

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Alaska Community Foundation****Project Title:**

Alaska Community Foundation - Jesse Lee Home Stabilization Project

State Funding Requested: \$ 1,000,000**House District: 35 - R**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Repair and stabilize Jesse Lee Home in Seward

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$2,400,000**

	<u>Funding Secured</u>		<u>Other Pending Requests</u>		<u>Anticipated Future Need</u>	
	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>FY</i>
Other					\$1,400,000	2009
Total					\$1,400,000	

*Explanation of Other Funds:**Other funds to be secured through community support.***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The Jesse Lee Home is a National and Historic Place and was the home where Benny Benson, the designer of the Alaska State Flag lived.

The home needs extensive remodeling to preserve this important institution.

Project Timeline:

Expenditures will occur in 2009.

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Friends of the Jesse Lee Home

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name:

Phone Number: 907-334-6700

Address: 400 L Street, Suite L, Anchorage, AK 99501

Email:

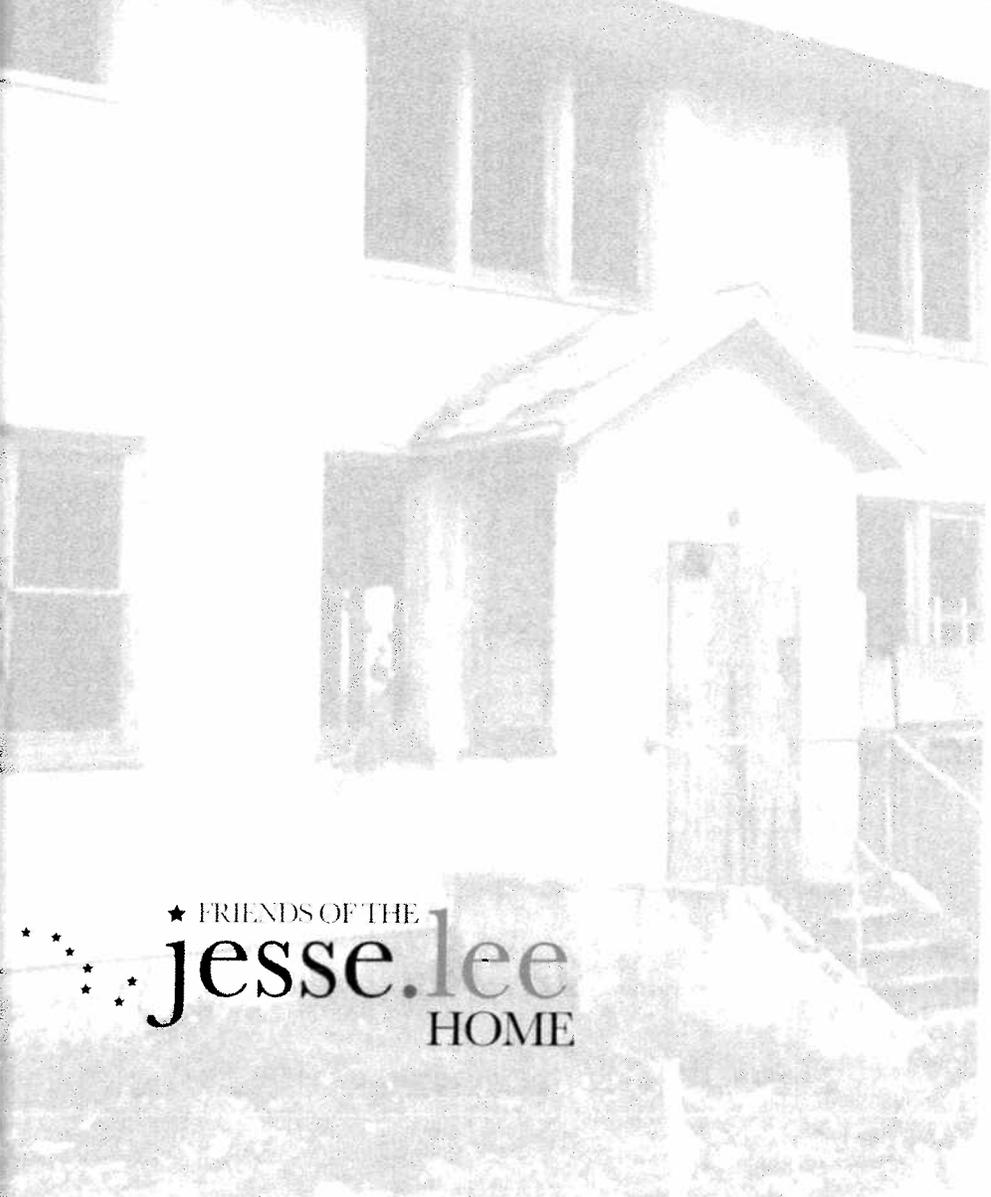
Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Preserve Alaska's Past



Build Alaska's Future



**Jesse Lee Home
Stabilization Project**

An Alaska Community Foundation Fund

Barbara A. Donatelli
Legislative Committee Chair
Friends of the Jesse Lee Home

★ FRIENDS OF THE
jesse.lee
HOME

400 L Street, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99501
www.jesseleehome.net
907.334.6700

The Save the Jesse Lee Home project needs \$2.4 million to complete the stabilization of Alaska's most endangered historic buildings. Our ultimate goal is to restore some of this orphanage and school's original structures to house a statewide leadership program to educate future generations of Alaska leaders.

