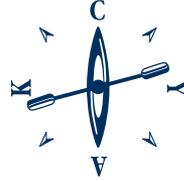


COVENANT YOUTH OF ALASKA

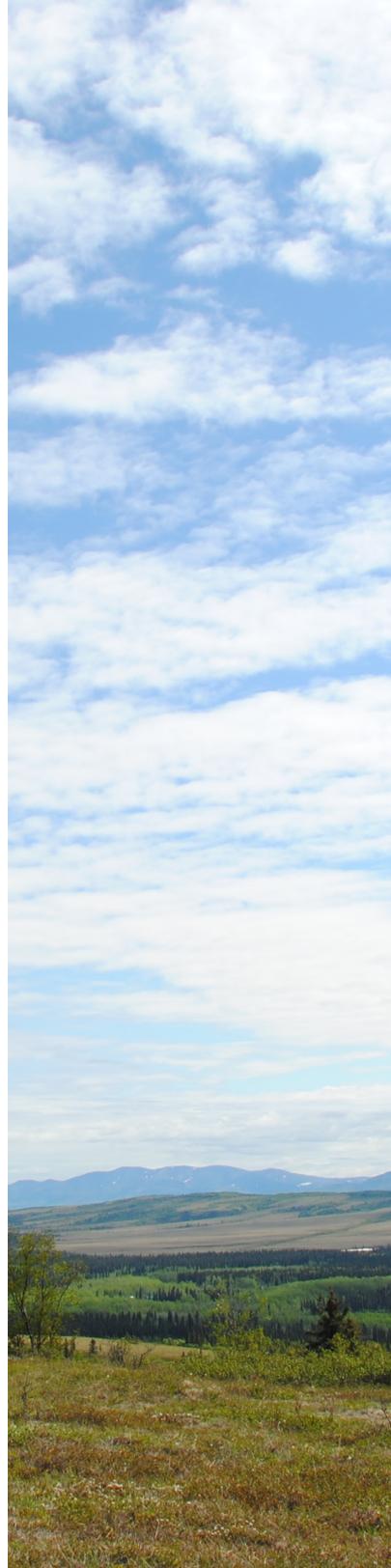


2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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A WHALE OF A VISION

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

– this is the vision of Covenant Youth of Alaska.

How do you eat a whale? One bite at a time and not on your own. In Alaska Native culture, a whale is never harvested or consumed by one person, it is a community effort shared by all. The key to our vision of creating ‘vibrant and healthy communities reflecting the gospel of Christ’ is to reach, disciple and develop the next generation of leaders.

We cannot do this on our own – the only way this will happen is through partnership. We need you to help with this Whale of a Vision especially in the challenging emotional and spiritual landscape of Alaska.

This annual report reflects our strategic work including development of the Aarigaa

young adult ministry, Bible Camp/CYAK organizational merger, improving our overall operations and providing local youth support for village based youth ministry.

Through work in these strategic focus areas we are excited to see CYAK develop and to see more leaders engage as volunteers, ministry interns, and vocational ministers in their church and community.

Your investment helps us as we develop as a ministry so youth and young adults can grow in their spiritual life and leadership.

We are so grateful for your deep commitment as we covenant together to make disciples among the youth of Alaska.



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!





DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

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

We were encouraged TO SEE:

- Over 175 youth and young adults involved in consistently weekly discipleship across the state.
- Over 110 young adults from 30+ Alaska communities come through Aarigaa's Doors.
- 13 young adults serve in committed leadership roles.
- Youth from our three key regions: Norton Sound, Yukon Kuskokwim Delta, and Road System, step into leadership roles.
- 10 young adults live in the Aarigaa House.
- 8 youth and young adults help lead worship at events and gatherings throughout the year.



Aarigaa House Staff and Residents Spring 2017. The Aarigaa House offers a stable, supportive, and encouraging environment to young adults as they study at the University of Alaska in Anchorage.

