

“HELPING OTHERS IS AN ALASKA TRADITION”

LEGISLATIVE LUNCH AND LEARN

Gretchen Guess
Jan. 29, 2026



**RASMUSON
FOUNDATION**

TODAY

- Who we are
- How we operate
- What we fund
- Questions



Elmer and Ed Rasmussen stand outside the home E.A. Rasmussen built in Yakutat.

OUR VISION

An Alaska where people, cultures, and communities are thriving.

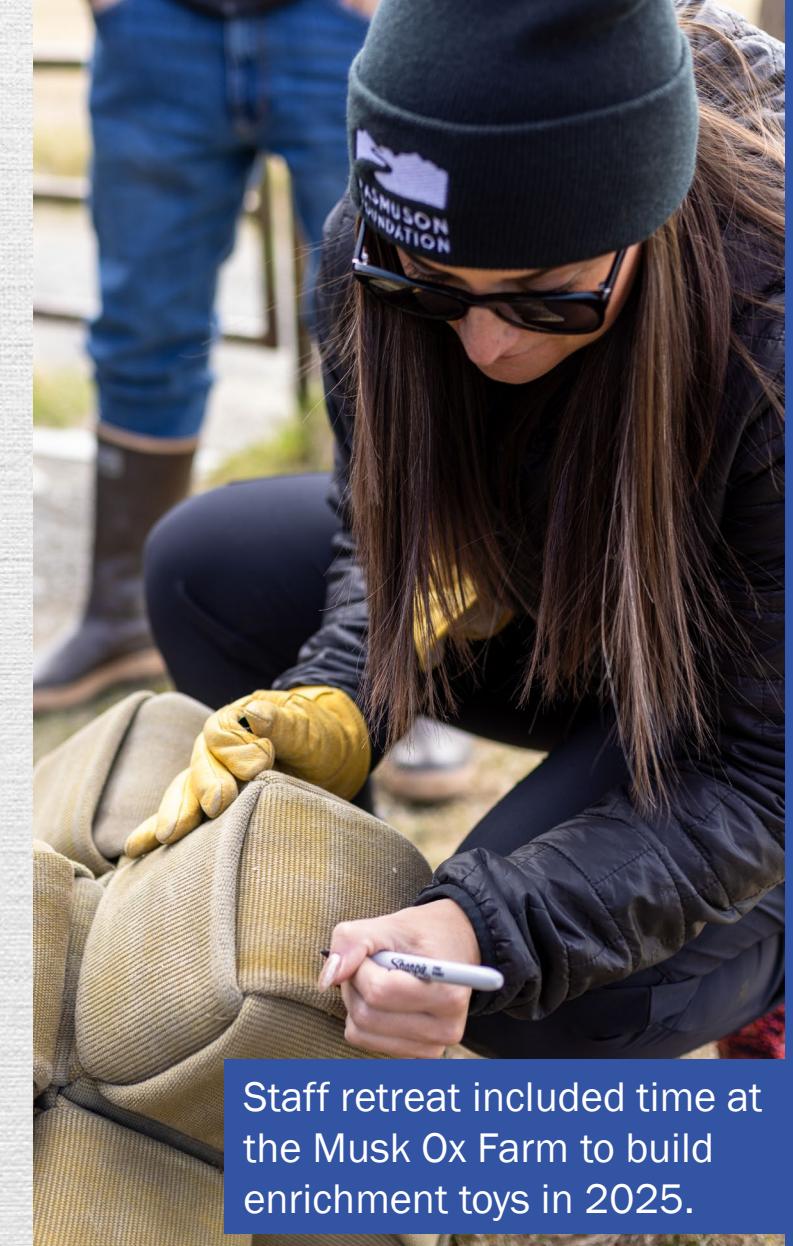
OUR MISSION

We invest, connect, and convene.
We empower Alaskans to help each other.