BACKGROUND

The Jesse Lee Home was an orphanage in Seward that housed children orphaned by epidemics that swept across rural Alaska in the early 20th century. The program was originally located in Unalaska but moved to Seward in 1925.

Alumni of the Jesse Lee Home loved its buildings and their Jesse Lee family. Many still eagerly share fond memories of their lives together and are dedicated to the preservation of the Jesse Lee Home. The Jesse Lee Home has a number of distinguished alumni including community and cultural leaders, business people, doctors, educators and the founder of Alaska Pacific University.

The facility is also known as the home of the Alaska State Flag. Benny Benson was a Jesse Lee Home resident when he designed the flag, which was first raised at the school on July 9, 1927.

THE HOME IS DETERIORATING RAPIDLY

The facilities were damaged and subsequently abandoned after the 1964 earthquake. Moisture intrusion and lack of use for the past 43 years has gradually contributed to the deterioration of the Jesse Lee Home structures.

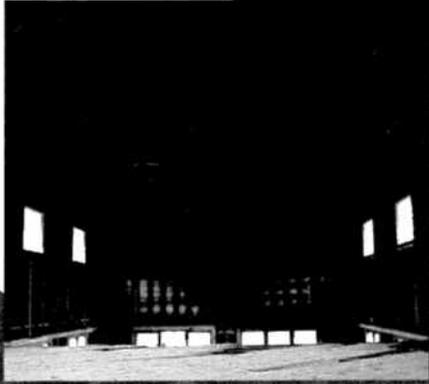
While the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home believe that the buildings are suitable for restoration, we also recognize that the structures are also vulnerable to irreversible deterioration, vandalism and potentially catastrophic damage or collapse.

THE FRIENDS OF THE JESSE LEE HOME

The Friends of the Jesse Lee Home is a grassroots organization made up of past residents of the Home, the City of Seward, Alaska Native corporations, state and federal agencies and other interested individuals who have come together to promote the preservation of this beautiful facility and its heritage of educating many of Alaska's Native leaders.

Some of the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home have been working to save this landmark structure for the past 20 years. They brought the Home to the attention of the Legislature and others and have a viable plan for its appropriate long-term upgrade and use.

The Friends propose to fund improvements through a donor-advised fund at the Alaska Community Foundation, which receives and oversees grants and gifts on behalf of many projects.



“Stand with me for a moment before an old building in the dust and feel the dream that once lived there. Touch, for a moment the dream that touches me . . . Let us strive to restore the building to its original state . . . And let us set apart the place once called the Jesse Lee Home as a symbol of that resolve.”

Billy Blackjack Johnson

former Thirteenth
Regional Corp. executive

jessleehome.net

8. Install plywood floor sheathing.
9. Replace entire roof with new roof system that is historically appropriate.
10. Cover/secure all window/door openings and other penetrations to reduce weather intrusion. Vent buildings appropriately.

WHY SUPPORT THE JESSE LEE HOME STABILIZATION PROJECT

- The Jesse Lee Home is a part of Alaska history that needs to be preserved for future generations.
- 2007 was the 80th anniversary of the design and first raising of the Alaska flag.
- 2009 is the 50th anniversary of Alaska Statehood.
- The Jesse Lee Home was home to hundreds of Alaskans and is a critical piece of the family history of the residents from across the state.
- Many Alaska Native business and community leaders supported the concept of regional high schools during a 2006 meeting of the ANCSA Regional Corporation Presidents and CEOs. The Jesse Lee Home would offer the opportunity for rural students from across the state to enhance their educational experience.
- Seward has the educational infrastructure and unique educational allies in the Alaska SeaLife Center, Outward Bound, the Alaska Vocational Technical Center (AVTEC), National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service and local educators.
- In 2002 the Legislature, recognizing the historical significance of the Jesse Lee Home, overwhelmingly supported funding an effort to explore the costs and procedures necessary for the preservation, development and management of the Home.
- The Home is listed as a National Historic Place which means increased opportunity for preservation funding.
- The project is supported by the City of Seward, Alaska Native corporations, educational allies, legislators, tribal entities, former Home residents, and other individuals and potential sponsors.
- National funders often look for local and state support before they contribute to projects. Individuals, corporations, foundations and other Alaskans contributing to the project want continued legislature leadership in this effort.
- Alaska residents are enchanted with their state flag which was designed at the Jesse Lee Home. Many Alaskans can even sing the Alaska Flag Song, which beautifully describes our flag.



