

Covenant Youth of Alaska
2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Make & Deepen Disciples

Jesus said in Matthew 28:19 “Go and make disciples” and that is exactly what we are doing.

Youth and young adults are at a key formational and vulnerable stage in their life.

This is why those on the CYAK team (including you) have made financial and personal sacrifices this past year to accomplish our mission:

To serve Alaska youth and young adults through Christ-centered ministry, partnership, and discipleship, to raise mature believers who will lead the Church for generations to come.

It was extremely exciting this year to see example of this as 10 young adult students chose to live together in Christian Community through our growing Aarigaa House and to see CYAK donors purchase the houses to make it a reality.

Ultimately the Holy Spirit invites us all to invest and commit to work **together** for his mission and purpose. Thank you for responding to that invitation.

Quyanna - Thanks be to God,



Byron Bruckner
Executive Director



MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Mission:

CYAK serves Alaska youth and young adults through Christ-centered ministry, partnership and discipleship, to raise mature believers who will lead the church for generations to come.

Vision:

Vibrant and healthy communities reflecting the gospel of Christ and led by people God has transformed.

Values:

Native Leadership Development
Cross Cultural Ministry
Local Church Collaboration/Synergy
Healthy Relationships in Community
Discipleship & Evangelism
Fun!

THIS YEAR: DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

Walking with students along the day to day journey of life through relationship and discipleship.

TOGETHER, we saw:

- Over 150 youth and young adults involved in consistent weekly discipleship across the state.
- The Aarigaa House ministry grow from 4 to 10 young adults.
- Over 100 young adults come through Aarigaa's doors.
- 16 young adults participate in a discipleship seminar - learning how to reach out and disciple their peers.
- 15 young adults take on committed leadership roles.
- Over 100 teenages (ages 12-18) involved in consistent Christ-centered ministry across the state.
- 5 new staff members join the team.
- One of our interns respond to a call to serve in full time ministry in Unalakleet.



Michelle Benisek is one of several volunteers in Scammon Bay working alongside CYAK youth worker Drew Williams. It has been encouraging to see volunteers discipling youth across the state this past year.

Ministry Highlight: The Aarigaa House

The Aarigaa House in Anchorage is an opportunity for Anchorage based, college-aged young adults to live off-campus in intentional Christian community. Together, the residents work toward spiritual growth, community development, and academic success.

In recent years, the house has been open to five young adult men *or* women, depending on the semester, and has been located in the church parsonage at First Covenant Church.

It didn't take long to recognize a felt need for both a men's and women's house in a more community-friendly space. Thanks to a generous individual, CYAK now rents two buildings just a ten minute walk from the UAA Campus. The goal is to raise the funds needed to purchase the buildings. This move not only made it possible to have both a men's and women's house, but it opened the door for increased growth for the future.

We are excited to continue to see God's work in this ministry!

***“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people
live together in unity!” Psalm 133:1***



Spring 2016 Aarigaa House Residents! We are grateful for the way God has worked in these individuals lives! They have grown in their spirituality, found accountability in their classwork, and learned to love one another in community.

THIS YEAR: REGIONAL EVENTS

Gathering youth regionally, focusing on outreach and furthering growth in Christ.

TOGETHER, we saw:

- The first ‘Spring Camp’ at Chickaloon Retreat Center.
- 60 young adults and staff gather for Leadership Camp.
- Over 750 combined hours of CYAK staff service at Covenant Bible Camp, a key partner in ministry.
- 75 high schoolers from 8 AK communities attend CHIC in TN.
- 37 high schoolers from 5 Norton Sound communities attend Fall Blast in Unalakleet.
- 17 youth and adults from 6 communities travel to Hooper Bay for a ‘CYAK Cares’ weekend of prayer, mourning, and encouragement in response to 4 suicides in the village last fall.
- Our largest Young Adult Retreat in CYAK history take place in February, with over 100 in attendance from 30 communities.



“Fall Blast is encouraging to me because I can see how God is working in our region and how he brings the youth together to serve and worship him.” Kirstian Haugen, Unalakleet



CYAK’s largest young adult retreat gathered young adults from Aarigaa Anchorage, Aarigaa Fairbanks, Alaska Christian College, and Mountain Village!

THIS YEAR: YOUTH WORKER SUPPORT

Equipping and encouraging local volunteers and teachers to take up the call of ministering to youth.

TOGETHER, we saw:

- Increased pathways and support for local youth ministry through the CYAK regional support network.
- Participation from 27 individuals in 12 communities in our village youth worker support conference calls (see map below).
- 100 Take N’ Bake pizzas, 200 pounds of coffee, \$5,000 worth of tutoring supplies, countless pounds of food, discipleship materials, and much more sent to western Alaska to support youth workers as they led fundraisers, outings, weekly gatherings, retreats and more.