OUR *Values*



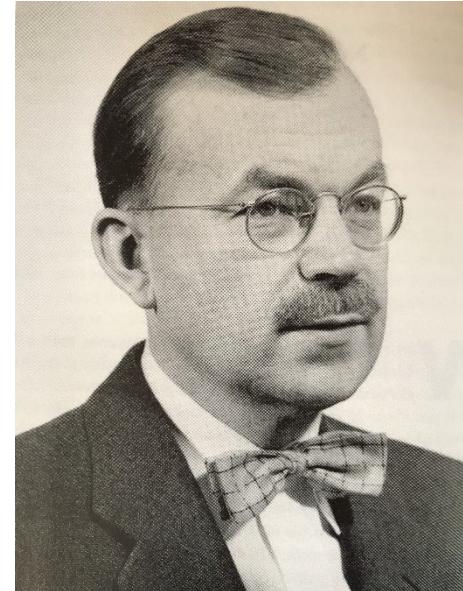
OUR HISTORY

- Swedish missionaries Jenny Olson and E.A. Rasmuson met in Yakutat and married in 1905.
- Jenny creates Rasmuson Foundation in 1955 with \$3,000 and names her son, Elmer, the first board chair.
- The first grant is \$125 to the Wasilla Presbyterian Church to purchase a motion picture projector.
- Surpassed \$500 million in grantmaking in 2023.



“Do good.”

Jenny Rasmuson



“Helping others is an Alaska tradition.”

Elmer Rasmuson



“If you do what’s right, you’ll never be wrong.”

Ed Rasmuson

WHAT IS PHILANTHROPY

- Private dollars with a public purpose.
- Governed by a board and donor intent.
- A partner for public investment, not a replacement.

Rasmuson Foundation is one funder among many, and we need other funders, including the government, to play a role.

We often

- Fill in funding gaps.
- Take risks.
- Provide thought partnership and convening.



Cathy and Judy Rasmuson, and Lile Gibbons are 30-year board directors.

