

From the Eyes of the Interim Executive Director:

Hello REACH Family,

This month, the Mendenhall River flooded our Riverside community, including our first group home on Northland Street, purchased in 1984. We were not alone in this traumatic experience; this natural disaster affected many family homes and personal belongings. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to all affected, especially the four residents and our staff at the Northland home.



Jerry, Miles and Brandon

I am thankful for our strong REACH family support, which is an essential factor when facing difficult situations. We lean on our families for support, comfort, and compassion! And families can come in the form of co-workers, team members, and community members! The Mendenhall River flooding event of our Northland Group Home reminded me how widespread and strong our REACH family is!

For example, Jerry, Brandon, and Miles Godkin arrived at our group home with their industrial-sized sump pumps to remove nearly 58,000 gallons of glacier water from our crawl space for no cost! Their heroic act of generosity left us profoundly moved. It melted my heart when Jerry said he was there to help the "REACH Family"! I looked at Miles, Jerry's grandson, and told him real-life heroes (his dad and granddad) surrounded him. The Godkin family's legacy of service, from Jerry's snow plowing and dirt work to Brandon's continuation of the family business, was instrumental in preventing further damage due to mold and speeding up our recovery process.

Thank you, Jerry, Brandon, and Miles!

Equally important were the efforts of our REACH team. Hannah Ashenfelter, Ralph Bullman, Tamara Marshall, Laurel Stafford, and Tim Marshall demonstrated remarkable resilience and teamwork, addressing the emotional and practical challenges posed by the crisis. Joy Demmert and Jeana Varney fielded calls and offered technical support at the home office. I am also deeply grateful to the parents and care coordinators who offered patience and understanding while we worked to ensure the well-being of the displaced residents.

A special thank you goes to Bill from Juneau Electric, who diligently checked our electrical system, and Seth from PEAK Construction, who responded swiftly to our urgent request, helping us remove wet and damaged materials from the home and leading the reconstruction efforts. Seth's crew has completely removed all the wet and damaged materials from the home. Now, we await new materials to arrive to begin the repair process.

Although we don't yet know how long it will take to restore the home, the overwhelming support and compassion from our community, REACH staff, family members, and care coordinators have been a beacon of hope. We are truly thankful for each and every one of you. Please see the CBJ website for flood recovery services and information. <https://juneau.org/>

Sincerely,

Sherri McDonald
Interim Executive Director

DSP Appreciation Week:

National Direct Support Professionals Week is September 8 - 14 and here at REACH we would like to emphasize all of the amazing work that our DSP staff does on a daily basis. A week is not merely enough to show our gratitude to all of our DSPs. From our job coaches to our group home staff, REACH would like to extend a giant thank you to all of those who make our agency what it is. Further down in this newsletter, we will be highlighting our Glacier Wood group home staff and the great work they do!



Employee Spotlight

REACH owns and operates five Assisted Living Group Homes in Juneau. Each Group Home has a dedicated team who support the individuals we support to lead fulfilling lives. For some insight, this month, we're highlighting our staff at the Glacier Woods Group Home. Check out what Group Home Manager Toni has to say about her team!

My name is Toni B., and I am the manager at Glacier Woods Assisted Living Group Home. At Glacier Woods our team of Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) work diligently to provide the best quality of services to the individuals we support. As their supervisor, I value the time and effort they put into each one of our individuals daily. My team comes together to ensure the welfare of the individuals greatly exceeds expectations. I appreciate each of my staff's hard work and dedication. Without it, Glacier Woods would cease to run!

Direct Service Professionals on Toni's Team

Jennifer B.
Diana A.
Georgia A.
Sequoia K.
Pam MG.
Chloe K.
Tara B.
Enisela U.
Maria M.

We appreciate
all that you do

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.

Ethan D. - Job Coach
Paul L. - Custodian
Tim M. - Custodial Coordinator





REACHing Out

Community Partnerships

REACH is proud to partner with Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL), Inc. to help individuals and families impacted by an intellectual or developmental disability navigate the State of Alaska's application for eligibility for Medicaid Waiver services. We are extremely grateful that SAIL offers a dedicated coordinator to help guide folks through the application process. Our thanks goes to SAIL for being awesome partners to work with!

Fun fact! SAIL was originally started under the umbrella of REACH and later became their own 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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 August:

Bertha L. - 1 year	Andrew C. - 10 years
Sarah G. - 1 year	Pedro R. - 19 years
Keyi L. - 1 year	Pamela MG. - 27 years
Joselle L. - 3 years	
Tripp B. - 3 years	
Alma M. - 6 years	
Oren G. - 6 years	



Upcoming Events:

September: Suicide Prevention Month
September 2: Labor Day - REACH Main Office & Shredding closed
September 6: First Friday Artwalk
September 7: Annual Food Festival & Farmers Market at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center
September 21 & 22: Wearable Art Extravaganza: Neon Apocalypse! at Centennial Hall
September 22: Summer ends/Autumn begins
Tuesdays in September: Jazz Jam at the Crystal Saloon
Sundays in September: Free Pinball Sundays at The Crystal Saloon

REACHing Out INCORPORATED

Thank you to everyone who attended
the Summer Picnic this year!

