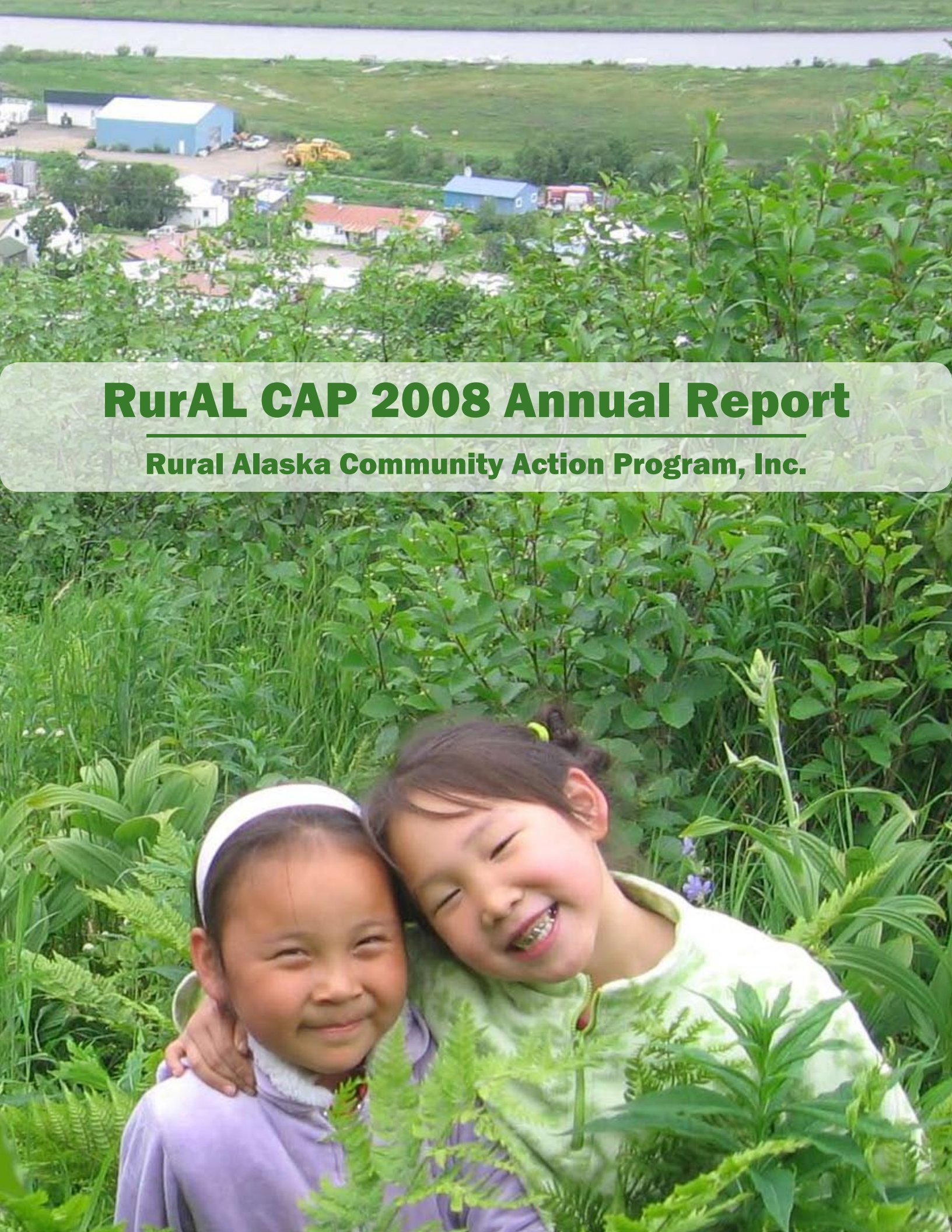


A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, two young girls are smiling and posing in a field of tall green grass and ferns. The girl on the left is wearing a purple shirt and a white headband, while the girl on the right is wearing a light green shirt. In the background, there is a small village with several buildings, including a large blue one, and a yellow tractor. A wide river or lake is visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

RurAL CAP 2008 Annual Report

Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

RURAL CAP'S VILLAGE VOICES NEWSLETTER

The *Village Voices* newsletter informs rural Alaskans about issues important to their communities. These 2008 covers reflect that Rural CAP's commitment to *Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures* begins with our most important resource - our children.