REGIONAL EVENTS

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

We were encouraged TO SEE:

- 100+ young adults at Fall 2016 Young Adult Retreat.
- 30 High Schoolers attend High School Fall Blast in Nome.
- 27 Jr. Highers from Koyuk, Unalakleet, Elim and Nome at the Jr. High Fall Blast in Nome.
- 28 High School Students at the Road System Retreat in Big Lake.
- 55 campers and staff at Leadership Camp in late May.
- Over 1,000 combined hours of CYAK staff ministry at Bible Camp.
- Aarigaa men's and women's spring retreats held in Fairbanks.
- The 2nd annual Spring Camp for young adults at Chickaloon Retreat Center.



CYAK's Annual High School Road System Retreat took place in Big Lake this year. Students from Anchorage, Eagle River, Palmer and Wasilla joined together for an awesome weekend. The theme was Ephesians 2:8-10 'Don't Conform'.

LOCAL YOUTH SUPPORT

Supporting youth by equipping and encouraging local volunteers to take up the call of ministering to youth.

We were encouraged TO SEE:

- 19 people from 7 communities attend the Youth Worker Retreat in Nome to ‘Encourage, Edify, & Equip’ youth leaders to better reach youth in their communities.
- Network Leaders in the Norton Sound, YK Delta, and Road System continue to connect with youth leaders - vocational and volunteer - in various communities in each region.
- 17 youth worker care packages sent to those working with youth in Western Alaska.
- Mekoryuk youth volunteer Devin Thurston receive 2nd annual CYAK Youth Worker Volunteer of the Year award.



CYAK Staff and Volunteers gathered together at Checkpoint Youth Center in Nome for a weekend retreat of encouragement, fun, and training. We hope to see more events like this take place in the future to support volunteers!

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT: SCAMMON BAY SHOP

Through the previous year, CYAK staffer Drew Williams caught a vision for working alongside youth in his village of Scammon Bay. Drew reflected on a simple interchange he had which sparked the vision of creating a workshop space to be used with students.

“I own chickens in the village and the other day I wanted to add a new perch to their yard. So, I found an old birch branch I had lying around drilled some holes in it and fed some wire I had through the holes to hang it. While outside I bumped into one of our youth group kids and asked if he could help me by hanging it up, mostly by just holding the new perch while I climbed inside. It took about 5 minutes. I thanked him and went on with my day.

The next day the young man’s dad, a friend of mine, stopped me in the street and told me that his son came home that night and couldn’t wait to share with his whole family how he got to help me build something. To me it was a simple moment where I just needed a third hand. But to this young man it clearly meant much more.”



Drew’s vision of a creating a workspace for students became possible thanks to a CYAK partner who contributed funds toward the project. A shipping container was purchased, and is being transformed into a shop space and filled with tools and materials by several church partners. CYAK partners create environments for more discipleship stories in locations all across Alaska.



Top: CYAK Staffer Drew Williams and youth in front of the connex that will be used as a shop. Bottom: The beautiful village of Scammon Bay in summer.

CYAK & BIBLE CAMP MERGER

Covenant Bible Camp and Covenant Youth of Alaska have a long history of meaningful partnership. CYAK Staff have always been a key source of staffing for the camp season, and both of the two preceding Bible Camp Directors have also served on CYAK Staff. Because of this, many people often consider the two ministries as one in the same. However, for the past several years of Bible Camp's ministry, both Bible Camp and CYAK have been separate organizations with separate boards, under the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska.

Over the course of the past year and a half, the Bible Camp Board of Directors went through two strategic planning sessions. These gatherings made it clear that the ministry of Bible Camp had grown to a point where having one part-time Executive Director was no longer sufficient. Expanding the director role or adding additional staff was determined to not be fiscally sustainable.

Through prayerful discernment, the leadership of Bible Camp decided that a merger with a close ministry partner was the best option. Naturally, Covenant Youth of Alaska, with its common mission and heart, became the best possibility.





