



## CVEA Community Foundation See What We're Doing in Your Community

CVEA has a strong commitment to the communities where our members work and live. Demonstrating this commitment is a business principle that CVEA practices year round, contributing to the community in countless ways.

To further CVEA's commitment to the community, the CVEA Community Foundation (CVEACF) was created in 2006 with a mission to provide scholarships for students and contributions to educational, scientific, and charitable organizations within our communities. The Foundation was formally launched to the members in November 2008 when they brought Rachel's Challenge, the largest school program in America, to the local schools.

The Foundation is funded by capital credits that have escheated back to CVEA, generous donations from CVEA members and vendors, and fundraisers throughout the year.

Each year the CVEACF awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to graduating high school seniors, adults attending Prince William Sound Community College, and to students to participate in the Foundation's Youth Leadership program.

In 2011 the Foundation worked with the Wrangell Institute for Science and the Environment (WISE) on a program to bring hands-on science projects and education to our schools, and in 2012 they helped fund the launch of the Valdez Middle School LEGO Robotics program.

Although the Foundation was beginning to grow, the Foundation Board of Directors determined that in order to achieve the vision of the Foundation, a restructuring of the Board would be of benefit. In order to be successful, the Foundation needs people who are interested in the Foundation and its mission and people who are willing to work hard to ensure its success.

In 2012 the Board was restructured to include six members, three from each CVEA service district; two CVEA Directors, two CVEA Employees, and two CVEA community members. The Board believed that this makeup would ensure it continues to promote the community support activities of CVEA, but by allowing employees and community members to participate, it

would create additional buy-in and awareness from the communities CVEA serves.

In 2013 the new Board of Directors was put in place. Currently Jim Manning and Dan Stowe serve representing the CVEA Directors seats, Jared Palmer and Jessi Gallatin represent the CVEA employee seats, and Paula Mountjoy and Suzanne Wilson represent the CVEA community member seats. Jessi serves as the Foundation President, Jared as Vice President, and Paula as Secretary/Treasurer.

Along with the new Board of Directors, the Foundation has seen many other changes as well. The Foundation has been active with fundraisers and raised over \$4,000 to contribute directly to programs. They also changed the way contributions are made to local non-profit organizations.

The Foundation launched its first Contribution Season in July 2013. The season runs between July and the end of August each year. Local non-profits looking for funding for new or expanding programs are encouraged to review the Contribution Guidelines and submit funding requests within the new timeline.

Seven non-profit organizations in CVEA's Valdez and Copper Basin service districts recently received funding from the CVEACF as part of the first Contribution Season.

KCHU was given funds to support a series of Coffee Break episodes highlighting educational and scientific programs as well as charitable organizations. The Valdez Food Bank received funding to help with a new outreach program intended to educate school-age children on hunger awareness. The Valdez Torpedos Swim Club was given money to purchase much needed new flippers and flippers for their younger participants, and the Valdez Imagination Library was given funding to provide one new book each month throughout the year to eight local children to help foster a love of reading.

In the Copper Basin, the Foundation awarded funding to the Copper Basin Child Advocacy Center for an outreach event for female caregivers in the area, to the Copper Valley Community Library to help fund a new LEGO Robotics Club, and to WISE



to help continue the successful Science in Schools program that was launched two years ago as a partnership between WISE, the CVEACF, and Copper Valley Telecom.

According to Jessi Gallatin, CVEACF President, “the Foundation is pleased to have the opportunity to assist so many organizations with the great work they do in our communities. We look forward to the success of these programs and are happy to be a part of them.”

The next round of funding will be available in the fall of 2014; applications will be available in July. Also in 2014, two director seats, each carrying a one year term, will be up for election. Both seats must be filled with CVEA members from their respective districts.

As a Foundation Director you will be responsible for:

- ▶ Promoting the CVEACF as a positive organization that provides contributions and support to help people in our communities
- ▶ Development, approval, and implementation of an annual Fundraising Plan
- ▶ Participation in fundraising activities
- ▶ Determining the amount of funding available for the contribution year
- ▶ Reviewing and scoring all Contribution Request Forms
- ▶ Conducting interviews with organizations as needed
- ▶ Making final selection of award recipients
- ▶ Appointing the Scholarship Selection Committees

Applications are available at [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) and due back by Friday, March 28, 2014.

Working together we can do more for the communities we live in. If you would like to make a donation to the CVEACF, there are several easy ways to do so; you can make a one-time donation by cash, check, or debit/credit card, make a monthly donation by adding a specific amount to your CVEA electric bill, and even donate future capital credit disbursements.

One of the easiest ways to make a contribution is to round-up your electric bill to the nearest dollar each month. Participants who round up their bill contribute between \$.01 and \$.99 monthly, an average of only \$6 a year, but if half of CVEA's members rounded up their bill, we would raise approximately \$10,000! Please visit [cvea.org](http://cvea.org) or stop by your local office for details or to make a donation.

If you have additional questions, please contact Sharon Crisp at 822-5506, 835-7005 or email [crisp@cvea.org](mailto:crisp@cvea.org). ■



**Top Left, Jessi Gallatin, CVEACF Board President, presents a check to the Valdez Torpedos Swim Club. Left to Right (Back) Kim Keller, Jessi Gallatin (Front) Morgan Miner, Chase Randall, and Ginger Keller.**

**Top Right, Sharon Crisp presents a check to Robin Underwood and Dave Wellman of WISE.**

**Middle, Jessi giving Derenda and Doreen of the Valdez Food Bank a check.**

**Bottom, Jessi presents a check to Kim Michaud, Judy Almy, Suzi Michaud, and Barb Bryson of the Valdez Imagination Library. Opposite, Dan and Trish Stowe watch the CVEACF booth during a fundraiser at the Gold Rush Open Air Market in Valdez.**