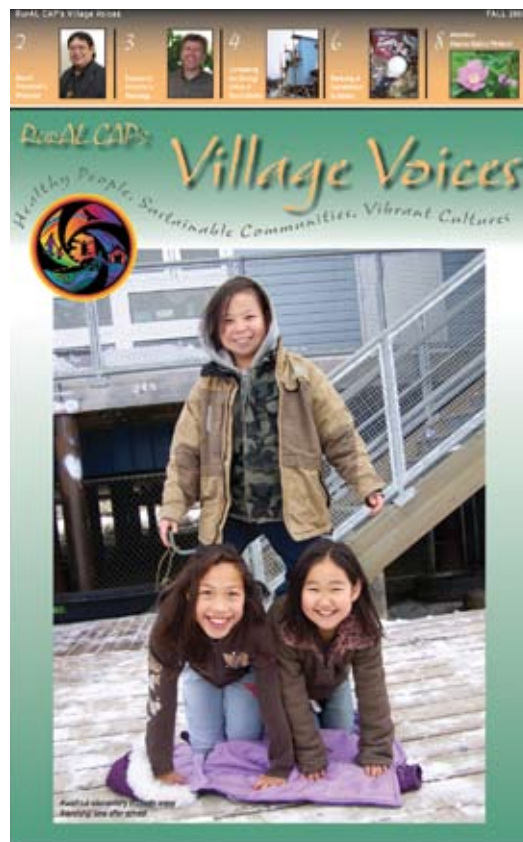
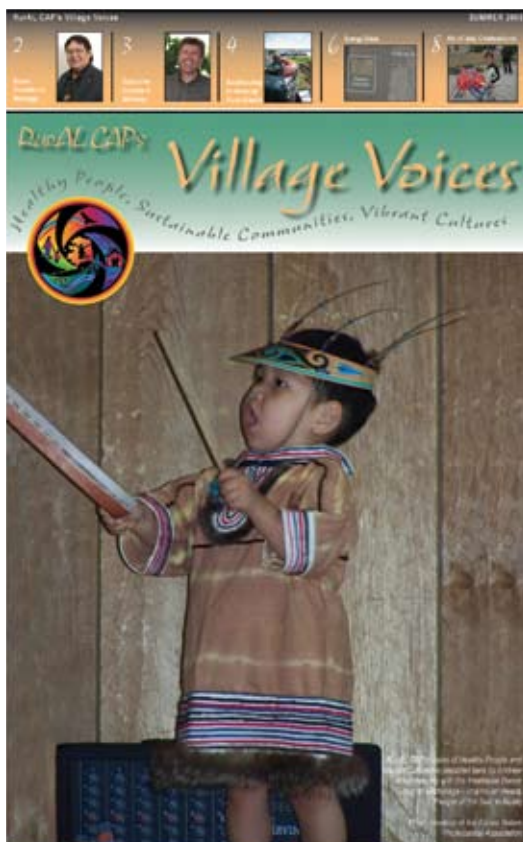


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CREDITS

Design & Layout: Angela Gonzalez

Photos: RurAL CAP Staff

Cover Photo: Children in Manokotak by Dana Diehl

MISSION DRIVEN

VISION | Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures

MISSION STATEMENT

WHO WE ARE:

RurAL CAP is one of more than 1,000 "Community Action Agencies" nationally and is the only CAA in Alaska. RurAL CAP 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 strengthening the ability of low-income people to advocate for themselves.

WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO:

RurAL CAP recognizes the unique values and ways of life of 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.

BOARD LED

2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

<i>President</i>	Andrew Ebona
<i>Vice-President</i>	Mike Williams
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	Taqlik Hepa
<i>Committee Member</i>	Dina Rayburn
<i>Committee Member</i>	Dr. Anthony Nakazawa
<i>Committee Member</i>	Diane DiSanto

Target Area Representatives

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

Private Sector Representatives

<i>Alaska Christian Conference</i>	Rev. David Fison
<i>Alaska Cooperative Extension Service</i>	Dr. Anthony Nakazawa
<i>Alaska Inter-Tribal Council</i>	Mike Williams
<i>Alaska Legal Services Corporation</i>	Andy Harrington

Public Representatives

<i>Alaska Bush Caucus</i>	Rep. Bryce Edgmon
<i>Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Dev.</i> ...	Paul Sugar
<i>Office of the Governor of Alaska</i>	Rhonda McBride
<i>Huslia Tribal Council</i>	Eleanor Yatlin
<i>Municipality of Anchorage</i>	Diane DiSanto
<i>North Slope Borough</i>	Taqlik Hepa
<i>Northwest Arctic Borough</i>	Ron Moto, Sr.
<i>University of Alaska</i>	Bernice Joseph

CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

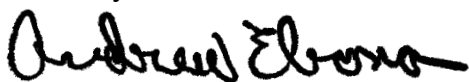
RurAL CAP's fiscal year ended on September 30, 2008 on the eve of a momentous national election. This annual report goes to press during the new inauguration at a time when change and uncertainty are everywhere. Since RurAL CAP's founding in 1965, we've been through similar periods of change and uncertainty. We have seen nine U.S. Presidents in office, we have served Alaska alongside nine Governors and survived Alaska's economic crunch of the 1980's. Through all of these times, RurAL CAP has remained a steadfast supporter of low-income Alaskans, putting programs on the ground that help Alaskans make the most of limited resources, access valuable services, and progress in self-sufficiency.

RurAL CAP's resolution is anchored in our tri-partite Board of Directors. RurAL CAP's 24-member board is comprised of Target Area Directors who make up at least one-third of the membership representing organizations that serve low-income Alaskans in specific geographic areas; Private Sector Directors represent other nonprofit organizations whose mission and interests complement those of RurAL CAP; and Public Directors make up exactly one-third of the total board as representatives of elected or appointed public officials.

The commitment of these volunteer leaders to work side by side with our many strong partners is a true reflection of their dedication to improving the lives of Alaskans. We are also committed to hiring local Alaskans from the communities we serve. We recognize the economic impact our payroll dollars have across the state through the 732 Alaskans we employed last year. They have all contributed to the agency's success. We also recognize the importance of building local capacity through the training and educational opportunities we provide our employees. We are committed to Alaska.

RurAL CAP is a vital resource to rural communities and a powerful force for positive change in Alaska. This year we are revisiting our strategic planning process to ensure we bring the very best in organizational management thinking to our own leadership table. Indira Ghandi once said, "*Have a bias toward action – let's see something happen now.*" RurAL CAP has always had a bias toward action, toward community action, toward creating positive change in the world.

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 2008 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, 2007 through September 30, 2008.

