



FULL AHEAD

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Donor Newsletter February 2019

Volunteer Service Brings Heart & Hard Work to SAIL



Joel & Marilyn are all smiles at a Whale Park ORCA Outing.

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 in the Sitka office for 15 years, contributing the cost of each volunteer’s stipend for their year-long service. Sitka is especially fortunate to welcome Jesuit Volunteer Joel Hanson to his service at

SAIL. Joel is from Snohomish, Washington, and this is his second year serving as a JV. His favorite part about serving at SAIL is spending time building relationships with consumers during ORCA activities. We’re so grateful he chose SAIL as his service project!

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 apartment designed for low income elders who choose to live independently, would be approved. It was not a simple or fast process, but Janelle kept the ball rolling and checked in on Lincoln’s well-being along the way.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

- **SAIL loans medical equipment** for home use, including wheel-chairs, walkers, canes, toilet seat risers, bedside commodes, bath and shower seats, rails, knee scooters and grabbers.
- SAIL organizes **regular recreation events** for people over age 60 and for anyone who experiences a disability. Outdoor recreation events include hiking, kayaking, fishing trips and much more.

A Family Stays Together, And Finds Their VOICE

John Hackney didn't want his parents, Warren and Nancy, to lose "any freedom that age has allowed them." Now in their late 80's, the couple needs daily assistance, and neither wants to live in a nursing home. They moved in with John and his partner Becky, who are doing what it takes to provide a comfortable home life for them. **When John visited SAIL to borrow some medical equipment from our Community Loan Closet, we had a lot to talk about.**



"We were never raised to accept things from others," John says. So it's not surprising that he "had no idea that programs were available" to help his parents. In conversation with SAIL, John realized that there are options for the family. **SAIL helped Warren, a veteran of the Korean War, sign up for Veteran-Directed Home and Community Based Services, the VA's VOICE program.**

John says, "it's hard for Dad to accept help." But **SAIL tries to make it easier.** Through VOICE, the family now has a monthly budget to hire Becky as a trusted in-home caregiver. Wages are paid by the VA, SAIL helps manage the budget, and our partner, ARIS Solutions, handles the payroll.

The Hackneys have also received a HomeMAP assessment to identify "Home Modifications for Aging in Place" to make living at home with John and Becky safer and easier. They plan to apply for a mini-grant with SAIL's help to find funding for home improvements.

We'd like to help more local veterans access the VOICE program. If you know a veteran who may need health-related or personal care who wants to live at home, we invite you to contact us about your options. Regardless of veteran status, if you're interested in being more independent, we'd like to meet you. Our mission is to inspire personal independence. Call 747-6859 or stop by soon.

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.



514 Lake Street • 907.747.6859
sitka@sailinc.org

