



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

26

Survivor
Attendees

5

New Cabins
Completed

229

Guests &
Supporters

40

Trees
Planted

AND
SO MUCH
MORE!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER

During 2023, we hosted 229 guests, veterans, and volunteers, including 26 survivors. They traveled from down the road in Eagle River, Alaska, and from all across the lower 48 (and everywhere in between) to experience and live the mission of The 98 Fund's **The Alaska Project**.

Our 12 cabins were occupied each week and the site was abuzz with new construction projects to outfit the property.

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- 10 June: Home Depot Day
- 09 July: Survivor Week
- 16 July: Construction Week WP98
- 23 July: Travis Manion Foundation

RECOGNITION & THANKS

OUR CORPORATE & INDIVIDUAL SPONSORS

The 98 Fund is humbled and honored by the generosity of individuals, families, and corporate sponsors. Our mission is to provide support to families of fallen classmates, veteran support organizations, and a mentoring retreat for fellow veterans and families of our fallen.

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS/DONORS

1802 Capital	Denali Industrial Supply	PeopleShare
2 Crazy Confectioners	E&J Gallo Winery	Philadelphia Eagles
Adage	Elmendorf PME Center, JBER	Philadelphia Phillies
Aebly and Associates	Forthright Family Wealth	Pizza Hut of Wasilla, AK
AmazonSmile Foundation	Friends of Palmer Golf Course Club	Quality Auto Sales
American Online Giving Foundation	Gibson Roofing	Red Point Construction
American Online Giving Foundation	Happy Balls!	Salt Marsh Consulting
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation	Illuminations, Inc.	Savidge, Co.
Armor Coffee	JD Steel Co - Alaska	Sazerac
Bank of America Employee Giving	Jeffries	Spenard Builder Supply (SBS)
Bank of American Charitable Foundation	Johnson and Johnson	StellaNCWorks
Beans Cafe	Josh Minton Foundation	The American Legion Post 33
Benevity	Kuchar Construction	The Home Depot
Blackbaud	Many Hands Mission, Kewaskum, WI	Torn Label Brewery
BNY Mellon	Mazatlan Missions	Travis Manion Foundation
Carlisle Construction Materials	Milwaukee Tools	United Country Real Estate Alaskan Properties
Crowley Alaska Tankers	Multicare	VFW Post 9785 Eagle River, AK
	Network For Good	
	NextGen Federal Systems	
	Palmer Golf Course	

MAJOR DONORS

John Avey	Billy Gibbs	Michael Rossi
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Carl Dick	Michael McCaulley	Sean Weddeke
Jacqueline Dowling	Andy McCleery	Jake Wenz
Brian Dudzik	Christopher & Monica McQuillan	Jason Whipple
Martin & Cynthia Dugan	Joe & Michelle Mullins	BJ Wiley
Tom Fischer	Kipper Overstreet	George Woods
John Fogarty	Brian Price	Michael Zievers
Lant Fogarty	Anderson & Cally Puckett	
Scotty Galloway		



HONORING GARY CLATT

18 Mar 58 - 11 Sept 22

On 17 June, we had the honor of placing Gary's ashes in the cut yard and in the river at the memorial fire pit. We are forever in debt to our "cut man."



OUR STORY

Congratulations to Jessica Savidge and Savidge Co. for winning not one, but TWO Silver Telly Awards for her work with The 98 Fund and telling the story behind The Alaska Project.