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 2008 accomplishments includes the:

- ❖ Provision of services to 88 chronically homeless Alaskans through Homeward Bound;
- ❖ Delivery of early childhood development services to 1,508 children through Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents As Teachers and the Child Development Center;
- ❖ 25th annual Rural Providers' Conference in Glennallen;
- ❖ Support for the Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group;
- ❖ Recruitment by AmeriCorps and VISTA members of more than 4,000 volunteers who contributed more than 40,000 hours of community service;
- ❖ Diversion of 2,456,090 pounds of solid waste from local landfills;
- ❖ Completion of eight self-help, owner-built homes in Sterling; ten homes begun in Kenai;
- ❖ Coordination of the Leading Change Conference - Blending Indigenous and Western Planning Tools;
- ❖ Serving of 124,494 nutritious meals through early childhood programs;
- ❖ Addition of ten apartments to bring our total of safe, decent and affordable housing units in the Mountain View neighborhood of Anchorage to 50;
- ❖ Weatherization services in Ambler, Atmautluak, Juneau, Kiana, Kwethluk, Nightmute and St. Michael; and
- ❖ Employment of 732 Alaskans in 74 communities statewide.



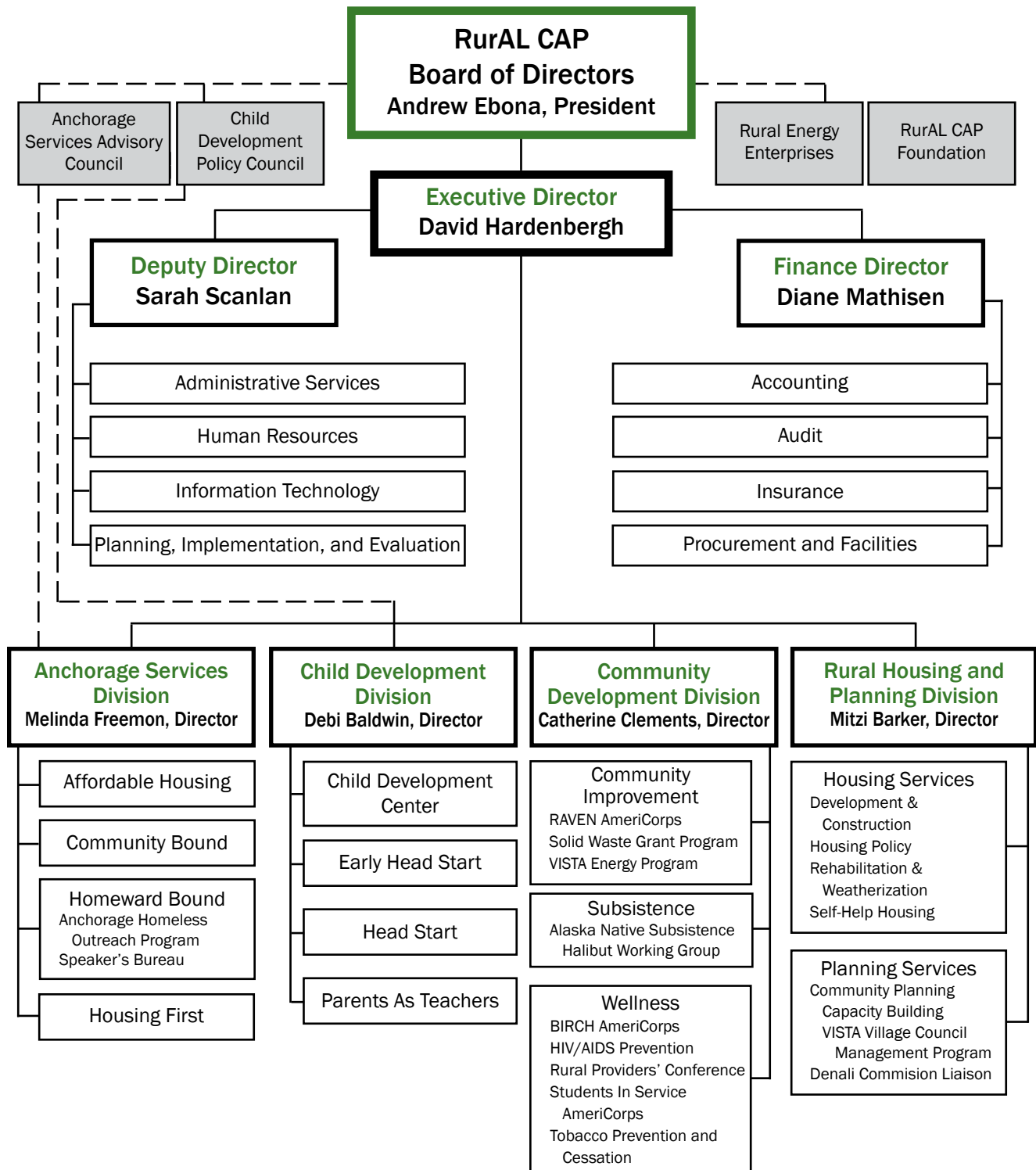
With leadership from a dynamic board and a productive staff, RurAL CAP continues to be a catalyst for community action and retain its place on the cutting edge of human service organizations in Alaska. As an organization that has been providing measurable and cost-effective services since 1965, we invite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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Hardenbergh". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

David Hardenbergh
Executive Director

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

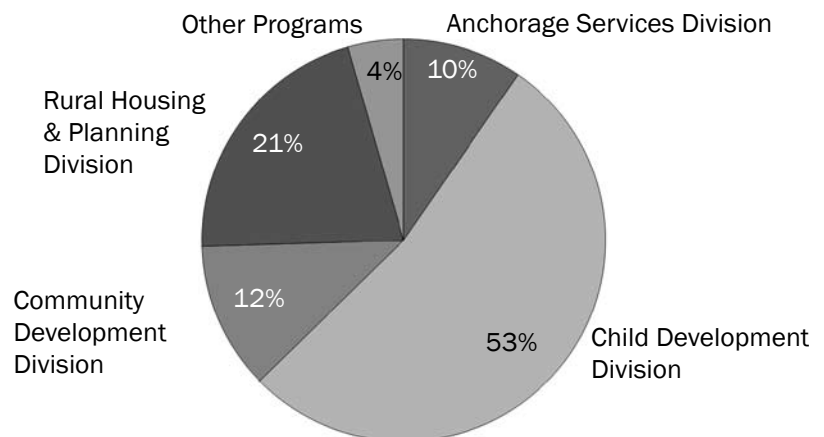
For fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

