so much to celebrate

Hope Community Resources
2020 Annual Gratitude Report
Hope /hɔp/ noun. an optimistic state of mind based on an expectation of positive outcomes.
Welcome

Incorporated in 1968, Hope Community Resources, Inc. provides services and supports throughout Alaska to people who experience intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health challenges, and complex medical conditions. Services and supports are requested and designed by people and their families that result in choice, control, family preservation, and community inclusion.

Together we can help build bridges to meaningful lives for all Alaskans.

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Table of Contents

Reflections from Michele..........................3
A Year of Transition....................................5
An Unlikely Catalyst..................................7
Adapting to Change..................................9
Opportunities Abound.............................13
Resilience: Partnerships in Action..............15

Executive Leadership Team

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Chief Operations Officer
  Michael Bailey
Chief Financial Officer
  Tom Hiratsuka
Clinical Director
  Dr. Chuck Lester
Medical Director
  Dr. William Browner
Reflections from Michele

Dear Friends,

I was raised to define gratitude as a word of action.

Taking over as Executive Director in January 2020 the year was full of promise and new opportunities. Within my first “100 days” we were in the midst of a pandemic, demanding daily innovation and adaptation to deliver supports and services while keeping our workforce and stakeholders safe and healthy. And yet, I have so appreciated the opportunity to look for the silver lining behind the challenges of the past year. At the heart of resilience are moments of gratitude partnered with actions from a lens of abundance.

At the 100 day mark I made a list of all the good I was seeing and at the top of the list was the fact that we have amazingly talented, committed and mission focused employees who show up every day ready to contribute. Each day there have been are “magic moments” of courage, kindness and joy and an evident resolve to “work together for good”, from staff, our Board, funding and community partners.

Our gratitude for your support is highlighted in the multiple moments where our values came to life in innovative ways. Though physically distanced, we realized the storms of the past year have not diminished our passion for our mission and our collective commitment to build communities where everyone is valued.

Thank you for being a part of our journey, for supporting our mission, and for your actions of gratitude enabling us to thrive.

Best,

Michele Girault
CEO
Hope Community Resources
“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘it will be happier’…”

Alfred Lord Tennyson
A Year of Transition

Our Executive Director, Dr. Roy Scheller, retired in January 2020. We knew this would be a year of transition. Incoming Executive Director, Michele Girault, and Hope’s Strategic Leadership Team (below) spent much of 2019 preparing the workforce for this change.

When we welcomed 2020, Alaska was in its fifth consecutive year of economic recession; the legislature had approved a 5% rate reduction to our primary revenue source; the state restricted the number of people approved to receive funding; and reduced capital grants impacted our ability to maintain or upgrade existing infrastructure.

For 51 years Hope has focused on removing barriers to meaningful lives and 2020 gave ample opportunity to deliver mission in the midst of unprecedented challenge.

Michele & Roy August 2019

2020 Leadership Team Left to right: Jerry Kung, Esther Cabarles, Sharayah Talarovich, Tom Hiratsuka, Kris Jez, Ray Collins, Robin Siverson, Brendan Farrell, and Michael Bailey
“Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope.”

Dr. Maya Angelou
An Unlikely Catalyst

As the coronavirus crept across the globe, the term “pandemic” took on a new meaning. Although an unprecedented catalyst for rapid integration of technology into our support model, the team adapted overnight as administrative employees were moved to remote work stations and virtual learning platforms were adopted and enhanced.

We navigated a COVID-related workforce shortage and our Direct Support Professionals rose to the challenge - often risking their own health to ensure excellence in service.

We stayed physically distant while connecting in profound new ways. Virtual art projects, birthday parties, surprise visits, camping trips, karate classes, scavenger hunts, appreciation lunches, fundraisers, holiday wishlists, and more. Our goal since day one: keep everyone safe, healthy, engaged, and connected.

Our community chose to invest in us and in turn provided an anchor of hope in a year full of global turmoil.
“Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.”

Helen Keller
Adapting to Change

The primary role of a Direct Support Professional is to teach, mentor, and coach. This looks different for every person who chooses our supports. One of the keys to being a successful teacher is to moment by moment adjust your approach to the person or people you are teaching.

