

Rural CAP

2007 Annual Report



Accountability
Sustainability
Results

This publication is dedicated to Stanton Katchatag.



Photo by Bill Hess

Lifelong Alaskan and long-time Native leader, Stanton Oswald (Talialuk) Katchatag, of Unalakleet, died January 6, 2007 at the age of 89.

He left behind his wife of 66 years, eight children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren, and a large legacy of public service in Alaska. After 15 years on the RurAL CAP board of directors representing Kawerak, Inc., Katchatag received a lifetime achievement award in 2005 for his dedication to RurAL CAP's Head Start programs, the Child Development Committee and the overall mission of the organization.

He also served as the board chair for Kawerak representing his Bering Strait region at a statewide level and on a national level in the National Congress of American Indians. Working together with his wife, Irene, to advocate for Alaska Natives and tribal issues, Katchatag received many honors from people of Unalakleet and the Kawerak region.

Thank you, Stanton, for leaving a legacy of compassion, service and commitment to Alaska and the nation.

Table of Contents

Mission Driven: Mission Statement	2
Board Led: Board of Directors.....	2
Bias Toward Action: Message from the Board President.....	3
Results Focused: Message from Executive Director.....	4
RurAL CAP Organizational Chart	5
Fiscally Responsible and Accountable: Financial Summary.....	6
Innovative Solutions: Agency Overview	7
Self-Sufficiency: Anchorage Services Division.....	8
Investing in Our Children: Child Development Division	12
Making a Statewide Difference: 2007 Site Map.....	14
Building Capacity: Community Development Division	18
Sustainable Communities: Rural Housing and Planning Division	22
Energy Efficient Products: Rural Energy Enterprises.....	26
Quyana: Acknowledgements	28

Credits

Design & Layout by Angela Gonzalez
Cover Photo by Angela Gonzalez of Children in Huslia
Photos by Bill Hess and RurAL CAP Staff

Mission Driven and Board Led

Vision Statement

Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures.

Mission Statement

Who we are:

RurAL CAP is one of over 1,000 “Community Action Agencies” nationally. In Alaska, RurAL CAP is the single CAA. The agency is a private non-profit corporation whose goal is to promote maximum participation by people in overcoming all forms of poverty.

What we do:

RurAL CAP encourages the efforts of low-income people attempting to break the cycle of dependency and gain control of the changes affecting their lives. Its mission is to protect and improve the quality of life for low-income Alaskans through education, training, direct services, decent and affordable housing, advocacy, and strengthen the ability of low-income people to advocate for themselves.

Why we do what we do:

RurAL CAP recognizes the unique values and way of life of rural and urban Alaskans. It plans its activities with input from and respect for the people it serves. It follows the belief that rural Alaskan communities have the right to maintain their cultural heritage and close relationship to the land while protecting their economic and human potential.

2007 Board of Directors Executive Committee

President	Andrew Ebona
Vice-President	Mike Williams
Secretary/Treasurer	Olga Malutin
Committee Member	Cecelia Keyes
Committee Member	Taqluk Hepa
Committee Member	Dr. Anthony Nakazawa

Target Area Representatives

Alaska Native Brotherhood	Andrew Ebona
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association	Boris Mercurief
Assoc. of Village Council Presidents	Wassilie Bavilla
Bristol Bay Native Association.....	Myra Olsen
Child Development Policy Council.....	Cecelia Keyes
Chugachmiut.....	Benna Hughey
Copper River Native Association.....	Robert Marshall
Kawerak	Steve Longley
Kodiak Area Native Association	Olga Malutin
Maniilaq Association	Louie Commack, Jr.
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Dr. Al Ketzler, Sr.
Tlingit-Haida Central Council	Dewey Skan, Jr.

Private Sector Representatives

Alaska Christian Conference	Rev. David Fison
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council	Mike Williams
Alaska Legal Services Corporation.....	Andy Harrington
Alaska Village Initiatives.....	Myron Naneng

Public Representatives

Alaska Bush Caucus	Rep. Mary Nelson
Alaska Cooperative Extension Svc. ..	Dr. Anthony Nakazawa
Office of the Governor of Alaska	Annette Kreitzer
Municipality of Anchorage	Diane DiSanto
Native Village of Elim	Albert Saccheus
North Slope Borough.....	Taqluk Hepa
Northwest Arctic Borough	Ron Moto Sr.
University of Alaska.....	Fran Ulmer

Bias Toward Action: Message from the Board President

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. is a private, statewide, nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of life for low-income Alaskans. RurAL CAP is governed by a 24-member volunteer Board of Directors representing every region of Alaska. There are three types of directors on the RurAL CAP board:

- 1) Target Area Directors make up at least one-third of the board as representatives of organizations which serve low-income Alaskans in specific geographic areas;
- 2) Private Sector Directors are officials or members of other nonprofit organizations whose mission and interests complement those of RurAL CAP; and
- 3) Public Directors make up exactly one-third of the total board as representatives of elected or appointed public officials.

The board meets quarterly to set policy and conduct the business of the corporation. The executive committee meets between regular meetings of the full board to oversee agency business. The detailed work of the board is conducted through the efforts of five standing committees: administration and finance; audit; child development; community development; and subsistence and tribal issues.

RurAL CAP is an important resource to rural communities and a powerful force for positive change in Alaska. RurAL CAP serves to bridge the aspirations of rural and low-income Alaskans with the needs and priorities of funders. Its programs and services are built on a solid administrative foundation. The agency is financially sound and has excellent systems and people who provide accounting, administrative, information technology, personnel and purchasing services.

Each of RurAL CAP's 24 board members brings different experiences and interests to the table. In past years, I have had the privilege of serving on the board as a representative of both the Governor of the State of Alaska and of the Alaska Native Brotherhood. As board president, I greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet with other leaders from around the state and to participate in planning and policy decisions. But mostly what I appreciate is the people of RurAL CAP. Shakespeare once wrote, "Action is eloquence." The people of RurAL CAP have always had a bias toward action. We get things done!

Sincerely,



Andrew Ebona, President
Board of Directors



Results Focused: Message from the Executive Director

It is my privilege to present to you RurAL CAP's 2007 annual report. The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. is one of the largest and most diverse nonprofit organizations in Alaska. This annual report provides us with an opportunity to share with you an account of our activities for the fiscal year period from October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007.

As we pursue our vision of Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, and Vibrant Cultures, RurAL CAP continues to innovate and grow in exciting new directions while maintaining core programs which produce measurable results.

A sampling of 2007 accomplishments includes:

- Provision of early childhood development services to 1,430 children;
- Completion of a new Head Start facility in Savoonga;
- 24th annual Rural Providers' Conference in Copper Center;
- Support for the Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group;
- Improvements made to our Affordable Housing inventory of 40 low-income apartments in Anchorage;
- Coordination of 18,000 volunteer hours by more than 3,700 community volunteers recruited by BIRCH and RAVEN AmeriCorps members;
- Diversion of 447,148 pounds of solid waste from local landfills.
- Community planning initiative in Chevak;
- Progress on self-help, owner-built housing projects in Sterling and Kenai;
- Weatherization services in Ambler, Atmautluak, Hooper Bay, Juneau, Kwethluk, and Shungnak; and
- Employment of 697 Alaskans in 71 communities statewide.



