**PCEF Donor Spotlight: The John C. Kish Foundation**

“John wanted to use his money to help kids live their true life, to help disenfranchised youth.”

John C. Kish was a successful Nevada businessman. Park City local Melina Nicolatus, the co-trustee of his foundation, tells his story:

“John owned a small boutique casino that was very popular with the locals. He and his partner, Jack Kevo loved art, flowers, Broadway shows, and music, anything beautiful. They loved kids and started helping the Boys and Girls Club in Henderson. After they sold the casino and retired, they wanted to help more, so John created a foundation.

“John felt he could never live his true life as a gay man, and so it’s important his foundation supports programs that give kids hope and helps them live their true life. I focus on disenfranchised youth…kids who have a difficult time because they have special needs, or are gay, or who have hardships. Anything we can do to make a child’s life better, so they can have fun!

“This is why we support PCEF and in particular, grants helping kids with special needs. My own daughter had an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) and so I know first-hand how those kids can struggle and feel left out. I love the programs that give these kids a chance to have fun, to do normal things like PE and art, go get pizza.

“We also support grants around the arts, because often those aren’t given the attention they deserve, and John and Jack loved the arts.

“I feel John is always with me. I think he would be very proud of the foundation, and that we’ve been able to support so many of the things important to him. It’s really fulfilling. It’s our duty to help these kids. I think with technology, its better, but it’s also scary. We want kids to feel secure and cared for and looked after. I love the work being done around student wellness. Anything I can do to help that, I want to do.