



**APOSTLE ISLANDS AREA
COMMUNITY FUND**
*An affiliate of the Duluth Superior Area
Community Foundation*

Apostle Islands Area Community Fund

Connections

300 Manypenny Avenue - P.O. Box 332 - Bayfield, WI 54814 - (715) 779-7021

March 2011

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MISSION

The Apostle Islands Area Community Fund encourages private giving for the public good in the Bayfield, Madeline Island and Red Cliff region

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What is the AIACF?

The Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, an affiliate fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, was created in 2000 to serve as a resource for the Bayfield – Madeline Island – Red Cliff area.

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Birth Doula Program

In 2006, the Bami-Ondaadiziike Birth Doula Program came into being thanks to the Apostle Island Area Community Fund. The program has grown and blossomed over the last four years and I would like to share our story with you.

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Join Us On Facebook

The AIACF Facebook Page is a great place to stay in touch with the activities supported by the Fund in our communities.



Grant-writing workshop a success

On January 19th, the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund (AIACF) held an informational session about upcoming grant funding opportunities. Nonprofit organizations in Bayfield, Madeline Island, Red Cliff and nonprofits outside the area that serve community members in the Apostle Islands areas were invited to attend this free event.



The Apostle Islands Area Community Fund has a permanent \$1 million dollar endowment. The earnings from this fund have provided nonprofits in the Apostle Islands Area with much needed support. In the last ten years, we have awarded grants of over \$200,000 to the area's nonprofits. Organizations were able to learn if they are eligible for funding and how to apply for this funding. We award grants up to \$5,000.

Ted Dougherty, a financial advisor from Benefits Integration introduced and discussed gifting strategies. He shared ideas on how to talk with donors who are interested in sharing their wealth to support the goals and objectives of a public charity whose cause is important to them.

The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation's Director of Community Philanthropy, Katie Gellatly was also on hand to share her thoughts and answer questions.

The turnout was great as about 30 people, representing over 20 local nonprofits, arrived at the Pikes Bay Marina clubhouse for the 2-1/2 hour session. Feedback following the event was very positive so we're glad we could sponsor this workshop. Special thanks go to Ted and Katie for sharing their expertise with our group.



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Erin Tenney of the Red Cliff Medical Health Center was kind enough to submit an article illustrating an AIACF success story. It is an interesting and compelling look into how your donor dollars work to improve the quality of life in our area. Please enjoy her story.

Did you know that grant requests submitted to the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund exceed our capability to help by 50% to 100%? Each year we receive requests for many thousands of dollars more than we have available to give. This illustrates the growing needs of our communities and is the reason we are always asking for your help to substantially increase our endowment.

There are many ways to give to the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, such as cash, bequests, life insurance, securities, charitable land trusts and others. We need your help, so please contact Madelaine Karwoski for assistance and details at the phone number listed on the first page of this newsletter.

One of the ways you can each help us grow is to forward this email to your friends and colleagues. Also, if you participate in Facebook, go to the the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund page and press the "Like" button. Encourage your friends to do the same. It is a great way to stay informed on the activities of the AIACF.

Thank you for your generous support and commitment to our communities.

John Cory, Advisory Board Chair

What is the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund?

The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation currently houses five affiliate funds: Apostle Islands, Cook County, Two Harbors, Hermantown and Eveleth.

Affiliates of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation enjoy the benefit of experienced staff, administrative support, and pooling resources together with the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation for investment.

The Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, an affiliate fund of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, was created in 2000 to serve as a resource for the Bayfield – Madeline Island – Red Cliff area, and as an opportunity for individuals to support the well-being of the region.

Through its advisory board of community leaders, the Fund attracts and manages a growing endowment for our area's future, provides quality service and resources for donors with varied philanthropic interests, identifies and effectively responds to changing community needs through strategic grant-making.

