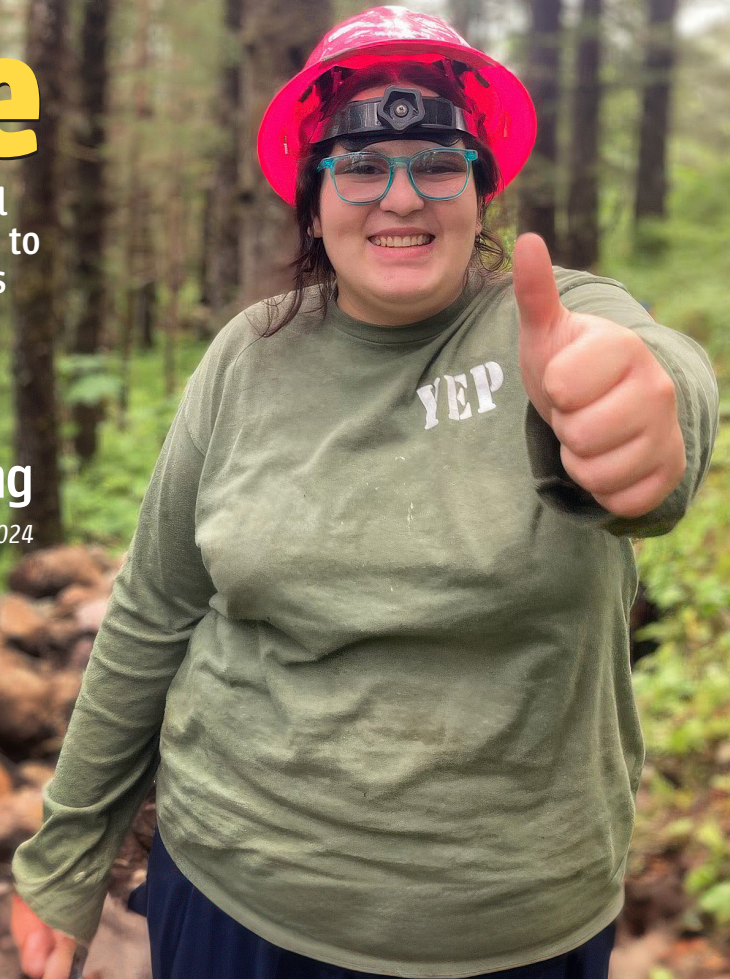


2024 Gratitude Report

Annual Report to Donors

Southeast Alaska Independent Living

July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024



Advocating for Independence

SAIL Celebrates Wins for Home Living

“*Advocacy, advocacy, and advocacy!*” declared Ed Roberts (1939-1995), celebrated as the Father of the Independent Living Movement, when asked about the core priorities of Centers for Independent Living (CILs). For Ed and the pioneers of this transformative movement, the fight to remove societal barriers—from entrenched public perceptions to physical obstacles—was paramount. They understood that true progress could only be achieved by dismantling these obstacles. Their vision was clear: true change starts with relentless advocacy.

Advocacy lives at the heart of SAIL’s work, and your support makes it possible. This year SAIL and our partners landed a big win to improve services for individuals on Medicaid waivers: fixing the broken Environmental Modification (E-Mod) program that makes it possible for recipients to move out of institu-

tional care or remain safely at home.

“E-Mods”—home modifications like ramps, roll-in showers, and grab bars—are essential for individuals to live safely at home and age in place. They are also often the critical step that must be completed before someone can move safely from nursing care back to their home. Unfortunately, the Alaska E-Mod program is so broken, that despite hundreds of eligible individuals, not one waiver participant in SE Alaska has received an E-Mod in YEARS. It’s a complicated fix. One major barrier is the project cap and reimbursement rates have remained flat for over a decade. This past year advocates secured an increase in the project cap from \$18,500 per individual every three years to \$40,000 and extended the project timeline from 90 to 270 days. Though much is left to do, this is a giant step in the right direction!

