



## Partners Gather to Create

Individual partners alongside churches purchase new workshop in Scammon Bay

BY DAVID RURIK

What started out as a simple yard chore for CYAK staffer Drew Williams turned into a new opportunity to work with young people in his village. His efforts combined with those of a CYAK partner and several churches established a new place of direct discipleship opportunities in the community.

Williams shares,

*“I have a chicken coop near my house in Scammon Bay. 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 in hanging it, mostly 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 kid’s dad 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. To this young man in Scammon Bay it clearly meant much more.”*

This exchange happened last summer and since then, Williams

brainstormed and vetted a plan to acquire a small workshop space which will hold appropriate tools and materials to work on projects with local students. It will be a space where hands-on time meets intentional discipleship.

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A CYAK partner from Colorado found out about this project need and offered to help acquire the shipping container that you see in the photo above. Shipping containers are often used for shops and storage in Alaska and will be transformed into a fitting, secure and durable workshop space.

Partner churches who did work on the Scammon Bay parsonage in 2016 as well as others have offered to outfit the shop with the tools needed for this endeavor.

Williams is excited as he will be working with students to create items such as ulus (traditional knives) and jewelry among other things. Some students may choose to market their crafts in order to raise funds to attend CYAK events

such as a week at Covenant Bible Camp in Unalakleet, which many youth look forward to every year. Youth like the young man who helped Williams hang his chicken perch will gain valuable skills in this space and were it not for the

teamwork of local staff, individual partners and churches this shop couldn’t come to fruition.

There are many tangible ways to get involved in the work of CYAK. Please continue to be in prayer and consider partnering with a project that you find interesting! People like you are the way that the ministry continues to walk with youth, help them gain new skills and navigate a challenging environment.

### CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT

You are a part of the team that God has called together to impact youth and young adults in Alaska. When you give, you create needed learning opportunities for ministers who are discipling students across Alaska for the glory of God. Thank you. For information and how to make a gift follow the link below. **Will you continue your impact?**

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