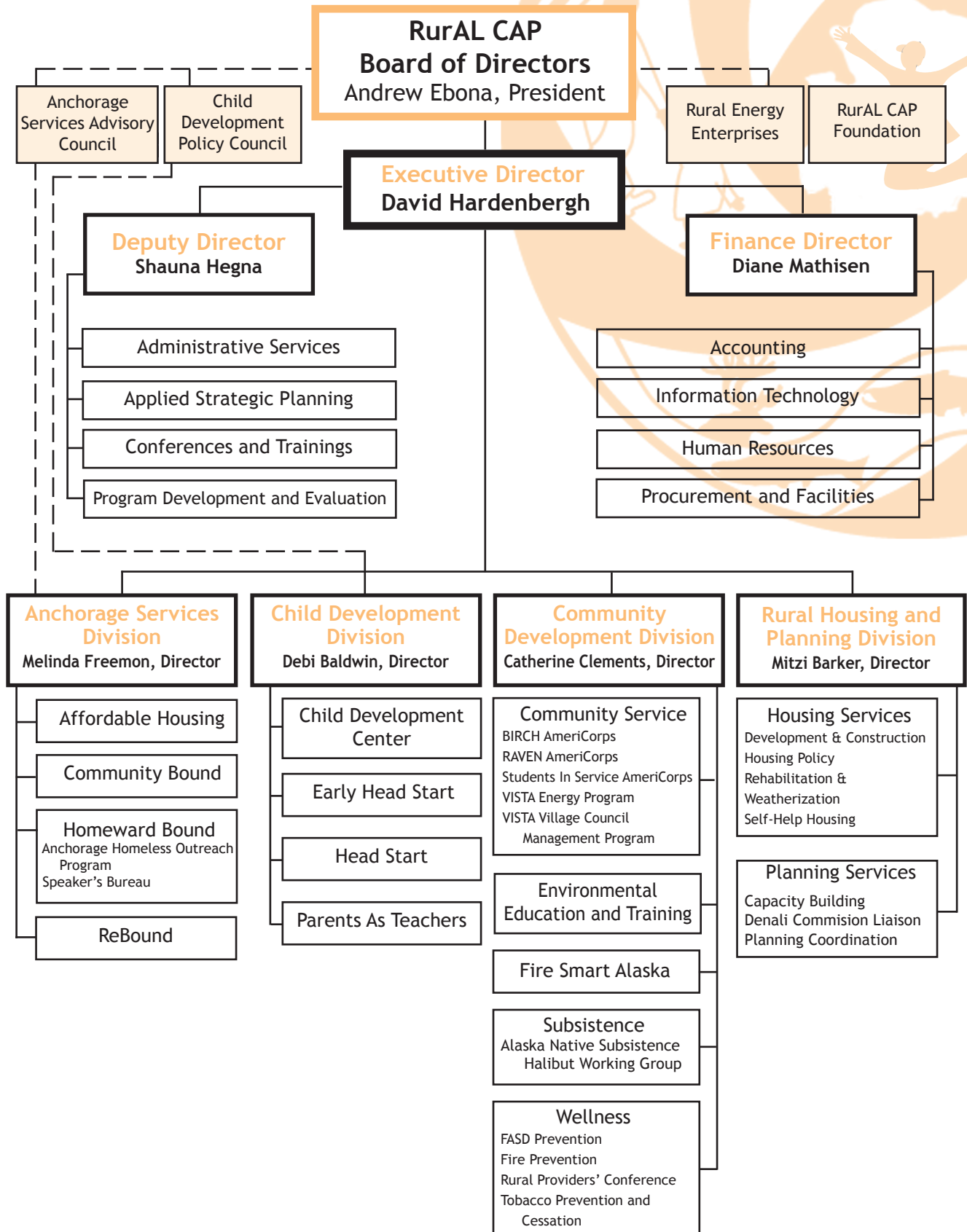
With leadership from a dynamic board and a productive staff, RurAL CAP continues to be a catalyst for community action and retain its place on the cutting edge of human service organizations in Alaska. As an organization that has been providing critical and cost-effective services since 1965, we invite you to share in our accomplishments and we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David Hardenbergh". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Hardenbergh
Executive Director

RurAL CAP Organizational Chart

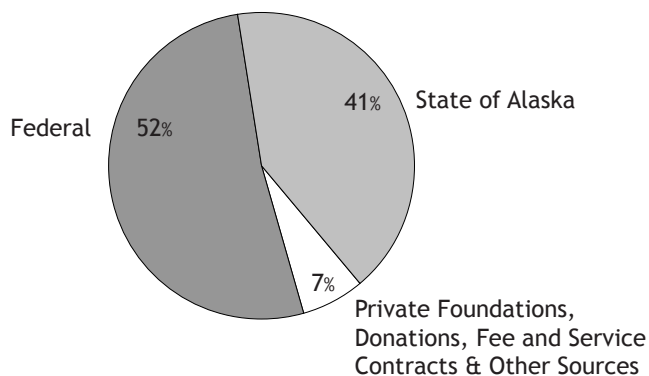


Fiscally Responsible and Accountable: Financial Summary

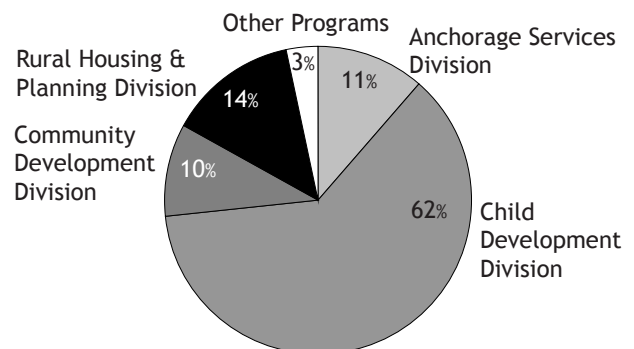
2007 Fiscal Year (10/1/06-9/30/07)	Award	Expenditures
Alaska Department of Commerce Community & Economic Development	5,737,573	2,789,352
Alaska Department of Education and Early Development	5,001,025	2,604,893
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services	621,330	324,887
Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs	261,061	151,639
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation	4,371,926	1,830,133
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority	160,000	98,447
Donations and Other Sources	895,817	134,028
Fees and Service Contracts	2,282,024	896,606
Key Bank	201,000	130,739
Local Initiatives Support Corporation	15,000	17,114
Municipality of Anchorage	90,000	60,198
Rasmuson Foundation	19,490	19,490
University of Alaska Southeast	171,038	16,341
University of Alaska Anchorage	218,080	151,359
US Corporation for National Service	149,600	88,568
US Department of Agriculture	1,259,602	520,553
US Department of Education	3,871,780	999,059
US Department of Health & Human Services	9,735,509	7,596,714
US Department of Homeland Security	372,031	2,013
US Department of Housing and Urban Development	1,147,284	527,969
US Department of the Interior	50,000	24,582
US Environmental Protection Agency	695,038	241,612
Subtotal		19,226,296
Rural Energy Enterprises Expenditures		6,347,830
TOTAL		25,574,126

RurAL CAP's federally approved indirect rate of 11.5% of direct costs covers administrative expenses such as those for the executive, personnel, accounting and purchasing staff, corporate insurance, annual audit and board of directors.

Source of Funds



Use of Funds



"We place a high value on getting clean financial and program audits, and we strive to provide cost-effective services that get results."

-David Hardenbergh, RurAL CAP Executive Director

Innovative Solutions: Agency Overview

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. (RurAL CAP) has been working to improve the quality of life for low-income Alaskans since 1965. RurAL CAP provides resources and services to enhance child and family development, improve housing, save energy, develop leadership, promote environmental conservation, prevent substance abuse, and foster independent living. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors representing every region of the state, RurAL CAP is one of the largest and most diversified nonprofit organizations in Alaska.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs make up the biggest part of RurAL CAP services with more than 200 employees working in 28 communities across the state. Other services include weatherization projects, AmeriCorps and VISTA community service programs, Homeward Bound, child care, affordable housing, health and wellness activities, and public policy and advocacy.

Overall RurAL CAP employed nearly 700 Alaskans in 2007. RurAL CAP uses an applied strategic planning process to continually reinvent itself through innovative services which improve economic, social and environmental conditions for low-income Alaskans.

As it strives to maintain its reputation as a great human service organization, RurAL CAP follows the philosophy that community action is a people process, one which serves to reinforce the intangible values of personal responsibility, community self-reliance, participatory decision-making, and overall well-being.

