

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

FULL AHEAD

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Donor Newsletter February 2019

Volunteer Service Brings Heart & Hard Work to SAIL



JV volunteer Kiley Adams with Mitchell on his first big ORCA trip to Bend, OR last fall.

One of the unique partnerships that shapes SAIL's impact in Southeast communities is the contribution of AmeriCorps volunteers who work in SAIL's Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka offices through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JV) and VISTA programs. These recent college grads bring new energy, hard work and a lot of heart to our ORCA programs each year, allowing SAIL to increase the capacity of our youth programs and initiate new activities that serve a wide range of consumers.

SAIL has utilized this volunteer service structure for over 20 years, contributing the cost of each volunteer's stipend for their year-long service. Jess, a longtime ORCA consumer, looks forward to outings with the JV's. "They are friends to have fun with and when you're upset, they help you get in a better mood." ORCA Program Director Kat Sprengard agrees. "It's inspiring to get to work with these young leaders each year. They pour themselves into the work, and bring fresh ideas that makes SAIL better for our consumers." We agree!

Out of the Cold– Thanks to You

Lincoln was cold. An Alaska Native elder from Klawock, he had been living in a leaky house without electricity or water for several years, and was facing a bitter winter ahead.

Lincoln found SAIL staffer Janelle Friday, who works out of the Klawock Senior Center, and asked for assistance. Janelle helped Lincoln complete an application to the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority that same day, and doggedly set about rounding up the paperwork to ensure that Lincoln's request for an Elderly Low Rent apartment, designed for low income elders who choose to live independently, would be approved. It was not a simple or fast process, but Janelle worked to keep the ball rolling and checked in on Lincoln's well-being along the way.



Janelle is one of 6 SAIL Village Independent Living Advocates who help connect consumers in Southeast Alaska Native villages with resources they need.

Just over two-months later, Lincoln was approved, and is now living in a warm, safe home for the first time in years. Your support makes success stories like these possible. Thank you for helping SAIL reach the seniors and people living with disabilities who want to live their lives safely and with independence and dignity.



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Perseverance & Partnership Make a Difference in Juneau & Haines

AS A SAIL DONOR, you're helping change lives for the better. And sometimes a simple change can make a big difference.

Bob felt like he had run out of options. A kind and patient man, Bob's compromised circulation had led to health complications and multiple hospitalizations. The medical items he needed were out of reach due to frustrating healthcare coverage denials and access issues. **Bob worked with Tracy at SAIL, who took the time to listen to Bob and come up with a plan together.**

Tracy advocated for changes with the Medicare complaint office but she knew that resolution with Medicare was going to take time, so she also helped Bob apply for a grant to fund these essential items which could immediately improve his overall health- a functional recliner and compressions stockings appropriate for Bob. In addition to specialized stockings, keeping his legs raised as much as possible was the single most important way for Bob to immediately address circulation issues.



Bob's new recliner makes all the difference to his improved health.

After much searching, she found the right chair. **They persevered together and today Bob's health is benefitting from his new recliner.** It was a long haul, and Tracy continues to advocate for better access to healthcare items and services. In the meantime, Bob gives his new recliner an enthusiastic "thumbs up"!



The community partnership with the Aspen Hotel, SAIL consumers and the State's DVR program is a great success.

IN HAINES we started off the New Year with a special success for two of our consumers. SAIL arranged for long-time consumer Rob to start a trial work experience at the Aspen Hotel. Rob has a neurological condition which makes it difficult for him to stay on task and comprehend instructions.

To support his success at the Aspen, SAIL matched Rob with Stitch, another SAIL consumer, to provide 1-on-1 job coaching to Rob. "Every day I try to give him more independence doing his job and I see him learning and improving," Stitch told SAIL. "I really appreciate this opportunity. It's very fulfilling to work with Rob." Haines Aspen Manager Shaleena Bott said Rob is doing a great job. "We're happy to have him as part of the team."

To make this opportunity possible we connected Rob with Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) services. DVR pays Rob and Stitch's wages and has just agreed to extend the work experience to give Rob extra time to learn the expectations of the job. Your support makes partnerships like this possible. **Thank you for being a part of this community success!**

Pick.Click.Give. Last year more than 190 Alaskans chose to share a portion of their PFD with SAIL. This generous support helps SAIL reach more Seniors and people experiencing disabilities through Southeast Alaska. In fact, last year SAIL worked with more than 1,400 individuals in 12 Southeast communities. Your generosity makes it all possible. It's not too late to be a part of this groundswell of generosity. Go to pfd.alaska.gov and click on the green Pick.Click.Give. button to add a gift today.