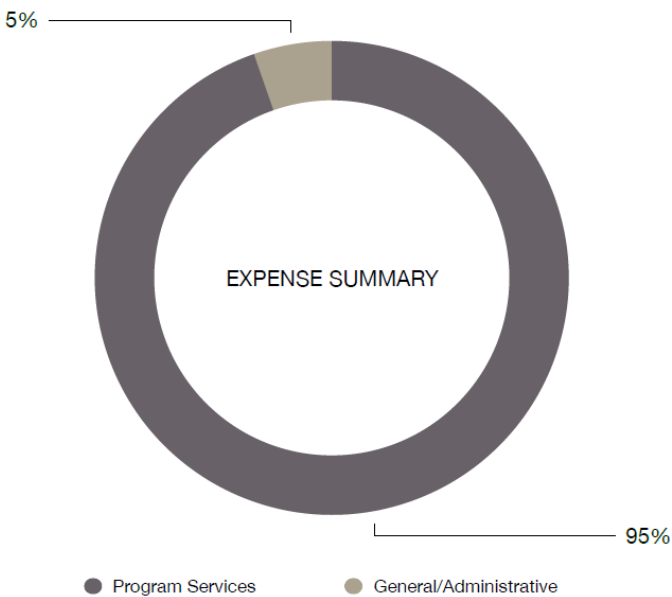


FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022 FULL-YEAR

The 98 Fund is proud of the fact that, on average, 95% of every dollar spent has gone directly to our program services in support of our mission. The majority of allocated funds were spent to upgrade The Alaska Project. New building structures and critical infrastructure are needed to support long-term use as a place of healing for veterans support groups and gold star families, while also providing a self-sustainable camp for volunteers who put their heart and soul into this effort.

Our 2-year plan has included completion of 12 cabins with sleeping capacity for 32, four private showers in a bath house, a maintenance and storage facility, a dining pavilion, a commercial kitchen capable of servicing 60 people. Future plans include conversion of the log cabin into a welcome center, a new caretaker cabin, electric service, and ultimately a main 2-story lodge for year-round gatherings.

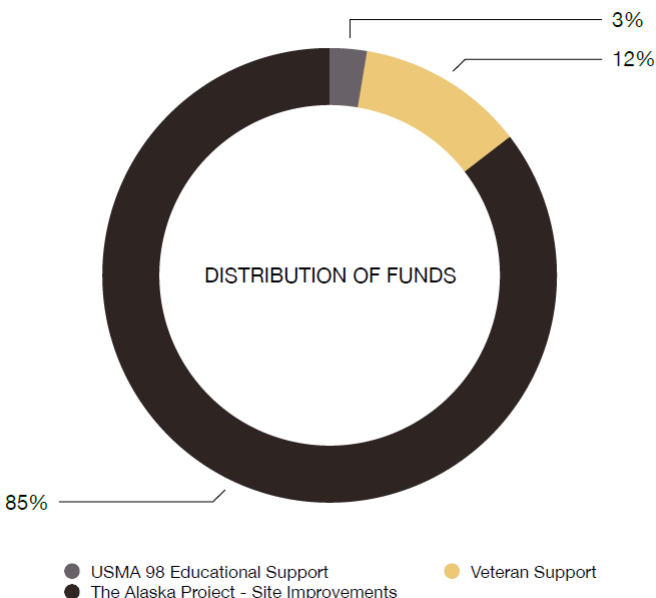


TOTAL REVENUE
\$629,623.00

TOTAL EXPENSES
\$402,669.00

EXPENSES

General/Administrative	\$21,487	●
Program Services	\$381,182	●
Fundraising	\$0	●



PROGRAM USE OF FUNDS

USMA'98 Educational Support	\$10,000	●
Veteran/Gold Star Assistance	\$45,471	●
Veteran/Survivor Support at The Alaska Project	\$325,711	●

THE ALASKA PROJECT

YOUR DONATIONS IN ACTION

The Alaska Project is a retreat property created by The 98 Fund to serve and connect families of the fallen, veteran support organizations, and volunteers. During week-long experiences, visitors honor their loved one(s) and friends with daily memorials, create lasting relationships in the vast beauty of Alaska, and participate in meaningful projects at the site. Over 500 people have attended The Alaska Project since its beginning in 2020, including over 100 survivors.



SITE PROGRESS

2020

- Constructed Entrance Road
- Main Cabin Moved to Site
- Well House & Septic Field 1
- Cabin 0

2021

- Cabins 1-5
- Memorial Firepit
- Ring Road
- Remembrance Pond

2022

- Cabins 6-10
- Well & Septic #2
- Shower Facility
- Legacy Loop Trail

2023

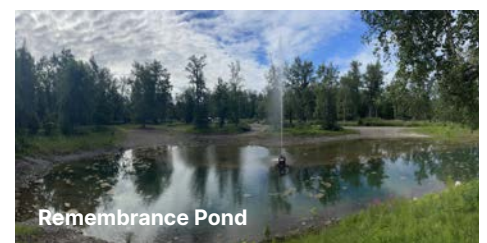
- Entrance Gate
- Dining Pavillion
- Maintenance/Storage Facility
- Commercial Kitchen
- Reflection Point/Trail