The following pages share a summary of program and service results.



Self-Sufficiency: Anchorage Services Division



RurAL CAP's Anchorage Services Division provides services to chronic homeless alcoholics many of whom have severe mental health and substance abuse problems. Homeward Bound is one of only three programs in the United States with comprehensive services ranging from detox to housing. Homeward Bound also serves individuals and families experiencing income limitations by providing affordable housing.

Homeward Bound

In 2007, Homeward Bound celebrated ten years of rebuilding lives. The Homeward Bound transitional housing program is located in the Mt. View area of Anchorage. Utilizing a harm reduction model, the 25 bed transitional living facility houses individuals who are interested in seeking a way out of homelessness.

Homeward Bound assists residents by providing outreach to homeless camps and shelters and facilitating access to detoxification, substance abuse and mental health treatment. Residents are offered transitional housing, case management, housing information,

employment assistance, mental health counseling, gender specific services for men and women, reintegration activities, volunteer work, individual and group counseling, and life skills classes.

Homeward Bound Accomplishments Since 1997

- 275 people served
- 75 have completed 12 months or longer
- 100 participants completed the program or moved into stable housing

Average Homeward Bound Resident

- Alaska Native Male
- 10 or more years homeless
- 29 years as an alcoholic
- 15 or more pickups by Community Service Patrol in the last year

Anchorage Homeless Outreach Program

Making daily visits to homeless camps throughout the Anchorage area, the outreach team creates a bridge between service providers and the homeless to maximize access to resources.

Project Homeless Connect

Project Homeless Connect was held on July 27, 2007 to provide a one stop shop of resources for homeless individuals and families. More than 100 community volunteers assisted more than 350 people in obtaining food boxes, hot meals, showers and haircuts, on site child care, substance abuse and mental health screenings, wheelchair repairs, housing applications, employment support, and health screenings.

2007 Project Homeless Connect Accomplishments

- Over 3,000 contacts were initiated with homeless individuals in Anchorage in the form of referrals, support and advocacy by the outreach team
- Over 750 people received winter gear in 2007

Community Bound

Complementing the Homeward Bound program, Community Bound offers specific case management to individuals needing housing assistance and employment development. Community Bound provides participants with training in tenant rights and responsibilities, employment, money management, community volunteer opportunities, social relations, communication, and advocacy.

2007 Community Bound Accomplishments

- 25 participants obtained temporary or part-time employment
- 40 individuals increased their income through employment or artwork sales
- 9 individuals obtained full time employment
- 8 individuals who were homeless selected housing and signed lease agreements
- 3,100 lbs of plastic, newspaper, glass and aluminum were collected and recycled in Mt. View
- 7,000 pounds of refuse were collected in Mt. View





Housing First Services

Serving as the pilot program for Anchorage, Homeward Bound implements Housing First case management services as part of the Mayor's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness. Housing First is based on a national model that places hard to serve individuals directly into housing without requiring compliance with established social service programs. In 2007, 14 homeless people were assisted in seeking and retaining housing.

Affordable Housing

Homeward Bound's Affordable Housing program provides 40 rental units to individuals with little or no income. The Affordable Housing program only requires a person's ability to pay rent, to care for an apartment, and be a good neighbor as prerequisites for tenancy.

2007 Affordable Housing Accomplishments

- New handicap ramps were installed on three properties
- New roofs were placed on four properties
- 40 units of safe and secure housing were maintained
- 22 families from a homeless or transitional living situation remained in affordable housing units for twelve months or moved into equal or better housing
- 14 families that were previously homeless or in transitional living situations received housing services



Mayor Mark Begich speaking at the celebration of Homeward Bound's 10th Anniversary

A Life Transformed...

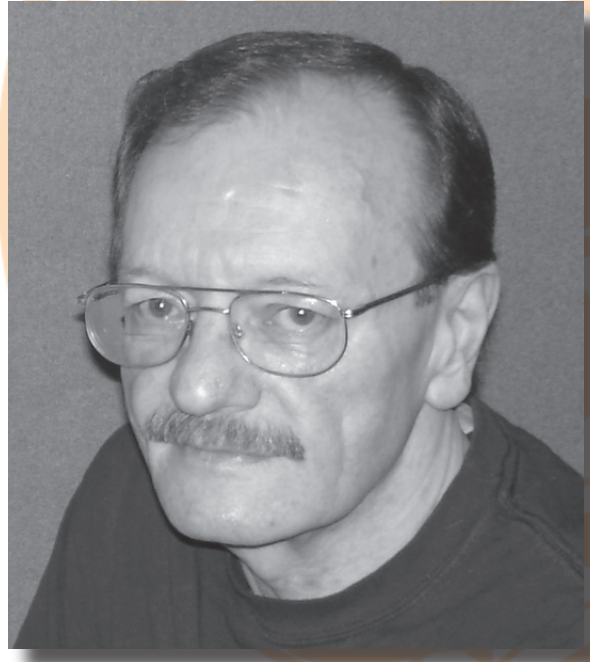
I grew up in Nevada and moved to Alaska in 1979. By 1987 I had drank myself out of my marriage, and into homelessness. For the next 18 years I struggled to maintain a place to live, but due to my drinking, I would end up back on the streets or in jail. In January of 2006, I entered the Homeward Bound program. I had no intention of giving up drinking and putting my life back together. After a few months in the program, I realized that it might be possible to live a normal life if I stopped drinking.

I had not had contact with my daughter or the rest of my family in all of those 18 years. My Homeward Bound case manager helped me make contact with my daughter and finally, with my whole family. I was able to be there for my daughter's graduation from medical school, and the birth of my grandson!

RurAL CAP has helped me greatly in giving me work for the last year, and I now have something solid to put on my resume. I have paid off almost all of my debts, including the court system, which was necessary for reinstatement of my drivers license.

At this time I am working on furthering my education and obtaining housing, and feel that I am ready to join mainstream society, which I know now, was something I had wanted for many years.

-Dan K., Homeward Bound participant



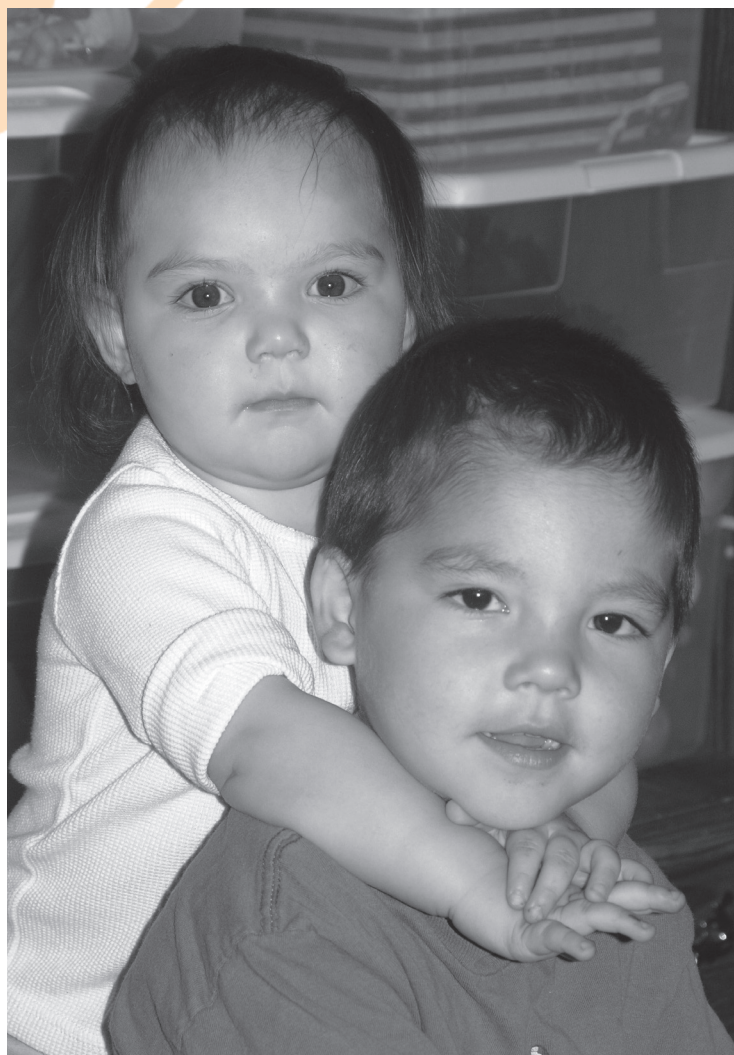
Organizations Represented on the Homeward Bound Advisory Council in 2007