After careful consideration by the CYAK Board, CYAK leadership, and the Alaska Conference General Council, it was decided that in January of 2017, the legal merger would take place and Covenant Bible Camp would officially fall under the organizational structure of Covenant Youth of Alaska.

We have already seen how God has used the CYAK staff team to share and build on the work of previous Camp Boards and Directors, and we look forward to seeing how that will continue in the future. This as an opportunity to deepen how we already share ownership of the ministry to open it to further growth in Kingdom work. We are grateful that God is faithful to lead and provide!

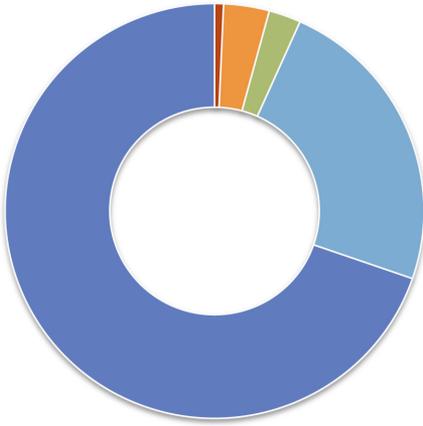
If you have questions about the merger, visit www.cyak.org.



FINANCIALS

INCOME

\$1,007,426



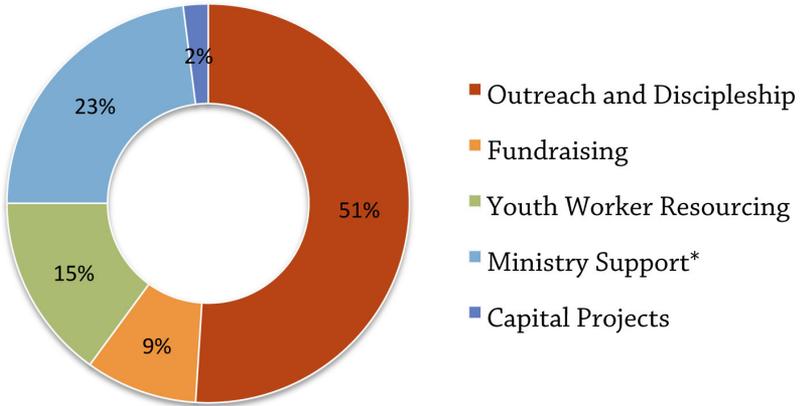
- Scholarships \$6,960
- Payments/Registration \$35,519
- Grants \$25,000
- Churches \$237,665
- Individual Partners \$702,282



CYAK's Second Annual Spring Camp at Chickaloon Retreat Center! Young adults from Aarigaa Anchorage and Alaska Christian College joined together for five days of fellowship and community together. Aarigaa, it is sweet!

EXPENSES

\$983,509



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

Complete financials available upon request.



CYAK Staff gathered together for an annual retreat at Alaska Christian College in Soldotna last August. We were blessed to be together and deepen our learning around cross-cultural communication and ministry.

A YEAR IN PICTURES



April: Fun at Annual Meeting in Scammon Bay.



May: 2nd annual Spring Camp in Chickaloon.



June: CYAK Staff serve at Bible Camp in UNK.



July: Youth group fishing success in Nome!



August: Curtis & Byron at CYAK Team Retreat.



September: Young Adult Retreat in Big Lake.



October: Jr. High Fall Blast in Nome!



November: Sr. High Road System Retreat.



December: Carol singing at Aarigaa Fairbanks.



January: CYAK and Bible Camp merger.



February: Youth worker training in Nome.



March: Aarigaa House spring residents!

*For from him and through him and for him
are all things. To him be the glory forever!*

Romans 11:36



On behalf of the Covenant Youth of Alaska Board, Staff
and Volunteer Team, we want to say:

QUYANA, THANK YOU!

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