

RurAL CAP 2010 Annual Report



Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures

Highlight: Housing First Project

Housing First provides secure housing to chronically homeless individuals as the first step to self-sufficiency and community reintegration. Housing First has been shown to increase the success of its residents for maintaining long-term housing and to reduce society's cost burden in services and emergency response to this population.

RurAL CAP Experience

RurAL CAP has owned and managed rental properties occupied by special needs tenants for 10 years. RurAL CAP emphasizes personal responsibility. Tenants are offered supportive services to increase their self-sufficiency, and are involved in improving and maintaining the property, reinforcing security, and in creating a sense of community. This approach has resulted in a low vacancy rate and the improved condition and value of our properties.

Resident Population

Potential residents must be homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards, known to be affected by chronic alcoholism, have an income below 30% of the area median income, and must meet HUD's definition of disabled. Applicants must verify eligibility using established procedures.

The Housing First Facility

The first building is a two-story structure with 10 units. The building has a main entrance and lobby area, an office, a laundry facility, and a storage room. The second building includes 38 units and is an elevated two-story structure with parking underneath.

Each unit will have a microwave, small energy efficient refrigerator, stove and dining area furniture. Common areas will be located in the first building for meetings, gatherings and tenant enrichment activities.

Overview

- 48-unit resident housing to be located in downtown Anchorage
- First Housing First facility in Anchorage
- Top recommendation of the Homeless Leadership Team formed by Anchorage Mayor Sullivan in 2009
- Housing and supportive services at a cost of less than \$23,000 per person annually
- Current cost burden in services and emergency response for this population is \$60,612 per person annually
- Assistance to access services: medical, mental health, financial, legal, employment



Housing First project with proposed upgrades



Board and staff members tour the facility. The Housing First facility is expected to open for tenants in 2011.

"The problem of homelessness in Anchorage has been longstanding and well-documented. There are perhaps no lower-income or more disenfranchised Alaskans than the long-term, chronic alcoholic, chronic homeless people who inhabit the streets and shelters, parks and woods in Anchorage."

- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

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CREDITS

Design & Layout: Angela Gonzalez

Photos: RurAL CAP Staff

Cover Photo: Alisson Phillips and Tierra Wolf team up for a 4th of July three-legged race in Chuathbaluk. Photo by Margaret David

Mission Driven

VISION

Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures

MISSION STATEMENT

To empower low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing and direct services that respect our unique values and cultures

Board Led

2010 RurAL CAP Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President	Andrew Ebona
Vice-President	Mike Williams
Secretary/Treasurer	Olga M. Malutin
Committee Member	Donna Brockschmidt
Committee Member	Andy Harrington
Committee Member	Dr. Anthony Nakazawa

Target Area Representatives

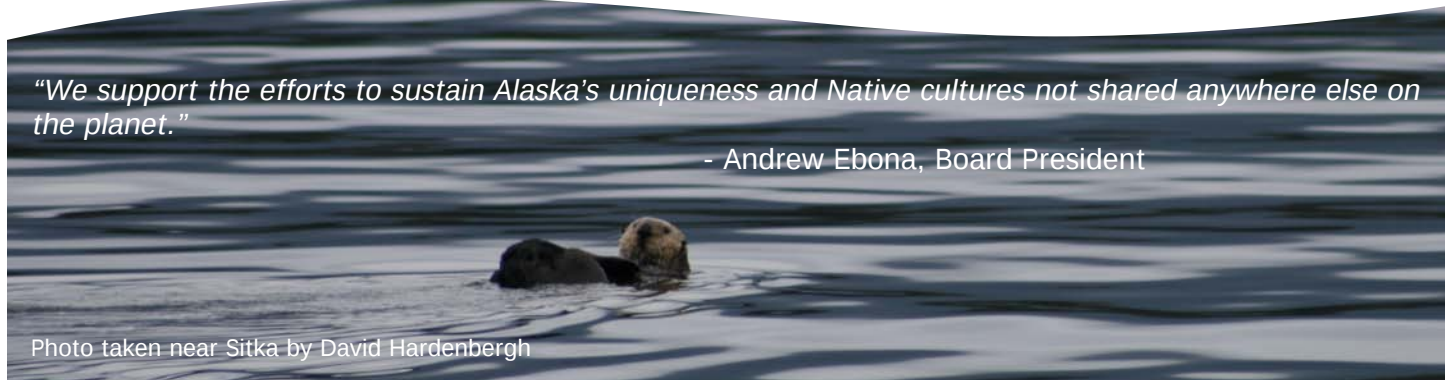
Alaska Native Brotherhood	Andrew Ebona
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association	Zenia Borenin
Assoc. of Village Council Presidents	James Paul
Bristol Bay Native Association	Ted Angasan
Child Development Policy Council	Donna Brockschmidt
Chugachmiut	Benna Hughey
Copper River Native Association	Robert Marshall
Kawerak	Steve Longley
Kodiak Area Native Association	Olga M. Malutin
Maniilaq Association	William Bernhardt
Tanana Chiefs Conference	Nancy James
Tlingit-Haida Central Council	Harold Houston

Private Sector Representatives

Alaska Christian Conference	Rev. David Fison
Alaska Legal Services Corporation	Andy Harrington
Alaska Municipal League	Betty Svensson
Alaska Village Initiatives	David Gilila, Sr.

Public Representatives

Akiak Native Community	Mike Williams
Alaska Bush Caucus	Rep. Bob Herron
Alaska Cooperative Extension Service ...	Dr. Anthony Nakazawa
Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Dev. ...	Paul Sugar
Office of the Governor of Alaska	John Moller
Municipality of Anchorage	Diane Ingle
North Slope Borough	Taqulik Hepa
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	Bernice Joseph



"We support the efforts to sustain Alaska's uniqueness and Native cultures not shared anywhere else on the planet."

- Andrew Ebona, Board President

Photo taken near Sitka by David Hardenbergh

Results Focused

Message from the Board President

It is my privilege to present to you RurAL CAP's 2010 annual report. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. is a private, statewide, nonprofit organization working to empower low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing, and direct services that respect our unique values and cultures.

