June 2025

TONGASS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

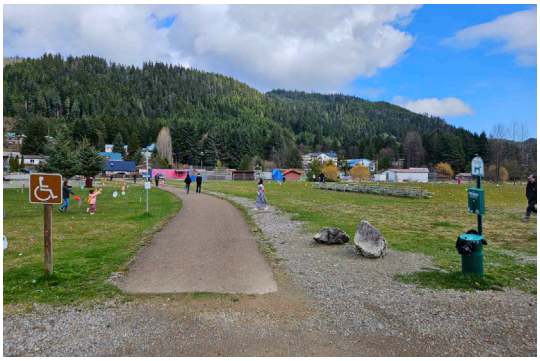
Vol. 06 Issue 02

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES, EVERY DAY

From Metlakatla to Yakutat—and many of the communities in between—we love connecting with our communities. It's how we stay grounded in the places we serve—by listening, supporting, participating, and being part of these places that we call home. Here's just a sample of what we've been up to:

- **Ketchikan –** Supported the Ketchikan Running Club, Kayhi Traveling Scholars, and KVB Banquet. Participated in the Kayhi job fair and hosted a Financial Reality Fair at Kayhi. At The Commons at TFCU we hosted local artisan markets and Business Power Hours. And we continue to be a sponsor for KRBD.
- **Sitka –** We're sponsors of the Sitka Local Foods Network, a Sitka Music Festival concert, the 3 to 5 Preschool Big Rig event, and the Longline Fishermen's Association. We hosted a Financial Reality Fair, participated in the Living Locally Expo, and awarded Jumpstart scholarships to Silas Ferguson and Rex Adres. And we're a sponsor for KCAW.
- **Metlakatla –** We made donations to the Native Basketball Association and the MIC Gardening Club. We participated in the Annette Island Health and the job fair. We led financial education sessions for 6th–8th grades; provided VITA tax service for 54 returns with $120,500 in refunds, and hosted a training session for MIC Casino staff on security and held a fraud prevention session at the Senior Center.
- **Thorne Bay –** We sponsored tickets for all attendees at two home basketball games; awarded Soaring Student sponsorships to the archery team, the volleyball team, and the Native Youth Olympics.
- **Klawock –** We supported the Wave Runners, Craig Wrestling, Craig/Klawock Senior Center, graduations at Craig and Klawock High, and attended the POW Business Expo.
- **Petersburg –** We sponsored the Chamber Banquet, Operation Graduation, Beat the Odds race, a school gym banner, and the First Baby gift. We had an amazing time at the Little Norway Festival and we joined the Indian Association Job Fair. We're also an annual sponsor for KFSK.
- **Wrangell –** We donated to the Men's Game Dinner, the AAU Basketball, the Hooligan Reading Fair. We sponsored the Milk Run Music Fest, and the 4th of July events. Della Churchill and Aubrey Wynne each received our Jumpstart Your Life scholarship. And we're an annual sponsor for KSTK.
- **Hoonah –** We supported the Easter Egg Hunt, the Kids Fishing Derby, the Elder Meal Program, and the Chichagof Island Classics. Two students received our Soaring Student Sponsorships and Kali Harris received a Jumpstart scholarship.
- **Haines –** We were a sponsor for the Calcutta Auction and the ALCAN 200. We donated to the Chilkat Triathlon, and the Easter Celebration. We are a sponsor for the Southeast Alaska State Fair and 4th of July coin toss. We offered multiple youth financial education sessions with SAIL and the Haines Borough School. And awarded a Jumpstart scholarship to Camelia Bell. We're also an annual sponsor for KHNS.

- **Juneau –** We donated to a basketball camp and Fastpitch Softball League; we sponsored the Rainball Tournament and Juneau Softball Association. We had an amazing time at the Maritime Festival. And we taught multiple youth financial education sessions with SAIL and Tlingit & Haida. We're also a KTOO sponsor
- **Hydaburg, Kake, Skagway, and Yakutat –** We supported the Yakutat Fisherman's Basketball Tournament, track and field team, and the Yakutat Tern Festival. We awarded a Jumpstart scholarship to Evelyn Borst in Skagway and Ella Mooney in Hydaburg. And supported the Gold Medal and the school basketball teams.



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A CDFI

CDFI stands for Community Development Financial Institution—a federal designation for mission-driven financial institutions that bring critical services to underserved areas. Tongass FCU is proud to be Alaska's only CDFI depository institution.

This means we provide more than just accounts and loans—we create pathways to financial health. From youth savings accounts with strong dividends to Fresh Start tools and secured credit cards, our products are designed for real-life needs. We invest in financial education, flexible lending, and personalized support to help individuals, families, and small businesses thrive.

We've built an approach that centers Southeast: where popping over to a neighboring town usually involves a boat or a plane, our communities are at the heart of everything we do, and weather shapes how we work and live. Our CDFI commitment means we adapt—partnering with local schools, tribes, and municipalities to open microsites in communities that don't have access to financial services.

This work is important to us and makes a difference. It helps elders avoid long trips for basic services, gives teens a chance to learn financial skills, and makes it possible for local organizations to manage funds close to home. As a certified CDFI, we can also apply for funding through the U.S. Treasury's CDFI Fund, which helps us expand access to mortgages, small business loans, and credit-building opportunities.

We believe healthy communities start with financial inclusion. And we believe Southeast deserves it.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMS

Scams are getting trickier—but we've got tools to help. Learn to spot legit alerts and avoid fraud:

Visit TongassFCU.com/fraud-prevention t o stay informed.

CLOSURES THIS QUARTER

Friday, July 4th, Independence Day

Monday, September 1st, Labor Day

Today, tomorrow, *together*.

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS (ELECTED)

Scott Edwards, *Chair*; Mark Tollfeldt, *Vice Chair*; Audrey Hudson, *Secretary*; Jennifer Etten, *Treasurer*; Ron Connor; Michelle Cleaver; Mike Cruise; Rob Steward; Guylynn Hanson.

SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE (APPOINTED)

Georgianna Zimmerle, *Chair*; Janice Hill, *Secretary*; Jason Custer, Dirk White; Joe Mainardi

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Helen Mickel, *President/CEO*

Josh Cridlebaugh, *VP Finance*

Gracia O'Connell, *VP of Operations*

Laura Castetter, *VP of Marketing & Community Development*

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