While advocacy will continue in FY25,

what this win means is we are closer than ever to securing valuable tools for those who want to move home from nursing and other institutions or remain safely in their own homes and home communities. It means the freedom to be surrounded by loved ones, friends, and familiar faces.


If you’d like to join SAIL in our advocacy efforts, please let us know! Your stories and first-hand experiences help strengthen our ability to affect change in our communities.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity to SAIL’s mission of inspiring personal independence. As Ed Roberts knew so well, together we are stronger than ever.

Gunalchéesh / Háw’aa / Thank you



Joan O’Keefe
Executive Director



SAIL's Board of Directors live in the communities we serve. The majority of SAIL's Board and staff members identify as having a disability.

Photo by Shawn Anderson

SAIL
Board of Directors

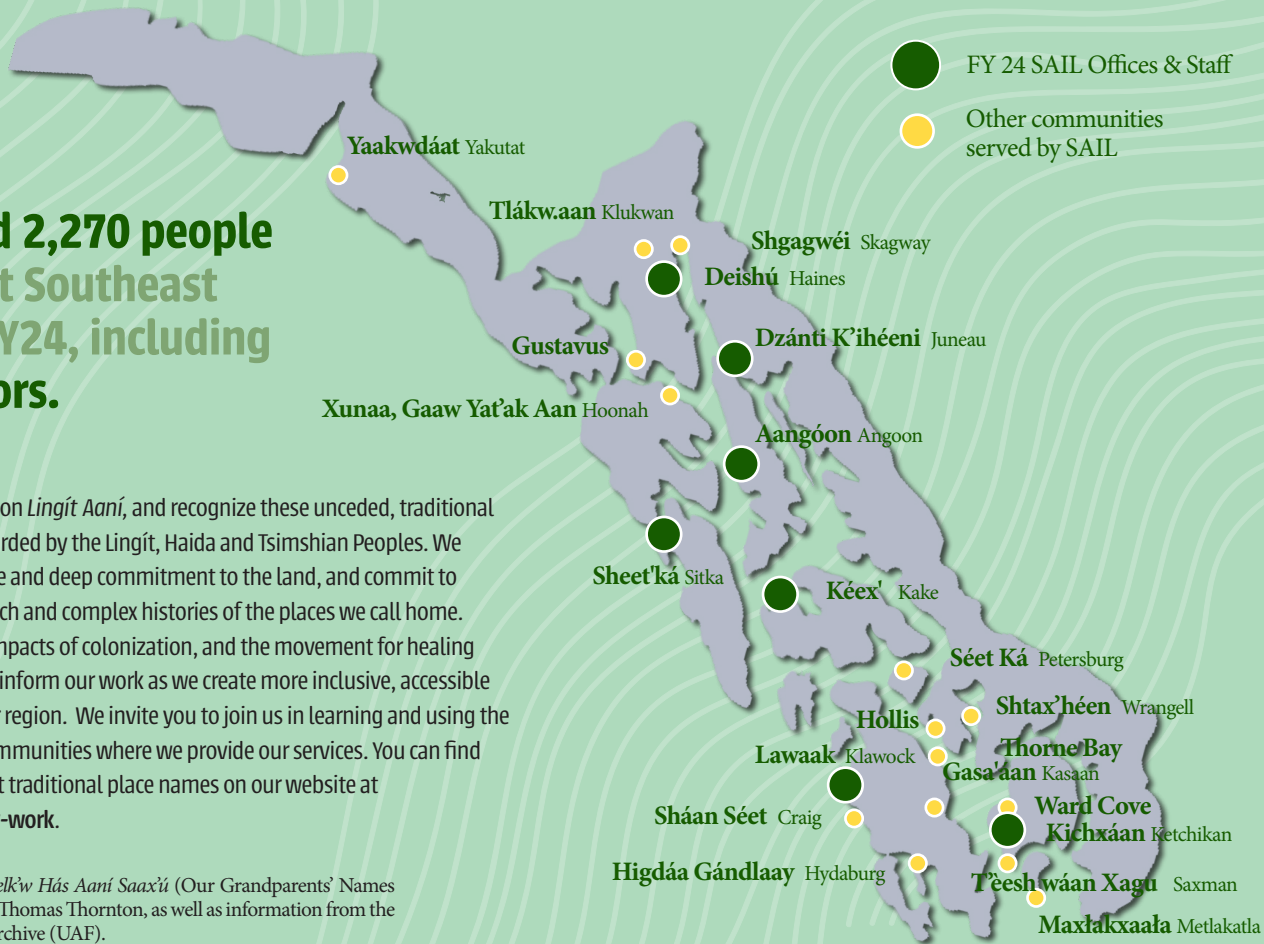
as of June 30, 2024

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Harriet Silva, Angoon
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SAIL served 2,270 people throughout Southeast Alaska in FY24, including 1,112 seniors.

We live and work on *Lingít Aaní*, and recognize these unceded, traditional lands are stewarded by the Lingít, Haida and Tsimshian Peoples. We are grateful for their care and deep commitment to the land, and commit to better understand the rich and complex histories of the places we call home. The intergenerational impacts of colonization, and the movement for healing and justice, continue to inform our work as we create more inclusive, accessible communities across our region. We invite you to join us in learning and using the traditional names of communities where we provide our services. You can find more information about traditional place names on our website at www.sailinc.org/equity-work.

Place names from *Haa Léelk'w Hás Aaní Saax'ú* (Our Grandparents' Names on the Land), compiled by Thomas Thornton, as well as information from the Alaska Native Language Archive (UAF).