RurAL CAP continues to be focused on producing measurable results. Incorporated into all aspects of our strategic planning and organizational culture are the questions, "What difference did you really make? How do you measure it?" As we look ahead, we know we've made a difference this past year as reflected by a sampling of our 2010 results:

- Delivering early childhood development services to over 1,500 children through Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents As Teachers and the Child Development Center;
- Serving more than 150,000 nutritious meals and snacks to low-income children;
- Developmental screenings completed for 1,242 children;
- Moving 113 previously homeless alcoholics into transitional or permanent housing;
- Beginning construction of a 7-unit affordable housing property which will bring our total number of safe, decent and affordable housing units in Anchorage to 72;
- Recruitment by AmeriCorps and VISTA members of 6,916 volunteers who contributed 41,334 hours of community service statewide;
- Diversion of 137,000 pounds of solid waste from local landfills and backhauling of 55,000 pounds of waste to recycling facilities;
- Reducing utility costs with energy efficiency upgrades to 26 community facilities and more than 2,000 homes through Energy Wise;
- Construction of nine self-help, owner-built homes in Kenai;
- Completion of weatherization services in 10 communities to improve 309 homes utilizing locally-hired employees; and
- Mobilizing hundreds of advocates in support of a Housing First project.



RurAL CAP's strategic planning process encapsulates our vision, mission, values and goals for the coming year. As an organization providing measurable and cost-effective services since 1965, we look forward to another successful year with you in 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Ebona".

Andrew Ebona, President
Board of Directors

Growth and Good Deeds

Message from the Executive Director

Thank you for your interest in RurAL CAP's 2010 Annual Report! Two of the themes driving our organization over the past year have been growth and good deeds. Even before the 2010 fiscal year began, RurAL CAP was on an upwards growth curve fueled by an expanded Weatherization program and a strong and successful development team. The year ended with the highest levels of expenditures and good deeds in our 45-year history.

When combined with our for-profit subsidiary, Rural Energy Enterprises, RurAL CAP ended the 2010 fiscal year with more than \$40 million in expenditures. Ultimately, however, the true measure of our effectiveness and organizational success is not about our funding or annual budget. It's about the results achieved by the people we serve. Last year we provided employment to 1,048 Alaskans, up more than 150 from the prior year. The work done by these hardworking employees and the results of that work measured in terms of the documented changes in the conditions and behaviors of the people we serve is what defines us.



During the 2010 fiscal year, RurAL CAP put funds to use from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to do exactly what the act was intended to do: stimulate the economy; create jobs; improve living conditions and reduce the energy burden for low-income families; and strengthen the social safety net for our most vulnerable populations.

As Jamey Gilila, RurAL CAP's Energy Wise project crew chief in Akiak so eloquently stated at a Board of Directors' meeting when explaining his motto with his crew, "their work is not just about the pay, it's about the good deed."

Our vision of *Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, and Vibrant Cultures* continues to drive RurAL CAP to innovate and grow in exciting new directions while maintaining core programs which produce the measurable results highlighted throughout this annual report.

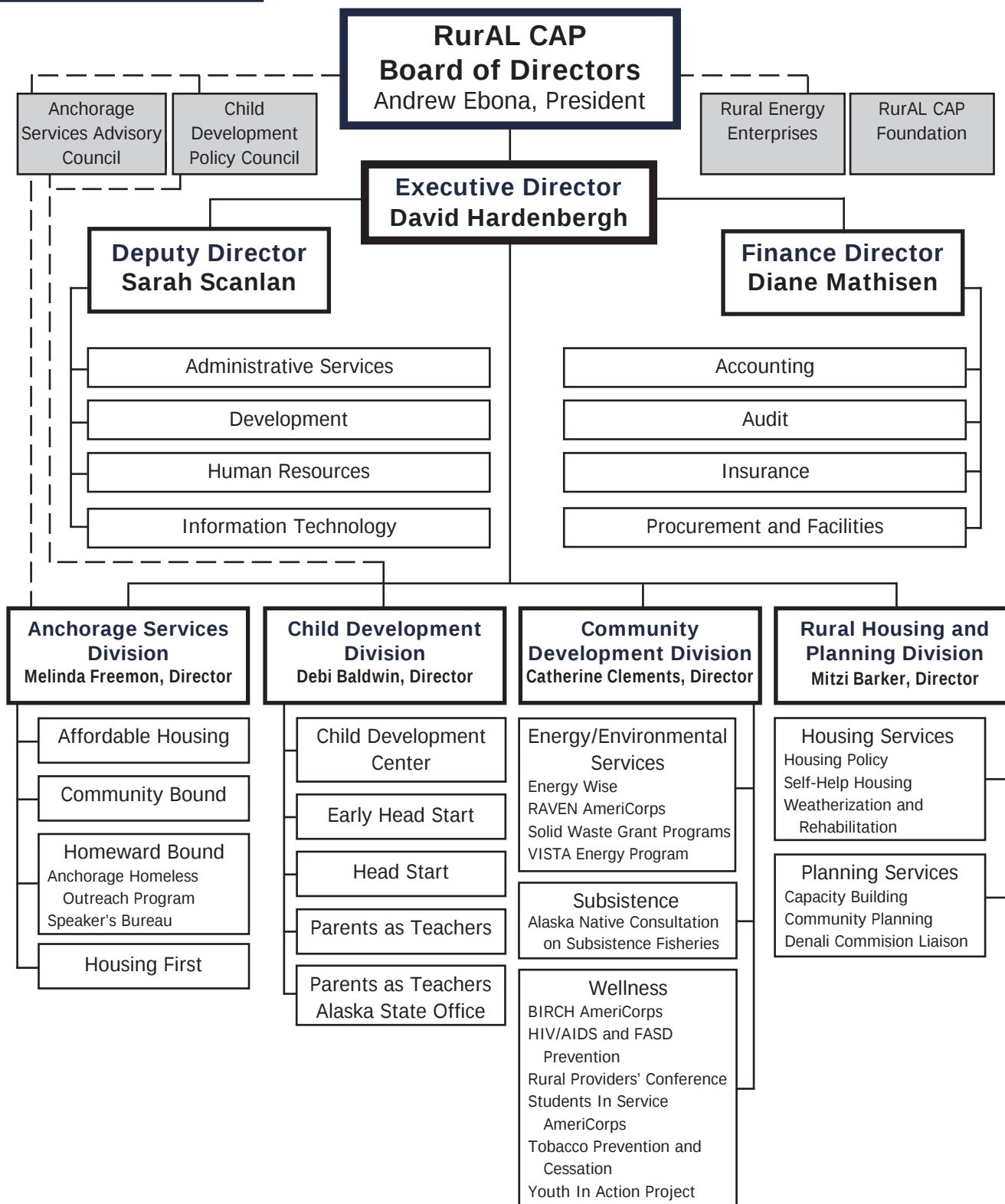
I am blessed to work with such a strong Board of Directors and committed staff. Together we have grown new programs and developed new property. We're serving more low-income Alaskans than ever before and we're making a positive difference in their lives. Our reputation as an organization that gets things done is solid. 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, with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