REVENUE	
Public support	20,246,797
Private support	379,863
Program Income	891,348
Other Revenue	85,217
Interest	19,911
RurAL CAP Subtotal	21,623,136
Rural Energy Enterprises	8,012,584
Total	29,635,720
EXPENDITURES	
Salaries and fringe benefits	13,222,223
Contractual and professional fees	875,912
Travel	1,137,022
Space cost and rentals	1,552,244
General supplies and tools	374,520
Program supplies	2,401,440
Equipment acquisition, maintenance, and leases	579,661
Depreciation and amortization	149,515
Communications	346,649
Other direct costs	409,716
Change in Net Assets	574,234
RurAL CAP Subtotal	21,623,136
Rural Energy Enterprises:	
Expenditures	7,468,278
Change in Net Assets	544,306
Total	29,635,720

These numbers are the unaudited totals; the FY2008 audit is conducted by KPMG.

RurAL CAP's federally approved indirect rate of 11.5% of direct costs covers administrative expenses such as those for the executive, accounting, purchasing, and human resources departments, corporate insurance, annual audit, and Board of Directors.

USE OF RURAL CAP FUNDS



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS

AGENCY OVERVIEW

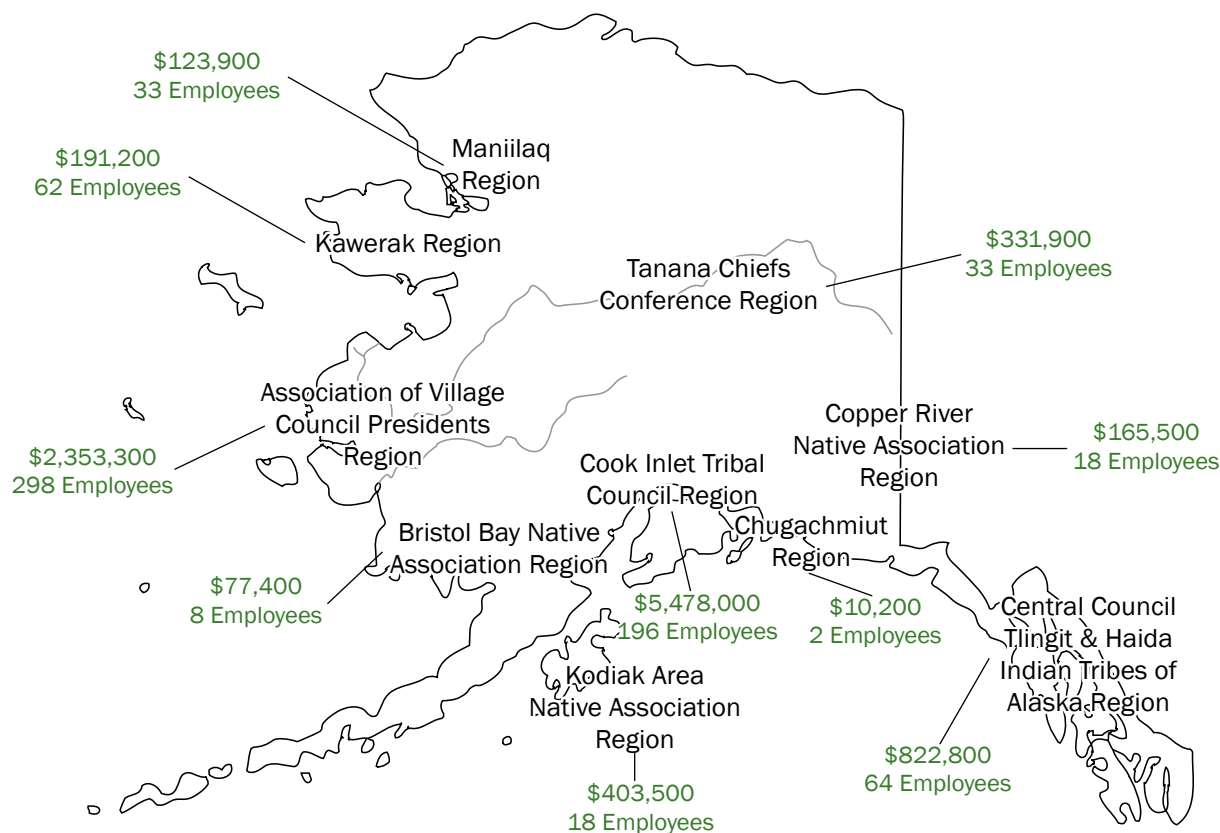
RurAL CAP, founded in 1965, is a private, statewide, nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of life for low-income Alaskans. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors representing every region of the state, RurAL CAP is one of the largest and most diversified organizations in Alaska. Overall, RurAL CAP employed more than 700 Alaskans in 74 communities statewide in FY2008, and expended \$21 million (not including Rural Energy Enterprises).

The power of RurAL CAP lies in our ability to listen and respond to the needs of low-income Alaskans. We follow the philosophy that community action is a people process, one which reinforces the values of personal responsibility, community self-reliance, participatory decision-making, and overall well-being. Our applied strategic planning process is an extension of this philosophy to continually improve our services through feedback, innovation and planning, and results oriented management and accountability that documents changes in conditions, behaviors and specific quality-of-life indicators of the people we serve.