Our workforce is filled with exceptional Direct Support Professionals. As Alaska shutdown, this tireless team overcame barriers such as getting art supplies into people's homes, connecting people with technology and keeping them engaged in meaningful ways, finding ways to ensure birthdays and holidays could be celebrated, and creating daily structure during the storm.
Hunker down orders went into place in March, just as all of us were beginning to stretch our legs after the long winter months. Accessible parks and trails, outdoor spaces for dining, and activities in the great outdoors of our beautiful home gave abundant opportunity for adventure in the midst of restriction.

Hope Studios is a busy place throughout the year with creativity a driving force. The team was able to quickly move to remote and small group opportunities hosting art collaboratives online and dispatching Direct Support Professionals to people’s homes to assist artists to continue their creative endeavors. Through innovation and tenacity the Hope Studios team ensured the continuity of this vital service.
Back at home, live-in Direct Support Professionals and their teams navigated evolving policies, technology issues, staffing shortages, and integrating all of the new virtual activities and events into their already full days. They did all this while creatively engaging the people they support during a significant disruption to their daily lives. Our mitigation policies have remained stringent and our workforce vigilant since day one. Despite this, we’re engaged and connected in more ways than ever.

Hanging out with your friends is an important part of growing up; especially during the summer months when free-time is in excess. The Lesko Discovery Center, found a path to stay open with a stringent mitigation plan that included rigorous sanitation, outdoor events, masks and gloves, and individually packaged supplies. This required significantly more planning and more daily attention from the Direct Support Professionals in addition to the chaos of coordinating group events. The end result? Thanks to this amazing team, everyone stayed safe and had a blast!
“Hope is the only bee that makes honey without flowers.”

Robert Green Ingersoll
When we peer into the coming year, we are filled with hope. This year, despite the many challenges faced, has brought with it equally as many reasons to celebrate.

We met a community need by providing Financial Support Services, opening a mental health clinic, and partnering with United Way of Anchorage's Home for Good program to help address homelessness issues for those with a disability or mental health challenges.

We celebrated the contributions of employees such as Gena Coleman, (left) selected as the 2020 Direct Support Professional for Alaska by ANCOR, the national nonprofit trade association for providers of supports and services to those with disabilities; Kim Brusven (center) who was honored for her work as a shining example of DSP excellence during Disability Pride Week; and Carley Stone (right) who was one of fifteen DSPs recognized nationally for her contributions to the Lesko Discovery Center recreational program.

Hope grows through daily small actions of kindess, done with great love. Thank you for your continued investment in building bridges to meaningful lives - and for experiencing Hope.
“Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality.”

Jonas Salk
We hosted our annual fundraisers, the Walk for Hope and the Hope Auction, virtually this year. Thanks to your support we raised over $95,000 from these two events. Many of our financial gifts are not designated by our donors. We prioritize the use of these funds to have the greatest impact for the people who choose our supports. This includes scholarships to recreation programs, modifications to ensure accessible homes and apartments, purchases for adaptive equipment, new furnishings, and more. We work to ensure your gift makes a positive difference in someone’s life.
With Gratitude

Platinum Partners: >$15,000
Alaska Community Foundation
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Port of Kodiak Gifts
Rasmuson Foundation
The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority

Gold Partners: $5,000-$14,999
All For Kids Pediatric Therapy
City of Kodiak
ConocoPhillips Alaska
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GCI Communication Corp.
Scan Home
Wells Fargo Foundation

Silver Partners: $2,500-$4,999
Alaska Airlines
Anchorage Midtown Dental Center
Franz Bakery Foundation
Matson
Sleeping Lady Mountain Lions

Bronze Partners: $1,000-$2,499
Alaska Peace Officers Association
Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
Anchorage Kiwanis Club
Aurora Fine Art Gallery
BP America, Inc.
CIRI
Credit Union One
Dewalt Service Center
Facebook
Futura Fisheries, Inc.
ICE Services
KPMG
Lithia Motors, Inc.
Mat-Su Health Foundation
United Way of Anchorage
USI Insurance Services
Value Liquor
Vein Specialists of Alaska
Verizon
Patron Partners: $100-$999