Choice and Support for Veterans As They Age


SAIL's VOICE program served 45 veterans in 15 communities

Ed and Patricia Warren call the Tlingit community of Klukwan home, where Ed was born and raised. When Ed was diagnosed with dementia, Patricia made a promise to him: they would remain in Klukwan, and she would care for him herself.

As Ed's condition progressed, Patricia recognized that she needed additional support. While Ed qualified for a few hours of personal care assistance each day, it was insufficient for their needs. Patricia discovered SAIL's Veteran Directed Program, VOICE, which was an ideal match. With this support, Patricia hired three caregivers who were neighbors and friends Ed already knew and trusted.

Now, Ed receives 7-8 hours of personal care each day, providing Patricia with the respite she needs to be his full-time caregiver during the night. Patricia appreciates the flexibility of the program. "Being able to set their schedules and determine their pay is crucial," she notes. "You have to compensate caregivers fairly to retain them."

Two of Ed's caregivers have been with them since Ed enrolled in the program more than 3 years ago. Patricia shares, "They are incredible. Having people who knew Ed before his dementia brings such comfort. This program empowers me to keep my promise to Ed that we can stay in Klukwan for the rest of his life."

A photograph of an elderly couple, Ed and Patricia Warren, smiling. Ed is in the foreground, wearing a blue and red plaid shirt and a green headband. Patricia is behind him, wearing a black jacket over a pink and white patterned shirt. The background is a bright yellow with white wavy lines.

"When I brought my husband home from the hospital in July of 2019, I promised him that he would stay with me where he belongs. He said, "Thank you, honey." VOICE has allowed me to keep my promise to my husband, to keep him at home with me."

Grants for Individual Needs Promote Independence and Wellness

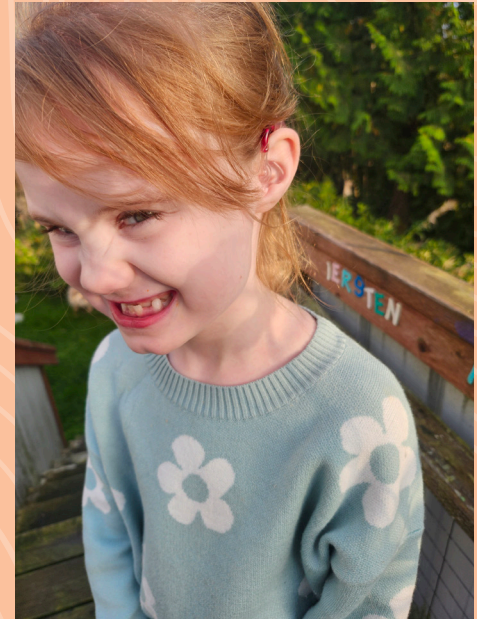
Sometimes a small change can have an outside impact on a person's wellbeing.

