



**For immediate release
April 11, 2006**

Akiyama Family Fund – Grants to Make Kids Sing!

The Juneau Community Foundation is happy to announce the creation of the Akiyama Family Fund with a gift of \$100,000.00 from Dr. Henry Akiyama.

Dr. Akiyama has long been a resident of Juneau and a favorite physician of the Juneau populace. He has cared for generations of our friends and families through his practice and he continues to give back to our community through the Akiyama Family Fund.

The Akiyama Family Fund was created to provide scholarships and encourage youth participation in the Alaska Youth Choir. The mission of the fund is to provide children with limited family incomes an opportunity to join the Alaska Youth Choir through its scholarship program. It is Dr. Akiyama's belief that through musical activities, fellowship, and Artistic Director Missouri Smythe's dynamic leadership, the Alaska Youth Choir can inspire and enhance children's lives.

Laraine Derr, the Business Administrator for the Alaska Youth Choir says, "Due to Dr. Akiyama's generous support, each year in Juneau there are youth who will be able to develop their talent who would not ordinarily have the opportunity to do so."

In the words of Dr. Akiyama, "Youth fades away, but the music, character, and self confidence the Alaska Youth Choir experience builds will endure forever. With the gift of music, the choir is a messenger/ambassador for peace, good will, respect, tolerance, and love for one and all. The Akiyama Family Fund supports the idea that through music, we can all live in harmony – pardon the pun."

The Juneau Community Foundation is pleased to welcome Dr. Akiyama's fund to the growing list of funds set up with the Juneau Community Foundation. It is the Foundation's goal to make it easy for local and out-of-state donors to create funds and give back to the community of Juneau through their thoughtful and generous donations.

For more information about the Akiyama Family Fund or the Juneau Community Foundation, please contact Reed Stoops or Marni Moore at (907) 463-3223, or visit us on the web at www.juneaucf.org. For information about the Alaska Youth Choir, please call (907) 789-3634, or send an email to alaskayouthchoir@gci.net.

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