OUR BOARD



CONNECTIONS

Adam Gibbons

Board Chair

Anchorage

Jay Gibbons

Board Treasurer

Lile Gibbons

Raised in Anchorage

Kathy Hurlburt

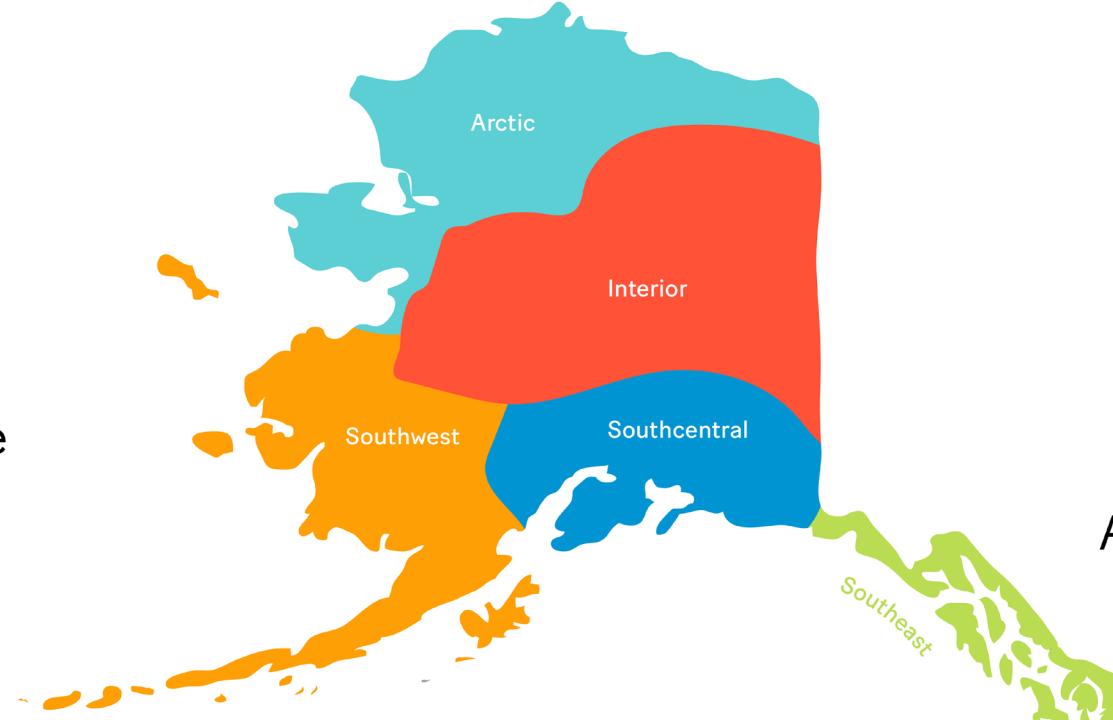
Naknek/Anchorage

Togi Letuligasenoa

Fairbanks

Dave Karp

Anchorage/Nome



Paul Ostrander

Kenai

Cathy Rasmussen

Anchorage

Judy Rasmussen

Raised in Anchorage

Marilyn Romano

Anchorage/Fairbanks

Angela Salazar

Ketchikan

Natasha von Imhof

Board Vice Chair

Anchorage

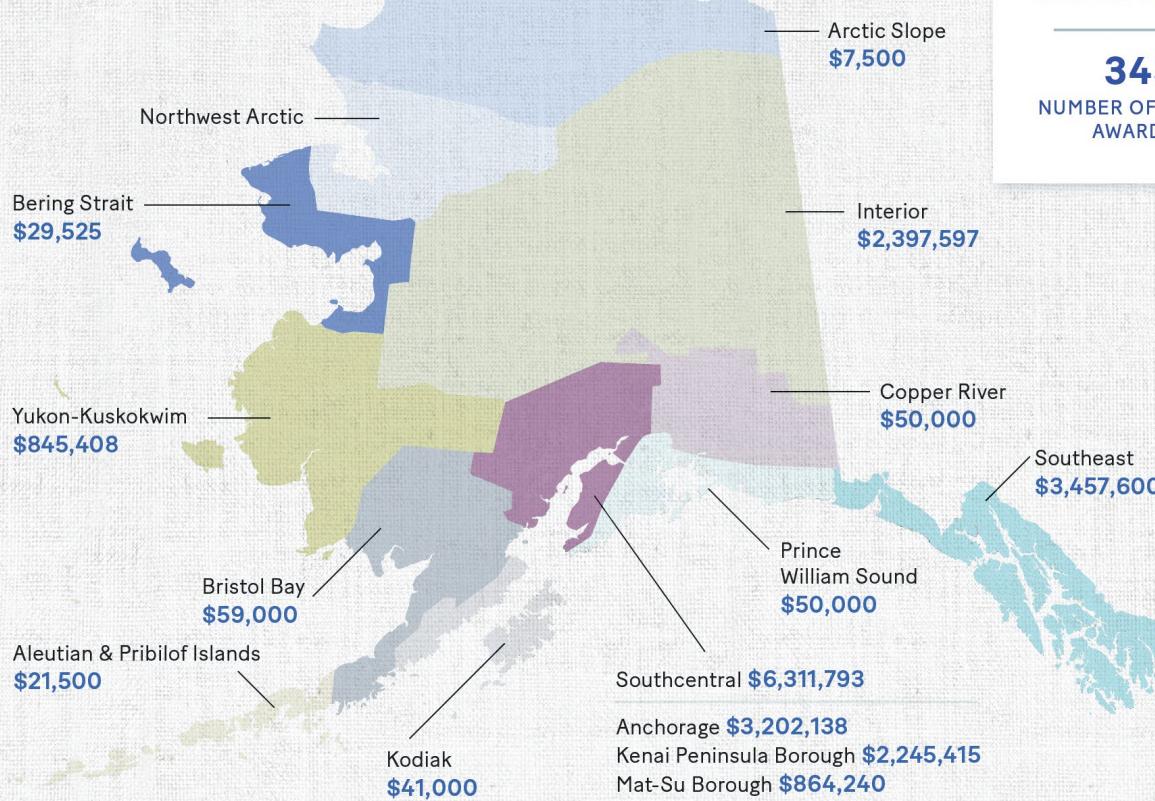
Rasmuson Foundation 2024 at a Glance

GRANTMAKING BY REGION

Our 2024 awards and investments supported local projects and organizations in over 55 communities. Figures include all grants.