David Hardenbergh
Executive Director

Organizational Chart



Kasigluk's wind resources combined with the high cost of diesel electricity generation makes wind power an economical and clean energy alternative.
Photo by Tara Loyd

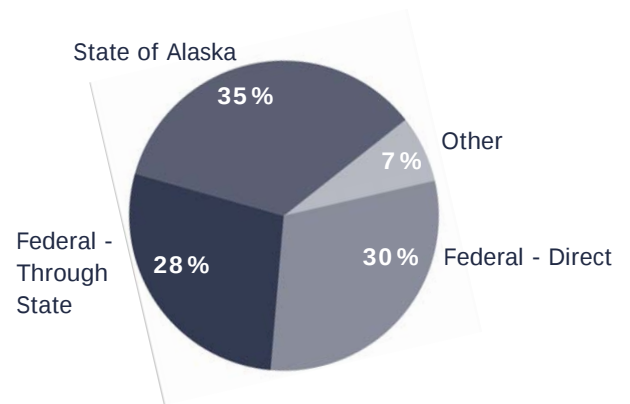
Fiscally Responsible

Financial Summary

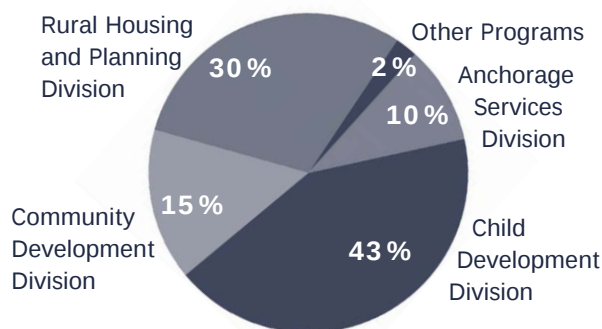
For fiscal year ending September 30, 2010.

Sources	
Federal - Direct	10,132,054
Federal - Through State	9,006,386
Federal - Through Other	275,035
State of Alaska	11,572,948
Local Grants	20,766
Corporation, Foundation & Individual Support	512,454
Other Revenue	1,807,877
Subtotal for Nonprofit Sources	33,327,520
Rural Energy Enterprises	8,116,989
Total	41,444,509

Sources of RurAL CAP Funds



Uses of RurAL CAP Funds



Uses	
Anchorage Services	3,196,515
Child Development	13,698,869
Community Development	4,973,495
Rural Housing and Planning	9,705,857
Other Program	734,637
Subtotal for Nonprofit Uses	32,309,373
Rural Energy Enterprises	7,605,237
Change in Net Assets	1,529,899
Total	41,444,509

These numbers are unaudited totals; the FY2010 audit is conducted by KPMG.

RurAL CAP's federally approved indirect rate of 11% 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.

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 1,048 Alaskans in 91 communities statewide in FY2010, and expended \$32 million (not including Rural Energy Enterprises).