Each year, the Apostle Islands Community Fund Advisory Board distributes grants to non-profits in the region. Our Community Fund meets and complies with the National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations. Our mission is to encourage private giving for the public good and these standards ensure that our financial resources are used solely in furtherance of that mission. An annual audit is performed by an independent public accountant.

Nearly every kind of asset can be contributed to a community foundation. Gifts can come from living donors or through bequests. We work with donors to design gift plans tailored to meet their economic situation and maximize the benefits donors receive from contributing .

Community foundations offer in-depth knowledge of local issues and this enables the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund to invest donor dollars in issues and causes in which they care and provide maximum benefit to the community.

Sincere Condolences to the Family of Kitty Hartnett

We were saddened to learn that Kitty Hartnett, who served as Chair on the first advisory board of the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund, passed away recently in St. Paul.

Preceded in death by her husband, Kitty and Tim settled in Bayfield where Kitty was active in numerous organizations and wrote a column about Bayfield for the regional newspaper.

Lois Albrecht, who worked with AIACF in Donor Services, recounted that "Kitty Hartnett was among the group who first gathered to discuss establishing the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund in the fall of 1999. I knew that to be successful we would need a leader that inspired confidence. Kitty accepted that role and served as Chair of the Advisory Board for the Community Fund's first three years. She and Tim also established one of the first unrestricted family funds; the Hartnett-Helm Family Fund. When the Legacy Circle was established to recognize future gifts, they were among the first to make that commitment. I will always be grateful for Kitty's enthusiasm and leadership."

AIACF Welcomes Intern

The Apostle Islands Area Community Fund heartily welcomes Kaeleen Ringberg as our intern. She will be providing valuable experience and assistance to our operations.

Kaeleen Ringberg is a Bayfield High School graduate. She attended Montgomery College in



Silver Spring, Maryland and Northland College in Ashland, where her emphasis is Sustainable Community Development and Social Justice.

Kaeleen will act as chair for the AIACF

community initiative involving our efforts to promote locally grown food products and sustainability in our communities. Her career objective is to promote sustainability in both urban and rural communities, focusing on creating food security at the local level. She has experience with the Local Initiatives Support Corporation in researching information on the USDA's 16 Federal Food Assistance Programs, focusing on food security in low income communities.

Stay tuned for our next e-newsletter to learn more about our Community Initiative.

Bami-Ondaadiziike Birth Doula Program

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Bami-

Ondaadiziike is Ojibwe for “to support- in giving birth”. We applied for a start up grant through the Honoring Our Children Program at the Red Cliff Community Health Center (on the Red Cliff reservation) in Bayfield, Wi.. Honoring Our Children is a Healthy Start project which has been operating since 1998. This program provides nursing care and case management to high risk pregnant women and mothers of young children up to age two. We also provide transportation, breastfeeding and parenting groups and events, a wide variety of educational resources and on-going contact and support to women and families.

I was working as the maternal & child health nurse for Honoring Our Children and began offering my services as a doula to the women whom I worked with. What is a doula you ask?

A doula is a community member who is trained and dedicated to providing physical, emotional and informational support to women and their families during the childbearing year, and especially during labor and delivery. Doulas will often meet and work with families during the pregnancy, helping them prepare for the birth of their child and transition to parenting. They are on-call for the family, and will attend the birth in a supportive role, becoming part of the birth team. During the birth

they may provide physical support, a sense of emotional safety, information and advocacy, or just be an extra set of hands. Their role is determined by the unique needs and desires of each family they work with. After the birth they can assist with initiation and continuation of breastfeeding, and will continue to support the family during the post-partum transition.

The decision to pursue grant funding for a doula program came about when more and more women were asking for the service, but at that time, I was the only trained doula in the area. As a full-time working single mother and nursing student, I could only attend a birth every few months. At the same time, I received guidance from one of the young women I attended in labor. Shortly after the birth of her first daughter, she looked at me and said, “I want to do that for other women, what you did for me. You need to teach me how”.