“In the past, the Jesse Lee Home offered welcome shelter to many Alaska Native children whose families were decimated by epidemics; in the future, the Jesse Lee Home can serve as a critical leadership training center for Alaska Native students and others, ensuring a secure economic future for our state.”

Margie Brown
CIRI president & CEO

jessleehome.net



“Benny Benson, 13-year-old student at the Jesse Lee Home, designer of the flag, attached it to the halyards below the National emblem and stood at attention while the multi-colored folds of Old Glory and the deep violet blue of Alaska’s official emblem, studded with the golden stars of the Big Dipper pointing to the North Star, fluttered about him.”

Seward Gateway

July 11, 1927

jesseleehome.net

THE ALASKA STATE FLAG

At the request of Governor George A. Parks, in January 1927 the Alaska Department of the American Legion sponsored a contest for Alaska’s school children. A flag was needed to represent the Territory of Alaska and somebody thought it would be a good idea to tap into the creativity of these young people.

The first stage of the competition took place at a local level. Many towns set up a panel of judges to determine the 10 best local designs and forwarded these to Juneau for the final competition.

A total of 142 designs were forwarded to the Juneau Flag Committee. A number of concepts were rejected as too specific to a limited aspect of the Territory of Alaska.

A couple of designs featured polar bears. One displayed a polar bear on an iceberg. Another had a polar bear balancing at the top of the globe. Others depicted imagery representing the fishing and mining industries of Alaska. About a third of the entries incorporated the Territorial Seal.

The winner was a seventh-grade Aleut student, 13-year-old John Ben (Benny) Benson, from Chignik, who was living at Seward’s Jesse Lee Mission Home at the time of the contest.

He designed the flag with a blue background to represent the sky and the forget-me-not, which eventually became the State flower.

On that background he placed eight gold stars to represent the Big Dipper and the North Star. The Big Dipper forms part of the constellation Ursa Major or Great Bear, symbolizing strength. The North Star represents the Territory and the future State of Alaska, the most northerly in the Union. Benny’s simple, elegant design was adopted by the Alaska Territorial Legislature in May 1927.

For his efforts, Benny received a gold watch enameled with his flag design, a \$1,000 scholarship and a lifetime of positive notoriety. Benny’s Territorial flag became the official State flag when Alaska joined the Union in 1959.

adapted from www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/ak_flag.htm

You may make a secure on-line donation by linking to www.alaskacf.org. If you wish to donate by phone, please call (907)334-6700. To mail a donation please send check or money order to:

THE ALASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION JESSE LEE HOME RESTORATION FUND

400 L Street, Suite 100 • Anchorage, AK 99501
www.jesseleehome.net

All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. You will receive a letter of acknowledgement from the Foundation’s offices for your gift. This letter may be used for your tax purposes. The Alaska Community Foundation tax identification number is 92-0155067.

2008 City of Seward Request for Support From The Governor's Office



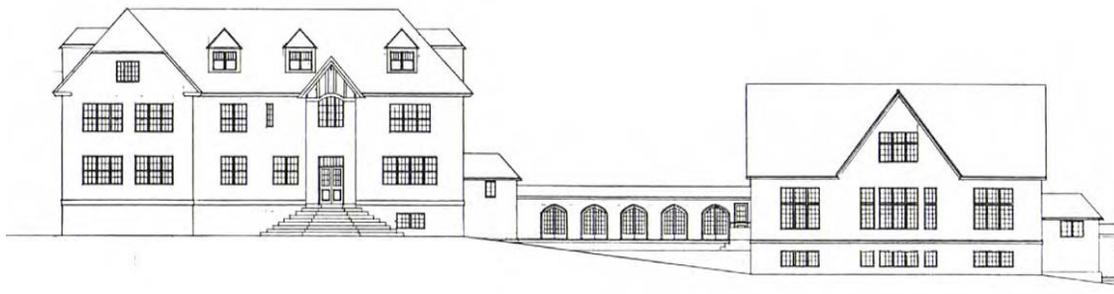
Project Title: The Historic Jesse Lee Home
Priority: Beneficial legislation
Funding Needed: \$1 million in support of the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home for building stabilization of the Jesse Lee Home- Leadership School
Funding Source: State, Grants, Individual Donors and Tax Credits

Project Justification:

The City of Seward is enthusiastically supporting the efforts of Friends of the Jesse Lee Home. This \$1M is essential for stabilization of the Jesse Lee Home. Preserving the building is a critical component of the overarching funding strategy. If the building cannot be saved, the project will potentially fail. This \$1M appropriation will have greater than a 100% match through other fund raising efforts. The City is providing project management oversight and staff time to help facilitate the stabilization efforts. This project was approved through a public process and city council resolution attached. A photo is attached.

