Camp Fire Alaska

2020 Annual Report

Finding a Way Forward
Dear Treasured Camp Fire Supporter,

What started out as a typical year, quickly became something none of us could have predicted. In March of 2020, things changed quickly at Camp Fire as we navigated the closure of in-person schooling. Very nearly overnight, we went from serving more than 1000 youth each school day, to serving none. Our first concern was for our youth and families, knowing they would be left without the care they depended on.

It was only a matter of weeks before we began emergency childcare for families of first responders. We had not only opened child care during a time of great unknown, but we also relied on our talented staff to become experts in every health and safety protocol, as ever-changing as they were. This was the beginning of a very different period of time for Camp Fire as we adjusted all of our programs to meet the needs of the situation. None of this would have been possible without the incredible support from our donors and partners.

From day one, our donors were asking us about what we needed and how could they help? Many made masks for our youth and staff, some provided financial support that ensured families could continue to get scholarships for our programs, hundreds attended our online Champions for Children Fireside Event, and others offered an ear when we needed it.

Everything in this annual report is a reflection of that support. It shows what can be done when a community comes together to care for youth even in the most trying of times.

We have provided you with only a snapshot of highlights from the last year. It is just not possible to cover every aspect, but what is most important is that we continued to move forward together, facing challenges, overcoming obstacles, and finding joy in the small successes along the way. We are continually grateful knowing that your support recognizes that safe, reliable care for our youth is a vital aspect of a strong community.

With Gratitude,

Barbara Dubovich
Chief Executive Officer

Tom Mason
Board President

2020 Annual Report

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Our Mission

Every child will have the opportunity to discover the best in themselves and others in a fun, safe, learning environment.
We bring day camp experiences to communities across Rural Alaska, focusing on healthy living, wellness, reducing high-risk behaviors and encouraging community engagement.

Three summer camps operating in five locations, we serve kids ages 5-17 and really do have something for everyone—overnight camp, outdoor day camp and a licensed day camp program.

Camp K | Camp Si-La-Meo | Summer Adventure

Our before and after school programs are the cornerstone of our business where we deliver quality programming in elementary schools throughout Anchorage and Eagle River.

Serving youth at no cost to families these programs are offered before and after school, during school breaks and in the summer.

CFA staff work alongside youth during the school day and after school, helping them with extra support as they bridge the learning gap from virtual school, at no cost to families.

88% of youth felt inspired to try new things

100% of youth felt able to show others what is special and unique about them

89% of youth felt that Camp Fire staff help them meet their goals
The sudden closure of schools in March of 2020 left many families in a state of panic. Especially front line workers, health care professionals and first responders who were facing long hours at work with no reprieve and no options for child care. Thanks to many generous partners and donors, Camp Fire Alaska opened up full-day programs to children of these essential workers in early April at no cost. Most days included time for school work, outside or indoor play, art and STEM projects. With a lot of care, planning, and personal protective equipment, Camp Fire provided safe, fun and engaging care for these youth while their parents worked hard to protect our community during a challenging time.

“-

I’m a single mom and I didn’t hear about Camp Fire’s program until, in the middle of a shift, a coworker came running up to show me the email that said program would be free. We were hugging and in tears. If it was not for this emergency program, I would have had to put my 8-year-old daughter on a plane to go live with her dad and stepmom until this was over.

- Camp Fire Alaska Parent

Highlights

- 2 Sites
- 51 Youth Served
- We partnered with The Children’s Lunchbox to get meals to youth & families
- Kids learned their new favorite game, pool noodle tag!
- GCI Donated 36 tablets to help youth with access to online schoolwork
I’m glad to be here because there are fun things to do. I get to hang out with my friends even though we have to be six feet apart.

- Camp Fire Alaska Youth

Summer camp is all about “finding your brave” and that is exactly what Camp Fire kids and staff did in 2020. It was vital for parents to have a safe place to send their kids during the summer so we worked diligently to determine how we could open our day camps, Camp Si-La-Meo and Summer Adventure Camp. It meant a smaller capacity, physical distancing, masks, and health checks. But what happened next was a summer we will always remember, not just because of COVID-19, but also because of the incredible resiliency of our youth. They continued to thrive in the face of a pandemic. Smaller group structure meant staff were able to get more camper input about daily activities, which is something the kids enjoyed and appreciated. Youth also each had their own equipment to play with day after day. While it was not like any other summer before, youth still made friends and memories, discovered their independence and voice, found their passion and their brave.

