

From the Eyes of the Interim Executive Director:

Hello REACH Friends and Family,

I'm pleased to announce that it's time to pass the baton of my Interim Executive Director role at REACH, Inc. to our new Executive Director! My time in this position has been rewarding and enlightening, allowing me to guide our organization through a pivotal transitional period. I've witnessed firsthand the resilience and dedication of our teams, which are stronger and more united than ever.

As we welcome our new Executive Director, I'm excited about the innovative ideas and fresh perspectives she will bring. Together, we are ready to embark on this new chapter, continuing our mission and making an impact in the community!

I am thrilled to introduce our new Executive Director, Naomi Studevan!

Naomi comes to REACH from Pennsylvania, where she grew up in a small town with family roots dating back over 80 years. She comes from a family of educators, including a great-great-uncle for whom a school was named in the neighborhood where multiple generations of her family were raised. She has two children, Calvin (19) and Chloe (18), and a fiancé, Giovanni. Calvin lives and works in California, while Chloe is a freshman at Drexel University in Philadelphia.



Naomi has acquired over 20 years of personal and professional experience in education and mental and behavioral health. Her personal experience includes navigating early intervention services and the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process for her son.

Professionally, she began her career as a residential counselor and later started her own Education and Behavioral Health Advocacy company, where she worked closely with parents to help them navigate these systems. She also collaborated with service providers to ensure their programs and services adhere to best practice standards, ultimately better supporting the children she served.

Naomi will begin her tenure as the Executive Director at REACH, Inc. on September 30, 2024! Stay tuned for opportunities to meet Naomi in the coming months!

Sincerely,

Sherri McDonald
Interim Executive Director

Employee Spotlight

REACH Support Services has three teams: Team Monique, Team Tim and Team Shane. The Direct Service Professionals under each team ensure that each individual under their care receives the assistance they need where they need it. This month we want to highlight the DSPs under Team Shane. Check out what Shane has to say about his team!

My name is Shane Walker and I am a Support Service Manager at REACH. My DSP team is filled with people who consistently go above and beyond providing services for the individuals they serve. I am humbled by their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. Being a DSP is a truly challenging vocation and they rise to meet this challenge daily.

Direct Service Professionals on Team Shane:

Corazon A.	Michael G.
Nicole A.	Cassandra H.
Tara B.	Donald J.
Rebecca B.	Ruth L.
Danielle C.	Guadalupe RS.
Paul D.	Alan T.
Jacinda F.	



DSP Training Certification Program:

Congratulations to Charina Laguidao on her acceptance into the 2024/2025 National Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (NADSP) Training Certification Program!

Charina will receive 50 hours of tuition-free, NADSP-accredited education through the Alaska Training Cooperative. This program will enhance her skills and knowledge as a Direct Support Professional (DSP). As she completes her coursework, she'll earn E-Badges and financial incentives for each badge! By the end of the training, she'll have the opportunity to earn a total of \$1,600 in completion incentives. Way to go, Charina!



Infant Learning Program Update:

Our ILP team recently switched their Play Group days from Wednesdays to Thursdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m. This change went into effect on September 5. If your family is currently enrolled in ILP, you're welcome to join us at Play Group days on Thursdays at the REACH main office in downtown Juneau. For more information, please call 907-586-8228 and ask for the ILP department.



Welcome to the Team:

Please help us extend a warm welcome to our new employees who recently joined the REACH team! We are excited to have you join our awesome organization and bring your skills to the people and businesses we serve.

Lorin A. - Direct Service Professional
Manny L. - Job Coach
Cameron M. - Custodian
Nova H. - Direct Service Professional
Naomi S. - Executive Director
Marisol M. - Custodian



REACHing Out

INCORPORATED

DSP/Job Coach Appreciation Party



We at REACH want to give another huge thank you to all of the DSPs & Job Coaches! You all do so much for the individuals we support, and we can't thank you enough for your hard work and dedication. We hope you enjoyed the party!

Employee Anniversaries:

We're incredibly proud of the hardworking people who work at REACH, and their dedication does not go unnoticed! Please join us in celebrating the following employee anniversaries for the month of September:

Aytiana N. - 1 year	Hillary L. - 5 years
Robin B. - 1 year	Sherri M. - 11 years
Qin Z. - 2 years	Fely RC. - 13 years
Mitchell H. - 3 years	Maily M. - 16 years
CJ U. - 3 years	Lauro U. - 17 years
Cassandra W. - 4 years	Todd W. - 17 years
Harmony R. - 4 years	



Upcoming Events:

October: National Down Syndrome, ADHD Health Literacy & National Disability Employment Awareness Month
October 4: First Friday Artwalk
October 12: KTOO 50 Fest
October 14: Indigenous Peoples' Day
October 18: Alaska Day - REACH Main Office and Shredding Closed
October 19 & 20: Brilliant Defiance - Juneau Symphony @ the JDHS Auditorium
October 11 & 25: Family Fun Night at the Dimond Park Field House
October 31: Halloween
Thursdays in October: Open Mic at the Crystal Saloon
Fridays in October: Felicidade Fridays at the Crystal Saloon

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