REACH, Inc. Monthly Newsletter

June 2024

REACH's Main Office and Shredding will be closed Thursday, July 4 for Independence

Day

Heads up!

From the Eyes of the Interim Executive Director:

Greetings from REACH, Inc.:

Hey, everyone; I am thrilled to step into the role of Interim Executive Director at REACH, Inc. while our stellar recruitment team searches for a new REACH, Inc. Executive Director. As you know, Dan Elstad has retired after 40 years of employment and is greatly missed. While change can often bring uncertainty, I want to assure each of you that we have a rockstar team and will persevere through this time of transition. I am excited about the future of REACH and where it will take us!



This month, I would like to give a big shoutout and heartfelt thanks to our dedicated Alaska Care Coordinators! These fantastic individuals work tirelessly to ensure that everyone we serve gets the support they need, no matter their challenges. Care coordinators play a crucial role in connecting eligible individuals with essential community-based long-term support, from waivers to medical and social services. They are like navigators in a complex sea, ensuring access to Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services throughout our communities.

Not only that, but they craft personalized support plans that empower those we serve to achieve their goals, promoting independence and enriching community inclusion. They do all this while juggling the intricacies of platforms like Harmony—a testament to their dedication and resilience.

So, please reach out to your care coordinator and show them love! Let them know how much you appreciate everything they do to support you. Together, we are making a real difference!

Sincerely,

Sherri McDonald Interim Executive Director





REACH's Annual Summer Picnic:

Save the date! REACH's annual Summer Picnic will take place on Friday, July 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Savikko Park Shelter #2 (Log Cabin) at Sandy Beach on Douglas Island. Please bring your family and friends and join in the festivities. And for REACH employees, if you are working with an individual that day, you are welcome to bring them too.

The REACH team will be grilling up hamburgers and hot dogs again this year. Also, there will be lots of games, activities, and prizes. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Itinerary:

Picnic and food starts at 12:00 p.m. Tug of War game starts at 1:30 p.m. Raffle prizes announced at 2:00 p.m.



Employee Spotlight:

In addition to our Waiver Support Services, REACH owns and operates two enterprise businesses - Custodial and Shredding. This month, we're spotlighting our hardworking Custodians who clean and maintain up to a million square feet of office space in Juneau. Check out what Custodial Coordinator Daniel Brown has to say about his team!

"The REACH Custodial team "Adapts. Performs. Survives." They are committed to delivering high-quality custodial services with hard working dedicated team members who provide custodial support without question. I appreciate everyone's commitment! Go team!"

Daniel Brown's Team:

Garv B. Tirso G. Joshua B. Michael L. Alfredo C. Rudy L. Ariel C. Tim M. David C. Jay P. Gertrudes C. Justin R. Kaelen D. Richie S. Angelito F. Thomas S.





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.

Tara D. - Job Coach Mairghread M. - Job Coach Anijia M. - Direct Service Professional

Infant Learning Program Update:

This past month our ILP team was busy visiting neighboring southeast communities to offer free developmental screening clinics and spread awareness about resources available through REACH. Community events were held in Haines, Skagway, Hoonah and Gustavus. To learn more about the ILP team check out www.reachilp.org



REACH Website Updates:

We've made some updates to the REACH website and we're excited to share them with you! We've added a new webpage called "Resources" to the site, to provide the community and the individuals we serve with resource links to several local and statewide partners that provide support services for Alaskans. Check them out at www.reachak.org/resources.

We've also added a Blog to the site that features newsworthy topics on the happenings at REACH. Check it out at www.reachak.org/blog.





Employee Anniversaries:

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

Debra D. - 1 year Charina L. - 1 year Jimmie H. - 1 year Destany K. - 1 year Chevelle H. - 3 years Justin R. - 3 years Sylvia J. - 3 years Guadalupe R. - 4 years Agnes E. - 9 years Matthew T. - 9 years Alfredo C. - 13 years Chelsea K. - 21 years





Upcoming Events:

July: Disability Pride Month

July 4: Independence Day, REACH's main office & Shredding will be closed

July 4: Juneau Fourth of July Parade at 11:00 a.m. July 4: Douglas Fourth of July Parade at 3:00 p.m.

July 20: Open Swim at Dimond Park Aquatic Center

Julý 26: National Disability Independence Day

Julý 26: REACH Annual Súmmer Picnic at Sandy Beach, 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

July 27: Fresh Air Market at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center