

# Covenant Youth of Alaska

*A relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry  
for Alaska youth and young adults*

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## Bike Hospital at Checkpoint Youth Center

### Serving Youth in the Community Through Free Bike Repair.

CYAK Staff Member James Ventress is the Director of the Checkpoint Youth Center in Nome, which is jointly supported by Nome Covenant Church and CYAK. Checkpoint is a safe and welcoming place where kids of all ages come to hang out, have fun, learn about Jesus, and experience love.

Recently, Checkpoint hosted it's first 'Bike Hospital', where the youth center's doors were opened to repair bikes, free of charge. A large part of the purpose behind the bike hospital was to open the doors of Checkpoint in hopes of beginning new relationships with the community. It was a success! We asked James to share more about the Bike Hospital; how the idea came about, how the week went, and future plans:

*Free bike repair is something people had been talking about for a while now. Andy Peterson, and Brian Marvin (three men from Nome Covenant Church) and myself had individually talked about it before but had never gathered to do this together at one location; Associate Pastor Nathan Hobbs brought us together under one roof.*

*Andy frequently fixes bikes in his yard for kids on his street. Brian teaches vehicle maintenance and repair classes at the UAF*

*extension campus. There were some kids in the past who brought a few bikes in to Checkpoint where I had done my best to make minor repairs. We don't have much for replacement components so we have been raiding the dump for salvageable components. In rural Alaska, kids who have bikes will literally ride the wheels off. Most of the bikes that kids ride around town are from the cheaper brands that are mass produced. They break down after only a couple of seasons and end up in a ditch or the dump.*

***"Our aim is to bless local families by meeting a simple, tangible need with the hope to begin new relationships with them."***

*Most people in Nome don't have garages so a lot of bikes remain outdoors all year, in rain, sun or snow, where metal rusts and rubber cracks in extreme cold. Many of these bikes would last longer with a little maintenance. Even the wrecks may just need better tires or bearings, which we might find on another dump bike.*

*Our first week of bike hospital we planned to be open three nights, Tuesday to Thursday because we anticipated a lot of interest. We posted several announcements and there was, indeed, a lot of interest.*

**...continued on back page**

## Ministry Highlights



### Shaktoolik Ministry

A group of young adult Leadership Campers spent a day ministering in Shaktoolik!



### Scammon Parsonage

Progress is being made on the parsonage in Scammon Bay thanks to local volunteers and work teams. We look forward to seeing it complete!



### Covenant Bible Camp

It was another wonderful month of ministry at CBC - CYAK's close ministry partner.



## ...from the front page

*Every night we saw kids and teens we know bringing in bikes for us to look at. There were also many parents who brought in bikes for their kids, especially younger children, bikes that we wouldn't have seen otherwise. The Nome Children's Home (a non-profit institution for children and teens in state protective custody) brought five bikes of various sizes for repair. We are confident we can repair three of theirs.*

*Some of the many repairs and adjustments were fairly easy, like brake, seat and handlebar adjustments. Other bikes needed a run to the dump for specific things like a right side pedal, brake cable or crank bearings. There were so many bikes that some spent the weekend at Checkpoint, but a few are likely beyond repair. For the remainder of the summer we will officially dedicate Checkpoint to our bike hospital one night a week, although I am always willing to look at a bike for a quick fix.*

*We were amazed at the number of people who were blessed by this simple ministry. A lot of bikes were given a second start and we met a lot of very grateful parents and kids we didn't know, people who might not otherwise have come into the church or had any contact with us. Our aim is to bless local families by meeting a simple, tangible need with the hope to begin new relationships with them.*

We are grateful for the ministry of Checkpoint Youth Center and Nome Covenant Church, as well as James and all the volunteers who work to make things like the Bike Hospital happen. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers!

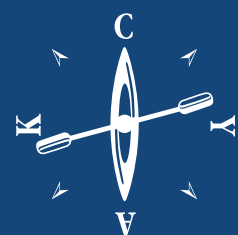


Grateful  
for God's  
provision!

## PRAYER PRAISES & REQUESTS

Receive monthly prayer updates! visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) and click the 'Pray' button. Thank you for your faithful prayers.

- We praise God for new staff members, Tom Mute and Aunie Benson!
- We praise God for a wonderful summer of ministry across the state.
- We praise God for his provision through the land: fish, berries & game.
- We ask for prayer for the CYAK Team Building Retreat this month.
- We ask for prayer for all the students we will meet and interact with throughout this coming school year - we ask for prepared hearts!



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Caitlin Kernak is originally from Bethel, but now lives in Anchorage. This summer, she is serving in Unalakleet as a CYAK Summer Intern! She shares, **"My favorite part about being a CYAK intern is experiencing the love of God in a new way, Through discipleship with CUAK I feel their mission is something I am experiencing first hand."**

We are grateful for her service at Bible Camp (pictured above), as well as in Unalakleet!

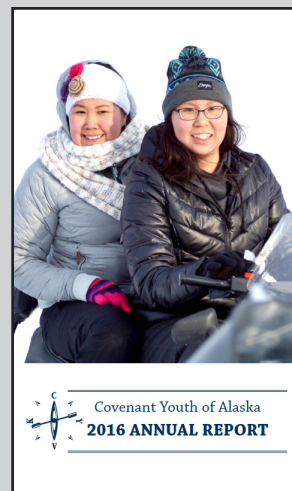
## Connect and Partner!

Connect with  
CYAK's ministry  
through:

- Prayer
- Finances
- Awareness
- Serving

Visit [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org) to learn how!

CYAK's Annual  
Report is now  
available on the  
CYAK website.



## CURRENT MINISTRY NEEDS:

**Ministry Internships:** Give to our internship program to help make it possible to have young Alaskan interns throughout both the school year and the summer.

**Scholarships:** Give the opportunity for a young person to attend one of CYAK's retreats by giving to the Scholarship Fund.

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