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Press Release

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JUNEAU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL PHILANTHROPY AWARDS

MIKE BLACKWELL - PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR SEALASKA - PHILANTHROPIC BUSINESS JAMHI HEALTH & WELLNESS - NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

The Juneau Community Foundation held their annual Philanthropy recognition dinner on September 27, 2018. The event honors outstanding local individuals and businesses who demonstrate their commitment to community philanthropy and leadership. Mike Blackwell received the Philanthropist of the Year award. Sealaska accepted the Philanthropic Business award. JAMHI Health & Wellness was recognized as Nonprofit Organization of the Year.

Long-time resident Mike Blackwell started one of the first donor advised funds with the Foundation and over the years has contributed generously to the community. Focused on success for the next generation, examining history, and building community, Mike has given his time, expertise, and money to the Friends of Zach Gordon Youth Center, Discovery Southeast, STEM youth activities, and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. He provided emergency support to the Glory Hall when building flooding called for additional repairs, and in times of expansion such as creating the rooftop garden. True to his self-effacing nature, Mike used the spotlight to commemorate a longtime Juneau champion, Marie Darlin, by introducing a new endowed fund to provide an award in arts and literature. The Marie Darlin Arts & Literature Prize will be awarded annually by the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. Per Mike's wishes, the evening served as a fundraiser for the fund. A \$25,000 challenge match was announced at the event and by the end of the festivities, almost \$18,000 had been raised.

Business leader Sealaska has a long history of significant giving in Juneau and Southeast Alaska. It has provided over \$2.3 million in scholarships for graduating seniors and is expanding its reach in support of young people. Sealaska is a leader in developing local entrepreneurship through its Spruce Roots program focused on sustainable economies. And, its support for Forget Me Not Manor, a Housing First residence, demonstrates Sealaska's commitment to building healthy families and communities. Chief Executive Officer Anthony Mallott spoke on behalf of the corporation.

A long-time leader providing mental health services, the Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc recently merged with the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence Juneau, increasing efficiency and service. In addition, it greatly expanded services by adding physical health to its offerings and opening the Midtown Clinic at the Housing First complex in Lemon Creek. This clinic and main facility in Salmon Creek are open to all. The leadership JAMHI Health & Wellness has shown in meeting the health needs of our community only make us stronger. Executive Director, Dave Branding spoke and received the honor on behalf of the health care provider.

The Foundation celebrated having awarded more than \$13 million in grants and scholarships since 2000. The event included a silent auction and wonderful stories shared by local donors and grantees highlighting the Foundation's positive role in our community. Guest speakers John Pugh, Alison Browne and Bob Rehfeld's personal stories provided information on partnering with the Foundation, donor perspectives on establishing a fund today, and providing a legacy for tomorrow.

The Foundation thanks Alaska Commercial Contractors, Baxter Bruce & Sullivan, Behrends Mechanical, Central Council Tlingit & Haida, Faulkner Banfield, PC and Sealaska for their generous support of this event. For more information visit www.juneaucf.org or call Amy Skilbred at 907-523-5450 or amy@juneaucf.org.