**Highlights**

→ $38,177 in Scholarships was distributed for 36 youth to experience camp

→ 0 Covid Cases

→ Smaller cohorts meant extra bonding time

→ We sang songs and danced in the rain; we watched kids laugh and cry and try and grow
Whenever I would bring the produce to Elders and families, they would express how grateful they are that Camp Fire includes the whole community in their program.

-Leisha, Camp Fire Staff

When the pandemic hit Alaska, it was clear that the Rural Alaska Program Staff would not be able to travel to the rural communities that we normally serve. But we knew that the youth in those communities still needed a place to connect with each other and with supportive adults. So instead of sending staff to the communities, we hired and trained members of each community on how to deliver Camp Fire programming, provide social-emotional learning opportunities via activity kits, and distribute food including Elder meal boxes and fresh produce. Camp Fire Alaska equipped each community while keeping themselves and the youth we serve safe, thanks to our generous program partners and supporters.

**Highlights**

→ 22 Communities
→ 4,189 Participants
→ 11,631 Activity Kits Distributed
→ 34,000+ Meals Provided
→ 8,353 Pounds of Produce
→ 16 local staff hired
→ 900+ Elder Care Packages
I really appreciate Camp Fire’s responsiveness to the changing situation. The communication and response has been excellent! It’s so reassuring to have solid, reliable childcare options in this time of uncertainty.

- Camp Fire Alaska Parent
Meeting the Need

In the early fall, when Camp Fire learned from the Anchorage School District that there were hundreds of youth who hadn’t engaged in school since it went online in March, we knew something needed to be done. That is how the Learning Pod Program began. In partnership with ASD and United Way, Camp Fire began a full-day supportive learning program at Chester Valley Elementary, a Title 1 school, at no cost to families. There were 27 youth identified as most in need, facing incredible barriers to their online learning including homelessness, living in a non-English speaking home, limited or no access to internet, no one at home to support online learning during the school day, or economic challenges. Chester Valley teachers provided training and support to Camp Fire staff who worked directly with youth during the program to further enhance the youth’s ability to stay on task with their academics. This was the first time CFA Staff worked alongside teachers directly assisting students in their day to day school work. The success lead to two additional schools being added in November of 2020, North Star Elementary and Muldoon Elementary.

Highlights

→ 3 sites/ 75 youth served
→ $123,625 in Scholarships
→ Attendance increase of 81.6% at Chester Valley Elementary
→ Witnessing the joy on a young girl’s face when she got to Zoom with her class for the first time in six months

“

It felt like a really dark time, because we had so many of our children unable to access their education at all. There are so many barriers around learning at home that we had no control over. But we knew they were out there and that just weighed on our hearts...

- Meghan McCarthy-Grant, Chester Valley Principal

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Financial Statement

**Assets**

- **Current** $2,804,964
- **Other** $1,363,461
- **Property/Equipment** $3,650,311
- **Camp K Building Project** $999,845
- **Total Assets** $6,081,966

**Liabilities**

- **Current** $382,836
- **Other** $185,979
- **Total Liabilities** $568,815

**Net Assets** $8,249,766

Audited financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2020 were prepared by BDO USA, LLP.

Our Champions

We sincerely appreciate the remarkable generosity and foresight of our Champions for Children Society members. By making five-year pledges, their steady support gives Camp Fire Alaska the critical flexibility to take strategic and immediate action on priority needs of the agency and the youth and families served. The members listed below have made commitments of $1,000 a year or more for a minimum of five years. This work could not be done without their continued support. Thank you!