Communities represented on the regular village youth worker conference call stretched from the Norton Sound to the YK Delta to the Road System.

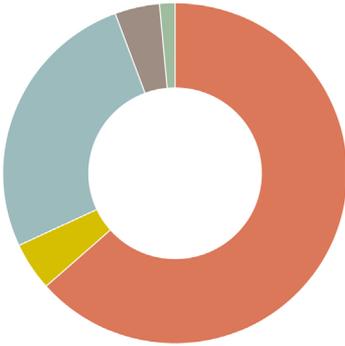


CYAK Youth Workers Drew and Holly Williams gather together with Scammon Bay youth to pick up pizzas sent from Anchorage for a Bible Camp fundraiser!

FINANCIALS

INCOME

\$973,883



- Partner Gifts \$618,057
- Grants \$44,599
- Church Partnerships \$256,164
- Registrations/Payments \$40,918
- Scholarships \$14,145

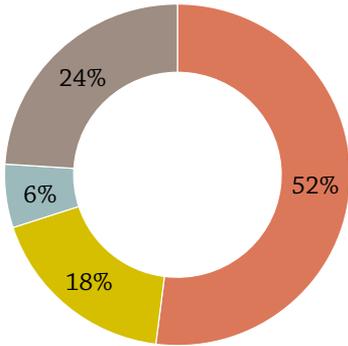
Many partners responded to God's call to contribute financially in the last fiscal year beyond our expectations. The CYAK partner network grew substantially this year allowing 5 new staff members to join the team in reaching out to youth. God is leading CYAK through a multi-year growth phase and with increased support the Gospel will go farther and deeper into the lives of Alaska's young people. Thank you!



CYAK Staff Member Lindsey Clise and three young adult women from Aarigaa Anchorage and Alaska Christian College enjoyed some sunshine in Portage this spring. We love spending time with students outdoors in God's creation!

EXPENSES

\$847,998*



- Outreach and Discipleship
- Youth Worker Resourcing
- Fundraising
- Ministry Support**

*Difference in income and expenses represents contributions to reserves and designated funds.

**Ministry Support includes direct program support, communications, administration and organizational development/strategic planning.

Complete financials available upon request.



High Schoolers from western Alaska hung out at First Covenant Church in Anchorage before joining other students from Alaska to attend the Covenant's CHIC youth conference in Tennessee last July.

JAYNE: INSPIRED TO SERVE

After a string of suicides in the community of Hooper Bay last fall, CYAK and the Alaska Conference put together a team of youth and adult volunteers to travel to Hooper Bay for a weekend of care. Jayne Hanna, a high schooler from the village of Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island, was one of the youth that served on the trip. She helped lead a carnival for over 100 kids from the community, shared her testimony with other youth, and was a vital part of the ministry team. She shares about her experience serving below:

“I’m thankful for opportunities to serve with CYAK because to me, it’s encouraging to connect with other youth striving to follow God and strengthening their faith. It’s powerful to see your peers choosing to walk with God rather than simply conforming to popular ideals. In this same way, I wish to pass on encouragement to others by reaching out to people in different communities. Actions speak louder than words and humbling yourself to serve others professes your faith and shares God’s love. CYAK helps make this possible for both youth and adults across Alaska while teaching us ways to grow in our faith and become godly leaders.”



Giving youth like Jayne opportunities to serve their peers and be developed as leaders is a strong value for CYAK. We are grateful for Jayne and look forward to seeing where God leads her!



Over the CYAK Cares weekend in Hooper Bay, volunteers held a carnival for kids in the community. There was facepainting, games, prizes and more. It was a huge success and wonderful opportunity for outreach!

LOOKING AHEAD

“To God be the glory, great things he has done; So loved he the world that he gave us his Son.” This old hymn captures it. It is because he gave us his Son - his grace and forgiveness that we experience true life and we are able share that life with young people here in Alaska.

We are grateful...

That this past year, through your generous contributions, God has grown staff numbers and increased our capacity to disciple and develop leaders more effectively.

We look forward to...

Seeing students start the journey of faith, grow deeper roots in their relationship with Christ, and mature in their leadership formation.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership. ***Together***, we look forward to continuing to pursue the mission of Christ with the youth and young adults of Alaska.

To God be the Glory!



Byron

CYAK Strategic Priorities

We have begun year two of a three year strategic plan. We look forward to continuing work on these priorities in the coming year.

- 1** Improve CYAK Structure & Operations to support growth
- 2** Expand Aarigaa to meet demand
- 3** Improve local youth support
- 4** Identify a youth-centric methodology to break generational cycles of pain



*“Know therefore that the Lord your God is God;
he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of
love to a thousand generations of those who
love him and keep his commandments.”*

Deuteronomy 7:9



THANK YOU!

*CYAK is a ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical
Covenant Church of America. Learn more at www.cyak.org.*