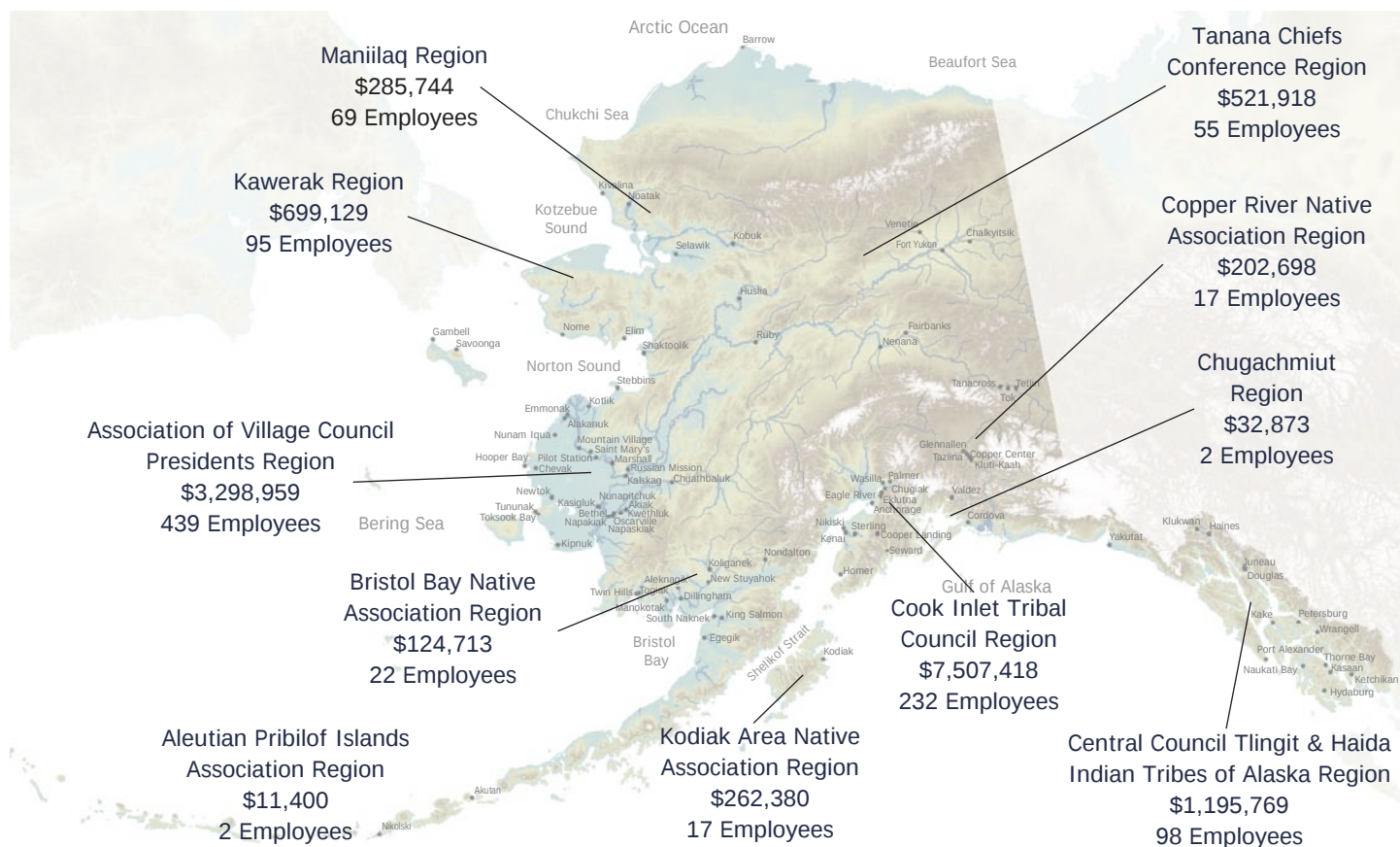
The power of RurAL CAP lies in our ability to listen and respond to the needs of low-income Alaskans. We follow the philosophy that community action is a people process, one which reinforces the values of personal responsibility, community self-reliance, participatory decision-making, and overall well-being. Our 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.



Charlene Joe reads to her son, Kysen, with books from RurAL CAP's Parents as Teachers program in Chevak, Alaska.
Photo by Jolene Firmin-Telford

In 2010, RurAL CAP's payroll was \$14,143,001. See below for a breakout by region.

Economic Impact Map of RurAL CAP Wages



Enhancing 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 comprehensive services ranging from access to detox to housing and employment. The division also serves individuals and families by providing affordable housing opportunities to those with limited income.

A Life Transformed: The Story of Vlad

Vlad was a talented hockey player, had a good job, was married with one daughter, and owned his own home. His life fell apart following a divorce, and by the time he made his way to Alaska in the 90's, he was a chronic alcoholic and was homeless.

He lived at Homeward Bound for months at a time, but had difficulties remaining sober. He ended up returning to the streets where his situation became life threatening. Vlad's boots were taken while living in a homeless camp and his feet became severely frostbitten. Due to losing half his feet to frostbite, he had to move into an Assisted Living Home for a period of time. Having been a very independent person throughout most of his life, he yearned for more autonomy and approached Homeward Bound with the idea of moving into the program's Affordable Housing apartments. Vlad began renting an apartment on June 1, 2005 and has lived in the same apartment for over five years.

Vlad walks again with the assistance of a cane. While he can only walk for short distances, it is a testament of his inner strength. Vlad worked with the Community Bound case manager to secure a steady source of income that would allow him to live independently. He was thrilled to have his own place. The Homeward Bound staff established a special rapport with Vlad and assisted him in obtaining proper medical care and a battery powered scooter. Vlad has been safely housed with a reduction in his alcohol use. He has experienced significant improvements in his health and his independence due to supportive services and his automated scooter. Homeward Bound's continuum of care, from outreach to mobile case management to affordable housing, has allowed Vlad to live a more stable and independent life.

2010 Anchorage Services Division Highlights

- Garnered support from over 400 community members and purchased a building for a Housing First project in Anchorage
- Began construction on a new 7-unit affordable housing project using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds in Anchorage
- Homeward Bound staff initiated 2,193 contacts to refer homeless individuals to treatment and move people from homelessness to transitional housing and other forms of safe housing



Angela Walker, Anchorage Services Division employee, and Vlad at the Homeward Bound Open House celebration.
Photo by Alex Fletcher

Homeward Bound

The Homeward Bound program is a 25-bed transitional living facility located in Anchorage which houses individuals interested in seeking a way out of homelessness. It is a self-paced alcohol management program for chronically homeless individuals. Homeward Bound assists residents by providing outreach to individuals in 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, reintegration activities, volunteer work, individual and group counseling, and life skills classes.

Anchorage Homeless Outreach Program

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

- Opened participation in the Homeward Bound Advisory Council meetings to four previously homeless individuals
- Provided 124 homeless individuals living in camps with emergency cold weather gear
- Contributed over 100 hours of staff time to two Project Homeless Connect one-stop shop events for homeless individuals

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 2010, 56 participants enrolled in employment classes and 18 participants obtained employment.

Homeward Bound Highlights

- 57 Homeward Bound residents resolved one major life issue thereby increasing their likelihood of success in permanent housing
- Since inception in 1998, a total of 379 chronically homeless individuals have been served, with 145 who have moved to stable housing
- Homeward Bound and Housing First projects moved 113 previously homeless alcoholics into transitional or permanent housing



Paul, a former Homeward Bound resident, visits and often advocates for homeless individuals.
Photo by Alex Fletcher



"Let's let the voices of reason and compassion move ahead with a solution to homelessness that has the potential to save money and save lives."

- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

Photo taken in Anchorage by Angela Gonzalez

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. Since its inception in 2007, 25 homeless people were assisted in seeking and retaining housing directly from homeless camps. More are expected to be served with the planned Housing First project in Anchorage. See the inside front cover of this report for more information.

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. It is especially difficult for those with special needs to find decent and affordable housing.

