

CELEBRATING
25 YEARS

FULL AHEAD

www.sailinc.org

Donor Newsletter February 2019

Volunteer Service Brings Heart & Hard Work to SAIL



Ashley and ORCA participant Ann are all smiles on the Coast Guard Beach Trail.

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 periodically utilized this volunteer service structure in the Ketchikan office for 15 years, contributing the cost of each volunteer's stipend for their year-long service. This year, we are delighted to welcome Ashley Young into the SAIL family. Ashley is building an adaptive rec program for youth living with disabilities and is organizing disability workshops in our schools. Ashley hails from Chicago, and is enrolling in medical school this fall to become a neurologist. Ashley is an avid hiker and backpacker, which makes her a perfect fit for our ORCA program. We're so grateful she chose SAIL as her service project!

Out of the Cold– Thanks to You

Lincoln, an Alaska Native elder from Klawock, was cold. 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.

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.](#)



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

Ketchikan's Loan Closet is Here When You Need Us!

As a SAIL donor, you're helping change lives for the better. And sometimes a simple addition can make a big difference.

Ketchikan's loan closet has really taken off in the last few months. Thanks to community outreach the word is getting out- **we have equipment you can borrow to help maintain your independence and make life a little easier** while you adjust to a disability, recent surgery or illness.

One very happy high school teacher found SAIL's Community Loan Closet after major reconstructive surgery on his ankle. Sean Powell teaches Chemistry at Ketchikan High School and wanted to get back to his students as soon as he could. Sean borrowed a knee scooter from SAIL and was soon zipping around the halls of Kayhi to the envy of many. **"I cannot say enough about being able to go back to my students and function in society thanks to your program,"** says Sean.



Birdie ensures the Community Loan Closet has what you need!

Items like knee scooters, shower benches, bedside commodes and walkers are all available free of charge for up to three months. We also have assistive technology like "pocket talkers" to aid with hearing impairment, magnifiers for low-vision support and grabbers and shoe horns for those with mobility needs. Stop by the Ketchikan office or call us to learn more.

Pick.Click.Give.

Last year more than 190 Alaskans chose to share a portion of their PFD with SAIL, contributing nearly \$13,000. The 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- SAIL offers **discounted taxi vouchers in Ketchikan** for on-call access to two wheelchair accessible taxis in town. Call us at 225-4735 or stop by the office to learn more about the program.
- We are starting a **Senior Hiking Club** this spring, and we'd love to include YOU in the fun! Contact the Ketchikan office at 225-4735 to sign up.

Taxi Vouchers have helped me so much! They are much more economical and convenient than trying to work scheduling around the senior bus."

-Desiree Huddle