



# Developing and Sending Leaders

## CYAK Intern Charis Erhardt Moves to Unalakleet to Serve Youth

BY DAVID RURIK

One of the values where CYAK partners most strongly connect is seeing leaders developed for both the church and community. Evidence of this connection and the value are visible through Charis Erhardt's vibrant growth as a leader with CYAK.

In the spring of 2012, Charis Erhardt showed up to a weekly Aarigaa meal and worship time in Anchorage at the invitation of a couple friends. Her involvement with the college ministry grew rapidly and connections around the state followed. Having grown up in Southeast Alaska, Charis found a new pathway leading west out to Unalakleet and Covenant Bible Camp where she served that summer.

***"The Aarigaa community is special; it's unique. It's where I felt like I belonged. It's where I felt really encouraged in my walk with God." - Charis***

Charis' heart for service and attention to her peers led quickly to an invitation to serve as a CYAK Intern working alongside Jamie Rose, the

Aarigaa Anchorage Director. Through the generous support of many the internship became a pivotal piece of her journey in Christ.

From her initial steps of walking with the Aarigaa community in 2012, Charis noticed something different.

"Attending Aarigaa opened up my eyes to people my age serving and loving the Lord and being encouraged in that," she said. "That's what changed for me, something clicked and I started trusting and believing that it was God that said 'this is it, this is where I want you.'"

Rose's discipling and mentoring work with Charis over the past two years opened several doors as God has continued to place a call on her life, one of which led back to Unalakleet.

"Charis has been affirmed, encouraged, equipped, and challenged as a servant leader in the ways and name of our Savior Jesus. She has grown tremendously, and as she goes on to serve as the vocational youth minister of the Unalakleet Covenant Church my heart is full to see her

continue to follow Jesus," Rose said.

Charis' move to Unalakleet fulfills the mission of CYAK in raising mature believers and equipping them for ministry and community leadership.

CYAK's history is replete with youth maturing into disciples of Christ who are equipped for service. Your participation in this new generation of those being sent by God is key.

"Being able to compensate Charis for her internship allowed her time to be freed up to focus on God's calling on her life," Rose remarked.

We are grateful for Charis, and the way that she has allowed God to speak into her life and direct her next steps!

### CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

Charis is one of many young adults who has been encouraged, strengthened, and challenged in her walk with Christ through CYAK. You can help others experience the power of Christian community in college by giving to CYAK's Aarigaa ministry.

**Will you continue your impact?  
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PO Box 203356  
Anchorage, AK 99520  
(907)625-1525  
[www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org)

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](http://www.cyak.org).