- 50 heads of household remained safely housed for 12 months or longer
- Designed and began construction on the \$1.2 million 7-plex for individuals with incomes at or below 50% of area median income in Anchorage
- Purchased a two-bedroom condominium as rental property for individuals at or below 50% area median income



Board and staff members tour the new 7-plex Affordable Housing building in the Fairview neighborhood in Anchorage. Photo by Angela Gonzalez

"While the reasons for chronic homelessness are known, there is no easy solution. Communities committed to providing basic services to their citizens that include emergency shelter, coupled with public policies that address substance abuse treatment programs, affordable housing, rent assistance, homeless shelters and soup kitchens, and behavioral health treatment can help eliminate this growing concern across our state."

- Melinda Freemon, Director, Anchorage Services Division

Photo taken in Anchorage by Angela Gonzalez

Investing In Our Children

Child Development Division

The Child Development Division provides 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 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 and services to families support self-determination and empowerment.

2010 Child Development Division Highlights

- Provided early childhood and parent involvement to 1,511 children in 29 communities
- Secured continuation funds from the State of Alaska to support Parents as Teachers in communities that did not have other local early childhood programs
- Purchased a 26,000 sq. ft. lot for a new Child Development Center in Anchorage
- 23,518 hours were donated by parents and community volunteers in support of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs
- Successfully completed the Triennial Federal Head Start Review which focused on ensuring high quality early childhood and family support were delivered to children and families



Evelyn Moore, Teacher Assistant at the Emmonak Head Start, encourages exploration and imagination while teaching the children to recognize their names.

Photo by Barbara Roddy

Making a Difference Statewide

2010 Site Map

ANCHORAGE SERVICES DIVISION:

Anchorage

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATION:

Akiak	Homer
Akutan	Juneau
Anchorage	Kasaan
Barrow	Kobuk
Bethel	Kodiak
Douglas	Napaskiak
Fairbanks	Nome
Fort Yukon	South Naknek
Glennallen	Valdez

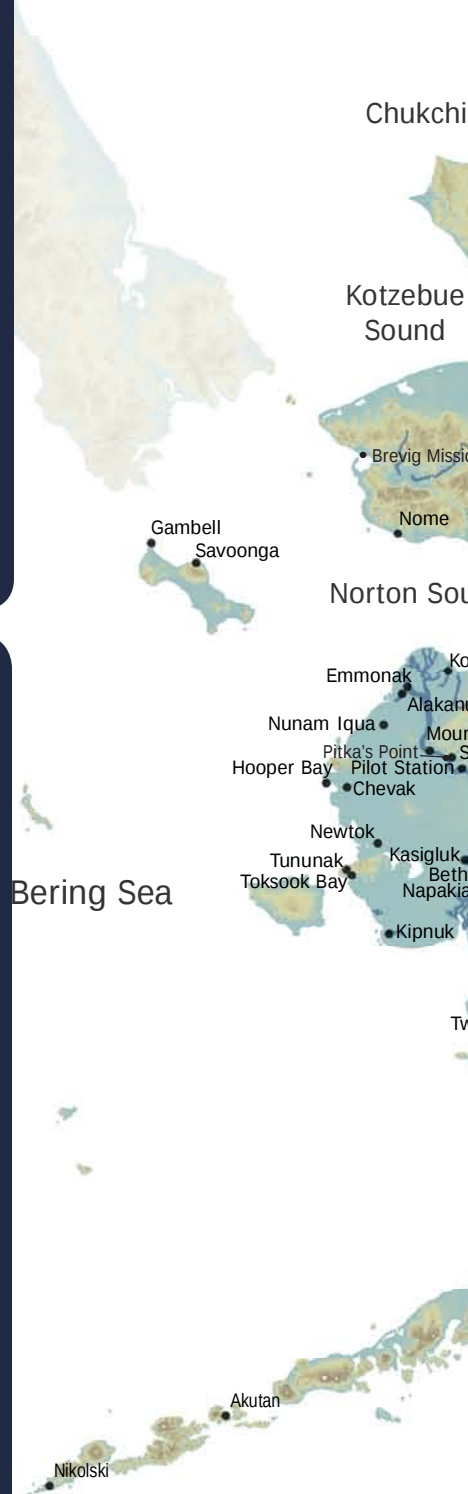
CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:

Akiachak	Gambell	Nikolai	Shaktoolik
Akiak	Gulkana	Nikolski	Sitka
Aleknagik	Haines	Ninilchik	St. Michael
Anchorage	Hooper Bay	Nome	Stebbins
Atka	Huslia	Nondalton	Sterling
Brevig Mission	Igiugig	North Pole	Takotna
Chefornak	Kalskag	Northway	Tanacross
Chenega	Kasigluk	Nulato	Tanana
Chevak	Ketchikan	Nunapitchuk	Tazlina
Chilkat Indian Village	King Salmon	Old Harbor	Tetlin
Chuathbaluk	Kodiak	Palmer	Thorne Bay
Cooper Landing	Koliganek	Pedro Bay	Togiak
Cordova	Kongiganek	Petersburg	Toksook Bay
Crooked Creek	Levelock	Pilot Station	Tuluksak
Eagle River	Manokotak	Pitka's Point	Tununak
Eklutna	Metlakatla	Platinum	Twin Hills
Ekwo	Mountain Village	Point Baker	Venetie
Elim	Napaimute	Port Alexander	Wasilla
Eyak	Napakiak	Port Protection	Wrangell
Fairbanks	Naukati Bay	Quinhagak	Yakutat
Fort Wainwright	Nenana	Ruby	
Ft. Yukon	New Stuyahok	Savoonga	
	Nikiski	Selawik	

Please note: Some communities may not be represented on map.



Head Start and 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 from 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.

In 2010, the Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 973 children and 37 prenatal women. A majority of those served received dental exams and screenings, developmental screenings, and were connected to social services. Local Parent Committees are formed for 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.

Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 24 communities:

- 973 children were served
- 249 single parent families were served
- 83 homeless families were served
- 75 children with special needs were served
- 37 prenatal women were served

School Readiness Initiative Accomplishments:

- For the 4-year old assessments, of the 330 children observed, the percentages demonstrating development mastery are: physical-91%, social-87%, self help-84%, emotional-83%, cognitive-77%, language-70%;
- For the 3-year old assessments, of the 390 children observed, the percentages demonstrating development growth are: physical-78%, cognitive-71%; social-71%, emotional-70%, language-69%, self help-65%.

Head Start and Early Head Start Sites

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

*Also Early Head Start Sites



Savoonga Head Start children practice the concept of weights and measures.
Photo by Angela Gonzalez

Child Development Center

In Anchorage, the Child Development Center provides full-day, year-round child care. 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 2010, 45 children were served by the Center, and five transitioned to kindergarten. A Parent Council promotes family involvement in the Center's activities and events.

In 2010, RurAL CAP purchased land to build a new Center in Anchorage. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2011, with completion in 2012. The new Center doubles the capacity of the current location and will serve 64 children.



RurAL CAP's Child Development Center provides quality care for children ages 19 months to 5 years.

Photo by Mary Gibson

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.

2010 PAT Accomplishments

- 493 children and 38 prenatal women served
- 451 children received developmental screenings
- 3,965 home visits completed by staff
- 210 group socializations facilitated by family visitors



Over 1,200 children in RurAL CAP's Child Development Division received developmental and health screenings.

Photo by Jinelle Scully

PAT Sites

Alakanuk	Anchorage	Kodiak
Chevak	Copper Center	Savoonga
Emmonak	Haines	Seward
Marshall	Hydaburg	Stebbins
Mountain Village	Kake	Tok
Napaskiak	Ketchikan	
Toksook Bay	Kluti-kaah	

"We can all make a difference by giving our children a solid foundation to grow on and the best possible start in life through positive experiences and loving care at all times."

- Melissa Pickle, Parents as Teacher Director

Photo taken in Kake by Lori Hessin-Anderson

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 Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) programs. Each year, RurAL CAP supports up to 150 AmeriCorps and VISTA members in over 50 communities across Alaska. RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Members are recruited locally to address community issues and implement local solutions to those concerns. They gain valuable training, skills and experience and earn an education award after completing a year of service.

Rural Providers' Conference (RPC)

The RPC is an annual gathering of substance abuse service providers, Elders, youth 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 2010, more than 200 people attended the 27th RPC in Kodiak, co-sponsored by the Kodiak Area Native Association. The RPC included 29 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 and activities for youth, families and Elders in the areas of health education, substance abuse prevention and wellness. In 2010, 15 BIRCH AmeriCorps Members completed a year of service. In addition, eight BIRCH Recovery AmeriCorps Members were added as a result of Stimulus funds.

A drum-making class was organized in Haines as a part of an AmeriCorps event.

Photo courtesy of Fred Brouillette, AmeriCorps Member

2010 Community Development Division Highlights

- Over 2,000 homes and residents in 32 rural communities received energy efficiency upgrades and education from the Energy Wise Program that employed 160 rural Alaskans
- Launched the Middle School Partnership AmeriCorps Program in eight schools across Alaska to increase middle school success
- VISTA and AmeriCorps Members recruited 6,916 volunteers who contributed 41,334 hours of community service
- Diverted 137,000 pounds of solid waste from local landfills by RAVEN AmeriCorps Members
- Implemented projects in nearly 100 communities

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation

BIRCH AmeriCorps Members utilize the Tobacco Education and Cessation for Alaskans curriculum and other tools to prevent tobacco use and provide resources to tobacco users who would like to quit. In 2010, 69 tobacco educational presentations were provided, 186 rural Alaskans were referred to cessation services and 59 people were successful in quitting tobacco use. A total of 11 digital stories were created to educate people about tobacco use.



Students In Service AmeriCorps Program

RurAL CAP works with the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to coordinate 80 Students In Service AmeriCorps Members. 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. In 2010, a total of 1,300 volunteers were recruited for 117 community activities.

Youth Action Project

In 2010, 10 RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Members volunteered to commit a portion of their service to working with youth by organizing Youth Action Groups in their communities. The project fosters leadership and life skills development that will lead to future employability. Youth Action Groups are strength-based and focused on health topics, community service, outdoor appreciation, fostering adult-youth relationships, environmental action, tobacco prevention, learning Native dancing, and life skills.

Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN) AmeriCorps Program

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. In 2010, 23 rural communities were served. In addition, five RAVEN Recovery AmeriCorps Members were added as a result of Stimulus funds.

HIV/STD Prevention - Community Voices Project

The HIV/STD prevention project, Community Voices, is an opportunity to engage rural Alaskans to develop media around sexual health for rural Alaskans. In 2010, one round of Digital Storytelling training was held with more to be conducted in 2011.

Early Decisions - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention

Through the Early Decisions Project, RurAL CAP distributes individual prevention materials and information (posters, videos, video games and teaching units) for use by FASD service providers, health care providers, schools, and prevention programs across the state. The FASD peer-to-peer curriculum was developed with the input of youth from four rural communities. In 2010, five youth and four AmeriCorps Members were trained on how to use it and engage other youth in the topic of FASD prevention.



In 2010, RAVEN AmeriCorps Members backhauled 55,000 pounds of waste to recycling facilities. Chantelle Pence helped to organize a recycling project in Tazlina. Photo by Janice Berry

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. In 2010, 69 AmeriCorps and VISTA Members were trained as AVIAQ educators and over 950 homes received AVIAQ educational materials.

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, technical assistance, and backhaul of solid waste. In 2010, 23 rural villages were served.

Solid Waste Management Projects

In 2010, RurAL CAP administered 12 solid waste management projects for the Denali Commission and 10 Community Environmental Demonstration Projects for the Environmental Protection Agency. Several of the communities purchased burn units to help eliminate trash buildup in the dumps and landfills. Other communities purchased bulldozers or skid steer loaders to clean up or cover the ash from burn units, containers and equipment for recycling programs, and set-up new recycling, energy efficiency, and composting projects.

