

## AWHOF Nomination Form for Jean Kaufman

Nominee's Name: Jean Kaufman

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Nominee's Address: The Anchorage Pioneer Home

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Nominee's Date of Birth: 1919 in Nova Scotia.

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During what years did nominee live in Alaska: Jean moved to Alaska in 1953. She has lived in Alaska continuously since that time. She moved into the Pioneer Home in 2013.

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For what achievement/contributions is the nominee best known and for which should she be recognized? Jean Kaufman is the epitome of what makes Alaska great. Although Jean was of modest means, her life has been devoted to volunteering for a myriad of organizations and her generosity and selfless volunteer contributions have been felt by hundreds. Volunteers are the lifeblood and backbone of Alaska! One of her favorite volunteer activities has been as a Shriner's Clown, where her clown name is "Buttons". She has been a familiar figure for all these years, particularly cheering up hospitalized children as well as participating in numerous special events and parades. In fact, this year (2019), she will be the Marshal for the 4th of July parade in a clown mobile, with one hundred volunteer clowns following behind in celebration of her 100th birthday and all she has done for Alaska and Alaskans. Jean is living proof of the power of making a community a better place through volunteer activities.

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Describe the nominee's achievements which have had significant impact in 1) Community and/or 2) Alaska and/or 3) National: Jean's achievements have had a significant impact on our community. She continues sharing her time and resources throughout the community, as well as providing support and leadership for her peers at the Pioneer Home, which she still does. For many years, Jean volunteered at different organizations six days per week, keeping Friday as her "open day" only so she could take care of her personal business. Through her personal generosity and commitment, she has made a positive and lasting impact and inspired many others that you don't have to have a lot of money to contribute to philanthropy and good work that makes a difference in Alaska. Like most newcomers to Alaska—only intending to stay a year—it is now 65 years later and she is still going strong! Kaufman is a bookkeeper by trade and has volunteered at dozens of non-profits

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through the years. A small sampling includes: The Salvation Army for 27 years, Providence Hospital for 26 years, Volunteers of America for 30 years and 27,000 hours. A three-page long list can be provided of the many, many other organizations for which she has been a volunteer. In addition, Jean made history by being the first Lady Trapper in the 1997 Fur Rondy! But, Jean is probably best known for her decades-long participation as Buttons the Clown for the Lady Shriners. She still plays an instrument of her own design, made up partly of toilet paper holders and kazoos! She has been a mentor and guiding force for other Lady Shriners and their worthy cause. She has also inspired countless others to dedicate their time for good causes.

Here is a further sampling of the way Jean has made Alaska a better place. When she picks up food and repacks it for FISH, she also delivers it to about twenty families in need. She also volunteers at Covenant House in the clothing room or in the kitchen. She waits tables during lunch at the Senior Center. She helps at the ACVB's booth at the Anchorage International Airport. She works in the gift shop at the Anchorage Museum of Art. She also checks in at the United Way for two to four hours of office assistance. She works on the books as Treasurer for Wish Upon a North Star. She is a participant in the 49th Star Follies Lady Shriners and Pioneers shows. She also cross-country skis and put out a newsletter for the Nordic Ski Club. Jean drives cancer patients to treatments. Jean continues to pick up litter along busy highways, a continuation of the work she and her husband Dutch started when they drove his pickup truck slowly along International Airport Road picking up litter from the roadside.

I could provide a selection of many more contributions Jean has made throughout the years.

"Jean's life is an outpouring of service. This lady is earning a halo. If the need is there, you'll find Jean." – quote by Virginia Carter

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**What label/s best summarize the nominee's accomplishments/role (political activist, educator etc.)?**

philanthropic volunteer and an inspiring, cheering light for many Alaskans

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**Education and Training:**

If there was a PhD for “Good Deeds”, Jean Kaufman would have achieved that status many times over. She has the gifts of a storyteller who sows confidence, joy and inspiration in countless others. On the cusp of reaching 100 years, she is still of sound body and mind( including a vivid detailed memory!) and still doing all the good deeds she can. It is no exaggeration to say her multi-pHds in Community Service and how to live a good life is an education and training that has benefitted Alaskans.

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**Professional/Work History/Community Involvement:**

Jean Kaufman’s profession was a bookkeeper, where she worked for a variety of companies ranging from Arctic Office to Bartlett and West High Schools and Begich Middle School, to landscaping companies to the Chugach Native Association. She also worked as a bookkeeper at several hotels and was a volunteer bookkeeper for many and various non-profits.

Her work record begins in 1938 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She completed grade ten in June 1935—there was no high school in her area of Nova Scotia.

