REACH, Inc. Monthly Newsletter
July 2024

From the Eyes of the Interim Executive Director:

Greetings from REACH, Inc.:

Hey everyone, happy July! Can you believe it? On April 12, 1978, REACH burst onto the scene as an Alaska non-profit, founded by a dedicated group of parents advocating for their adult children with developmental disabilities. Back then, they set out to create community-based programs, a mission that still drives us today as we work towards building inclusive and barrier-free communities for people with developmental disabilities.



Photo By: Fu Bao

Over the past 46 years, we've been fortunate to have incredible board members steering us towards success. Our Board of Directors might have some new faces, but their commitment to the REACH mission and vision remains unwavering.

Let's meet our current crew! Come join us on July 26 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Sandy Beach for our company picnic, where you can mingle with them in person! It's going to be a blast, so mark your calendars and get ready to have some fun. You can find more picnic details on the next page.



<u>Matt Jones</u> is the President of the REACH Board. Matt has been on the board since August 2006 as a parent advocate. He is on the board to support REACH's mission and strive for REACH to be the most amazing place to work and to receive services.



<u>Valorie Ringle</u> is our most recent past president. She joined the REACH Board of Directors in February 2018 after retiring from teaching. She was looking for a way to serve, and believed she had something to offer to keep REACH, a vital organization for the IDD community in southeast Alaska. Fun Fact about Valorie is, she became an "Uma" again just last week! Congrats!!



<u>Nelea Fenumiai</u> is the Secretary of the REACH Board of Directors. Advocating for people with disabilities is near to her heart. She has been a member since April 2022.

<u>Teresa Sarabia</u> is the Treasurer of the REACH Board and has been on the Board since August 2022.



<u>Jim Scholl</u> is the Vice President of the REACH Board. He has been on the Board since January 2023. Fun Fact: After retirement, Jim hiked the Camino in Portugal and Spain!



<u>Karen Carey</u> joined the REACH Board of Directors in March 2024 out of her passion for ensuring that all people are treated with dignity and respect. She worked for many years with children with disabilities and wanted to continue this path during her retirement.

<u>Randy Sutak</u> is our most recent board member! He became a REACH Board of Directors member in May 2024.

Together, our Board of Directors stands at the helm, steering REACH toward continued success and greater achievements. Their dedication and expertise inspire us all to strive for excellence and uphold our mission and visionary goals. A heartfelt thank you to all our incredible members for their contributions!

Sincerely,

Sherri McDonald Interim Executive Director

REACH Administration Team Updates:

We're happy to announce that our friendly and amazing Front Desk Receptionist, Joselle L., has moved over to our Accounting team as an Accounting Technician! Her last day covering the front desk will be July 23. We will miss seeing her face up front, but we're extremely excited to add her to the Accounting team to grow her skills and talent. Congratulations Joselle!





Annual Summer Picnic:

REACH's annual Summer Picnic is right around the corner! The 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.

Recruitment at REACH:

We continue to search for quality Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) and Job Coaches to join our team. If you know of a friend or family member that would enjoy a fun and fulfilling job that builds lifelong relationships with the individuals they serve, please encourage them to visit our Career page on our website at www.reachak.org/careers or have them call us at 907-586-8228 for more information. Also, any REACH employee who refers someone to apply as a DSP or Job Coach, will be eligible for a \$1,000 referral bonus!





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 July:

Chloe K. - 2 years Cass CW. - 3 years Donald W. - 3 years Jacob M. - 3 years Rogelio S. - 3 years Alan T. - 6 years Nita B. - 7 years Gloria M. - 7 years Thomas S. - 8 years Corazon A. - 9 years Michelle B. - 12 years Jennifer B. - 14 years Maria R. - 16 years Jackie B. - 23 years



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.

Justin M. - Controller Kristian U. - Receptionist

WELCOME ≭ to the TEAM

Upcoming Events:

July: Disability Pride Month

July 26: REACH Annual Summer 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 August: Don't be a Bully Month / National Back to School Month

August 2: First Friday Artwalk

August 6: Michael Franti and Spearhead Concert at JDHS: Yadaa.at Kalé

August 17: Fresh Air Market at the Juneau Arts and Culture Center

August 25-31: Be Kind to Humankind Week

Sundays in August: Free Pinball Sundays at The Crystal Saloon