

2016-2022

PROGRESS REPORT

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY
RICH ARTS
CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCES





IMPACT REPORT

A message from the Executive Director *Shirley Mae Springer Staten*

In these changing times, Keys to Life exists.

We all witness anger, unkindness, otherness, and strangeness daily. Our world seems bitterly divided over the rights of people of color, some White people feeling left out, disagreements over issues that directly affect women, differences in faith, and political ideology. The list can continue for a few more paragraphs.

During these changing times, Keys to Life's nonprofit work is crucial and is continuing. The founder of Alaska's Foraker Group, Dennis McMillian, once said if a nonprofit survives five years there is a possibility for sustainability. Keys to Life is now eight years old. Our organization has done great work elevating the voices of women who are incarcerated and developing connective music for the children who need to know their parents' love. Keys to Life has created an immersion camp, cultural meals, the expression of children's dreams, and deep conversation in hopes of reaching across the divides.

I often ask myself, "What are we doing with the Keys to Life mission?" More importantly, what am I doing?

Sometimes my response is, "I don't know." I do not have all the answers. The work is complex, messy, and unpredictable. I struggle with the constant need to fund projects while striving to stay afloat creatively. I become discouraged, which is not an inspiring frame of mind for an Executive Director.

However, I know this work is important. I reconsider my mindset when I can come up for breath. I think of another song/story to connect us, another meal to feed our souls, another way to cross the divides, and find ways to try to be a better person.

Keys to Life has a strong and dedicated board and many supporters and donors who believe in us. Still, we need additional people who bring their rich perspectives to the organization. I am extending an invitation to you to join us in our work. Can you volunteer on a committee or donate through Pick, Click, Give?

Thank you for your continuing and renewed support!
Shirley Mae



KEYS
to Life

IMPACT REPORT



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

As co-presidents of the Keys to Life Board, we have had an eventful and satisfying year.

We are proud of the work being done by Shirley Mae, the board, and the many volunteers who make our projects happen. We will continue to present unique programs into 2023 and beyond. At the same time, we are working to ensure the long-term sustainability of our organization.

Please enjoy reliving some highlights of our activities through this report. Take a few moments to scan the QR code links for deeper dives into our programs. Review the projects we have undertaken and learn about some of the lives we've touched.

Then, we hope you will continue to support Keys to Life's mission of empowering, creating, and strengthening our inclusive community through rich arts and cross-cultural experiences with your time, treasure, and talent.

Please consider making a year-end – or year-beginning – donation to help us continue our mission. You can give in a variety of ways – through our website, by sending a check, or, when you fill out your PFD application, by going to the Pick. Click. Give. option and choosing Keys to Life as the recipient of your donation.

As the darkness slowly makes room for the return of light, we wish you a year of good health, friendship, and creativity.

Best wishes,
Jennifer and Susan

Meet the Board of Directors



IMPACT REPORT



Carol Waters
Vice President



Duff Pfanner
Treasurer



Patricia Partnow
Secretary



Nyabony Gat
Member At Large



Kate Wedermeyer
Member At Large



Jonathan Ng
Member At Large



Victoria Shaver
Member At Large



KEYS
to Life

IMPACT REPORT



**"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."**



IMPACT SNAPSHOT 2016-2022

30,000+

Community members have engaged with our programs

NOTE: This number reflects the participants of Keys to Life events and viewers of the lullaby KTVA documentary series.