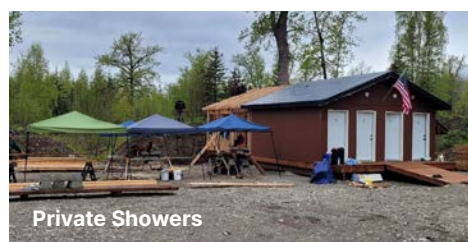
Dining Pavillion



Maintenance Facility



Remembrance Pond



Private Showers



Reflection Point

PROPERTY & EXPERIENCE

ACCOMODATIONS

- 12 cabins in close proximity, yet secluded for privacy
- Cabins each accommodate 2-3, with a couch and table, ceiling fan
- Solar/generator equipped for phone/device charging and lighting
- Four individual showers in on-site shower facility
- Community gathering areas, gazebos, pavilion
- Nearby AirBNBs available
- Commercial kitchen (feeds up to 80 people)



MEMORIAL & REFLECTION AREAS

- Memorial Firepit with remembrance bell
- Reflection Point along the Little Susitna River
- 4 flag poles
- Legacy Loop Trail (leads to Reflection Point)
- Remembrance Pond
- Gold Star Peak (off site, guided)



SERVICE & ADVENTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- The Alaska Project property improvement projects
- Gold Star Peak hike/climb (guided)
- Glacier hiking
- Prince William Sound tours
- River rafting & fishing



COSTS & LOGISTICS

- Located in Palmer, Alaska, about 1hr 20mins from Anchorage
- Property is 50 acres of developed and wilderness areas
- Availability between June and August
- Costs average \$6,000 per person (airfare, meals, transportation, activities)
- Coordination required for service projects and off-property adventures

The cost to sponsor one Gold Star participant for a week is approximately \$6,000.



Commercial Kitchen



Memorial Firepit



Gazebos



Main Log Cabin



Cabins

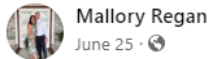
27 MAY: MANY HANDS MISSION

Starting in early June, 27 volunteers from Many Hands Mission arrived in Alaska and quickly began work on what would soon become a new commercial-grade kitchen, along with improvements to the showers in the bath house. The crew built the foundation, erected walls, and installed roof trusses for the new space. In addition to this, they installed flooring in the shower rooms, installed FF&E in cabins 6-10, mowed, raked, and cut downed trees, and built a beverage station for the Fire Pit/Polar Plunge



04 JUNE: ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH

All Saints Lutheran Church arrived ready to take the baton! Their volunteer week began by outfitting the kitchen with donated equipment from Beans Cafe. This group also helped with multiple beautification projects around the site: Memorial Firepit cleanup, creation of a footpath between the firepit area and the Polar Plunge site, assembled multiple picnic tables/benches, and they completed unfinished painted areas, built a 400 sq ft deck off the kitchen, upgraded rock walls, and installed kitchen windows.



Mallory Regan

June 25 · 🌐



Finally getting around to my Alaska dump! It's long but (in my opinion) worth the read!

About 3 weeks ago, I traveled with with my church to Palmer, Alaska where we met with the [The 98 Fund](https://the98fund.org) to help with The Alaska Project. The 98 Fund is truly an amazing organization, and I encourage everyone to read their story and what they stand for: <https://the98fund.org>

The Alaska Project aims to provide Gold Star families with a week of healing and to create opportunities for children and family members to preserve the memories of their loved ones who were lost in combat. I had the opportunity to help get the campsite ready for families to stay throughout the summer, and let me tell you...what a life-changing experience this was.

My work for the week consisted of building rock walls around several cabins on the property to define and beautify the area (pictured). I also had the opportunity to build a deck/platform for the Memorial Bell on-site (before and after pictures below). This project, to me, was the most meaningful project I have done to date because this is where families will honor and remember their loved ones. This was also a very special project because I got to do it alongside my sister (and our guys) ❤️

On our last work day, we had the opportunity to climb Gold Star Peak. This was an amazing— and humbling— adventure! Gold Star Peak is a memorial mountain with a 4,148' summit elevation. At the top, there are several memorials where families can leave mementos and dog tags in honor of their loved ones. I had the incredible honor of carrying the dog tag of Jason Gonzalez, who was killed in 2005 during a home invasion in TX. It was truly an honor to make the climb for him and his family.