- Alaska Area Native Health Service
- Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
- Anchorage Police Department
- Brother Francis Shelter
- Clitheroe Center
- Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- Jewel Jones and Associates
- Latash, LLC
- Mountain View Community Council
- Municipality Of Anchorage, Mayor's Office
- Northern Forum, Office of the Secretariat
- Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Investing In Our Children: Child Development Division

The Child Development Division provided services to prenatal women, children and families in 29 communities across Alaska. The programs offered by the division include Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents As Teachers, and child care.

All Child Development Division programs are designed to facilitate parent involvement and community collaboration. Programs promote the basic tenant that parents are the child's first and best teacher. Services to children promote positive socio-emotional development, healthy practices, cultural richness and school readiness. Services to families support self-determination and empowerment.



Head Start & Early Head Start

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs serving low income children and their families. Head Start serves children ages three to five and Early Head Start serves prenatal women and children ages birth to three. The programs promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other related services. The programs also help parents make progress toward their own education, literacy and employment goals.

Local Parent Committees are formed at each Head Start Center to assist the staff in curriculum development, increase community support and offer advice on programmatic and fiscal decisions. Parents help determine the cultural appropriateness and responsiveness of program services.

2007 Head Start/Early Head Start Accomplishments

- Successfully completed the Federal Head Start Triennial Monitoring Review.
- Savoonga celebrated the completion of its new Head Start facility. The 4,800 square foot early learning center offers two classrooms, a gross motor room, family room and office space for both the Head Start and Parents As Teachers program.
- Program Improvement projects were completed in several Head Start Centers. Projects included installation of a new water filtration system in Stebbins, arctic entries in Chevak and Tok, new roofs in Alakanuk and Toksook Bay, heating upgrades in Mt. Village, office expansion in Ketchikan and Stebbins, and new flooring upgrades in Emmonak and Ketchikan.

2007 Head Start & Early Head Start Highlights

- 947 children served
- 18 prenatal women served
- 715 children received dental exams
- 655 children received developmental screenings
- 407 families received assistance from at least one other social service program
- 83,595 meals served during the school year
- 21,727 nutritious snacks served during the school year