When SAIL works with individuals to identify their needs and goals, we often look to several small grant programs to help bridge financial gaps. Funded by State programs for Alaskans with Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries (TABI) and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, as well as SAIL's own Last Resort Fund, these mini-grant programs can help with a variety of essential needs like medical devices, household items, equipment to expand a hobby or start a business, or other one-time expenses.

197 mini-grants totaling \$159,460 supported recipients in communities throughout Southeast Alaska in FY24.

Kiersten is a spunky first grader who loves rainbows, Pokémon, and art projects galore.

Kiersten experiences hearing loss and has reading and speech delays as a result. Her mom Katy came to SAIL for help finding the necessary funding to pay for Kiersten's specialty hearing aids, which were not fully covered by Katy's private insurance. Kiersten qualified for a grant through the Alaska Mental Health Trust's Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities program to purchase the hearing aids, which she's now proudly wearing every day - even in her school pictures! Kiersten's teachers have been impressed with her progress at school, and according to Katy, Kiersten can even hear whispers. Kiersten has even inspired



two of her older family members to look into hearing aids themselves.

Shawn faced significant challenges throughout his life, marked by struggles with mental health and the impact of traumatic experiences.

Early battles with addiction compounded these difficulties, making each day a struggle. SAIL partnered with Shawn on his recovery journey with a focus on ways to support his mental health and connection to the community. Shawn utilized SAIL's Last Resort Fund and the Alaska Mental Health Trust mini-grants to acquire a bike, new outdoor clothes, and a camera. Receiving these items is a critical part of Shawn's treatment plan and helps him live a healthy life by getting outside and staying active. Most importantly, however, he believes that using his mind in a lateral way through biking, journaling, and photography will help him stay sober long-term. Shawn shared some of his photos with SAIL, including the image of Sitka on Page 2 of this year's Gratitude Report.



More than 675 households, businesses, foundations, municipalities, and organizations generously supported SAIL during FY24. These gifts are an essential source of flexible income that enables SAIL to respond to emerging needs in our communities and serve thousands of seniors and people experiencing disabilities. Thank you for your generosity.

SAIL LEGACY SOCIETY FOR INDEPENDENCE

Legacy Society members have included a gift to SAIL in their will, estate plans, or as the planned beneficiary of a retirement or investment account. Legacy gifts are permanently invested in the SAIL Legacy Fund endowment at the Juneau Community Foundation, and leave a lasting legacy to support SAIL's mission of inspiring personal independence. For more information on leaving your legacy for independence, go to sailinc.org/planned-giving.

Brandee Gerke and Andrzej Piotrowski
Mary and Doug Gregg
Norton Gregory
Tom and Liz Heywood
Joan and Larry O'Keefe
Robert Purvis
Millie Ryan
Gale Vandor
Gordon Williams and Mary McDowell
Suzanne and Joe Williams

The following gifts were made in memory or honor of loved ones. Tribute gifts are a meaningful way to honor the memory of your loved one or to recognize someone you admire.

IN MEMORY OF

Anna Hennessey	Gordon Dell Tandy (Sarge)
Anna Josie Lesh	Jane Eidler
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IN HONOR OF

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Jacob Mallinger	Paul and Sioux Douglas
James and Ashley Sage	Residents of the
Janine Allen	Juneau Pioneer Home
Jonathan Swinton	Taylor Gregg
Judith Lundamo	Trevor Kluting

Thank you for inspiring personal independence with your gifts!

