



Press Release

November 4, 2019

## **Youth Equity Project Receives \$5,000 Community Development Grant from First Bank**

For the second year in a row, First Bank has partnered with the Juneau Community Foundation to support youth equity in Juneau. First Bank's generous \$5,000 donation, will once again be matched by the Friends of Zach Gordon Youth Center and by other local donors through the Community Foundation. These funds will be used to ensure that low income kids can participate in local extracurricular activities and camps that build confidence, promote school success, connect kids with each other, adults, and a world of possibilities.

More than 1400 Juneau students live in poverty; and, 28% of Juneau students are eligible for free and reduced price lunch. Juneau businesses and people are stepping up to help out by supporting school food programs and ensuring all children have an opportunity to participate in healthy activities.

Partnering with Zach Gordon Youth Center, Juneau School District, youth activity providers, and agencies working with low income families, this community collaboration is increasing participation rates of low income children in these healthy opportunities. In 2019, this partnership resulted in more than 100 disadvantaged students getting to participate in various youth activities and programs. With local support, the Foundation is building a *community endowment* that will annually fund this initiative.

Equity and access are at the heart of the Foundation's commitment to Juneau's youth. Providing positive opportunities for kids is something people believe in and support with their time, talent and donations. Thank you to First Bank, Friends of Zach Gordon Youth Center, and Foundation donors for successfully launching this initiative in 2019 and recommitting funding for 2020.

To learn more, please contact:

Jamie Waste  
Juneau Community Foundation  
(907) 523-5450  
[jamie@juneaucf.org](mailto:jamie@juneaucf.org)

Jorden Nigro  
Zach Gordon Youth Center  
(907) 586-2635  
[Jorden.Nigro@juneau.org](mailto:Jorden.Nigro@juneau.org)

Sheila Kleinschmidt  
First Bank  
(907) 228-4256  
[SKleinschmidt@firstbank.com](mailto:SKleinschmidt@firstbank.com)