Making a Statewide Difference: 2007 Site Map

Communities Served by Anchorage Services

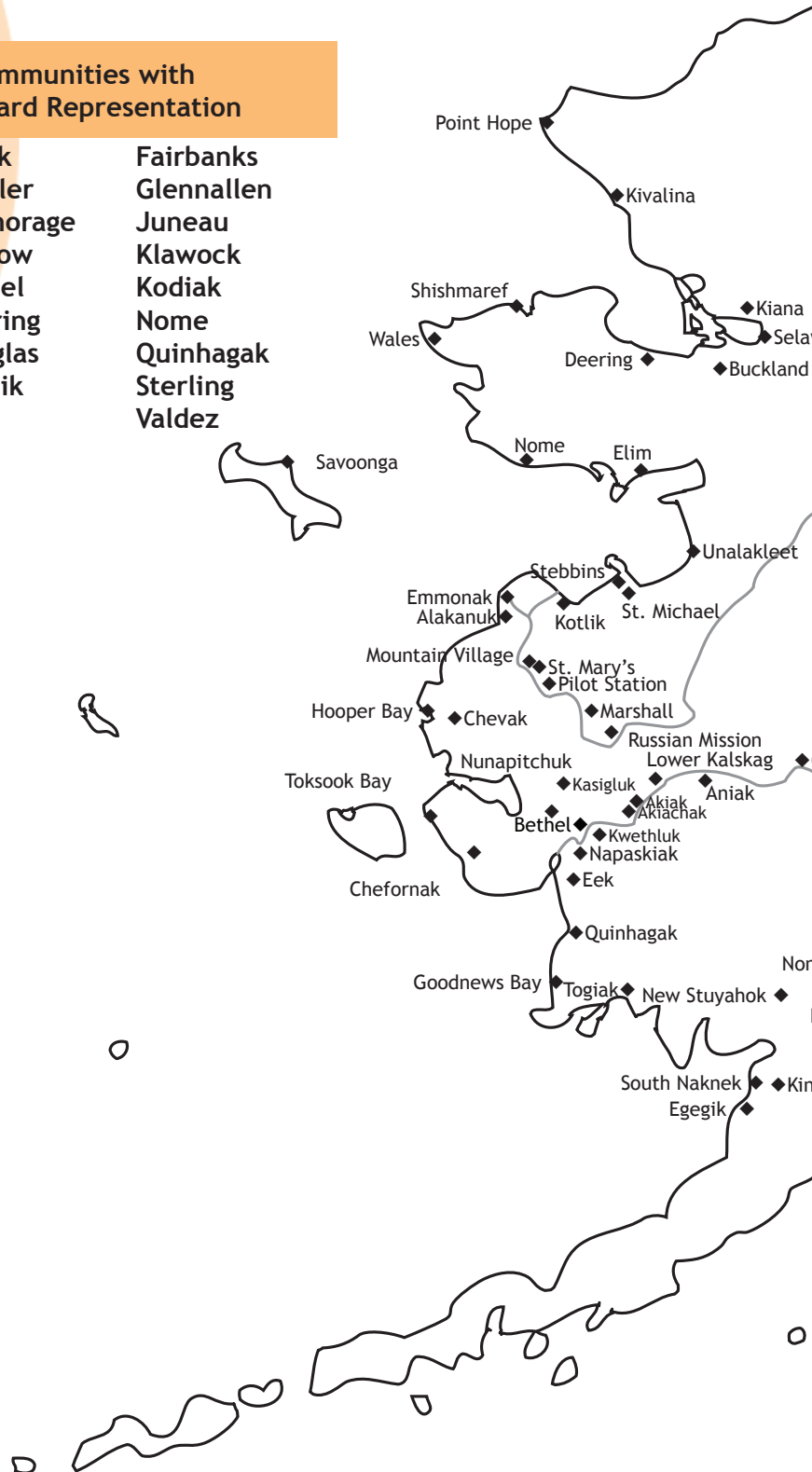
Anchorage

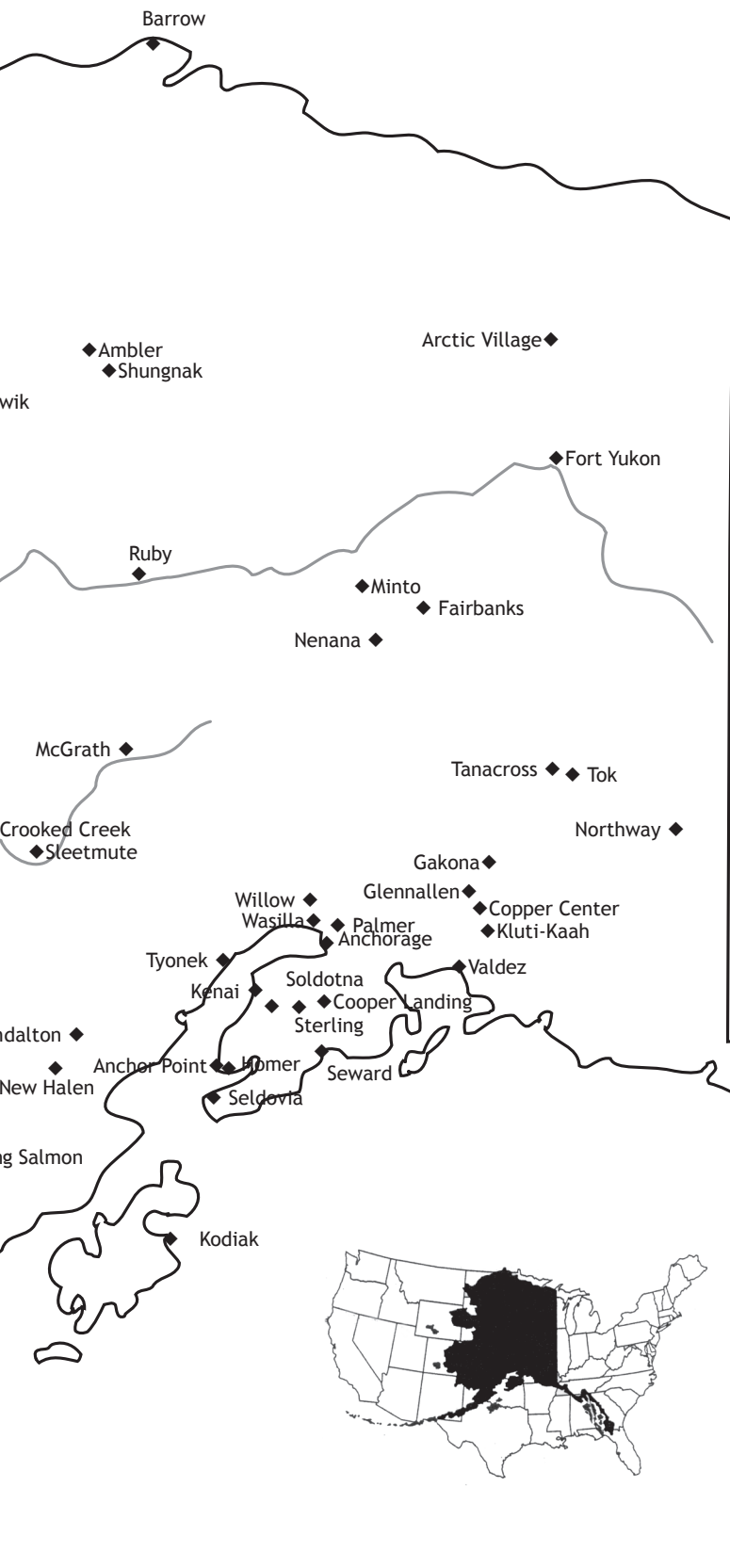
Communities Served by Community Development

Akiachak	Lower Kalskag
Anchor Point	Nenana
Anchorage	Newhalen
Angoon	New Stuyahok
Aniak	Nome
Arctic Village	Nondalton
Buckland	Northway
Chefornak	Palmer
Chevak	Petersburg
Cooper Landing	Point Hope
Copper Center	Ruby
Crooked Creek	Russian Mission
Eek	Selawik
Fairbanks	Seward
Ft. Yukon	Seldovia
Gakona	Shishmaref
Glennallen	Soldotna
Goodnews Bay	South Naknek
Homer	St. Michael
Hydaburg	Sterling
Kake	Tanacross
Kasaan	Tenakee Springs
Kasigluk	Togiak
Kiana	Tok
Kivalina	Tyonek
Klukwan	Unalakleet
Kotlik	Wales
Kwethluk	Willow
Kwinhagak	Wasilla

Communities with Board Representation

Akiak	Fairbanks
Ambler	Glennallen
Anchorage	Juneau
Barrow	Klawock
Bethel	Kodiak
Deering	Nome
Douglas	Quinhagak
Egegik	Sterling
Elim	Valdez





Communities Served by Child Development

Akiak	Kwethluk
Alakanuk	Marshall
Anchorage	Mountain Village
Chevak	Napaskiak
Copper	Nunapitchuk
Center	Pilot Station
Emmonak	Savoonga
Haines	Selawik
Homer	Seward
Hooper Bay	St. Mary's
Hydaburg	Stebbins
Kake	Sterling
Ketchikan	Tanacross
Kluti-kaah	Toksook Bay
Kodiak	Tok

Communities Served by Rural Housing & Planning

Ambler	Kwethluk
Hooper Bay	Savoonga
Juneau	Shungnak
Kenai	Sterling



Parents As Teachers

Parents As Teachers (PAT) is an early childhood parent education and family support program designed to empower parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Home visits and group socializations are offered to families in 19 communities across the State. The PAT approach is to support all children so that they will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

An advisory board serves to evaluate current services and explore expanding services. Advisory board members are representatives from community agencies, Native organizations and community Elders.

2007 PAT Accomplishments

- PAT expanded services to the Anchorage and Copper Center communities
- A Rural CAP PAT Family Visitor received certification as a national trainer in the PAT Born to Learn Curriculum

2007 Parents As Teachers Highlights

- 452 children received services
- 35 prenatal women received services
- 305 children received developmental screenings
- 3,038 home visits completed by staff
- 287 group socializations facilitated by family visitors
- 245 parents reported improved parenting skills

Staff Training

The Child Development Division believes that well educated and trained staff is the foundation for providing high quality services to children and families. Program funds and other scholarship funds are used to support professional development activities which result in certification or degree completion.

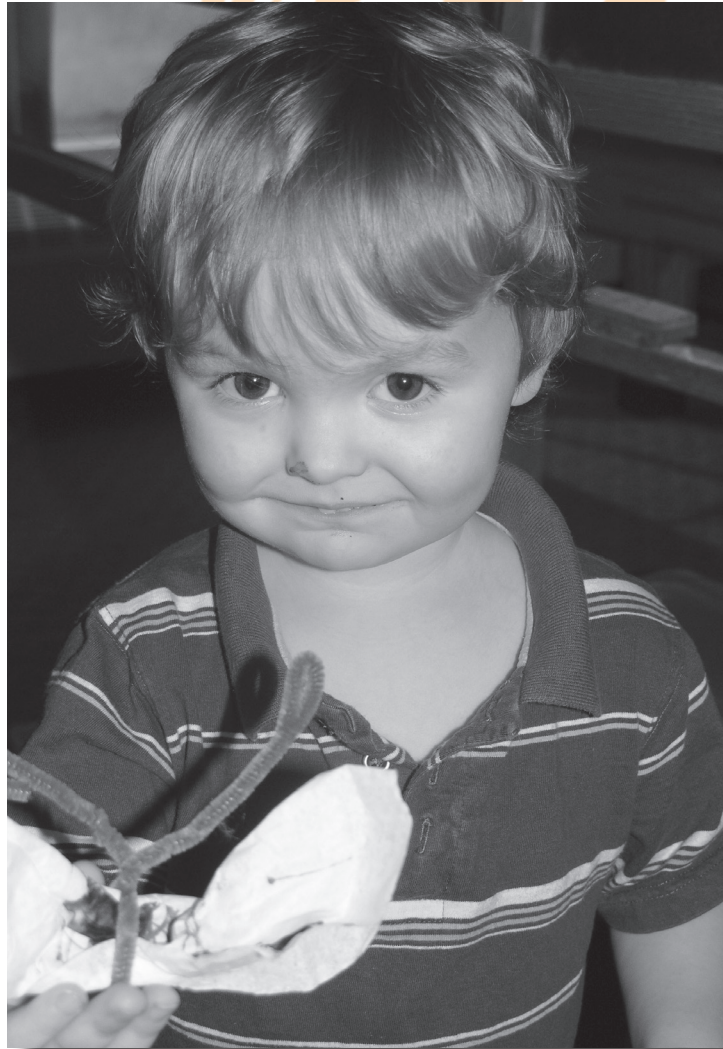
2007 Child Development Division Staff Training Highlights

- 150 educators from across Alaska attended the Child Development Division Conference
- 2 staff graduated with Associate Degrees in Early Childhood Education and one staff received an Early Childhood Education Endorsement for her Bachelor's Degree
- 9 staff received the Child Development Associates Credential
- 9 staff received the University of Alaska Fairbanks Cornell Credential for Family Empowerment
- 14 staff received certification in the PAT Born to Learn Curriculum
- 191 college credits completed by Head Start and Early Head Start staff

Child Development Center

In Anchorage, the Child Development Center provides full-day, year-round child care for children between the ages of 19 months to five years old. The Center has an open enrollment policy with a sliding tuition scale to benefit low-income families. The Center is licensed by the Municipality of Anchorage and accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

A Parent Council promotes family involvement in the Center's activities and events. The Center continues to maintain its participation in the Strengthening Families Initiative aimed at eliminating child abuse and neglect.