7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024

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Alaska Airlines
Alaska Electric Light and Power
Alaska Fjordlines
Alaska Power and Telephone
Alaska Seaplanes
Alaska's Capital Inn
Alaskan Brewing Company
Allen Marine Tours
Aspen Hotels of Alaska
Bookmark Tutoring
Bush Pilots Lounge
Capital Office
Chilkat Valley Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
Chilkat Valley Community Foundation
City and Borough of Juneau Social Services Grant Program
City and Borough of Juneau Youth Activities Board
City of Ketchikan
Coast Guard Spouses' and Women's Association of Sitka
Coastal Real Estate Group
Coppa
Cornerstone Home Care
Cycle Alaska
Dawson Construction
Douglas Dorman Foundation
Eaglecrest Ski Area
Easter Group
Ernie's Old Time Saloon
Faulkner Banfield

Hamlat and Anthes Family
Filipino Community, Inc.
First Bank
Fred Meyer Community Rewards
Galanin + Klein
Global Federal Credit Union
Gold Town Nickelodeon Theater
Haines Borough
Haines Real Estate
Harbor Mountain Brewing Company
HECLA Charitable Foundation
Holland America Line
Howzers IGA Supermarket
Juneau Arts and Humanities Council
Juneau Community Band
Juneau Community Foundation
Juneau Ghost Light Theatre
Juneau Pioneer Home Foundation
Ketchikan Elks Lodge #1429
Ketchikan Gateway Borough
Kings E-Bikes
Knudson Cove Marina
Laura Lucas Design
Lighthouse Excursions
Lutak Lumber
Lynn Canal Adventures
Madison Lumber and Hardware
MRV Architects
North 57 Land Surveying
Pavitt Health and Fitness
Perseverance Theatre

Photos by Fu Bao
Princess Cruises
Rainbow Foods
Scanlon Gallery
SEARHC
Sheppard Family Dentistry
Sitka Alaska Permanent Charitable Trust
Sitka Emblem Club #142
Sitka Legacy Foundation
Sitka Vision Clinic
Sitka Wildcoast Kayak
Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Sockeye Cycle
Sourdough Bar
Spiritt Walker Expeditions
The Alaska Community Foundation
The American Legion Post 3 and American Legion Auxiliary
The Attic in Haines
The Crossest Fund
The Inn at Creek Street
The V-Spot
Tide Watcher
TIDES LLC
True North Federal Credit Union
Uncharted Alaska Distillery
Western Auto Marine
White Elephant Shop
Wings Airways and the Taku Lodge

