the kids thrive is worth more than any amount of money. One highlight of the whole experience for her was last fall when she was asked to toss the coin to start off the East versus West semi-final state game. She is an integral part of the team, more surely now than ever.

Losing her husband of 53 years just months before the onset of the Covid pandemic was an intensely isolating experience, but Nona's drive to honor his legacy and invest in Anchorage's youth built her a strong community united by Jack's passion.

As for future funds – "We'll see," she says with a smile.



# THE AFFILIATE PROGRAM

## Affiliate Program Milestones:

- Established in 2008 – The ACF Affiliate Program was created at ACF in partnership with Rasmuson Foundation and 5 Affiliate communities: Chilkat Valley (Haines & Klukwan), Upper Susitna Valley, Kenai Peninsula, Petersburg, and Seward & Moose Pass
- Program expansion 2013 – Four other communities joined the program: Fairbanks & North Pole, Ketchikan, Kodiak, and Sitka
- Program expansion 2017 – Palmer creates an Affiliate fund
- Program expansion 2019 – Cordova creates an Affiliate fund

## 2021 Success:

- Affiliates collectively raised \$562,331 in new grantmaking endowment gifts
- Affiliates collectively raised \$298,102 in new operating endowment gifts
- Affiliate donors pledged 12 legacy gift commitments totaling more than \$650,000
- Affiliates collectively granted out \$442,572 through 174 awards to support nonprofits statewide

## Affiliate 2021 highlight:

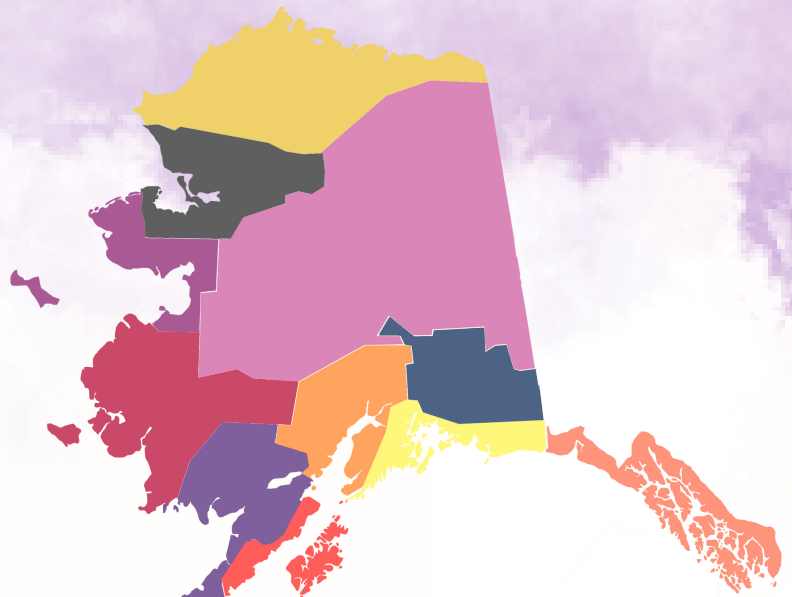
- The Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition was founded in collaboration with the Kenai Peninsula Foundation, Bridges Community Resource Network, Inc, Love, Inc. of the Kenai Peninsula, and Kenai Peninsula Food Bank to create the Niski Shelter the first of its kind in the region.
- Seward Community Foundation granted out its one-millionth dollar to area nonprofits in 2021. Formed in 2008, Seward CF celebrated granting more than one million dollars to Seward and Moose Pass community organizations throughout their 13-year history.



- Golden Heart Community Foundation (Fairbanks & North Pole)
- Jessica Stevens Community Foundation (Upper Susitna Valley)
- Chilkat Valley Community Foundation (Haines & Klukwan)
- Seward Community Foundation (Seward & Moose Pass)
- Kenai Peninsula Foundation
- Kodiak Community Foundation
- Petersburg Community Foundation
- Ketchikan Community Foundation
- Sitka Legacy Foundation
- Palmer Community Foundation
- Cordova Community Foundation

# GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS BY REGION



**Aleutian & Pribilof Islands**

Grants \$86,284  
Scholarships 9,500

**Arctic Slope**

Grants \$179,431  
Scholarships \$3,500

**Bering Strait**

Grants \$1,001,401  
Scholarships \$2,750

**Bristol Bay**

Grants \$876,764  
Scholarships \$11,500

**Copper River**

Grants \$81,877  
Scholarships \$2,000

**Interior**

Grants \$2,659,961  
Scholarships \$32,000

**Kodiak**

Grants \$455,120  
Scholarships \$2,000

**Prince William Sound**

Grants \$340,948  
Scholarships \$12,000

**Northwest Arctic**

Grants \$674,329  
Scholarships \$7,000

**Southcentral**

Grants \$10,535,104  
Scholarships \$151,100

**Southeast**

Grants \$347,378  
Scholarships \$180,250

**Yukon-Kuskokwim**

Grants \$1,053,103  
Scholarships \$35,000



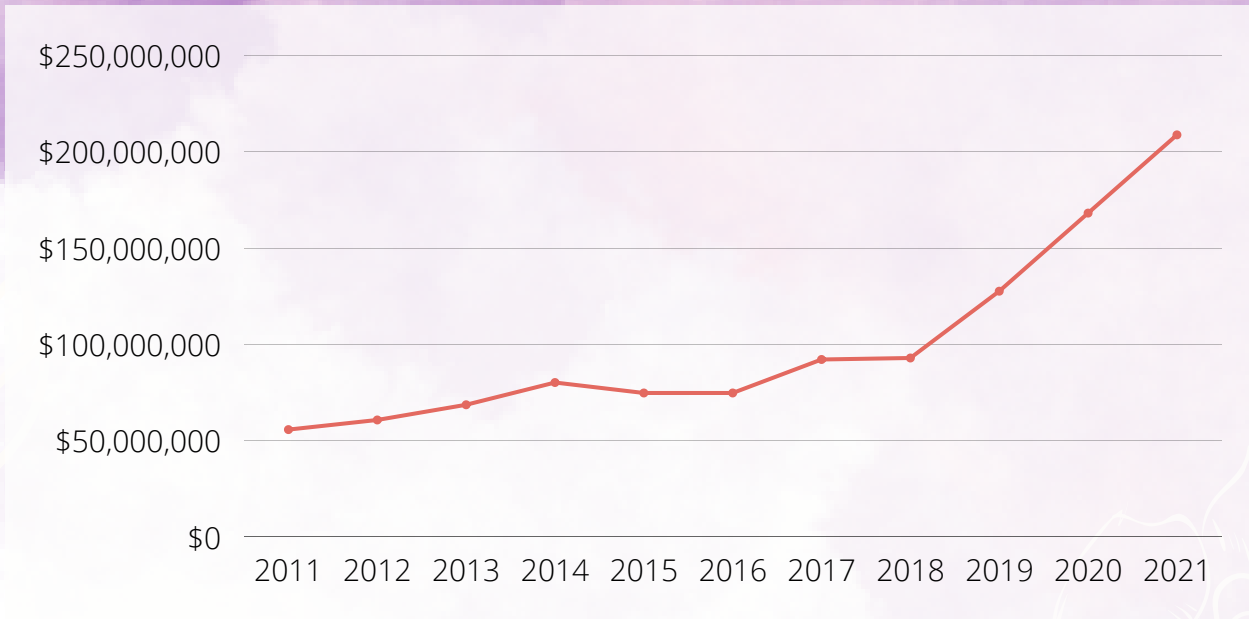
STATEWIDE GRANTS  
\$3,891,995

INTERNATIONAL GRANTS  
\$122,161

NATIONAL GRANTS  
\$667,745

# 2021 FINANCIALS

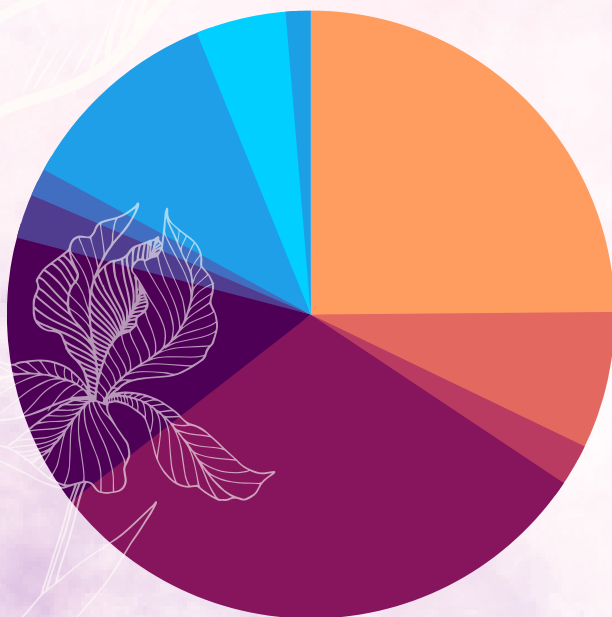
## TEN-YEAR ASSET GROWTH



## 2021 INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

PORTFOLIO	2021	3 Year	5 Year
ACF Investment Pool	13.71%	14.66%	10.46%
Balanced Index	10.87%	14.28%	10.12%
Complete Balance	10.20%	13.24%	9.32%