2007 Childhood Development Center Highlights

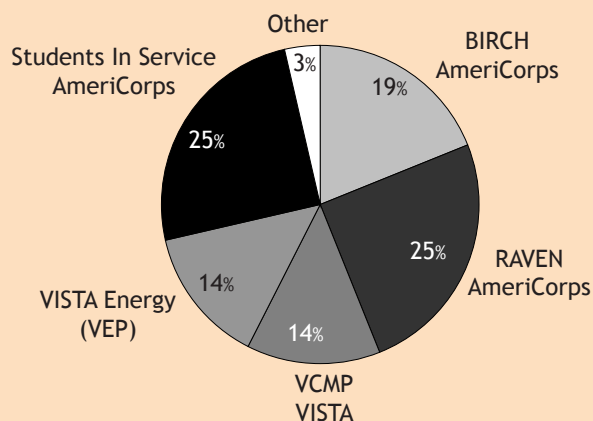
- 44 children received ongoing developmental assessments
- 11 families participated in at least two family activities sponsored by the Center
- 7 families reported increased ability to be self-sufficient during the program year
- The Center maintained a 100% completion rate on all required immunizations for children

Building Capacity: Community Development Division

RurAL CAP's Community Development Division provides resources, training and service opportunities to low-income Alaskans in order to promote health and wellness, improve environmental conditions, save energy and build capacity. The division focuses on positive solutions that are culturally appropriate and achieve measurable results.

The Community Development Division includes five national service AmeriCorps and VISTA programs. Each year, RurAL CAP supports up to 140 AmeriCorps and VISTA members in approximately 50 communities across Alaska. Members are recruited locally from the communities they will serve in, trained by RurAL CAP and serve for usually one year.

RurAL CAP Full-Time Equivalent Members



Rural Providers' Conference

The Rural Providers' Conference (RPC) is an annual gathering of substance abuse service providers, youth, Elders and family members interested in celebrating and encouraging the growth of the Alaska Native Sobriety Movement. The RPC embraces and unites traditional Alaska Native knowledge and modern approaches to prevent alcohol and drug abuse. Over 330 people attended the June 2007 RPC in Copper Center, co-sponsored by the Copper River Native Association.

The 2007 RPC included 45 workshops promoting sobriety and wellness. Service providers received professional certification through the Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health Certification for chemical dependency counselors. University of Alaska credit was also offered through the College of Rural Alaska.

Tobacco Initiatives

A tobacco prevention and cessation curriculum designed especially for Alaskans was developed and distributed throughout the state. Eight BIRCH AmeriCorps members presented prevention and education materials to schools and community groups, supported individuals in their attempts to quit and created innovative activities to address tobacco issues.

2007 Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Accomplishments

- 56 tobacco educational presentations hosted by AmeriCorps members
- 344 community members involved in tobacco education events
- 75 rural Alaskans referred to cessation services

Project Code Red

In partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture and Alaska Village Initiatives, RurAL CAP's Project Code Red provided Nondalton, Lower Kalskag, Newhalen and Northway with fire suppression units appropriate to the conditions in rural Alaska.

Community Voices Project

RurAL CAP partnered with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to develop a rural media campaign to educate Alaskans about HIV/AIDS prevention. RurAL CAP sent out information, resources, and books to five communities, and held several teleconferences to coordinate trainings.

Early Decisions

Through the Early Decisions Project, RurAL CAP develops and distributes individual prevention tools (posters, videos, teaching units, and website) for use by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder service providers, health care providers, schools, and prevention programs across the state. This year, the video game, Decisionville was completed and distributed throughout Alaska.

Early Decisions Accomplishments (since its inception)

- Over 650 Early Decision Project curriculums distributed
- 700 people trained in FAS/FASD prevention

Students in Service AmeriCorps Program

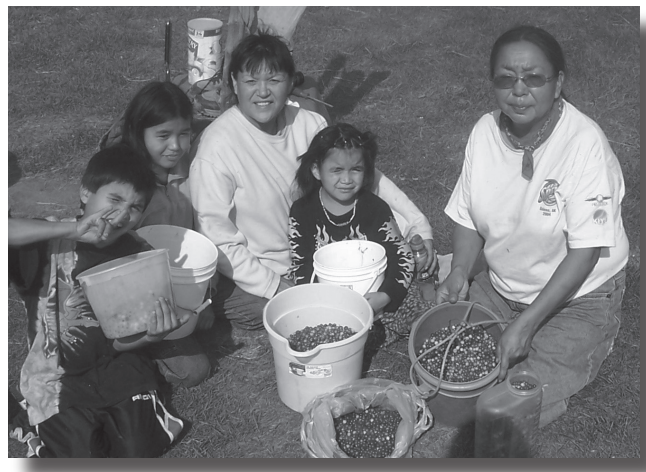
RurAL CAP works with the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to coordinate up to 80 part-time Students in Service AmeriCorps members annually. Services provided by members address a number of social and health issues, including; domestic violence, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, employment and training, teen pregnancy, corrections and juvenile delinquency, child development, and child welfare. Sixty-two members successfully completed their service this year.

Building Initiatives for Rural Community Health (BIRCH) AmeriCorps Program

BIRCH AmeriCorps members design and support community-wide events for youth, families and Elders in the areas of health education, substance abuse prevention and wellness. In 2007, BIRCH members served 15 Alaskan communities.

2007 BIRCH AmeriCorps Accomplishments

- 3,453 community events, projects and activities organized by members
- 25,284 hours of service completed by members
- 2,000 community volunteers recruited by members
- 18,205 hours of service completed by community volunteers





Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN) AmeriCorps Program

The RAVEN AmeriCorps members improve environmental conditions through youth education, pollution prevention, community clean-up efforts, energy conservation, recycling and other solid waste management projects across rural Alaska. Twenty RAVEN AmeriCorps members worked in 20 communities in 2007.

There are many success stories of AmeriCorps or VISTA members building their skills and developing their professional capacity. Ben Johnson of Petersburg is a RAVEN AmeriCorps Member who worked on a project to make an alternative heating fuel from the large amounts of wood waste on the island.

Johnson submitted his proposal to the Alaska

Federation of Natives Alaska Marketplace Competition and in October 2007 won a \$40,000 award to further his project.

"I hope that over the next several years I can show how finding local answers to local problems is the future for rural Alaska, and bringing this business to life is the first step."

-Ben Johnson, Petersburg

2007 RAVEN AmeriCorps Accomplishments

- 24,966 hours of service completed by members
- 2,169 community volunteers recruited by members
- 8,555 hours of service completed by community volunteers
- 447,148 pounds of solid waste diverted from local dumps/landfills through recycling, community clean-ups, and backhaul

VISTA Energy Program

RurAL CAP launched the VISTA Energy Program in April of 2007. Since then, nine VISTAs have been working to reduce the burden of energy costs in their rural communities. Projects include energy efficiency education, planning and capacity building for renewable energy options, and home energy auditing.

