



## **PCEF May 2019 Donor Spotlight**

### **The Louis Family, Sponsor of the Excellent Educator Awards**

Ehlias Louis was raised in Park City. “My dad moved here as part of the ‘hippie crowd’ in the 70’s. I went to school all the way through here: I was in the first class at Parley’s Park, and graduated from PCHS in 1993. I was on the Park City Ski Team from a young age. I loved it! I made the US Ski Team, and at that time, you went to Boulder to train. I met my wife Jessica on the Ski Team, too.

“I was selected to be in the 2002 Olympics, but after my second major injury, I couldn’t do it. I went to CU Boulder and got my Masters in Aerospace Engineering. I thought I would be an astronaut, but after our first child was born, I knew I couldn’t sit on top of an exploding device! I did the engineering work instead.

“My wife and I decided to move our family to France for a few years, so our kids could gain some international experience. When we were ready to come back, I had an opportunity to move into land development in Park City. One thing being on the ski team taught me, it’s always ok to start over. You’re going to fail 90% of the time in a race, and you have to get back at it, no matter your result.

“We moved back here in 2017. I’ve been surprised by how many alumni move back. My family has known the Doilney’s for ages. We grew up together, and it seemed natural to work together. Last year Jim started to talking to my dad and me about our family taking over the sponsorship of the Excellent Educator Awards, which Jim started through PCEF in 1996.

“Supporting teachers and the Excellent Educator Awards seems like a natural fit. My dad is an architect, and he taught at McPolin and the U; he also started the Winter School. He is an incredible philanthropist, and I am learning from him. I feel that teachers don’t always get the respect they deserve. One of the global tenets of a civilized society is public education. Teachers, like anyone else, need to feel supported. We have an inherent duty to be involved in the process. Plus, anyone in any endeavor feels value in getting recognized!

“This award is really about teachers doing their best, and supporting the work they do for the younger generation. It’s such a great day! Who wouldn’t want to be part of it?”