RurAL CAP, Denali Commission and U.S. Census Bureau visit Atmautluak in 2008 to discuss demographic data collection that impacts the future of these children
Photo courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau

ECONOMIC IMPACT MAP OF RURAL CAP WAGES



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 a few programs in the United States with such comprehensive services ranging from detox to housing. The Anchorage Services Division also serves individuals and families experiencing income limitations by providing affordable housing.

2008 Anchorage Services Division Highlights

- ❖ Increased Affordable Housing inventory from 32 units in 2006 to 50 units in 2008 for safe, decent and affordable housing
- ❖ 88 people served in 2008 at Homeward Bound
- ❖ 77 have stayed in the Homeward Bound program 12 months or longer since 1997

A LIFE TRANSFORMED: THE STORY OF ELSIE

In 2008, RurAL CAP established its first Affordable Housing building designed specifically for the special needs population with co-occurring disorders such as mental illness, physical, sensory, emotional or developmental disability, or chronic alcoholism. RurAL CAP continuously works with individuals until the most appropriate housing arrangement is developed. Below is the story of one tenant, Elsie.

Originally from Sitka, Elsie grew up in several foster homes around Alaska. An alcoholic who experiences mental illness, she was homeless for most of her life and never knew stability. Elsie married four times just to get off the streets and has one daughter who lives out of state. She entered Homeward Bound in June 1999, but left the program. She came in again in 2002 and received a voucher from Alaska Housing Initiatives which allowed Elsie to move into RurAL CAP Affordable Housing in March 2002. She remained stable through the assistance of Community Bound case management until September 2006 when she began having problems with visitors at her apartment.

Moving Elsie to a new location was the only option to get her to safety. While at the new location, she was approved for Social Security Disability Insurance. Paperwork was filed on her behalf for a payee and guardianship. Elsie lived there through February 2008 when she again had issues with people exploiting her and using her apartment. She agreed to move into a motel. Her case manager stayed in contact with her while she was at the motel. She remained there until April 2008. By that time RurAL CAP Affordable Housing had purchased a building equipped with a security entrance, cameras, and a Residential Support Specialist. This type of structured environment was ideal for Elsie. She moved in and is doing quite well there. She enjoys the socialization with the other tenants and the Residential Support Specialist. Her guests are fewer and more manageable and Elsie states that she really enjoys living in her new apartment.



HOMEWARD BOUND

In 2008, Homeward Bound entered its eleventh year of rebuilding lives in the Housing First, self-paced alcohol management program for chronically homeless individuals. The Homeward Bound program is a 25-bed transitional living facility located in Mountain View which houses individuals 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. Since 1997, Homeward Bound has served 304 people, and 120 participants have completed the program or moved into stable housing.

Average Homeward Bound Resident

- ❖ Alaska Native Male (78% of participants)
- ❖ 10 or more years homeless
- ❖ 29 years as an alcoholic
- ❖ 15 or more pickups by the Community Service Patrol in the last year



Homeward Bound Residents give back to the community with recycling and clean-up efforts in Mountain View

ANCHORAGE HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM (AHOP)

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

- ❖ Homeward Bound's outreach team initiated 2,896 contacts in 2008 with individuals who are homeless in Anchorage in the form of referrals, support and advocacy.
- ❖ Anchorage Homeless Outreach services continue to be recognized as the preeminent effort in directly contacting and assisting individuals living on the streets of Anchorage.
- ❖ Provided 183 Veterans in need with information on shelters, counseling, housing, medical/dental care, employment/job training, veteran benefits, legal issues, social security, and overall well-being at the Veteran Stand Down 2008.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

The Project Homeless Connect event was held twice in 2008 to provide a one stop shop of resources for homeless individuals and families. More than 150 community volunteers assisted 625 people in obtaining food boxes, hot meals, showers and haircuts, onsite child care, substance abuse and mental health screenings, wheelchair repairs, housing applications, employment support, and health screenings.



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. In 2008, 32 participants enrolled in employment classes, 21 completed employment plans, and 20 secured employment and returned to work after the first paycheck. In addition, 27 participants selected housing and signed lease agreements, 28 completed individual living plans.

HOUSING FIRST SERVICES

The Housing First program places hard to serve individuals directly into permanent housing without requiring participation in treatment. Individuals receive intensive in-home case management to help them make progress towards self-sufficiency and succeed in housing. In 2008, 19 homeless people were assisted in seeking and retaining housing directly from homeless camps.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Affordable Housing program provides rental apartments to individuals with limited credit and rental history. The Affordable Housing program requires a person's ability to pay rent, to care for an apartment, and be a good neighbor as prerequisites for tenancy.

2008 Affordable Housing Accomplishments

- ❖ Negotiated agreements to purchase two additional properties
- ❖ Granted Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) Status, which allows the agency to receive funding provided by the Municipality of Anchorage, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
- ❖ Created more partnerships to better serve individuals



A handicapped-accessible walkway is installed at an Affordable Housing property in Mountain View

INVESTING IN OUR CHILDREN

CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Child Development Division provides services to prenatal women, children and families in 28 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 tenet 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.