677+

Community volunteers and collaborators in our programs

45

Community organizations we are partnered with on our programs

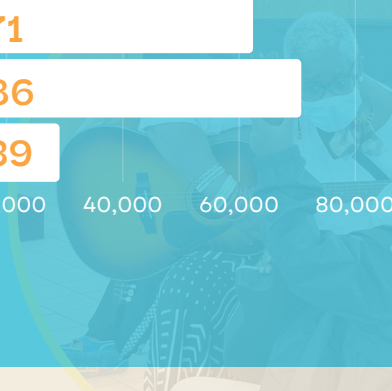
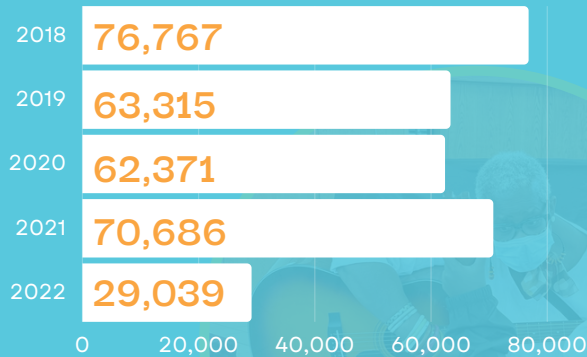


FUNDS RAISED 2016 - 2022

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

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

\$299,809



MAJOR PROGRAMS SNAPSHOT 2016-2022

PROJECTS

DETAILS

OUTCOME

Hiland Mountain Correctional Center Lullaby Projects 2016-2019

A collaboration between community musicians, mothers, & fathers to write personal lullabies for their children.

- 28 community musicians
- 1,000 copies of 4 CD's including 62 lullabies
- 1,124+ concert attendees
- 52 partners with Carnegie Hall Weill Music Institute

Community Engagement Through Cooking 2016-2018

Travel through the world through culture and cuisines.

- 392 participants
- International cuisines & cultural presentations by Ethiopian, Filipino, Ghanaian, Norwegian, Persian, & Samoan people

Eyes Closed Exhibit Panels 2018

An exhibition of diverse children's stories & dreams for themselves, their families, & our community.

- 69 children interviewed
- 19 display panels around the Anchorage community
- 260 community members at the opening ceremony
- Exhibition is still on display

McLaughlin Youth Correctional Facility Freedom to Dream & Lullaby Spin Projects 2020-2022

Focusing on supporting youth to write a book of stories and music in helping them envision a new trajectory of their lives.

- 16 youth participants
- 12 lullaby musicians
- 250 concert attendees
- Learned music theory, playing the guitar, writing a lullaby & audio production.

Virtual International Dinner: A Delicious Dialogue Between Our Worlds 2021

Cooking international traditional dishes with Alaskan Chef Robert Kinneen & Mexican Chef Matilde García Rojas Teja on Zoom.

- 96 International participants
- Cross-cultural collaborations between Mexico & Alaska
- Live cooking videos by Mexican & Alaskan chefs
- Keys to Life Signature Song

Cross Cultural Immersion Camp 2022

A 3-day powerful, interactive experience filled with stories, music, art, dance, cultural foods, & deep conversations.

- 45 adult participants
- 22 Cultural presenters: African, African-American, Alaska Native, Samoan, & Latino
- Participant postcards to themselves and funders

OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO OUR FUNDERS!



WooHoo Ice Cream Owners: Peter Woo and Tai Trujillo and Keys to Life past Board President Kaleem Nurridin

Atwood Foundation
Rasmuson Foundation
St. Mary's Bazaar Group
Rose Foundation
Laurie & Stuart Bond Foundation
Kumin Foundation
Awesome Foundation
Cassidy Family Foundation
Merrill Lynch

Alaska State Council on the Arts
Alaska Community Foundation
Eastside Rotary
CARTA
Spenard Jazz Festival
Norton-Cruz Foundation
Brummell Foundation
WooHoo Ice Cream
The Anchorage Lutheran Concert Series

Alaska Community Land Trust
Alaska Institute for Justice
E & S Diversity
Nations Law Group
Professional L & Technical Services
Fire Island Rustic Bakeshop

OMPA
Geneva Woods Birth Center
KNBA
ACLU of Alaska
Anchorage Cops for Community
Credit Union 1

**WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT THE
DONATIONS OF MORE THAN 200+ INDIVIDUALS
& COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS!**



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