- Alexandra McKay & Christen Morgan
- Amy Costello
- Barb & Bill Rosetti
- Barb Ervin
- Barbara Dubovich
- Bob & Carol Waters
- Carla & Bill Oliver
- Carmen Gutierrez
- Catherine Claxton
- Christina Rodriguez
- Dan & Annette Smith
- David & Adrienne Little
- Deborah Bitney
- Debra Mason
- Don McClintock & Joanie Cleary
- Erin McKay
- Eric Billingsley
- Eric McCallum
- Glenn & Pam Chavez
- Glenn Stryjewski
- Greg Gillquist
- Gwen Kennedy
- Heather Flynn
- Irene Gobeli
- Jack & Sherrie Simmonds
- Jake Metcalfe & Moira Smith
- Jennifer & Don Deitz, Alaska Career College
- Jennifer Starck
- Joanne & Patrick Nutter
- Jennifer Starck
- Jodi & Tim Gould
- Josie & Jack Hickel
- Judith Abrahams
- Justine & Katherine Burrill
- Katie Bates
- Keith Manternach
- Kelley Harper
- Laurie Hummel & Chad Parker
- Linda Phillips
- Linda Spraker
- Luz Smeek
- Lynn Wolfe
- Mary Knopf & Craig Rice
- Matt & Lindsey Jolly
- Matthew Hirschfeld
- Megan Carlson
- Michael Divens
- Michele & Michael Schuh
- Morgan Christen & Jim Torgerson
- Nichole Gifford
- Patrick Flynn & Tina Grovier
- Rashmi Prasad
- Ray Dinger
- Rhonda Oliver
- S. Lynn Erwin
- Scott & Sara Pate
- Sean Elder
- Stephanie & Jerry Birch
- Steve & Jan Fishback
- Tamie & Paul Taylor
- Thomas Mason
- Walter & Audrie Williams
- Weaver Bros.

2020 Board of Directors

**Officers**
- Tom Mason, President
- Jodi Gould, 1st Vice President
- Danny Rauchenstein, 2nd Vice President
- Jimmy Miner, Secretary
- Katherine Burrill, Treasurer

**Members**
- Katie Bates
- Lisa Booth
- Barbara Dubovich, CEO
- Sean Elder
- Kelley Harper
- Erika Kahill
- Vicki Kelly
- Amanda Krysinski
- Jenifer Nelson
- Jennifer Rose
- Nichola Ruedy
There are numerous corporations, foundations, and organizations who help make the work that we do possible. Their support is invaluable!

Our Partners

- Air Land Alaska
- Alaska Airlines Community Advisory Board
- Alaska Bead Co.
- Alaska Children’s Trust
- Alaska Community Foundation
- Alaska Industrial Hardware
- Alaska Regional Hospital
- Alaska Restaurant Supply
- Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
- Alaska USA Foundation
- Allure Day Spa & Hair Design
- Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
- Amazon Smile
- Anchorage School District
- Bill Stroeker Foundation
- BP
- BP Foundation
- Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- Calista Corporation
- Camp Fire, National Headquarters
- ConocoPhillips Alaska
- Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc
- Credit Union 1
- Dawn Gerety
- DHL Express-6300 Boeing Ave
- Donlin Gold
- DOWL LLC
- ECI
- Enstar Natural Gas
- Fred Meyer Fund
- Frontstream
- GCI Communication Corp.
- Goodwill Industries
- John C. Hughes Foundation
- John L. and Alice M. Mohr Charitable Fund
- Kendall Toyota
- KPMG LLP
- Leo and Jeanne Bustad Fund
- Lu Young Children’s Fund
- Lynden Inc.
- Mat-Su Health Foundation
- National Financial Services LLC
- Nordic Skiing Association
- Northrim Bank
- Pacific Alaska Leasing Company
- PDC Inc. Engineers
- Perkins Coie Foundation
- Petro Star Inc.
- Rain Proof Roofing, Inc.
- Rasmuson Foundation
- RurAL CAP
- Shuzy-Q
- Steve Fishback, AIA
- Sunrise Inn
- Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
- The Carr Foundation
- The Good Coin Foundation
- The North West Company/Alaska Commercial Company
- Thread
- TOTE Maritime Alaska
- Ultradent
- United Way - ASD Charitable Giving
- United Way - Municipal Employees MOA
- United Way - SHARE State Employees
- United Way of Anchorage
- United Way of Central Ohio
- United Way of King County
- Weaver Bros.
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Wilson Albers, Alera Group

In 2020, our work was energized and supported by 661 Donors, Program Partners, and numerous Volunteers, each offering their unique gifts and resources to cultivate and nurture the lives of youth and families across the state.