2008 Child Development Division Highlights

- ❖ 1,508 children served in all programs, birth through preschool
- ❖ 1,356 families enrolled
- ❖ 117 children with special needs served
- ❖ 1,118 children received developmental screenings



Child Development provides global opportunities to children



Willy Topkok participates in an important adult/child learning relationship by reading to Head Start students in Kwethluk

MAKING A DIFFERENCE STATEWIDE

2008 SITE MAP

ANCHORAGE SERVICES

DIVISION:

Anchorage

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

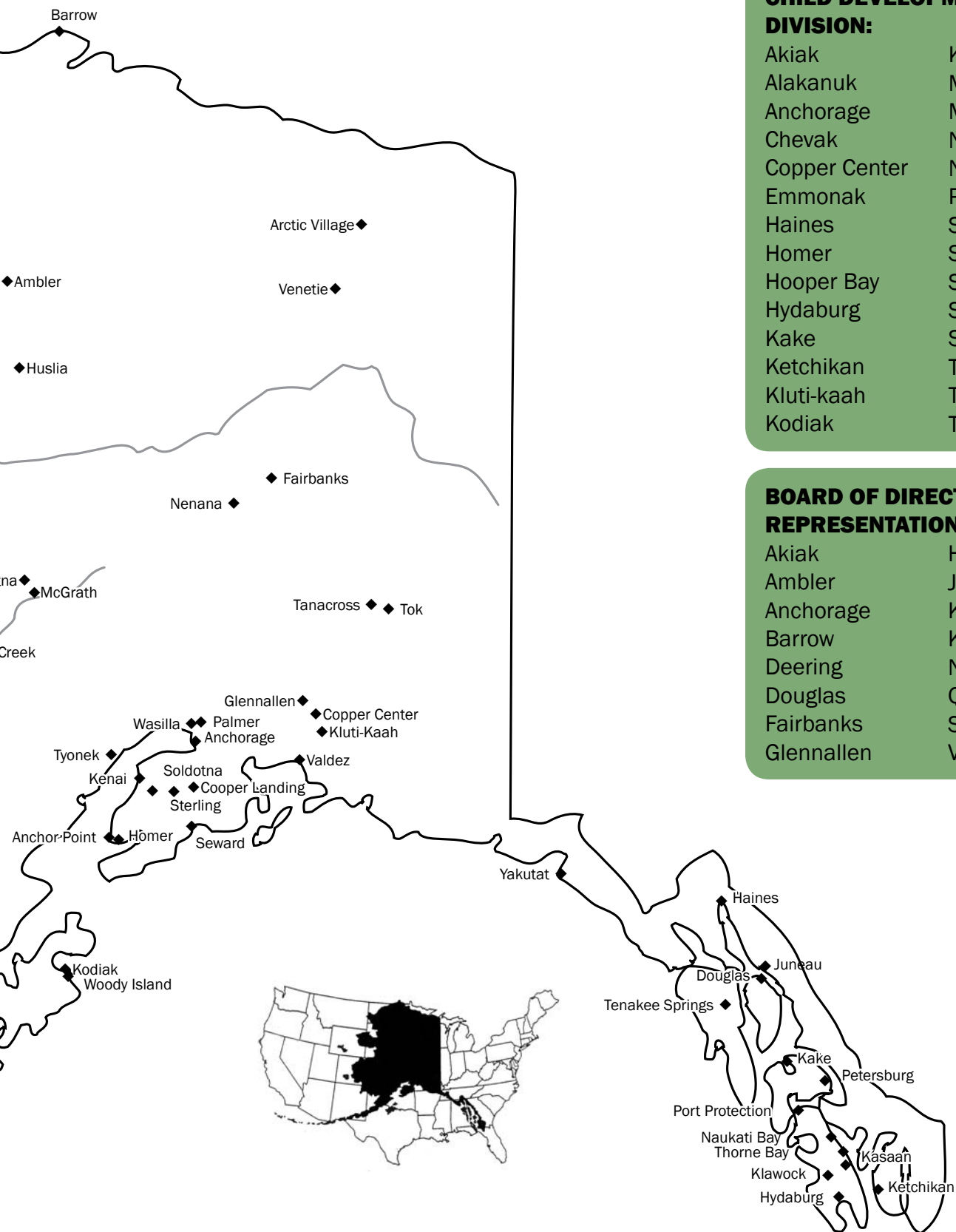
DIVISION:

Akhiok	Oscarville
Anchor Point	Palmer
Anchorage	Perryville
Arctic Village	Petersburg
Chevak	Pilot Point
Chignik Lagoon	Pilot Station
Cooper Landing	Point Protection
Copper Center	Quinhagak
Crooked Creek	Russian Mission
Glennallen	Scammon Bay
Goodnews Bay	Selawik
Homer	Seward
Hooper Bay	Soldotna
Huslia	Sterling
Kasaan	Takotna
Kasigluk	Tenakee Springs
Kipnuk	Thorne Bay
Kwethluk	Togiak
Kwigillingok	Tok
Manokotak	Tununak
Marshall	Tyonek
McGrath	Unalakleet
Naukati	Valdez
Napakiak	Venetie
Nenana	Wasilla
New Stuyahok	Woody Island
Nome	Yakutat
Nunapitchuk	

RURAL HOUSING & PLANNING DIVISION:

Ambler	Newtok
Atmautluak	Nightmute
Chevak	Soldotna
Juneau	St. Michael
Kenai	Sterling
Kiana	Toksook Bay
Kwethluk	





CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATION:

Akiak	Huslia
Ambler	Juneau
Anchorage	Klawock
Barrow	Kodiak
Deering	Nome
Douglas	Quinhagak
Fairbanks	South Naknek
Glennallen	Valdez

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs serving low-income children and their families. RurAL CAP has operated Head Starts in rural Alaska since 1965. Head Start serves children ages three to five and Early Head Start serves prenatal women and children ages birth to three. The programs promote 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.



RurAL CAP promotes school readiness at Ketchikan Head Start

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.

In 2008, the Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 915 children and 18 prenatal women. A majority of those served received dental exams/screenings, developmental screenings, and were connected to social services. More than 120,000 meals were served during the school year.

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. 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. In 2008, 54 children were served by the Center, and 3 transitioned to kindergarten.