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Amanda Blackgoat and Kwame Diehl
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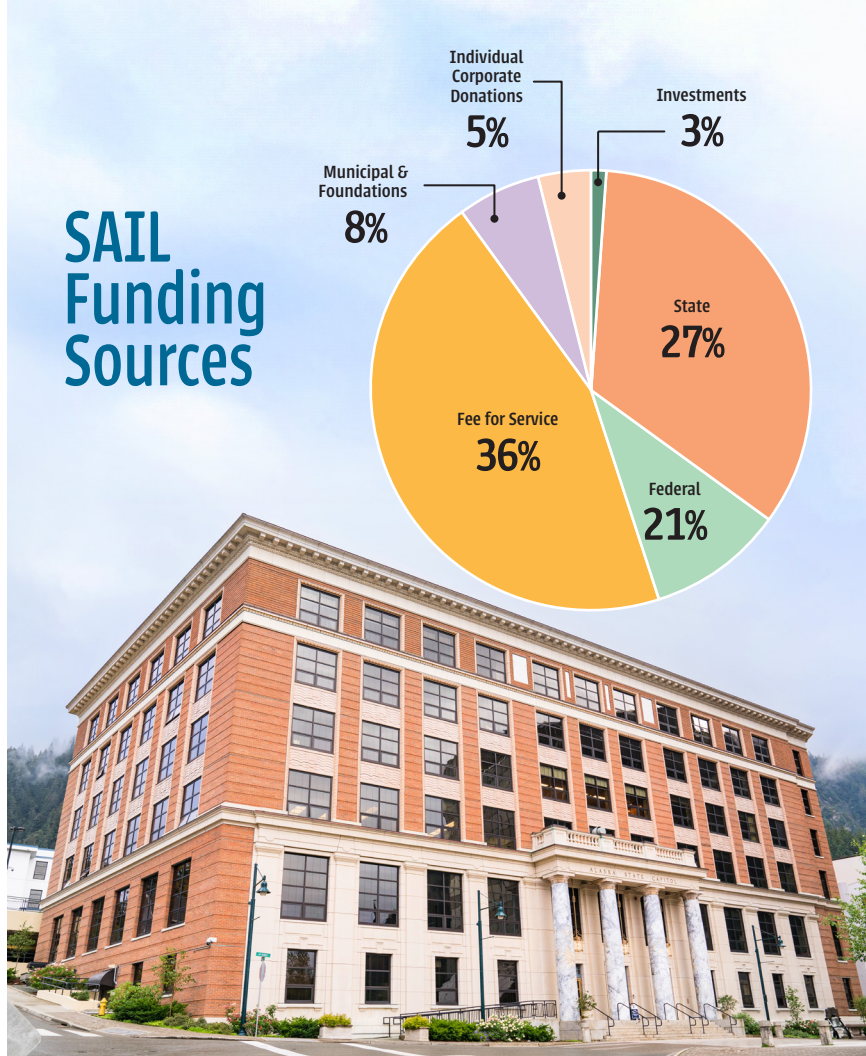
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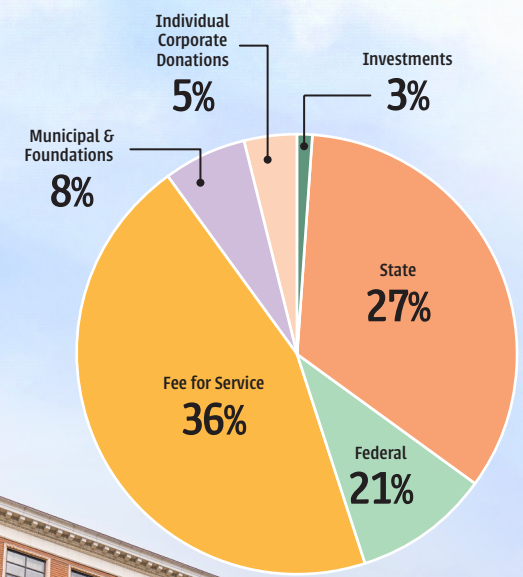
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Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)
as of June 30, 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$205,531	\$301,019
Accounts and grants receivable	\$910,493	\$667,429
Prepays and deposits	\$63,819	\$49,837
Total Current Assets	\$1,179,843	\$1,018,285
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT, net	\$1,514,091	\$1,405,223
LONG-TERM INVESTMENT		
	\$591,672	\$535,656
BENEFICIAL INTEREST		
	\$495,164	\$435,708
Total Assets	\$3,780,770	\$3,394,872
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$154,044	\$298,827
Accrued payroll expenses	\$209,818	\$172,412
Refundable advances	\$40,768	\$20,735
Current portion, obligation under operating lease	\$60,137	\$60,137
Total Current Liabilities	\$464,767	\$552,111
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Obligation under operating lease, net of current portion	\$309,565	\$314,849
Total Liabilities	\$774,332	\$866,960
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	\$393,971	\$495,996
Invested in property and equipment, net of related obligation under operating lease	\$1,484,863	\$1,030,237
Beneficial interest	\$495,164	\$435,708
Board-designated endowment	\$591,672	\$535,656
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$2,965,670	\$2,497,597
With Donor Restrictions	\$40,768	\$30,315
Total Net Assets	\$3,006,438	\$2,527,912
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,780,770	\$3,394,872



SAIL Funding Sources



SAIL partnered with the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitka Trail Works, Sitka Conservation Society, and Mount Edgecumbe High School for Intergenerational Walking Club, a new program where high school students and elders spend time getting to know each other while hiking different trails in Sitka.

“Walkers from opposite ends of the human lifespan enjoyed the camaraderie and exercise of perambulating, communicating, and consuming comestibles together. In other words, grands and teens chatting and noshing snacks on the trail! I was one of the older folks meeting and learning about students and their remote communities. We older folks told of our homes, careers, and Sitka stories. All in the cool, wet, green setting of our vibrant community.”

