



KEYS
to Life

DO IT WITH
PASSION
OR NOT
AT ALL.



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY RICH ARTS

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES



IMPACT REPORT

TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND FRIENDS,

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share our remarkable projects and initiatives. Each year, Keys to Life continues to develop impactful projects that engage and uplift our community members, and this year was no exception.

We are immensely grateful for the dedication of our volunteers, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in the success of our endeavors.

Our first project this year, the Alaskan MusiZians school, succeeded in reaching a population of young children and introducing them to stringed instruments, which we consider a significant achievement.

The Community Engagement Through Cooking, featuring Gambian Cuisine with Ida Mboge, was a resounding success, bringing together diverse populations to celebrate African food and culture.

At the Cross-Cultural Immersion Camp, we were introduced to Filipino culture through the Maguindanao kulintang instrument. Participants overwhelmingly were appreciative of learning about Filipino, Alaska Native, African-American, Chinese, and Ukrainian Culture at camp.

One of the highlights of the year was the inaugural Hear Our Voices: Youth Festival, with five Keys to Life youth ambassadors and dedicated community members who organized a magnificent event attended by 125 students.

What is the Meaning of Home provided a platform for individuals experiencing homelessness to share their stories through artistic mediums. This initiative allowed us to elevate the voices of those often unheard, shedding light on the range of experiences related to homelessness.

Our last project ended this year with a roaring success! The Winter Voices Concert with 230 audience members was spectacular! Individuals with lived experiences of homelessness took the stage with grandeur and elegance to delight the audience in heartfelt synergy songs, stories, poems, and music!

Looking ahead, we are excited about the new energy and perspectives that our expanded board will bring. While we bid farewell to two core members and welcome eight new members, we are inspired by the cross-cultural and cross-generational support that will continue to drive our important work in the community.

Shirley Mae Springer Staten
Executive Director



KEYS
to Life

IMPACT REPORT



A message from the Board Co-Presidents Susan Reilly & Jennifer Spencer

Reflecting on a rewarding year, the Keys to Life Board celebrates the dedication of our Executive Director, Shirley Mae, our esteemed board members, and the invaluable volunteers propelling our initiatives. Looking forward to 2024 and beyond, we're committed to continuing to unveil more innovative programs spotlighting our diverse community and tackling pertinent social justice issues.

Simultaneously, we're dedicated to ensuring our long-term sustainability. Join us in revisiting our journey via this report, by exploring our website for deeper insights into our impactful programs. Together, let's continue nurturing our inclusive community through arts and cross-cultural experiences, empowering and fortifying it.

Your support matters greatly. Whether through our website, a check, or designating Keys to Life as your Pick. Click. Give. choice in your PFD application, your contribution makes a difference.

Thank you for being part of our mission.

Warm regards,

Co-Presidents, Jennifer Spencer and Susan Reilly

Meet the Board of Directors



IMPACT REPORT



Duff Pfanner
Retiring Treasurer
Thank you for your service



Patricia Partnow
Retiring Secretary
Thank you for your service



Kate Wedemeyer



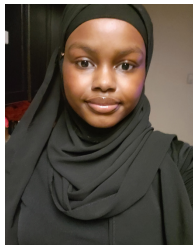
Jonathan Ng



Victoria Shaver



Melissa Craig



Sulafa Azrag



Diana Burch



Jayly (JJ) Jackson



Heather MacAlpine



Naya Indira



Francisco Mercado



Liana Fuentes

**SINCE 2016,
KEYS TO LIFE
HAS BEEN DEDICATED
TO EMPOWERING,
CREATING, AND
STRENGTHENING
AN INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY
THROUGH
RICH ARTS AND
CROSS-CULTURAL
EXPERIENCES.**



Keystolifealaska.com

IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2023

21,000+

Community members engaged with our programs

200+

Community volunteers and collaborators in our programs

13

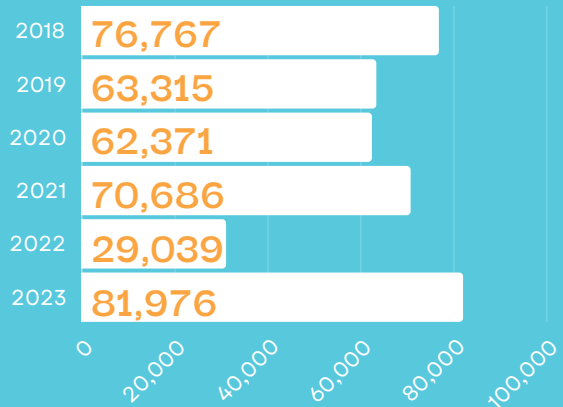
New community organizations we partnered with on our programs

FUNDS RAISED 2023

\$81,976

The funds raised consist of grants, individual, business, and community donations.

In supporting Keys to Life, these funds go directly to programs that promote rich cultural arts initiatives in Alaska.



SOURCES OF REVENUE



- Foundation Giving (37.1%)
- Individual Giving (29.6%)
- Earned Income (21.2%)
- Corporations (12.2%)

WHAT'S AHEAD



More Partnerships

Building more collaborations
with local and national
partners



More Community

On track to 21,000 community
engagements with 200
volunteers in 2024



Greater Engagement

Growing our foothold in the greater
Anchorage area and MatSu valley

Upcoming 2024

Family Lullaby

Sun Rise Camp for Children of Incarcerated Parents

Hidden Root Film Documentary

Hear Our Voices: Youth Festival

KTL Guitar Classes

Plus More!