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.



Children develop fine gross motor and cognitive skills through activities at the Child Development Center

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.

2008 PAT Accomplishments

- ❖ 539 children and 45 prenatal women served
- ❖ 305 children received developmental screenings
- ❖ 4,744 home visits completed by staff
- ❖ 372 group socializations facilitated by family visitors



A Homer mother and child attend a *Play is Fundamental* workshop at the RurAL CAP Early Childhood Summit



Parents learn they can encourage positive brain development by doing simple activities with their children

BUILDING CAPACITY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

RurAL CAP's Community Development Division provides training, education, resources, and service opportunities to low-income Alaskans 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. RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Members work in Alaskan communities to address community issues and implement local solutions to those concerns. They gain valuable training, skills and experience and earn an education award of \$4,725 after completing a year of service.

2008 Community Development Division Highlights

- ❖ AmeriCorps Members recruited over 4,000 community volunteers who contributed over 40,000 hours of service
- ❖ 300 people attended the Rural Providers' Conference for drug and alcohol prevention and treatment service providers
- ❖ VISTA Members built partnerships, developed funding proposals, and worked with their sponsoring council to raise over \$125,000 in cash and in-kind resources for energy projects in their villages

RURAL PROVIDERS' CONFERENCE (RPC)

The 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. In 2008, more than 300 people attended the 25th anniversary of the RPC in Glennallen, co-sponsored by the Copper River Native Association. The RPC included 40 workshops promoting sobriety and wellness, with a strong youth track and local cultural activities.

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.

2008 BIRCH AmeriCorps Highlights

- ❖ 16 rural Alaskan communities served
- ❖ 22,772 hours of service completed

TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CESSATION

BIRCH AmeriCorps Members utilize the Tobacco Education and Cessation for Alaskans curriculum designed by RurAL CAP.

- ❖ 47 tobacco educational presentations
- ❖ 217 rural Alaskans referred to cessation services
- ❖ 25 people successful in quitting tobacco use



BIRCH AmeriCorps Members, like Heidi Young of Naukati, present prevention and education materials to schools and community groups and support individuals in their attempts to quit tobacco use.

HIV/STD PREVENTION - COMMUNITY VOICES PROJECT

RurAL CAP partnered with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to develop a media campaign to educate rural Alaskans about HIV/AIDS prevention. The Community Voices Project engaged rural youth and community members to develop a series of five posters on HIV/AIDS prevention.

PROJECT CODE RED

In partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Alaska Village Initiatives, RurAL CAP's Project Code Red and the Division of Fire and Life Safety provided training to three communities on the proper use of fire suppression units.

EARLY DECISIONS - FETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD) PREVENTION

Through the Early Decisions Project, RurAL CAP distributes individual prevention tools (posters, videos, video game, teaching units, and website) for use by FASD service providers, health care providers, schools, and prevention programs across the state.

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 each year. 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. Fifty-two members successfully completed their service this year.

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.

2008 RAVEN AmeriCorps Highlights

- ❖ 20 rural Alaskan communities served
- ❖ 25,302 hours of service completed



RAVEN Members diverted more than 2.4 million pounds of solid waste from local landfills by recycling and backhaul efforts

ALASKA VILLAGE INDOOR AIR QUALITY (AVIAQ)

The AVIAQ program provides education through home visits and community events to improve indoor air quality in rural homes. Carbon monoxide detectors, green cleaning kits, and other educational resources are installed and distributed during home visits.

2008 AVIAQ Highlights

- ❖ 36 AmeriCorps Members trained as AVIAQ Educators
- ❖ 668 home visits were conducted in 22 Alaska villages

ALASKA NATIVE SUBSISTENCE HALIBUT WORKING GROUP (ANSHWG)

RurAL CAP provides administrative and logistical support to ANSHWG which consults with the National Marine Fisheries Service and provides input on the impact of halibut fisheries regulations to subsistence users.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

RurAL CAP continues to host an expert solid waste liaison through funding provided by the EPA and Senior Services America, Inc. The liaison provides solid waste management technical assistance to rural communities through training, site visits, hands-on demonstrations, and remote contact. Resources are provided for dump closure activities, collaborating with funders for funding and technical assistance and backhaul of solid waste. In 2008, 14 rural villages were served.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Beginning in 2008, RurAL CAP administered 15 solid waste management projects for the Denali Commission. Each project focused on improving solid waste management, with an emphasis on protecting local water supplies from contamination. Nearly \$1 million in funding has been awarded to communities to implement their solid waste management projects. Several of the communities are purchasing burn units to help eliminate trash buildup in the dumps and landfills. Other communities are purchasing bulldozers or skid steer loaders to clean up or cover the ash from burn units, or purchasing containers and equipment for recycling programs.

VISTA ENERGY PROGRAM (VEP)

Since the VEP launched in 2007, twelve 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 efficiency education. VEP Members secured \$46,500 in funding for energy saving initiatives.

ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE HUB ONLINE (AERHO)

RurAL CAP continued to expand AERHO (www.AERHO.org), a website dedicated to addressing local and statewide environmental and health issues.



Burn units can extend the life of dump sites by minimizing the amount of waste

ENRICHING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

In 2008, Alaska received a \$200 million increase in Weatherization funds from the legislature. RurAL CAP is one of the organizations responsible for this program's on the ground results in parts of rural Alaska and Juneau. Weatherization makes homes more energy efficient by lowering the costs of electricity and home heating and thus making more household income available for other basic necessities that keep local economies alive.