— John, Intergenerational Walking Club Participant



Catalyst for Success: Integrating Accessible Recreation and Employment Training

Recreation positively impacts all aspects of a person's life, from employment to peer support to empowerment.

SAIL found that students who did not always do well in a traditional school setting found success with the addition of accessible recreation activities, allowing them to form friendships and learn soft skills that enabled them to be good team players, and manage emotions. By providing a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on the whole person, we set the stage for students to gain meaningful employment and find success after high school.

SAIL's combination of recreation and employment skills training has enhanced participant success in and out of the classroom. In addition to high school classes, SAIL's Summer Work Program connects students with community resources while they build skills, deepen friendships, and earn their own paychecks.



179 Students and young adults serving throughout Southeast in 1:1 employment support, summer work programs, classroom instruction, and transition camps;

6,000 Student Hours spent in Summer Work Program employment in Haines, Juneau, Gustavus, Sitka, and Ketchikan;

210 Hours teaching employment, independent living, and recreation skills;

25 Individualized job placements with 1:1 employment support;

7 SAIL-led camps that blended employment and outdoor skills for middle and high schoolers in Haines, Juneau, and Sitka.



Seirra's vibrant energy and adventurous spirit quickly made an impression on SAIL.

Freshly graduated from high school, she was exploring life beyond the school system and eagerly joined various SAIL activities, including the weekly Adventure Club sessions and

a kayaking Transitions Camp. Seirra's enthusiasm for new experiences shined through during these outings, and her catchphrase, "You're cute, you're kind, and you're confident!" was a reminder of her positive outlook.

Recently, Seirra took a significant step forward by participating in SAIL's Summer Work Program with an individual placement at the Sitka Sound Cruise Terminal. Initially utilizing a full-time job coach to help her stay focused and motivated, she quickly began to thrive under structured support. Her personable nature and love for interacting with others shone as she adjusted to the work routine, showing notable improvements in her stamina and focus over time. With plans to continue

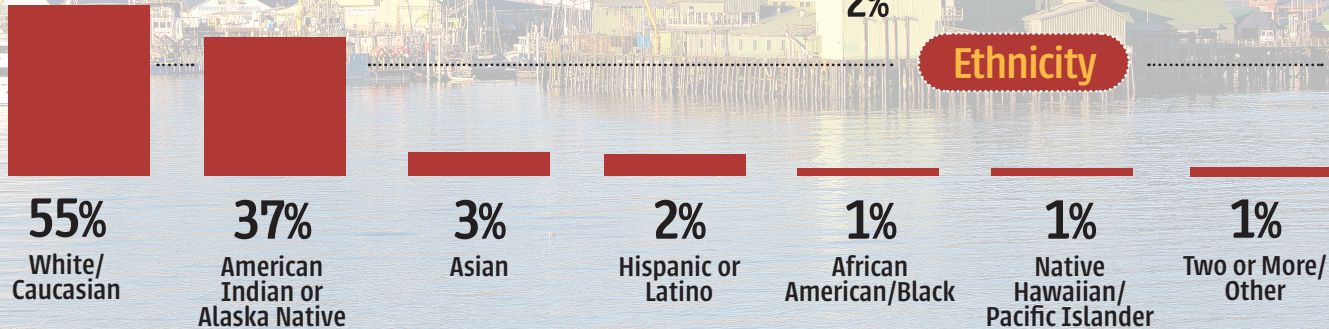
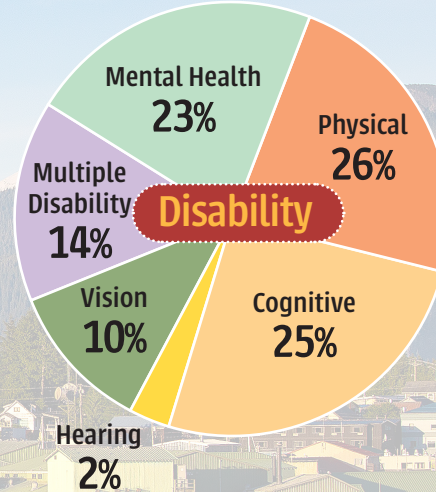
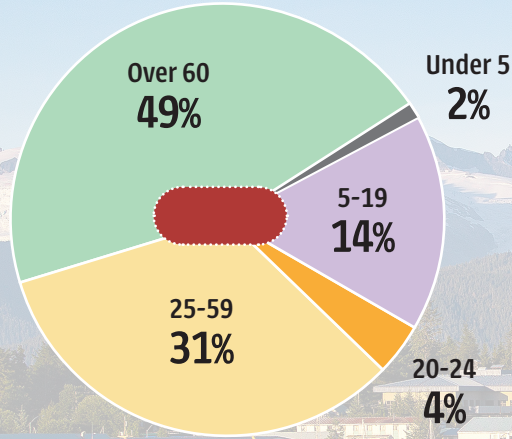
exploring supported employment opportunities, Seirra is excited about her growth and the potential for future success. Ongoing support will be essential in helping her develop the skills and confidence needed for her career journey, and SAIL is committed to supporting Seirra as she learns and grows.