2007 VISTA Energy Program Accomplishments

- \$34,400 secured by VEP members for energy saving initiatives
- 133 community volunteers recruited by VEP members
- 331 hours of work performed by community volunteers recruited

"After the VISTA volunteers did energy audits in Kwethluk and people realized how much money they could save, the local store sold out of CFL bulbs."

-Ellen Kazary, RurAL CAP Community Development Manager

VISTA Village Council Management Program

VISTA Village Council Management Program (VCMP) members spend their year of service building the administrative and management capacity of rural city and tribal councils in the areas of community needs assessment, community planning, developing resources and proposal writing. VISTA members included representatives from 10 communities in rural Alaska.

2007 VISTA VCMP Accomplishments

- 252 community volunteers recruited by members
- 3,794 hours of service completed by community volunteers
- \$19,000 in funding secured by VISTA members for their communities

Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group

RurAL CAP provides administrative and logistical support to the Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group as it follows and guides the development of subsistence halibut policies for Alaska.

Alaska Environmental Resource Hub Online

RurAL CAP continued to expand the Alaska Environmental Resource Hub Online, a website dedicated to addressing local and statewide environmental and health issues.

Alaska Village Indoor Air Quality

The Alaska Village Indoor Air Quality (AVIAQ) program distributed carbon monoxide detectors, green cleaning kits, mold and mildew education and prevention, and other educational resources throughout rural Alaska to help reduce the effects of poor indoor air quality and carbon monoxide poisoning.

2007 AVIAQ Accomplishments

- 35 AmeriCorps members trained as AVIAQ educators
- 564 home visits were conducted
- 5,865 residents were educated through community events and home visits
- 375 carbon monoxide alarms installed
- 250 green cleaning kits distributed during home visits



Sustainable Communities: Rural Housing & Planning Division



The Rural Housing and Planning Division assists rural communities and low-income people by increasing affordable housing opportunities, preserving and improving existing housing, facilitating community-based planning, and building the capacity of rural communities to participate effectively in the development of housing and related infrastructure.

“Construction in rural Alaska villages provides a unique set of challenges - challenges that builders seldom encounter elsewhere. A short construction season, high transportation costs, and limited access are among the problems faced by a builder working in rural Alaska.”

-Ralph Lee, RurAL CAP
Weatherization Director

Community Planning

RurAL CAP continues to partner with the Denali Commission to develop a community planning tool that is tailored to the special needs and circumstances of Alaska's small rural communities. Built around a rural Alaskan understanding of the social, political, cultural, and physical environment, the community planning tool helps villages tell their unique stories, and plan for the future while embracing their values, culture, and vision.

RurAL CAP provides training and technical assistance to communities who wish to engage in community planning activities. Services include training conferences and events, as well as on-site assistance in developing a community plan.

2007 Community Planning Accomplishments

- Completed a general community plan for the village of Chevak
- Published and distributed a rural Community Planning Handbook
- Expanded the Village Council Management Program to a three-year initiative, focused on community planning and plan implementation

Self-Help Owner-Built Homes

Progress on Self-Help Owner-Built housing projects in Sterling and Kenai continues to be made. Families must contribute “sweat equity” in order to qualify for the program. Extensive homebuyer counseling, financial literacy training, and assistance with budgeting and resolving outstanding credit issues is provided to potential self-help participants. These services help families to qualify for not only the self-help program, but to prepare for successful homeownership in general.

“Thank you again for helping me to attain the ‘American Dream’! I am looking forward to the building.”

-Kathryn Dunagan, Chinulna Point Homebuyer

Construction of eight homes continues at Morgan’s Meadow in Sterling, to be complete in spring 2008. Ten home sites in Kenai were purchased for the second self-help housing project. Construction will begin in Chinulna Point in spring 2008. Over 300 inquiries from prospective home buyers for the Self Help Housing Project were fielded, and 59 applications were taken.

Housing Services

RurAL CAP’s housing services program assists rural communities with carrying out housing development, rehabilitation, and weatherization. With special expertise in rural logistics, and in blending and managing funding from multiple sources, RurAL CAP helps communities expand and improve affordable, energy-efficient housing options.

Finance, Construction & Project Management

The division provides services internally to other RurAL CAP divisions in financing and developing capital facilities. The division assisted with disposition of a parcel, and scoping a 10-unit rental acquisition/rehabilitation project in Anchorage. In addition, a 4,500 square-foot Head Start Center was completed in Savoonga, using local labor.





Rehabilitation and Weatherization Services

RurAL CAP provides weatherization services in Western and Northwestern Alaska as well as in the City and Borough of Juneau. Weatherization is the division's longest-standing program. The focus of weatherization is to increase the safety, energy-efficiency and comfort of the homes served. Unlike similar programs in other

areas of Alaska and the Lower 48, the Western/Northwestern Alaska program serves an entire community at one time, rather than individuals scattered among multiple communities. RurAL CAP weatherization projects take 1-3 years to complete, depending on the size of the community being served.

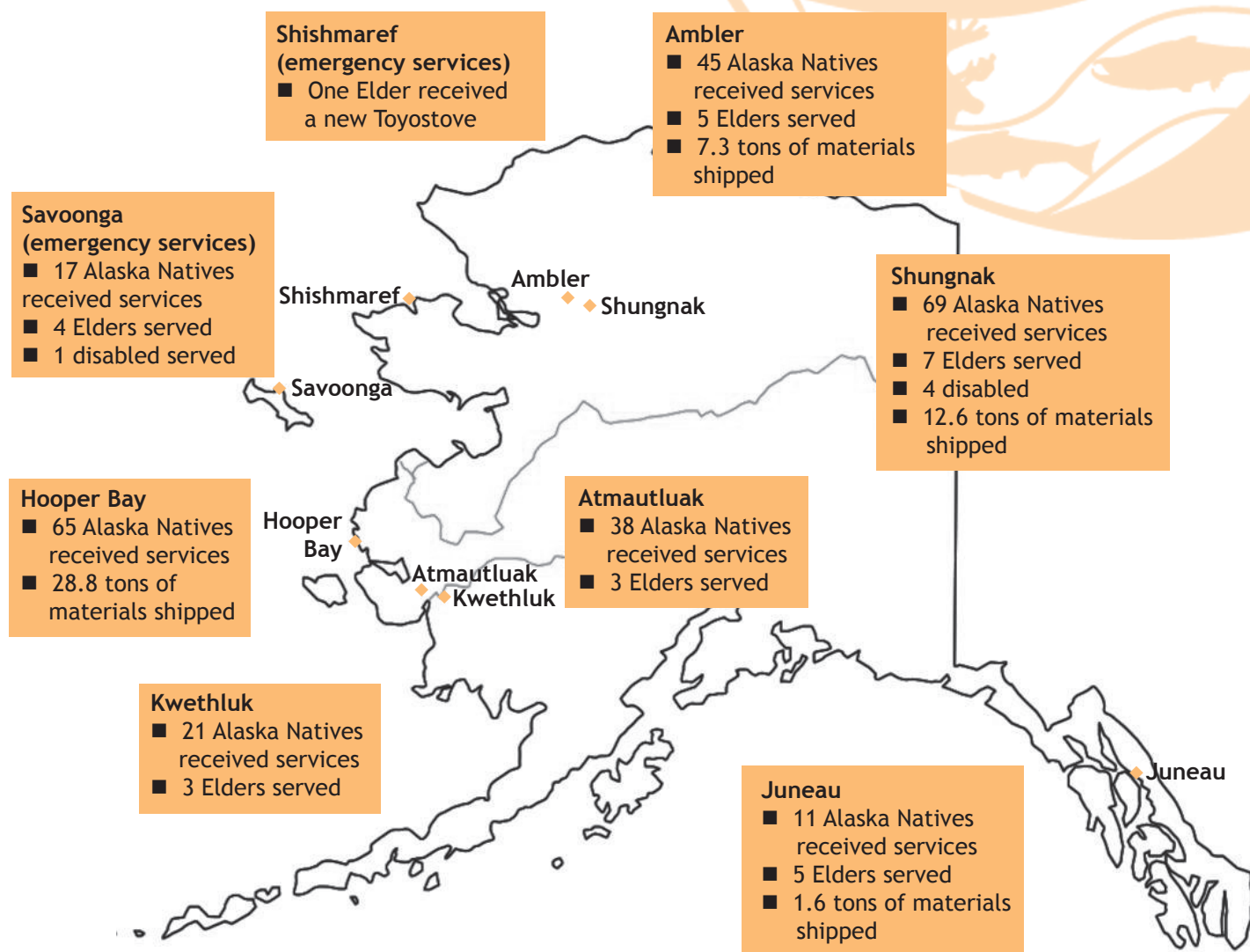
Homes receiving weatherization services must be occupied by income eligible homeowners. Priority is given to Elders, handicapped individuals, and households with children under six years old. In all weatherization and rehabilitation projects, local hire is an important element which provides employment, and leaves communities with a more skilled labor pool.

