



## Partnering to Serve

### CYAK's Value of Partnership Allows Ministry to Advance and Thrive

BY DAVID RURIK

Consider the impact that the collective group of people who you call mentors, parents, friends and coaches have had on your life. Likely these individuals impacted you through a variety of different avenues and channels producing an environment in which you were able to grow and mature.

It is this process and journey that CYAK describes as the Continuum of Discipleship Care; a vast network and series of ministry programs and partnerships that allow the youth of Alaska to know Christ, grow in relationship with him and go in his name.

Over the course of the last few years, key CYAK partnerships have grown and developed significantly as our scope and reach has continued to gain traction. As a team of just 20 staff in an enormous state, the partnership value that CYAK holds carries with it special value in each of our local sites. Partners range in size and scope but each are key strings in the net CYAK weaves to support students from ages 12 to 25.

Alaska Christian College is one of the key partnerships for CYAK in the effort to effect real change in the lives of people in Alaska. ACC has been a

stable discipleship school opportunity for 15 years for students from rural Alaska (more at [alaskacc.edu](http://alaskacc.edu)).

Over the years, ACC has supplied trained ministry interns for work with CYAK and now two ACC graduates are serving as full time staff with CYAK. Much of the relational connection between the ACC and CYAK communities stem from the twice yearly CYAK Young Adult Retreat in Big Lake.

The partnership has grown recently as the CYAK team gathered on the ACC campus in late July for our annual staff retreat for mutual encouragement and growth. The ACC facilities provided an excellent space for the team to be together building the trust and relationships necessary to pass students from one site to another.

Tim Ciccone, the Director of Youth Ministry for the Evangelical Covenant Church, also joined in the time together and described the CYAK team retreat this way,

***“The work that was done and the bonding that happened on this retreat is absolutely necessary for the collaboration of vision and forward momentum to the youth movement***

***in Alaska. This retreat felt like a launching point for great things to come!”***

You are a part of the team that God has called together to impact youth and young adults in Alaska. Not only do we have some of the most committed staff on the ground in Alaska, but we have some of the most committed partners around the country driving the vision of CYAK forward.

The truth is that students are being daily disciplined and brought into closer relationship with Jesus because of the broad family that we call the CYAK team and network. Consider the impact that your giving has on the lives of young people as we do kingdom work in partnership.

#### CONTINUE YOUR IMPACT TODAY

ACC is one of many partners that play a key role in reaching youth and young adults with the hope of Christ in Alaska. Giving to 'Partnership Development' will help us continue to develop those partnerships so we can reach more youth in Alaska together!

**Will you continue your impact?  
Visit [cyak.org/YourImpact](http://cyak.org/YourImpact)**



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of Alaska**

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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).