So the next fall, I applied for AIACF funding and we received a gift that allowed us to begin the program and train the first group of 15 doulas. This original group consisted of women from Red Cliff and surrounding areas who agreed to volunteer their services for at least one year. They received doula and breastfeeding support training and we began our monthly meetings and outreach efforts. It was a slow and steady process, introducing a new service into the greater community, but we had the support of the tribe, and the doulas proved themselves. Everyone who worked alongside the doulas, whether it was the pregnant women and their families, the doctors, nurses or other community members, saw and felt what a positive impact they were having. Families we’ve worked with reflect on what a valuable contribution their doula made to the health and satisfaction of their childbearing experience. Moms and dads felt more supported, were able to get the services and resources they needed and had more confidence throughout pregnancy, post-partum and into early parenting.

The service was so popular, that two years after the original training, we held a second training so that we would have a larger pool of trained doulas. In total, we have trained nearly 30 doulas. About half of those are currently active, including ten from the

original cohort in 2006. We received a second AIACF grant in 2007 to support the creation of a strategic plan and other tools and documents which would guide our program and help foster sustainability.



These documents remain the

foundation of our program and are re-visited every spring at our annual retreat.

We have always provided the services free of charge to any family in the Chequamegon Bay area who wants a doula. [It is important to note that this is a valuable service. In the Twin Cities for example, parents expect to pay between \$600- \$1000 for doula services.] Insurance companies do not yet cover doulas however, and we know that often the women that need the service the most are the ones who cannot afford it. That is why, year after year, we remain committed to our volunteer model of service.

Our service operates with little to no money. We have a locked box with several hundred dollars that we have made through grassroots funding such as selling our pregnancy and ‘mothers’ milk teas and handcrafted items. We occasionally receive unsolicited donations from families we serve and these are always warmly appreciated. We are sustained by the good work that we do (and not a fragile funding stream), making our program more sustainable than most.

Bami-Ondaadiziike Birth Doula Program (cont.)

We also recognize the importance of being involved in the greater community. That is why the Bami-Ondaadiziike doulas have held two annual grandmother feasts as a way of honoring the women elders of Red Cliff; the ones who brought life and have seen their children and grandchildren grow. The doulas gathered fresh harvest produce from local gardens and collected donations of local venison, fish and wild rice for the traditional feast. We had Ojibwe midwives and doulas come and speak about the importance of birth work and share teachings surrounding women's health during childbirth and throughout life. We told some of our own birth stories and shared what our grandmothers mean to us and our community.

While we serve all families and represent the greater community, we remain focused on keeping our main outreach efforts and presence in Red Cliff. We have received guidance over the years from a respected elder and report to the Honoring Our Children advisory board as we move forward. Our home is in Red Cliff, and at the same time, we deliberately set out to form bridges between our local native and non-native communities. It is time to bring healing to the greater community, and there is no better way to come together than to support each other during the childbearing years; often the most vulnerable and potentially empowering time in a family's life.

In the four years since we began, Bami-Ondaadiziike doulas have served over 100 families in the Chequamegon Bay area. We continue to meet monthly, attend births and look forward to more good work. As an indirect result of this program's success, both of our local tribal Honoring Our Children program sites; Bad River and Red Cliff have been awarded participation in a federal grant program which will support paid community-based doula positions at both tribes. This means that doula services will become embedded into prenatal care services for tribal families and several tribal members will become paid members of each clinic. In fact, we hope to employ the young mother who inspired the program to begin in the first place, when she said to me, "I want to do this for other women".

The generous donations of the Apostle Islands Area Community Fund have been an important part of what we see as 'the circle of giving'. These gifts have supported the doulas in serving the community in a way that keeps on giving. Our phenomenal doulas are filled by the joy of accompanying families on this journey, and the community reaps the gifts and joy of these beautiful babies, who are raised by families who are healthier and happier because of the way they were cared for during the birth of their child.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to say, Chi Miigwech. Thank you very much.

Article contributed by Erin Tenney, RN, CNM, WHNP at the Red Cliff Health Center in Bayfield, Wi.