Weatherization and Rehabilitation Savings Snapshot

Energy Savings	Ambler	Hooper Bay
Average Annual Energy Costs	\$3,286	\$2,482
Average Annual Energy Costs After Weatherization	\$1,709	\$1,402
<i>Estimated Annual Savings</i>	<i>\$1,577</i>	<i>\$1,080</i>
Carbon Imprint (pounds)	Ambler	Hooper Bay
Approximate Amount of CO2 Produced By Homes	33,622	13,541
Estimated Amount of CO2 Produced After Weatherization	22,525	7,968
<i>Estimated CO2 Reduction</i>	<i>11,097</i>	<i>5,573</i>

2007 Weatherization Statistics

- 112 homes weatherized and/or rehabilitated in eight communities
- 356 people served, including:
 - 267 Alaska Natives
 - 28 Elders
 - 10 disabled
- 2.8 average number of occupants in homes assisted
- \$20,411 average household income for those assisted
- 60.3 tons of materials shipped to rural communities
- 39 people were hired and trained locally



Energy Efficient Products: Rural Energy Enterprises

Rural Energy Enterprises (R.E.E.), a wholly owned subsidiary of RurAL CAP, is a wholesale distributor of energy-efficient and money-saving products. R.E.E. began in 1987 as a result of receiving a federal grant to evaluate the feasibility of engaging in energy-related for-profit activity.

Energy costs represent a major expense for rural Alaskans. R.E.E. reduces those costs by selling a variety of high-quality, advanced-technology energy products. The Toyostove space heater, one of the most fuel-efficient heating systems in the world, can save rural residents \$300 to \$500 per year in fuel costs, depending on the condition of the house. R.E.E. also offers energy-saving oil and gas water heaters and a variety of other heating and lighting products.

R.E.E. also benefits rural communities by creating economic opportunities in remote villages. R.E.E. maintains business relationships with 248 small entrepreneur dealerships in rural Alaska, and more than 133 dealerships in western Canada and the northwest United States.

2007 Fiscal Year Performance

Gross Sales - \$6,872,292

Net Profit After Taxes- \$412,264

R.E.E. Accomplishments

- R.E.E. has sold \$79 million of products since 1987
- RurAL CAP has more than \$3.8 million in equity in R.E.E.
- 87.6% of total sales are from Alaska
- \$1.8 million of products sold in rural Alaska in 2007



Toyostove Laser 73 Heater

Rural Energy Enterprises Products

- Boilers
- Air Conditioners
- Cooking products for boats, cabins, camps & emergencies
- Outdoor Fireplaces
- Indoor Fireplaces
- Marine and Boat Heating
- Plumbing Accessories & Fixtures
- Oil Fuel Tanks
- Tent/Camp Heating & Cooking Products
- Water Heaters
- Oil Heaters & Stoves
- Gas Heaters & Stoves
- Inverters
- Non-Electric Oil Heaters & Stoves
- Wood Stoves
- Cooking Products
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors

R.E.E. distributes Toyostove, NordicStove, Dunkirk, Drolet, Godin, Rinnai, Nestor Martin, Osburn, Tirino, Aquastar, Vanguard and Toyotomi products. R.E.E. specializes in oil, wood and gas fired direct vent or sealed combustion high efficiency heaters as well as water heaters, gas cook stoves, marine heaters, marine cook stoves, tent heaters and tent stoves.

R.E.E. is the exclusive distributor of Toyostove heaters in Alaska, Idaho, North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Wyoming, Washington, British Columbia, the Yukon Territories and the Northwest Territories. R.E.E. also offers selected Toyostove/Toyotomi products in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.

R.E.E. is also the exclusive North American importer/ distributor of NordicStove non-electric oil burning heaters for tents, cabins, boats, homes and emergency use.

R.E.E. Management Team

Mark Callinsky, President & CEO
Tina Johnston, Sales Manager
Jill Keller, Financial Manager

R.E.E. Board of Directors

Geoff Feiler
Glenn Fredericks
David Hardenbergh
Phil Kaluza
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Virginia Moore



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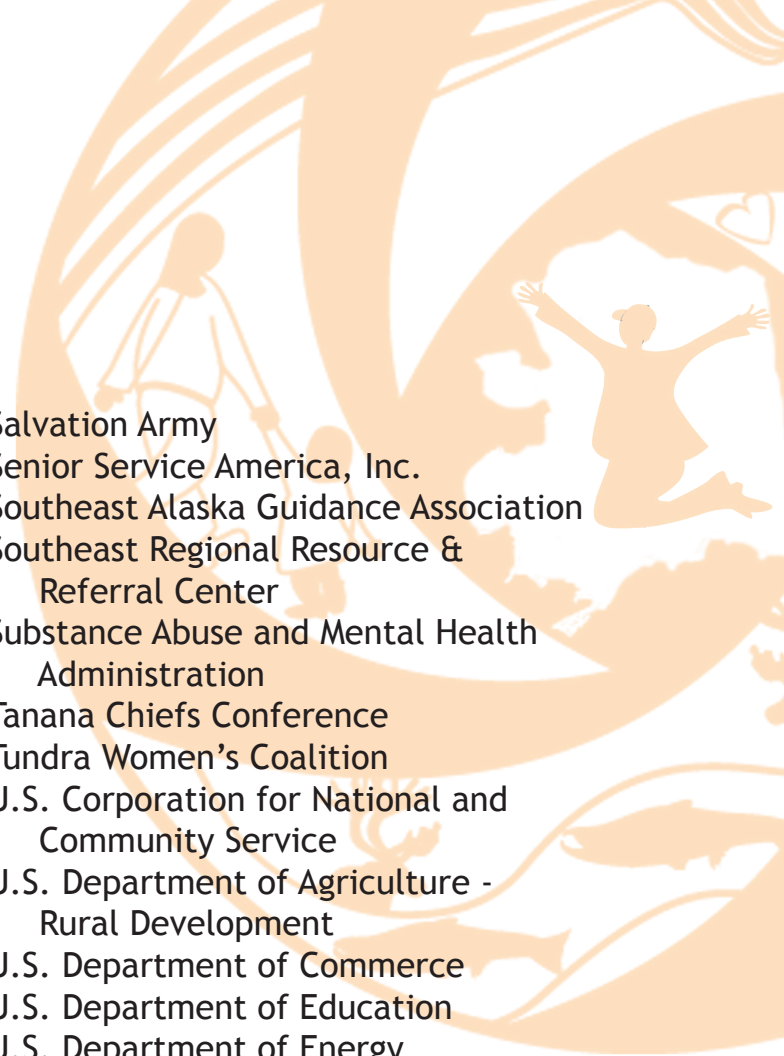


Quyana!

Thank you to our funders and partners for your support:

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Rasmuson Foundation
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Rural Community Assistance Corporation
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Yupiit School District



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