The Friends of the Jesse Lee Home are seeking immediate support to save the Jesse Lee Home, our State treasure. The City of Seward and the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home would like the Jesse Lee Home to be dedicated to a leadership school operated and managed as a statewide charter school. The City of Seward is working collaboratively with the statewide interest group to assist them with their goals.

The Jesse Lee Home was critical in the development of the State as we know it. It was at the Jesse Lee Home that the Alaska Flag was designed and sewn with eight stars of gold on a blue field, which proudly made its way to meet the sky for the first time on July 9, 1927, a day that became Alaska Flag Day. Currently, there is only a small plaque at this site by the state flag pole. A memorial needs to be placed on this site. We need to save the Jesse Lee Home before it is lost forever.



Project Description:

The City of Seward received a Rasmuson Foundation to provide grant funding to support a feasibility study which identified Alaska's educational needs and determined how they could be met by establishing a statewide high school leadership program in Seward. This feasibility study was completed by Rider Consulting in 2006. The Friends of the Jesse Lee Home

It is anticipated that this leadership school will partner with Seward's existing educational facilities including Seward High School, Alaska Vocational Technical Center, National Forest Service, National Park Service, Alaska Science Learning Laboratories, City of Seward's Teen Youth Center, Boys and Girls Club, University of Alaska Marine Science Center, Kenai Peninsula College, the Chugach Museum and Institute of History and Art, the proposed Seward Library/Museum, the Mary Lowell Center and the Alaska SeaLife Center. Taking advantage of the wide variety of educational facilities in Seward will strengthen and diversify this leadership program.

Alaska will prosper if we develop a statewide Alaska leadership school to foster the future leaders of our State. This leadership school will draw on rural Alaskans but will not be limited to the rural communities. Highly motivated students will be the target from communities all over Alaska. The program will encourage students to take responsibility for the future of their communities and develop leaders to run government. These leaders will develop skills, trades, relationships and confidence through a well-rounded curriculum and a connection with Seward's existing educational facilities.

Housing our students at the Jesse Lee Home is an intuitive fit. The Jesse Lee Home, located in Seward, is an ideal place for this leadership school because it is on the road system, only 120 miles from Anchorage, the transportation hub of the State, on the rail system and has a small airport. Seward is small enough to provide a quiet, serious educational environment.

The Jesse Lee Home has many alumni who went on to become leaders and distinguished professionals such as Benny Benson and Dr. James Simpson. Benny Benson, at the age of 13 years old, designed the Alaska Flag at the Jesse Lee Home. Dr. James Simpson is completing a book about his fond experiences while living at the Jesse Lee Home. Dr. Simpson is an active supporter of this project and continues to provide resources and guidance to the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home and the City of Seward.

The Jesse Lee Home was the primary non-BIA educational facility in the Territory of Alaska. The Jesse Lee Home preserved our regional integrity when epidemics were decimating village populations. The Jesse Lee Home provided for many children and kept them from being placed in the "Lower 48" BIA programs. The success of the Jesse Lee Home demonstrated Alaska's self-sufficiency in the provision of social services, one of the criteria for statehood.

The Jesse Lee Home has been vacant since the 1964 earthquake when one of the dormitories was demolished due to extensive damage. The City of Seward owns the 2.66 acres of property and the existing buildings on the property, which total 24,000 square feet. The Jesse Lee Home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and on the list of Alaska's Ten Most Endangered Historic Properties.

In 2002, the Alaska State Legislature unanimously passed House Bill No. 96, an Act relating to the acquisition and development of the Jesse Lee Home, which affirmed this location's significance to all Alaskans.

In 2003, the Department of Natural Resources found the building structurally sound with estimated 2005 restoration costs of just over \$8 million according to ECI/ Hyer Inc., author of the Jesse Lee Home Historic Structure Report. This projection has been adjusted to \$10 million for a 2006 estimate.

In 2005, the City of Seward unanimously passed three resolutions to support the effort to save the Jesse Lee Home, apply for grants and seek partners to use the Jesse Lee Home as a leadership educational facility. In 2006, the City continued to support the efforts of the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home as the group developed a business plan and contracted a consultant to begin developing a scope of work for the Project. The Friends of the Jesse Lee Home intend to lobby for state and federal funds for this project.

In 2007, the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home received a \$1 Million grant from the State of Alaska and were awarded the Rasmuson Foundation grant. Since then, the Friends of the Jesse Lee Home continue to develop their leadership school model and seek additional funding. The Friends of the Jesse Lee Home has raised a considerable amount of statewide support and continued funding.