On our free days, we visited the Knik Glaciers and explored Anchorage. It was so good to be back with my All Saints family, and even more special that I got to experience all of this with my own family as well.

To [Mark Rock DeRocchi](#) and [Steven Tetreault](#)— THANK YOU for this opportunity and for your guidance, patience and hospitality. Your dedication and passion for the 98 Fund and The Alaska Project are truly inspiring. You are impacting the lives of so many families, as well as the volunteers who come to help.

To [All Saints Lutheran Church - Worthington](#)— THANK YOU for your spiritual and financial support. This trip (like all of the others) could not happen without your generosity and kindness.

In todays world, it is so hard to see Gods goodness in people and experiences. My week in Alaska was an incredible— and much needed— reminder that there IS good happening in the world and there ARE people who love others and want to show Gods love to others. Forever grateful for this experience.



10 JUNE: HOME DEPOT DAY

In a single day, The Home Depot Foundation team accomplished more than a small village could. With over 65 volunteers, the team planted spruce trees in an effort to replace trees lost during construction and storms. They cleared Legacy Loop Trail of overgrown brush and fallen trees, and they beautified flower beds surrounding the entrance, welcome sign, and flag poles. Big thanks to Pizza Hut of Wasilla, AK for feeding the entire crew.

A special thanks to The Home Depot Foundation for their continued generous support of the 98 Fund mission.



09 JULY: SURVIVOR WEEK

It takes great strength to live as a surviving member of a family impacted by war or death. We had the pleasure of welcoming the families of Josh Minton, Darren Baldwin, and Frank Massey to The Alaska Project for Survivor Week this year. The families were able to connect with one another and share the stories of their fallen while allowing others to share in the legacy of their sons and spouses. We enjoyed Alaska though a glacier cruise, white water rafting and hiking on a glacier as well as through the creation of memorial plaques to honor those we lost and a trip up to the top of Gold Star Peak to place new dog tags upon the memorial there as well as on our property at our memorial fire pit.



1ST TIME EXPERIENCE

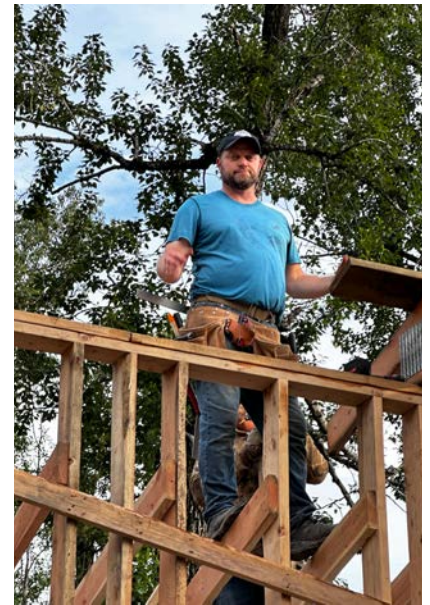
"The first week of the trip was 'Survivor week', focused on healing and remembering for those who had lost military loved ones. We spent most of the week with a spouse who was a long term care giver and a second spouse and her husbands' parents who had been care givers to a soldier. Safe to say those folks are all now friends for life. We shared stories on the bus rides when we went to do tourist things and around the camp fires and while doing other events around the 98 Fund property. It was definitely healing to be able to spend that time with them both enjoying the natural beauty of Alaska but also building memorial benches and helping in camp too. There was a very unexpected benefit though....there were 20 plus folks from a church group that spent the week with us as well. Most of them were teens, with their adults providing the food and doing the cooking for the whole camp. The group also helped work on the camp. It was fascinating to see those kids grow in one weeks time. They started the week mostly clinging to their close friends in their group, but over the week that changed.....suddenly kids would sit with us at dinner and you could see their demeanor change as they were exposed to respect for not only those of us survivors but for the military in general.