STATEWIDE
\$9,345,026
Includes grants that benefit multiple regions


OUTSIDE of ALASKA
\$80,834
Includes grants that benefit Alaskans



**\$22.7 MILLION
INVESTED**

**\$17.7 MILLION
PAID OUT**

**\$810.9 MILLION
TOTAL ASSETS
AS OF SEPT. 30, 2024**

343
NUMBER OF GRANTS
AWARDED



TO MEET MISSION | STRATEGIES



Strategy 1: Invest in Alaskans and Alaska organizations.



Strategy 2: Collaborate with funders to invest in Alaska.



Strategy 3: Facilitate conversations and connections.



Strategy 4: Be high-touch and go beyond grantmaking.



Strategy 5: Continually improve our organization.

HIGH TOUCH

CEO & Board Travel

- Utqiagvik | Feb. 11 – 12
- Nome | Feb. 26
- Sitka | May 14
- St. Paul and Adak | Sept. 23 - 24

CEO

- 10x Virtual Convenings by region.
- Biennial Grantmaker Tour of Alaska.

Staff Availability

- 46+ communities visited.
- Informal coffee hours.
- 550+ online bookings with program officers.
- Invite conversations with applicants.
- Return every call and email.



Community Conversation visit to Naknek with board directors.

UPCOMING RESOURCES

Funding Basics | Webinar Series

Program Officers answer common questions about grant programs in this virtual series.

- Feb. 26, Childcare Fund | Convenings
- Mar. 13, Individual Artist Awards | Fellowship
- April TBD, Sabbatical Program

Virtual Regional Convenings

Gatherings provide an opportunity for regions to collaborate, share progress, and discuss pressing challenges.

- Mar. 12, All regions
- Sep. 16, All regions



CORE GRANTMAKING

- Tier 1
- Community Support
- Legacy
- Program-related Investments
- Individual Artist Awards
- Sabbatical

INVEST: Core & Strategic Grantmaking Highlights

Tier 1

This program primarily supports small capital projects and one-time investments. The maximum award amount is \$35,000.

Meals on Wheels delivers freshly cooked and hot meals to Sterling area seniors five days a week. A Tier 1 grant of \$33,649 supported the purchase of a delivery vehicle.

Food security, environmental stewardship, workforce development, and collaborative governance are top of mind for Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, a collective that represents eight federally recognized Tribes and two Alaska Native regional corporations in the Ahtna Territory. Ahtna is a complex that would include food processing facilities, an environmental center, and gathering spaces.

Community Support

New for 2024, Community Support grant fund capital projects and projects with broad community impact. Awards range from \$35,000 to \$250,000.

Tanacross is a community of 3 out of 10 residents in their homes. They provide meals, shelter, and access to clean water and food. Tanacross Housing Community Services is a non-profit organization that provides meals, shelter, and access to clean water and food.

INVEST: Core & Strategic Grantmaking Highlights

Legacy

New in 2024, the Legacy grant is the Foundation's large grant program, providing awards of more than \$250,000, for capital projects, programs of strategic importance, and innovative solutions to issues of community or statewide importance.

Juneau Housing First Collaborative opened Forget-Me-Not Manor with 32 units of permanent supportive housing in 2017. In its second construction phase, the major doubled in size to accommodate 64 units. Continuing its mission to end homelessness and achieve equity, health, and dignity through housing, connection to services, and community, the nonprofit is now in the process of adding an additional 28 units. The collaborative received a Legacy grant of \$500,000 toward the construction of phase three.

Program-Related Investments

Program-related investments, or PRIs, refer to a collection of financial instruments that can support a charitable project or activity. Usually structured as loans, PRIs also can be equity investments, linked deposits or loan guarantees.

Triumvirate doesn't just teach kids how to perform on the stage, learn a part or memorize their lines, it provides an avenue for them to build friendships, to make strong connections with mature adults who have their back and can help guide them.