Energy Wise

The Energy Wise Program is designed to reduce residential energy costs and provide training and jobs for rural Alaskans. Household energy consumption and cost assessments are conducted with the resident. Crew members teach and discuss energy cost-saving strategies with residents.

2010 Energy Wise Accomplishments

- Reduced electrical and home heating costs for residents in 32 Alaska villages
- 160 rural Alaskans trained and employed for 6-8 weeks
- 2,000 homes received energy use assessments, education and low-cost, efficiency upgrades
- 7,500 rural Alaskans educated on energy efficiency and energy conservation strategies
- \$300 worth of basic energy efficiency supplies were installed in each home

VISTA Energy Program

In 2010, 13 VISTAs worked to reduce the burden of energy costs in their rural communities. Projects included planning and capacity building for renewable energy options and home energy efficiency education. In addition, five VISTA Recovery Members were added as a result of Stimulus funds.

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.

Alaska Environmental Resource Hub Online (AERHO)

RurAL CAP continued to expand the online resource hub (www.AERHO.org), a website dedicated to addressing local and statewide environmental and health issues. AmeriCorps and VISTA Members and sub-grant recipients use the site as a resource and way to connect with each other.



Victor Williams, an Energy Wise team member, seals a door in Ruby.
Photo by Kent Banks

Enriching Opportunities

Rural Housing and 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.

RurAL CAP is one of the many organizations responsible for weatherizing homes throughout Alaska. Weatherization makes homes more energy efficient by lowering the cost of home heating and thus making more household income available for other basic necessities that keep local economies alive.

2010 Rural Housing and Planning Division Highlights

- 309 homes weatherized in 10 communities
- Successful deployment to provide financial counseling and foreclosure assistance to over 1,500 families
- Completion of nine self-help, owner-built homes in Kenai
- Worked with the Alaska Community Foundation and Foraker Group to launch the Sustainable Communities Fund project in Interior Alaska

Highlight: Default Avoidance and Foreclosure Prevention Project

In 2010, the ARRA-funded Default Avoidance and Foreclosure Prevention project was developed and deployed in Alaska in partnership with Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Alaska and AARP. The project was a statewide housing counseling and legal assistance project aimed at helping homeowners avoid defaulting on home loans or preventing foreclosure. The organizations helped home owners to forge an effective and immediate response to legal and credit issues surrounding foreclosure.



RurAL CAP provided leadership to the effort, and channeled the ARRA funding through two partner agencies with specific expertise in financial counseling and foreclosure assistance, and the capacity to rapidly ramp up their caseload. A telephone hotline was created and a website was developed: www.housinghelpnowalaska.com. In 2010, over 1,500 families were served during the year, and a system has been established for providing ongoing assistance in this area of counseling into the future.



"The Alaska Legislature's bold action to increase state funding for Weatherization has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of homes served, the improvement in housing quality and energy-efficiency, and in job creation, particularly in rural Alaska."

- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

Photo taken in Stebbins by Brad Smith

COMMUNITY PLANNING

RurAL CAP continues to partner with the Denali Commission to deploy 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. In 2010, innovative community planning models were deployed in seven communities: Klukwan, Newtok, Toksook Bay, Kotlik, Pilot Station, Napakiak and Russian Mission. Community environmental planning workshops were conducted in Venetie and Fort Yukon under a contract with the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council.



Charlene Stern, Rural Planning Coordinator, facilitates the development of Venetie's Community Plan.

Photo by Angela Gonzalez

HOUSING SERVICES

RurAL CAP's housing services program helps communities expand and improve affordable, energy-efficient housing options.

Self-Help Owner-Built Homes

Self-Help Owner-Built homeownership projects help modest-income families achieve home ownership through their "sweat equity" contribution which makes the homes more affordable. Their labor helps keep building costs to a minimum, which in turn reduces the cost for self-help homes by up to 30% below conventionally-developed homes. Extensive homebuyer counseling, financial literacy training, and assistance with budgeting and resolving outstanding credit issues are provided to potential self-help participants. In 2010, construction of nine homes was completed in Kenai. Construction on nine new homes will begin in the spring of 2011.

Home Ownership Counseling

The path to home ownership is not as simple as signing on the dotted line and moving in. Even families with stable incomes may find themselves turned away because of lingering credit problems, or a checkered job history, or other issues. RurAL CAP's financial literacy and counseling program, based on the Kenai Peninsula, helps families prepare for home ownership by getting their financial house in order and learning how to handle the responsibilities of home ownership. The program is closely aligned with the Self-Help housing program, but many successful participants have elected to pursue other home ownership options.

"Alaska Native people have always practiced planning. Their survival over thousands of years in a harsh arctic climate is reflective of their capacity to plan from season to season, year to year and generation to generation. The emergence of villages has introduced new planning needs including solid waste (dumps), energy (electricity, fuel), and transportation (airports, roads)."

- Charlene Stern, Rural Planning Coordinator

Photo taken in Venetie by Angela Gonzalez

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. Most weatherized homes receive new insulation on floors, walls and ceilings. Windows and doors are sealed or replaced with more energy efficient ones.



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.

Weatherization is saving the average rural Alaskan customer approximately

\$4,600 a year on home heating expenses, based on pre-and post-AKWARM measures. In Nome, RurAL CAP has partnered with Nome Eskimo Community to deliver Weatherization services to all eligible residents of the city.



Before and after (top) weatherization of a home in Alakanuk.

2010 Homes Weatherized

Alakanuk	18
Juneau	100
Kipnuk	53
Kivalina	16
Noatak	9
Nome	13
Nunam Iqua	16
Oscarville	12
Stebbins	51
Tununak	21

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 2010, 213 people were hired and trained locally.

Impacts of Weatherization and Rehabilitation Services

Estimated Energy Savings	Noatak	Stebbins
Annual Energy Costs Before Weatherization	\$9,036	\$9,096
Annual Energy Costs After Weatherization	\$4,593	\$3,369
Estimated Annual Savings	\$4,443	\$5,727
Percentage Savings	59 %	63 %
Carbon Imprint (pounds)		
Approximate Amount of CO2 Produced Before Weatherization	26,406	31,906
Estimated Amount of CO2 Produced After Weatherization	16,507	16,084
Approximate CO2 Reduction	9,899	15,822
Percentage Reduction	37 %	50 %
*These are a random sampling of homes in each community		

Increasing Energy Efficiency

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 \$350 to \$600 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 233 small entrepreneur dealerships in rural Alaska, and more than 114 dealerships in western Canada and the northwest United States.