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**Honors/Awards Received:**

Jean was awarded the Providence Alaska “Angel Wings” for micro-humanitarian small acts of kindness. “Mention Jean Kaufman’s name around Anchorage non-profit circles and you’ll probably hear a dozen different agencies claim ‘Oh, she’s OUR volunteer!’ They’d all be right. When Jean was selected as the first ever Fur Rondy Lady Trapper, she tried to write down all her volunteer activities. ‘It’s hard to remember them all’, she says, but she has her day-to-day schedule in her purse. ‘On Monday, I’m at the gift shop for the Fraternal Order of Alaska State Troopers. On Tuesday, its Providence Alaska Medical Center gift shop. Wednesday, I’m at the airport for the Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau. Then Thursday, I’m at Providence Extended Care gift shop.’ She stops and thinks for a minute before she gets to Friday. ‘I usually drive for the American Cancer Society on Friday’, she says, ‘but actually, that’s not just on Fridays, that’s whenever they need me and I’m not somewhere else. I drive people to their appointments if they need a ride.’ She pauses again as she flips another page in her calendar that flips back a month. ‘Actually, that’s not always what I do,’ she amends, ‘sometimes I go to other places—like certain Mondays I might need to be

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someplace else helping out with whatever needs to be done.’ Like helping folks find their seats at different evening events with Ushering in the Arts or packing bulk peanut butter into meal-sized containers for Fellowship in Serving Humanity (FISH) clients. Or fixing dinner for Clare House residents or manning a booth at a local mall for Hospice of Anchorage. Or painting her face as a clown to cheer residents and staff at the Providence Extended Care Center. All told, Kaufman is currently active in over twenty non-profit volunteer programs and she’s helped at another fifteen or more since she began volunteering in the late 1960s. ‘She helps just about everyone and does it all with a smile.’ (Sister Patricia Collins, director of Mission Integration at Providence Extended Care Center)

—entire quote from Providence Alaska Medical Center “Angel Wings”—A journal of micro-humanitarianism “honoring small acts of kindness designed to make healthcare, the workplace, and life a little more compassionate, a little less impersonal, a little more human. What we honor here are the little extra things we do in the workplace and outside the workplace that make this a nicer world to live in.” Angel Wings is edited by the Reverend Diane O’Connell, chaplain. Volume 3, Number 3, March 1997

She has been honored in the past for her award-winning philanthropy by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Jean’s community achievements and volunteer activities are pages long! In 2013, Jean was recognized as the Outstanding Volunteer in Philanthropy at the Association of Fundraising Professionals Alaska chapter’s annual meeting. The AFP Annual Award is presented to “the individual who has demonstrated dedication, exceptional service, and leadership as a volunteer in philanthropic activities throughout the community”. Jean, at that time, was 94 and had volunteered for fifty-four organizations in Anchorage since arriving in Alaska in 1953.

Even though Jean has not had the recognition of many public honors, she is that behind-the-scenes lifeblood of what makes a good society and our Alaskan community function at its highest level. Although she does not have a Governor’s Award or a BP Woman of the Year award, she SHOULD! Her entire life in Alaska—from 1953 to the present--has been a continuum of contribution.

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**If the nominee has been a role model for other women, provide specific examples of her influence:**

Jean Kaufman has been a role model for other women throughout her civic contributions and her salt-of-the-earth character, always seeing the glass as half-full and shining the light on possibilities and potential to inspire others that they can make things happen and make things better for others.

Jean has also volunteered as a participant in allowing nursing and occupational therapy students to learn, using her as a student patient at the Anchorage Pioneer Home.

There are specific examples of young women who have benefitted from scholarships that Jean has established. These young women have gone on to lead productive lives.

When I ran Cyrano's Bookstore, I had a woman customer ask me to find an older woman to jump out of her husband's birthday cake. I asked Jean if she would be willing, but she declined. She said that was one of her only regrets—not jumping out of that cake!

She was one of the stars of the Senior Center Dance group for many years and continues to take classes at the Pioneer Home. The Senior Center Dance group performed both at the center and around the city. She performed with the group at her 95th birthday party at the Pioneer Home, when they came to celebrate with her. She is a role model for all women on how to grow old gracefully, with selfless generosity, and a sense of humor and community engagement. Jean Kaufman is MY role model!

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<b>Nomination Submitted by: *</b>	Sandy Harper
<b>Date Submitted:</b>	12.30.2018
<b>Your Affiliation/Association to Nominee: (i.e.) friend, colleague, student, employee, relative, etc:</b>	friend and admirer
<b>Please include citations of written sources of information about the nominee you are aware of such as</b>	Jean is mentioned in many newsletters and has a wall full of citations of appreciation from organizations and people who appreciate her joyful spirit and tangible acts. Her wall includes charming drawings by children

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reference books, periodicals, websites,  
etc.:

who have been cheered by Jean's interaction with  
them. Jean has also been cited in two important  
Alaskan books: Pioneers of Alaska and We Alaskans.

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**Jean was the youngest member in the Nash family. Her mother lived to be 101 and her father well into his 90s. Her brother and oldest sister lived to be 101, her middle sister lived to be 99, and 3<sup>rd</sup> sister 100.**