Thank you!
The support we received from hundreds of individuals throughout the year was truly heartwarming. So many things are made possible through your generosity!

Anonymous
Adrianna Muir
Adrienne Christensen
Ai-Ling Lin
Alana Helsel
Albert Willars
Alex Slivka
Alicia Stigerwalt
Alisha Weiss
Allen and Marilyn Bailey
Allison Knox
Allison Moe
Allison Payne
Amanda Adams
Amanda Estes
Amanda King
Amanda Krysinski
Amber Hahn
Amber & Ryan Zins
Amy Costello
Amy Doogan
Amy Foote
Amy Mowat
Amy Robberson
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Andrea Miller
Andy Wahry
Angela Bessette
Angie Gerken
Angie Jensen
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Barb Ervin
Barb Henjum
Barbara Fleek
Barbara Spivey
Barbara Wild
Ben Wasson
Bethany Essary
Bethany Zimpelman
Bill & Barbara Rosetti
Blythe Campbell
Bob Lohr & Celia Foley
Bonnie Miller
Brad & Maija Doggett
Brad & Ruth Spees
Bradley Gering
Brandi Whaley
Brandi Zeman
Brandy Atkins
Brennon Land
Bret Roberts
Brett Carrig
Brittany Williams
Brooke Dudley
Bruce Higa
Carla Oliver
Carlette Mack
Carmen Gutierrez
Carol Butler
Carol Gore
Carol Harris
Carol & Bob Waters
Casey Brogan
Cassandra Keef
Catherine Claxton
Catherine R Smith
Cathleen McLaughlin
Cathy Fisher
Chad & Kristen Frampton
Chanel Enslow
Charles Berdahl
Charles Pannone
Charlotte Tunley
Chasity Blanchard
Cheri Herman
Cherry Galloway
Cheryl Dingle
Cheryl Mattson
Chiquita Cotron
Chris Meekins
Chris Wightman
Christina Eubanks
Christina Karpinski
Brennon Land
Bret Roberts
Brett Carrig
Brittany Williams
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Cheri Herman
Cherry Galloway
Cheryl Dingle
Cheryl Mattson
Chiquita Cotron
Chris Meekins
Chris Wightman
Christina Eubanks
Christina Karpinski

Diane Colley
Diane DiSanto
Dianne Toebe
Don McClintock & Joanie Cleary
Donis Morris
Donna Judkins
Donna Logan
Donna Mason
Dorothy Kahill
Ed & Cathy Rasmussen
Eleanor Morse
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Elizabeth Swenson
Elizabeth & Paul Ferucci
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Erica Jensen
Erica Nicklie
Erika Denman
Erika Kahill
Erin Bode
Erin Miller
Erin Webb
Esther Goodstein
Eva Budzinski
Eva Miller
Ezra Cuevas
Forrest Dunbar
Forrest Powell
Frank Jeffries
Frank Mitchell

Masks were donated by individuals and volunteer groups to keep our youth and staff safe!
Employees at Northrim Bank, including Camp Fire board member Katie Bates, hosted a winter gear drive. Hundreds of gloves, hats, and scarves were collected.

At one of our sites, Camp Fire youth learned how to crochet so they could make hats and scarves to donate to a local shelter.
In early 2020, Alaska Resource Education visited one of our sites to teach the kids about Alaska’s natural resources using cupcakes!

GCI helped our youth stay connected to school when it went on-line with their donation of 36 tablets!
Over the summer dozens of volunteers, like Charlie, helped pack activity kits to send to youth in Rural Alaska.

Along with masks, we received donations of cleaning supplies and PPE to ensure our staff and youth could continue Camp Fire programs while staying safe and healthy.

Legacy Society
These donors have generously included Camp Fire Alaska in their wills or estate plans.

Blythe Campbell
Bob & Carol Waters
Dianne Toebel

Heather Flynn
Pinkie Richardson

Scott & Sara Pate
Steve & Jan Fishback
Thank you for everything you made possible in 2020!