"Having seen the positive impact of recreation in the Transitions classroom, I believe this curriculum is a fantastic asset. Students not only connect outside the classroom but also learn crucial life skills for their post-high school journey."

—Juneau High School Teacher



SAIL Service Demographics



Bridging the Gap: Nursing Facility Transition Resources Help Judy Return Home

Judy lives with her daughter, Kristen, about 34 miles outside Haines. Kristen works full-time in town, which means she can't be at home with her mom all the time to ensure her safety.

This became particularly urgent after Judy fell and broke her pelvis last fall. While recovering in a nursing home in Juneau, she fell again and broke her arm. When it was finally time for Judy to return home, Kristen knew they would need support. She sought assistance from SAIL.

SAIL loaned more than 630 Loan Closet items like wheelchairs, walkers, shower benches and portable ramps to 405 households in FY24.

Judy didn't qualify for a Personal Care Assistant through a Medicaid waiver, and Kristen couldn't afford to pay for someone to care for her mom from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. while she was at work. Thankfully, SAIL was able to help them secure a Nursing Facility Transition grant and a mini-grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust to help hire personal care assistants for Judy. Although the grants didn't cover all the costs, they helped make the overall expenses more manageable.

SAIL also set Judy up with essential durable medical equipment from our Loan Closet, including a wheelchair, to ensure her safety at home.



“SAIL’s help has been invaluable to my mom and me,” Kristen said. “They’ve supported us in so many ways, including lending us all the equipment we use daily. I take my mom for a walk outside every day because of the wheelchair.”

SAIL's Aging & Disability Resource Center: Connecting individuals with the coverage they need to maintain independence

SAIL's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) program plays a vital role in connecting seniors, people with disabilities, and their caregivers with essential long-term care services.

Acting as a central hub for unbiased information and assistance, ADRCs provide comprehensive resources and referrals tailored to the needs of individuals, regardless of their income source. By raising awareness and facilitating access to community resources, the program empowers Alaskans to find the support they need to live independently in their chosen environments. Whether it's helping navigate long-term services or connecting individuals to Medicaid waiver services, SAIL's ADRC program is dedicated to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to thrive in their communities.

Scott has lived in Sitka for more than a decade where he

worked as a house painter. Scott loves painting and the freedom of being his own boss, but when complications from diabetes led to a double amputation of Scott's feet, he moved into long-term care to recoup and learn to walk with new prosthetics. SAIL helped Scott qualify for a Medicaid waiver, which covers his care while he's recovering at the facility and will follow him when he's ready to move out and live on his own again. "It's been so nice that I don't have to worry about paying for my stay while I'm here," says Scott. SAIL also helped Scott obtain a grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to replace the dentures he lost when he left for surgery. Medicare only replaces dentures every 5 years, so he would have had to wait for another 18 months without the assistance. When Scott is ready to move out of long-term care and live on his own again, he'll be able to get care services to make it easier for him to live independently again. SAIL will be with him every step of the way.



SAIL's ADRC program served 311 people with disabilities and seniors to help them access Medicaid waiver benefits and other critical supports in their communities.



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