Read more in our annual report.

\$1.9 MILLION INVESTED

46 NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED

\$9.4 MILLION INVESTED

14 NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED

\$700,000 INVESTED

1 NUMBER OF PRIS

NEW TRAILS

Juneau Mountain Bike Alliance Tier 1 | \$35,000

Add two new mountain bike trails at Under Thunder Bike Park dedicated to skills-building, promoting better bike handling, and safer riding.

Tier 1

Up to \$35,000 to buy, build, fix, and create.



CARING FOR OUR ELDERS

North Star Council on Aging Community Support | \$250,000

Renovations to add a second floor and 5,500 sq. ft. of space to expand the dining hall and create office space. The project also expanded parking areas.



Community Support

Up to \$250,000 for major purchases, building projects, and programmatic support.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Legacy | \$500,000

Support construction of a mariculture facility to process kelp.

Legacy

\$250,000+ for significant capital & programmatic projects.



LET IT SNOW

**Hatcher Alpine Xperience, dba Skeetawk
PRI | \$1 million + \$500,00 Legacy**

A long-term, low-interest loan used for the purchase and installation of snowmaking infrastructure, including a large water reservoir, underground piping, pumps, and snow guns.

Program-Related Investments

Loans and impact investments support charitable projects.



SABBATICAL PROGRAM

*Support for nonprofit leaders and tribal administrators to have 90-120 days to rest, reflect, and rejuvenate.
\$50,000 awards.*

2027 cohort applications open in April 2026.

INDIVIDUAL ARTIST AWARDS

Direct support for Alaska resident artists.

\$25,000 Fellowship Awards | Applications open in March 2026

\$50,000 Distinguished Artist Award | Nominations open in March 2026

\$10,000 Project Awards | Applications open in March 2027

STRATEGIC GRANTMAKING

By invitation, long-term investments that create systems-level change or meet the moment through partnership and collaboration with communities.

2025 included support of the following.

- Housing & Homelessness.
- Alaska Long Trail.
- UA's Arctic Leadership Program.
- Child care.
- One-time emergency funds for public media, Western Relief effort, and food security.
- And more.

INVEST: Core & Strategic Grantmaking Highlights

Strategic Grantmaking

Strategic grantmaking includes our long-term investments that create systems-level change through partnership and collaboration with communities. In 2024, the Board of Directors approved a \$5 million award to the University of Alaska as an early investor in its Arctic Leadership Initiative. Grants also benefited efforts to end homelessness and advance the Alaska Long Trail.

\$8.07 MILLION INVESTED

9 NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED



In Our Backyard is an Anchorage nonprofit that came together to build the city's first small shelter village for adults experiencing homelessness. The six tiny homes provide transitional housing for adults ages 50 and older. The project was supported with a \$100,000 Foundation Homelessness Initiative grant.

Across the state, more than \$2.6 million was invested in efforts to end homelessness, including projects to expand the statewide coordinated entry system and funding to increase housing in Fairbanks by updating blighted and vacant properties.

Read more in our annual report.

SUPPORT TRANSITION

**Sitka Homeless Coalition
Housing & Homelessness | \$420,000**

Build 12 small cabins to provide transitional housing for unhoused residents of Sitka.

