



Coming together to create community

Aarigaa House partners provide opportunities for students to thrive

BY DAVID RURIK

For many who attend college it is a time of intensive community learning and an opportunity for individual growth. If you attended college you may think back fondly on the friends you gained through the experience and the life lessons you learned in that environment both through formal education and through learning to live life on your own.

For others, however, the situation is much different. Community is absent and the transition to school is challenging. Our network of partners have engaged in this exact intersection of the need for community and the opportunity to have high value impact on young adults.

Many of the young adults that CYAK works with have found the transition from rural Alaska to be a challenging swing culturally, academically, and socially. For these young adults, the fabric of life abruptly shifts from a close knit bond with a small village community filled with family and friends to a large city where it is easy to go unknown and unnoticed. Young

adults from Western Alaska often find themselves underprepared to survive, much less thrive in the University of Alaska setting, whether in Anchorage, Fairbanks, or other communities.

The broader Aarigaa community that meets together weekly in both Fairbanks and Anchorage provides fertile ground for students to engage in community together. Through the Aarigaa House, a number of these young adults get a chance to find a place to put their roots down deep into stable soils.

Through support of many partners this ministry gives these young adults the opportunity for both academic success as well as to building life skills and habits in a Christian environment. Currently, a Native family from Mekoryuk is living on the Aarigaa house campus with the intent of developing a deeper sense of cultural belonging for our dominantly Native resident base. To date Aarigaa House residents have been three times more likely to complete degrees than their peers who live on campus.

We work with students on a regular basis who need assistance opening a bank account, getting their driver's license or many other tasks that make city life manageable for which individuals often come unprepared to figure out on their own. Countless partners have contributed prayer and financial support to the growth of this ministry in order to serve more young adults. These individuals are choosing to help these students thrive based on their own convictions about community, education, faith and stewardship.

CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

Partners like you sense a desire to give back toward the time of growth and renewal that they felt during their young adult years. Many have chosen to do that through the ministry of the Aarigaa House. Right now, you're invited to contribute to the Aarigaa House Capital Campaign as we raise the remaining 10% (\$100,000).

By making a gift today you give young adults the stability they need to succeed. Thank you! For information and how to make a gift please follow the link below.

www.cyak.org/YourImpact



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Covenant Youth of Alaska is a relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults. A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, we work in partnership with 19 churches across Alaska for the cause of ministry to young people. To join our efforts or to learn more, go to www.cyak.org.