They were quite attentive around the fire and at the various memorials that were done thru the week. When they were issued dog tags Weds. night before the trek up Gold Star Peak the next day there was a solemn feel to all of their demeanors. They came back from the hike the next day worn out, proud and respectful. It was just touching to see how the week impacted them."..."Meeting so many people with a sincere respect for the military was just really uplifting. We made a ton of new friends for life! There were other things too though, we learned things that we can put to use with our own foundation. I think most of you know the Josh Minton Foundation was largely modeled after the 98 Fund and the concept of therapeutic, nature stays for those impacted by cancer or military service. Southern Ohio is certainly not Alaska but the concept is the same. We met folks affiliated with other foundations who not only gave us ideas but they took ideas home with them as well. Networking on a grand scale hadn't entered my mind until we got to Alaska!"

- Bob Minton (surviving father of Josh Minton, USMA class of 2006 - www.brotherson3.org)

16 JULY: WP'98 CONSTRUCTION WEEK

Since its inception, The 98 Fund has hosted graduates from the United States Military Academy class of 1998, their families, friends, and volunteers from all over the United States. The many great and selfless people have graciously volunteered their hard work and time to further a great cause. Over the years these volunteers have built cabins, gazebos, benches, and a shower area. They have also spent countless hours ensuring that the property remains pristine and have created special places for our guests to take time to reflect in peaceful settings, whether it is on a mile long trail or on a secluded river bank. This year, over 60 people showed up to volunteer, including 13 members of the class of 1998, to build a 20' x 60' Dining Pavilion which will be the future dining and gathering location, completed a full service kitchen capable of feeding upwards of 80 people, and a 1200 sq. ft maintenance facility. The 98 Fund is forever grateful for its many friends and volunteers who have helped out over the years by donating their time or resources to a sacred cause of helping survivors and families of our fallen.



23 JULY: TRAVIS MANION FOUNDATION

The Travis Manion Foundation partnered with us for a second year as part of their Alaska Expedition, for which they sponsor Gold Star and Survivor family members to spend a mentor-led week, providing community service and working on personal development as part of their individual grief journey.

Arriving with a small staff and 13 survivors, they immediately got to work and took on the challenge of transforming the raw Alaska wilderness in our newly created Reflection Point - a quiet place of meditation, nestled into a curve in the Little Susitna River. Chainsaws, shovels, rakes and brute force led the way, but everyone lived up to TMF's motto of "If Not Me Then Who."

In addition to the clearing work and painting of the new kitchen, each Survivor honored his/her loved one(s) through newly created benches and tables, and by adding dog tags to our Memorial Firepit.



WEEK IN REVIEW

Survivors: 13 surviving family members, including 1 veteran

Volunteers: 12 (3 TMF Staff, 4 The 98 Fund Staff, plus 5 Remedy Alpine guides)

Attendees: 16

Projects: Creation of Reflection Point, built two benches and sanded/stained multiple others, painted kitchen interior, installed hitching post by swimming area, painted connex, installed corbels for maintenance facility roof.

NOTABLE TAKEAWAYS

KeAndre: "Tonight I close a chapter in grief, and start a chapter in life"

Mary: "That's awesome, that's like empowering!"

Rae: "...Leaving that weight of loss behind you, and stepping into a new chapter of your life"

Nazeraeh: "The most rewarding experience, honoring my Daddy"



MISSION

The mission of The 98 Fund is to serve, connect, and provide healing to families of the Fallen and veterans while honoring our Fallen. We show solidarity and help to veterans and their families by supporting, partially or fully, their needs following service to our nation.

Three Pillars of The 98 Fund:

- 1) Educational support to the children of our fallen
- 2) Assistance to the veteran and his/her family
- 3) Mentoring retreat for families of our fallen and fellow veterans

The Alaska Project is our mentoring retreat, linking surviving families with volunteers who knew their loved one. In 2020, The 98 Fund purchased property near Hatcher's Pass, AK to create a permanent location for The Alaska Project and associated memorials. Each summer, Gold Star families, classmates, and volunteers from around the globe join in solidarity to create a healing environment for those suffering from the effects of battle.

Your generosity through monetary donations and/or purchases from our gift registry help our organization fulfill its mission! THANK YOU!!!

Make a Donation Now



The Alaska Project in Action



Needed Supplies Amazon Registry



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2023 AT A GLANCE