2010 Fiscal Year Performance

Gross Sales - \$8,359,201

Net Income After Taxes- \$610,176 (pre-audit)

2010 R.E.E. Highlights

- RurAL CAP has more than \$5 million in equity in R.E.E.
- 84.2% of total sales are from Alaska
- \$1.4 million of products sold in rural Alaska



Toyostove Laser 73 Heater

Rural Energy Enterprises Products

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Air Conditioners | ■ Indoor Fireplaces | ■ Plumbing Accessories & Fixtures |
| ■ Boilers | ■ Inverters | ■ Tent/Camp Heating |
| ■ Carbon Monoxide Detectors | ■ Marine and Boat Heating | ■ Water Heaters |
| ■ Cooking Products for Boats, Cabins, Camps & Emergencies | ■ Non-Electric Oil Heaters & Stoves | ■ Wood & Pellet Stoves |
| ■ Fluorescent Lighting | ■ Oil Heaters & Stoves | |
| ■ Gas Heaters & Stoves | ■ Outdoor Fireplaces | |

"The most effective energy dollar is the dollar that is not spent on heat or light by increasing the energy-efficiency of the home."

- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

Photo taken along the Seward Highway by Angela Gonzalez

R.E.E. distributes Toyostove, Bosch ProTankless, NordicStove, Dunkirk, Drolet, Godin, Rinnai, Nestor Martin, Osburn, 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
Lonnie Jackson, Sales Manager
Jill Keller, Financial Manager

R.E.E. Board of Directors

David Hardenbergh
Shauna Hegna
Phil Kaluza
Bob Lohr
Virginia Moore
Chris Rose



Rural Energy Enterprise Staff



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Website: www.rural-energy.com
E-mail: info@rural-energy.com
Serving rural Alaskans for 23 wonderful years!

"What difference did we make? Ultimately we all want to be able to better answer this question. Whether the question comes from a funder, a board member, someone we serve, or a member of the public, we want to be able to tell you here's what the problem is, here's what happened, here's the result, here's how much it cost, and here's how it made the world better."

- Andrew Ebona, Board President

Photo taken along the Seward Highway by Angela Gonzalez

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

Alaska Division of Behavioral Health
Alaska Energy Authority
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Head Start Association
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council
Alaska Legal Services Corporation
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
Alaska Municipal League
Alaska Native Brotherhood
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Alaska Native Medical Center
Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Alaska Village Initiatives
Alaska Works
Alaskan Aids Assistance Association
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association
American Legacy Foundation
Amundsen Educational Center
Anchorage Area Lion's Joint Sight Committee
Anchorage Association for the Education of
Young Children
Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center
Anchorage School District
Association of Alaska School Boards
Association of Village Council Presidents
Regional Housing Authority
Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc.
Bean's Café
Bering Strait School District
Bering Straits Leadership Team
Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority
Best Beginnings
Bethel Family Clinic
Bristol Bay Native Association
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Brother Francis Shelter
Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation
CARRS/Safeway

Catapult Consulting, LLC
Catholic Social Services
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian
Tribes of Alaska
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Chugach Alaska Corporation
Chugachmiut
City of Hydaburg
City of Kivalina
City of St. Mary's
City of Toksook Bay
Cold Climate Housing Research Center
Community Action Partnership
Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.
Community Investment Futures
Computer Connection
ConocoPhillips Alaska
Consumer Care Network
Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Alaska
Cook Inlet Housing Authority
Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.
Copper River Native Association
Covenant House Alaska
Denali Commission
Dowl HKM
Earthplay
Elihu Foundation
First Alaskans Institute
First Books
First National Bank of Alaska
Food Bank of Alaska
Foraker Group
Gan Yeladim Preschool
Good Search
GrassRoots Fair Trade Store
HOPE Cottages
Indian Health Service
Institute for Social & Economic Research
Kawerak, Inc.
Key Bank
Kivalina IRA Council



Kodiak Area Native Association
Kodiak Island Borough
Kodiak Island Housing Authority
Koniag, Inc.
KPMG, LLP
Lower Yukon School District
Maniilaq, Inc.
Municipality of Anchorage
NANA Regional Corporation
National Association for State Community
Services Programs
National Center for Physical Development and
Outdoor Play
National Community Action Foundation
National Congress of American Indians
National Marine Fisheries Service
Native Village of Alakanuk
Native Village of Kipnuk
Native Village of Noatak
Native Village of Nunam Iqua
Native Village of Oscarville
Native Village of Stebbins
Native Village of Tununak
Nine Star Education and Employment Services
Nome Emergency Shelter Team
Nome Eskimo Community
North Slope Borough
Northrim Bank
Northwest Arctic School District
Northwest Inupiat Regional Housing Authority
Norton Sound Health Corporation
Office of Governor Sean Parnell
Office of Mayor Dan Sullivan
Office of Representative Don Young
Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski
Office of Senator Mark Begich
Pacific Northwest Community Action Partnership
Parents as Teachers National Center
Pick. Click. Give. - PFD Charitable
Contribution Program

Providence Alaska Medical Center
Rasmuson Foundation
Reading is Fundamental
Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Salvation Army
Senior Service America, Inc.
Serve Alaska
Southcentral Foundation
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
Southeast Regional Resource Center
Spirit of Youth
Staples Foundation for Learning
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration
Tanana Chiefs Conference
The Clothesline Consignment
thread
Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
Tok Community Umbrella Corporation
U.S. Corporation for National and
Community Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural
Development
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development
U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
United Way of Anchorage
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Southeast
Wells Fargo
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council



AmeriCorps Member Theresa Lord (at right) supports teens in a team building exercise at the Nenana Spirit Camp.

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