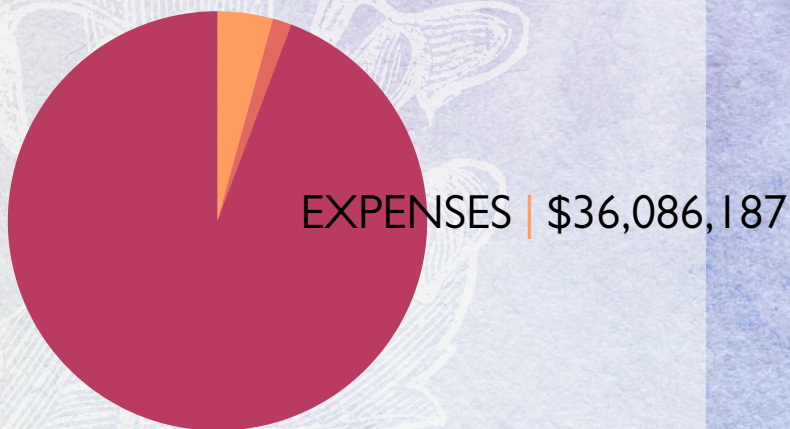
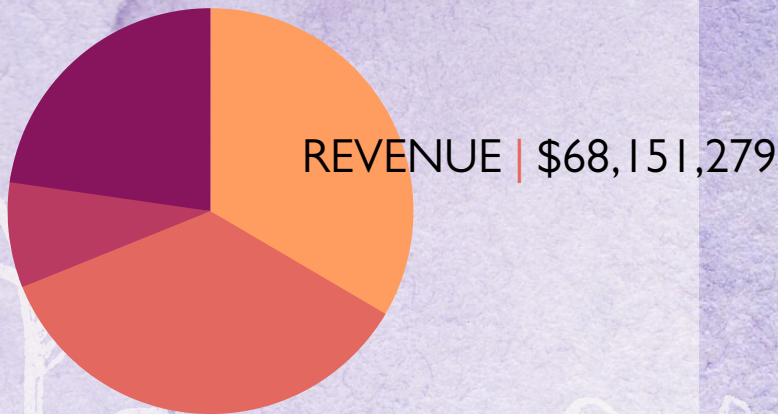
## FUND TYPES BY TOTAL ASSETS



Fund Type	Total Funds	#
Agency	\$48,927,788	164
Community/Affiliate	\$14,324,780	29
Designated	\$4,352,586	32
Donor Advised	\$59,257,210	1654
Field of Interest	\$28,749,371	53
Operating	\$4,644,594	23
Project	\$2,919,464	21
Restricted/Grant	\$21,579,558	12
Scholarship	\$9,432,906	65
Unrestricted	\$2,616,749	5

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS | \$208,758,553



CURRENT ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and equivalents	\$29,936,989
Grants receivable	\$22,847
Prepaid expenses	\$108,415
Life insurance policies	\$6,001
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$30,074,252</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	AMOUNT
<b>INVESTMENTS:</b>	
Held for philanthropy	\$145,907,684
Held in trust for others	\$19,397,757
<b>PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT (NET):</b>	<b>\$13,378,860</b>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>\$178,684,301</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$208,758,553</b>

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	AMOUNT
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	
Accounts payable	\$153,357
Accrued payroll liabilities	\$76,087
Deferred revenue	\$9,483,867
Grants payable	\$2,244,077
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$11,957,389</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES:</b>	
Funds held in trust for others	\$19,397,757
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$31,355,146</b>

FUND BALANCES	AMOUNT
Endowed	\$102,304,820
Non-Endowed	\$75,098,587
<b>Total fund balances</b>	<b>\$177,403,407</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUNDS</b>	<b>\$208,758,553</b>



The  
Alaska Community  
Foundation





The  
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