2 Friends Gallery
ABC Motorhome & Car Rentals
Access Alaska, Inc.
Alaska Body Aesthetics
Alaska Center for Spiritual Living
Alaska Dance Theatre
Alaska Ivory Exchange
Alaska LeLo's
Alaska Metal Arts
Alaska Mint
Alaska Native Medical Center
Alaska Railroad
Alaska Rock Gym
Alaska Rug Company
Alaska SeaLife Center
Alaska Serigraphics
Alaska State Fair
Alaska Wildland Adventures
Alyeska Resort Alaska
AmazonSmile Foundation
American Legion
Anchorage Concert Association
Anchorage Distillery
Anchorage Fire Department
Anchorage Log Cabin Quilters
Anchorage Museum
Anchorage Pita Pit
Anchorage Sand and Gravel Co.
Anchorage Senior Activities Center
Anchorage Yoga & Cycle
Aniak Traditional Council
Aramark
Arctic Access Inc.

Arctic Imports
Arctic Roadrunner Burgerman
Artworks Gallery & Glass Studio
Assets, Inc.
AT&T
Bear Creek Cabins
Bear Square
Bear Tooth Theatre Pub & Grill
Bernie's Bungalow Lounge
Body Piercing Unlimited
Breeze Inn
Calista Corporation
Cook Inlet Region, Inc.
Costco Wholesale
Danger Entertainment LLC
Denali Brewing Co
Denali Fur & Leather
Dimond Center
Eagle River Knife Co.
Eagle River Lions Club
Echo
Enstar Natural Gas Co.
ESS
Firetap
Fireweed Cleaners
Fred Meyer / Littman Jewelers
GCS IT Solutions
Great Harvest Bread Company Co.
Greenwood Care Services
Hilton Anchorage Hotel
Humpy’s Great Alaskan Alehouse
Illusions Food Company
Inked Fox
Inlet Towers
Integrated Communications Design
International Longshoremans & Warehousemen’s Union, Unit 60
Jim Patton Promotions
Jitters
K & L Distributors
Key Coalition of Alaska
KLEBS Mechanical, Inc
Kroger Community Rewards
LaTouche Pediatrics
Mahay’s Riverboat Service
Major Marine Tours
Musk Ox Development Corporation
North Star Behavioral Health System
Odom Corporation/Coca-Cola Alaska
Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council
Over the Rainbow Toys
PayPal Giving Fund
Peppercini’s Deli & Catering
Pursuit
Quintessence
Rebirth Tattoo
Red Robin
REI
Resource Data Inc.
RustAk Metal Art
Sal’s New York Grill
Seas of Glass
ShuzyQ
Siri’s Boutique
Skinny Raven Sports
Sky Carver
Softchoice
Soldotna Area Senior Citizens, Inc
South Restaurant & Coffeehouse
Steward Petroleum Company
Sullivan’s Steakhouse
Sultana New Ventures LLC
The Healing Center
The Marx Bros. Cafe
The Perch Cabins & Dining
Totem Ocean Trailer Express Inc.
US Foods
Vannoy Electric
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Friends of Hope: < $100

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AK Republic
Alaska Dinner Factory
Alaska Executive Search, Inc.
Alaska Junior Theater
Alaska Wild Berry Products
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Allen & Petersen
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Anchorage House of Harley
Aprons by Janet Palmer
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Best Buy
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Cafe Amsterdam
City of Aniak
Club Paris
Desert Dog Designs
Dino's Donuts
Fromagio's Artisan Cheese
G & P Fine Tobacco
Great Northern Gifts
Home Depot
Indigo Tea Lounge
Jens’ Restaurant
Kaladi Brothers Coffee
King Street Brewery
Kodiak Powersports & Marine
Legacy Trust Company Inc.
Lowe’s
Midnight Bead N Designs
Mr. Prime Beef
Mylord’s Floral
Natural Selections
Northwest Carvings
Palmer Golf Course
Salmon Sisters
Salon Davinci
Sevigny Studio Art Gallery
Spunky Monkey
Suite 100 Restaurant
The Spice & Tea Exchange
Tiny Ptarmigan
UBS
West Rock
Wild Scoops

Platinum Donors: >$15,000
Michele Girault & Chuck Wright

Gold Donors: $5,000-$14,999
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Petter Jahnsen
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Gavin Kim
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Karen West

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