MAJOR PROGRAM SNAPSHOT 2023

PROJECTS

HIGHLIGHTS

OUTCOMES

Alaskan Musicians School

Students attending this Saturday class learned to play piano, guitar, violin, ukulele and African drums.

- 45 students (ages 6-14 years old) attended the 6-week course
- 8 music teachers supported the youth

Art in Service

In collaboration with, Lourdez Pulo-Issako, a Keys to Life Youth Ambassador, and her own non-profit, we hosted an event that involved community members' donations, UAA Trio Students' support in preparing the bags, and Covey Academy to donate the bags to the homeless.

- 500 cupcakes donated
- 150+ Covey Academy participants
- 100 bags packed by 30 Trio Students
- 21 Community members donating items

Community Engagement Through Cooking

An evening of Gambian African Cooking with master chef Ida Mboge. Participants learned about Gambian culture which included "Sankofa Dancers."

- 40+ community attendees
- 6 African dishes prepared
- 1 performance group of 6 African dancers.

What is the Meaning of HOME?

By highlighting the art of individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, a unique conversation centered their voices and stories in this poignant art exhibition, which consisted of heartfelt songs, art, poetry, and photography.

- 19,000 community members were reached – final count
- 16 individuals experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity submitted creative pieces
- 28 creative pieces exhibited including renown activist quotes
- Displayed at Akela Art Space, Covey Academy, Kaladi Brothers, Writers Block and Brother Frances Navigation Center

MAJOR PROGRAM SNAPSHOT 2023

PROJECTS

Cross-Cultural Immersion Camp

The second Cross-Cultural immersion camp, held at Meier Lake Resort, further built community across culture and generations by presenters represented in various cultural backgrounds – Alaska Native, African-American, Filipino, Chinese, and Ukrainian cultures.

OUTCOMES

- 60 participants (ages 13-82 years old)
- 6 cultural presenters
- 3 dedicated chefs, Judith Mack, Staci Gillilan, and Cindy Brisson

Hear Our Voices: Youth Festival

Anchorage's youth used storytelling and art to explore the effects of cultural stereotypes, mental health issues, cross-cultural building, and financial literacy. We collaborated with community members, 12 organizations/companies and UAA Trio programs.

- 145 engaged individuals
- 125 youth (ages 13 to 18) participants
- 28 adults supported with facilitations

KTL Guitar Club

Just for fun Keys to Life offered a 6-week guitar class for adults.

- 9 adult student participants
- To be continued in 2024

Winter Voices Concert

As the newest Keys to Life initiative, artists from our community with lived experience of being homeless shared their musical talents at this concert.

- 230 audience members
- 8 talented performers with lived experience
- 8 members of Keys to Life's band
- Local musician, Ashley Young and her band



**"THE KEYS TO LIFE IS JOY.
THE KEYS TO LIFE IS PEACE.
IT'S THE BIGGEST TABLE,
YOU'LL EVER SEE. GATHER AROUND
THERE IS PLENTY OF LOVE."
HOPE BAGS FOR HOMELESS**

Alaskan MusiZians School



Cross-Cultural Immersion Camp



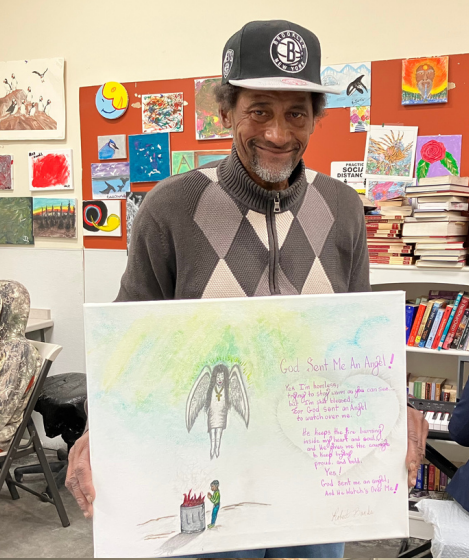


Winter Voices Concert



What is the meaning of HOME?





Community Engagement Though Cooking





Hear Our Voices: Youth Festival



SUPPORTERS

Our Deepest Gratitude

*Thank you
so much!*

Atwood Foundation

Michael Fredericks

SALT LLC

Eastside Rotary

Patricia Partnow

Mari Jamieson

Diana Burch

Thea Agnew Bemben

Agnew Beck Consulting LLC

Joe Jolley

Alex McKay

Melani Roller

St. Mary's Church Bazaar

Nancy Cassidy

Laurie and Stuart Bond

GCI

Alaska Children's Trust

Kay Gajewski

Kaleem Nuriddin

Lisa Jamieson

Steve Lindbeck

Patty Ginsberg

Kate Wedermeyer

Ethan Tyler

Evan Rose

Our anonymous donors

-
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Marie Ogimachi • Francisco Mercado • Lusiana Hansen •
Marilyn B. Lee • Gary Levin • Bonnie Jack • Mary Johnstone
• Nan Elliott • Cami Dalton • Edrosa Zero

And one hundred plus volunteers

DO IT WITH
PASSION
OR NOT
AT ALL.

KTL Guitar Club
Come Join Us!



Thank
you!
We
could
not
do
this
work
without
you!



ATWOOD
FOUNDATION



alaska children's trust



The
Alaska Community
Foundation



ALASKA STATE
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

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CARTA

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