

Covenant Youth of Alaska

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

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Aarigaa House: Essential Community

Aarigaa staffer Lindsey Clise shares about the importance of intentional Christian community.

In my experience, we all crave community. When we have community, we thrive. We are able to weather the challenges life brings and know we aren't alone. How much more critical is it for young people, leaving home for the first time, to find community when they go away to college? Community comes in all sorts of shapes and sizes - but there is something special that happens when people choose to build community together.

The Aarigaa House is a place where young adults studying at the University of Alaska Anchorage choose to live in intentional Christian community together. Students from all over Alaska, from villages and urban areas, and all different walks of life come and choose to be a community for each other. The goal is to see these young people succeed in school and life, grow in faith, and have a safe and encouraging place to live while they work towards their academic goals.

I recently asked a student why she chose to live in the Aarigaa House. She had lived a semester in the UAA dorms before

moving into the Aarigaa House, and has been a resident of the house for the last 3 semesters. She said dorm life was hard - it was challenging to get to know people and she struggled to find a place where she was comfortable. She said she has stayed in the Aarigaa House "because there is always a friend around."

"Individuals are stronger when they are part of a group where they are known, loved and challenged to grow."

Intentional community is a sacrifice. We live in a world where individual space and time is valued more and more; choosing to live in close relationship with others is a challenge. Choosing to let people into your life, and choosing to be a person others can rely on can take a toll. It feels dangerous to let people in and let them see more of you than just your "best self" that you show to the world. But individuals are stronger when they are part of a group where they are known, loved and challenged to grow. Galatians 6:2 instructs us to "carry each other's burdens" and that is the heart of the Aarigaa House. Thank God that we don't have to go through life alone! Community where we can share the burdens and the joys is truly a gift He has given us!

Continued on back page...

Ministry Highlights



Volunteer Award

Devin Thurston, a teacher in Mekoryuk, was awarded the CYAK Volunteer Youth Worker of the Year award for his work with young people in Mekoryuk. Thanks Devin!



Scammon Bay Shop

CYAK Staffer Drew Williams worked with a supporter to secure a connex for workshop space with students!



Checkpoint Youth

Even with school out, it's been awesome to see kids continue to come to Checkpoint Youth Center in Nome!

...from front page

The Aarigaa House has had a lot to celebrate this year. We just completed the first full year in the new property (two side by side duplexes near UAA campus). The move to the new property made it possible to have both an Aarigaa Men's and an Aarigaa Women's House, as well as room for more students as the houses grow. The Men's House was filled to capacity in this last Spring semester. Students have seen their grades and their GPAs rise. There have been awesome snow-machining trips in Hatcher's Pass, fun camping retreats in Chickaloon, Friday night dinners, and hours and hours of card games. We are all looking forward to another year at the Aarigaa House!

The ministry of the Aarigaa House is possible through the faithful prayer and financial support of partners around the country. Just like our staff all across Alaska, the Anchorage team relies on financial partners to allow them to do the work that they are doing. CYAK is closing in on a capital campaign goal of purchasing the duplexes which will create a sustainable model wherein students far into the future can benefit from this needed community space. More info on the capital campaign below under 'Current Ministry Needs'.

Covenant Bible Camp

Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet is underway! Please be in prayer for campers and staff through June!

Leadership May 30-June 5
High School June 5-12
Jr. High June 12-19
Pathfinders June 19-24
Trailblazers June 24-29



THEME: Love God, Love Others "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." 31
The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:30-31



CYAK Summer Interns!

Kaitlin and Tatiana serve as CYAK Interns!

We are excited to have Kaitlin Tom and Tatiana Chanar serve as CYAK Summer Interns. Both young women are currently serving at Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet through June. In July, Kaitlin will be heading to Mountain Village and Tatiana will be heading to Scammon Bay to work with youth for the summer. Keep them in prayer!



PRAYER PRAISES & REQUESTS

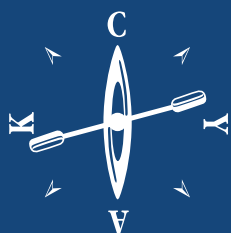
Sign up to receive monthly prayer updates, visit www.cyak.org.

Praise: For all those who have signed up to be at Bible Camp this June!
Praise: For our two summer interns, Kaitlin Tom and Tatiana Chanar.
Praise: For every person investing in the lives of youth in their community.
Prayer Request: For Camp! Taking place throughout the month of June.
Prayer Request: For young adults making plans for the fall semester.
Prayer Request: For our staff - for some time of rest this summer.

Thank you for your faithful support of CYAK's ministry through prayer.

CURRENT MINISTRY NEEDS

Aarigaa House: The Aarigaa House Capital Campaign will provide ongoing financial sustainability to this essential ministry. **Your contribution to this effort will be matched using an anonymous \$50,000 matching challenge gift.** Consider contributing! Email david@cyak.org for more details.



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