



Juneau Community Foundation
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**Juneau Community Foundation's
Field of Interest Funds Support Three Elementary School Projects:
Juneau Alaska Music Matters, Discover Tech STEM Library Exhibit,
Trauma Informed Schools Pilot Project**

The Juneau Community Foundation's newly formed Youth Fund and Education Fund award their first grants to three Juneau nonprofit organizations supporting unique elementary school projects. These grant awards are possible due to board leadership and individual community member support to actively develop these Funds.

The **Juneau Alaska Music Matters (JAMM)** program has been awarded \$21,200 to support program expansion in three Juneau elementary schools. This grant will help JAMM continue to offer rich after-school opportunities for children filled with music, social interaction, and positive youth development skills. JAMM is a tuition-free music program, which uses the power of music and the social experience of ensemble to help youth reach their fullest potential: develop focus, self-control, leadership skills, and teamwork.

"JAMM is grateful for the Juneau Community Foundation's longstanding support and proud to be one of their partners. From funding our pilot program at Glacier Valley many years ago to supporting our current expansion efforts, JCF is critical to JAMM's success. Thank you for reaffirming that music makes a difference in the lives of our children" Lorrie Heagy, JAMM Director.

In the future, JAMM hopes to expand into additional elementary schools and work with middle schools as JAMM participants leave elementary school.

"The Foundation is excited to have our first Youth Fund grant supporting JAMM's expansion plans. Education is the greatest gift we can give our children and JAMM exemplifies our vision of providing every kid the opportunity to participate in cultural and artistic programs regardless of economic status. We are grateful to our Youth Fund donors who share this vision." Bob Rehfeld, Foundation board member.

Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference is a traveling museum quality exhibit being hosted by Juneau Public Libraries, one of eight libraries in the United States to do so. The exhibit showcases how engineering provides solutions to better meet human needs and how engineers create new technologies to solve problems, and includes a lot of hands on learning

activities. The \$2,100 grant matches the Friends of the Library's contribution to ensure all 92 K-5 classrooms have a field trip with time to explore the 800-square foot exhibit, plus a hands-on, grade appropriate science experiment.

"We are excited that there is so much interest and commitment for increasing meaningful STEM experiences for kids. Discover Tech will be an excellent opportunity for students to become invested in technology and its capacity to change the world. Thanks to the Foundation for helping to ensure that all K-5 students have the opportunity to explore the engineering process."
Brenda Taylor, STEM Coalition Co-Chair.

The **Trauma Informed Schools Pilot Project** has been awarded \$8,420 to support three elementary schools in Juneau with the training and tools needed to better assist students. Addressing trauma in children is of great concern to one and all, and given adequate training, our teachers can help. The Foundation has teamed up with the State, the Juneau School District, and Washington University to bring this training program to Juneau. This grant will help defray training related expenses.

"Our trauma informed teaching focus has had a profound effect in helping students develop the resiliency to self-regulate and the mindset to achieve academic success. We have learned how to work more successfully with students who have significant adverse childhood experiences. This program provides meaningful support to our students and staff. If we can help them cope, we can give them hope." Michelle Byer, Principal, Riverbend Elementary School.

The Foundation's field of interest funds are being developed to support non-profit partners for generations to come in these areas: Youth, Education, Parks & Trails, Arts & Culture, Health & Social Services. These grants are being provided through small scale collective impact processes with community champions and board leaders identifying ways that donors can have positive impact in areas that they care about. The Foundation is actively engaging generous donors to take these initial steps toward building endowments for near term and legacy impact.

For more information or to find out how you can support field of interest funds, contact Amy Skilbred at the Juneau Community Foundation office at 523-5450 or amy@juneaucf.org.

(JAMM photo on next page)