Charlie Lee built his two-story home in Kwethluk in 1998. There are 7 people living in his home, including Charlie, his wife, and their five children. Between November 2007 and February 2008, Lee paid \$3,500 to heat his home. The Lee home was wrapped in October of this year, a process to insulate roof, walls and floors. Lee says, "Putting insulation on the floor and ceiling makes a big difference." He did not expect his home to be weatherized, so he gathered driftwood all summer to prepare for a long winter with high fuel costs. During the winter, Lee can use 8-9 sled loads of wood to heat his home. Before weatherizing his home, Lee said, "the wood stove and oil stove were both running to heat my house. This year, I haven't had to do much burning so far." Charlie says weatherizing his home has "cut down his heating expense by half, because now the oil stove is good enough to heat the home." Lee expressed gratitude for the program and said, "I was worried this year. Earlier this year I got a lot of driftwood to prepare for the winter. I feel much better now."



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 Alaska 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 that wish to engage in community planning activities. Services include training conferences and events, as well as on-site assistance in developing a community plan.

2008 Community Planning Highlights:

- ❖ Completed a general community plan for the village of Toksook Bay and a housing analysis for Metarvik, the new relocation community of Newtok
- ❖ Continued to work with Chevak and Foraker Group to implement planning efforts
- ❖ Organized and hosted a national planning conference, “Leading Change: Blending Indigenous and Western Planning Tools” with 225 participants from Alaska, Hawaii, Canada, the Lower 48 and Australia
- ❖ Organized and hosted a meeting with the U.S. Census Bureau in April to discuss the *American Community Survey*, a new approach to the manner in which the demographic, social, economic, and housing information about the people of Alaska is collected

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.

Self-Help Owner-Built Homes

Progress on Self-Help Owner-Built housing project in Kenai continues to be made. Families must contribute “sweat equity” in order to qualify for the program. Their labor helps keep building costs to a minimum, which in turn reduces the cost for Self-Help homes by up to 30% of conventionally financed homes. Extensive homebuyer counseling, financial literacy training, and assistance with budgeting and resolving outstanding credit issues are provided to potential self-help participants. These services help families to qualify not only for the self-help program, but to prepare for successful homeownership in general.

Construction of eight homes was completed at Morgan’s Meadow in Sterling in 2008.

Ten home sites in Kenai were purchased for the second self-help housing project.

Construction began in Chinulna Point in Spring

2008. Over 502 inquiries from prospective home buyers for the Self-Help Housing Project were fielded, and 79 applications were taken.



The Self-Help Owner-Built housing program helps families to achieve the dream of homeownership

Weatherization and Rehabilitation 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 the age of six. In all weatherization and rehabilitation projects, local hire is an important element which provides employment and leaves communities with a more skilled labor pool. In 2008, 79 people were hired and trained locally.

2008 Weatherization Statistics

- ❖ 153 homes weatherized and/or rehabilitated in 7 communities
- ❖ 204 households with 736 family members served
 - 7 in Ambler
 - 3 in Atmautluak
 - 70 in Juneau
 - 36 in Kiana
 - 36 in Kwethluk
 - 33 in Nightmute
 - 19 in St. Michael
- ❖ \$34,938 average household income



Elder John White stands outside his recently weatherized home in Nightmute

IMPACTS OF WEATHERIZATION AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

ESTIMATED ENERGY SAVINGS	Ambler	Nightmute
Annual Energy Costs Before Weatherization	\$ 8,111	\$ 4,596
Annual Energy Costs After Weatherization	\$ 5,466	\$ 3,077
Estimated Annual Savings	\$ 2,645	\$ 1,519
Percentage Savings	33%	33%
CARBON IMPRINT (pounds)	Ambler	Nightmute
Approximate Amount of CO2 Produced Before Weatherization	29,545	19,567
Estimated Amount of CO2 Produced After Weatherization	24,411	14,793
Approximate CO2 Reduction	5,134	4,774
Percentage Reduction	17%	24%

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 after 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 242 small entrepreneur dealerships in rural Alaska, and more than 119 dealerships in western Canada and the northwest United States.

2008 Fiscal Year Performance

Gross Sales - \$8,012,584

Net Income After Taxes- \$544,306

Rural Energy Enterprises Products

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

2008 R.E.E. Accomplishments

- ❖ R.E.E. has sold \$87 million in products since it began in 1987
- ❖ RurAL CAP has more than \$4.2 million in equity in R.E.E.
- ❖ 87.7% of total sales are from Alaska



Toyostove Laser 73 Heater

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.

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

R.E.E. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Virginia Moore

R.E.E. MANAGEMENT TEAM

Mark Callinsky, President & CEO
Lonnie Jackson, Sales Manager
Jill Keller, Financial Manager



R.E.E. employees keep our communities and families warm



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Serving rural Alaskans for 21 wonderful years!

HONORING OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our funders and partners for engaging with RurAL CAP to fulfill our vision:
Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures.

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Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
Alaska Job Corps
Alaska Legal Services Corporation
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Alaska Native Brotherhood
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Alaska State Community Service Commission
Alaska Village Initiatives
Alaskan Aids Assistance Association
Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling
Aleut Corporation
American Legacy Foundation
American Planning Association
Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness
Anchorage Community Mental Health Services
Anchorage Housing Initiatives
Anchorage Police Department
Anchorage School District
Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc.
Bering Strait School District

Bering Straits Native Corporation
Best Beginnings
Bethel Family Clinic
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
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 Office of Senator Ted Stevens
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 Restoration Point Foundation
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 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 United Way of Anchorage
 University of Alaska Anchorage
 University of Alaska Fairbanks
 University of Alaska Southeast
 Wells Fargo Bank
 Yupiit School District



Children in Oscarville, like many others statewide, participate in BIRCH and RAVEN activities and events including culture camps, health fairs, tobacco education and awareness, community clean-ups, energy savings, and gardening



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