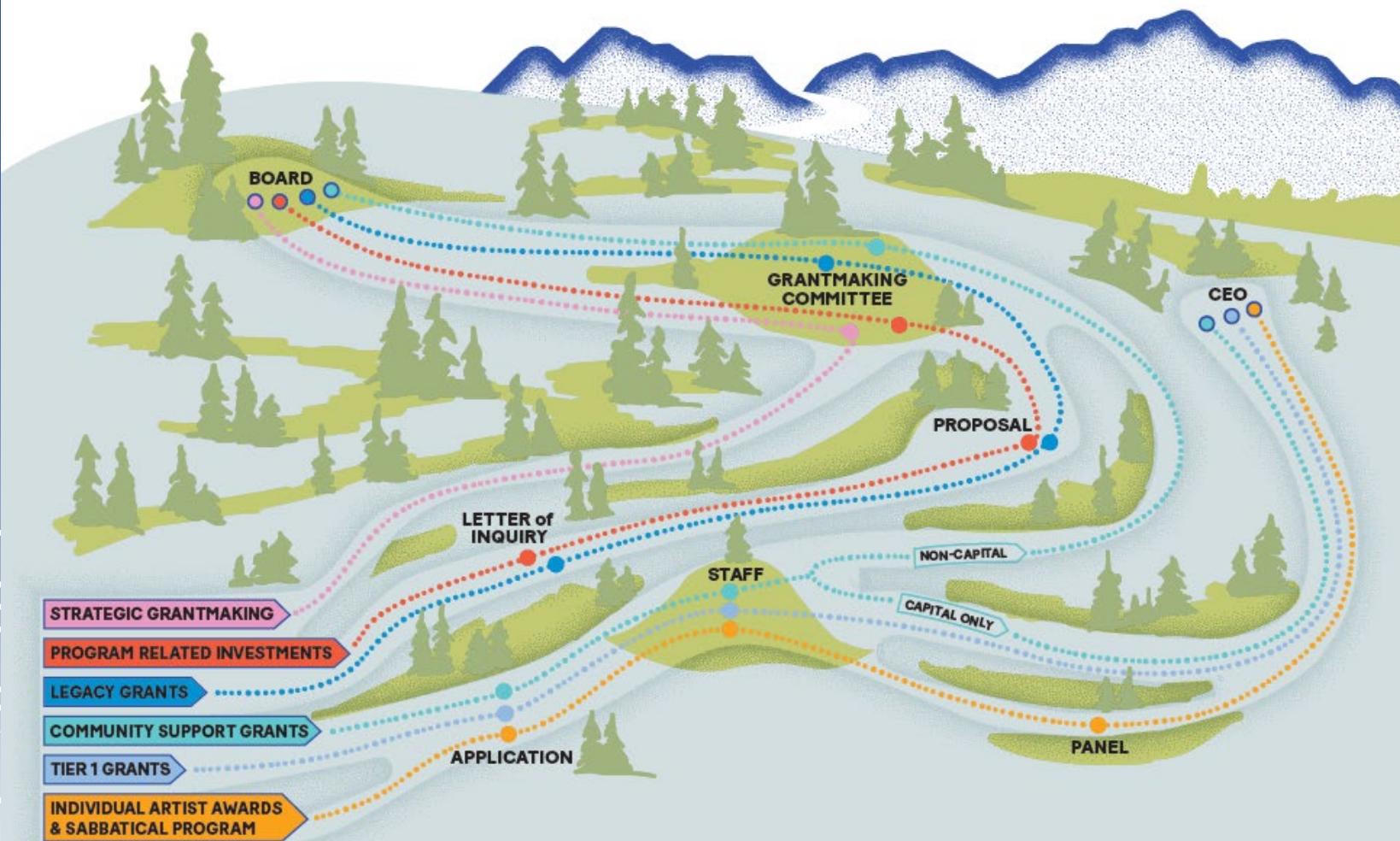


Strategic Grantmaking

Investments that create system-level change or meet the moment.



OUR GRANTMAKING PROCESS



HOW TO APPLY

- **Engage with Program Officers:** Schedule a meeting online to discuss your project and application.
- **Application Resources:** Detailed guidelines and application forms available at Rasmussen.org.
- **Contact Information:** Program officers are available to assist with any questions and provide guidance throughout the application process. Scan the QR code below to set up an appointment or call us at 907-297-2700.

Know an individual or organization that could benefit from a grant? We'd love to come meet and speak to your community. Reach out to info@rasmussen.org.

For more information and to apply, visit Rasmussen.org/find-funding or scan here:



907-297-2700

info@rasmussen.org

rasmussen.org

@rasmusonfoundation

THANK YOU



Explore 70 years of
grantmaking in Alaska.

Rasmuson.org

