

ANNUAL REPORT *2024*



Camp Fire
Alaska

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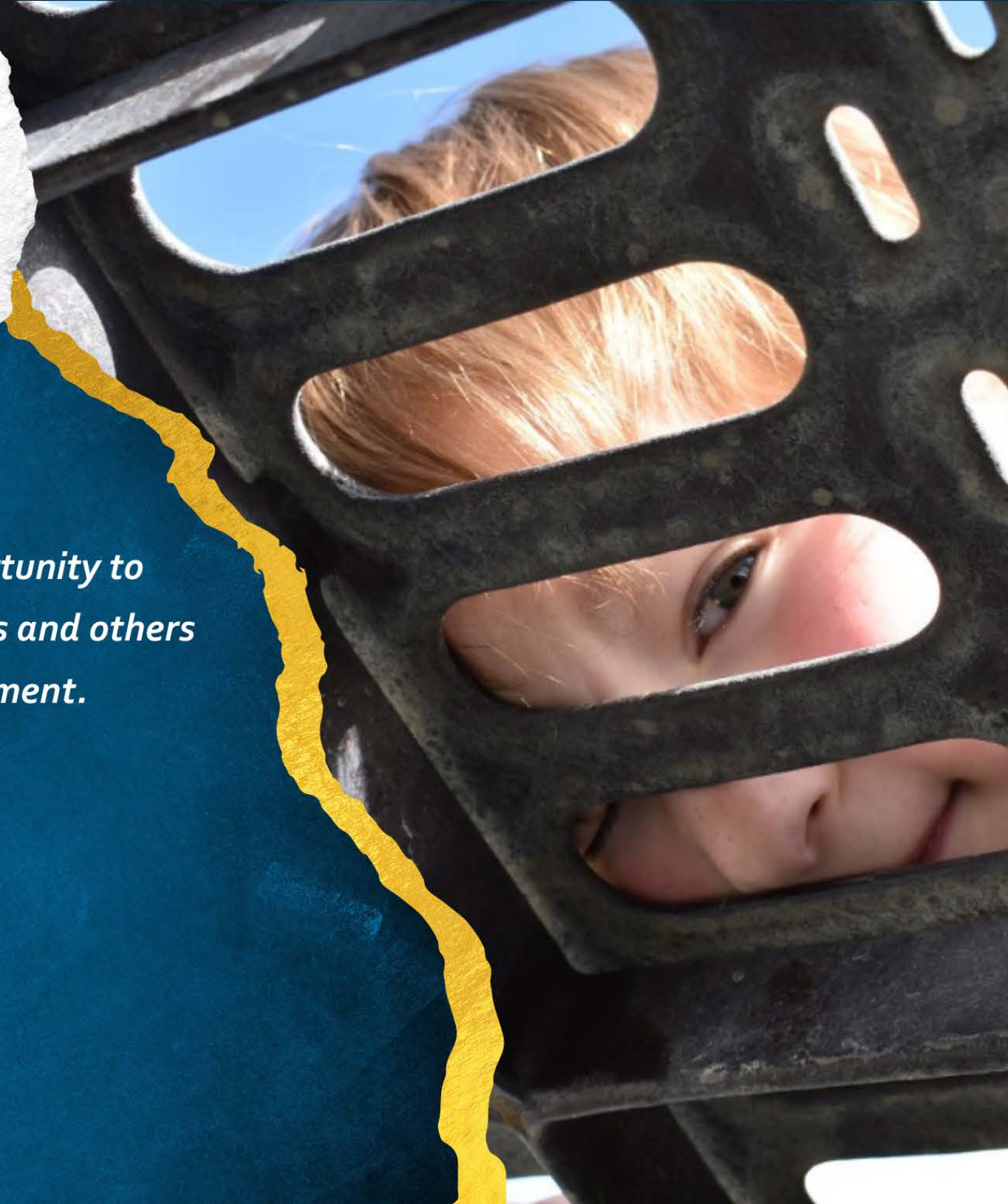
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MISSION

Every child will have the opportunity to discover the best in themselves and others in a fun, safe learning environment.



Camp Fire
Alaska



LETTER FROM

*Our President and CEO
& Board Chair*

Our 2024 Annual Report celebrates the programs of Camp Fire Alaska and the transformative impact they have on children and families across Alaska. These powerful impacts are made possible by the generous support of donors and funders like you, who invest in Alaska's most valuable resource—its youth.

This past year has been one of navigating change and complexity in our work. Notably, we marked a historic transition within our School Age Program. After more than 40 years of providing before- and afterschool care, the program has adapted once again to external factors—specifically, changes in school start and end times. Now operating as an extended afterschool program, we offer youth enhanced academic support, increased enrichment opportunities, and more time with trusted, caring adults.

More than ever, we recognize the vital role Camp Fire's programs play in the lives of families—serving nearly 4,000 youth this past year! Whether through afterschool programs or summer camps, our programs remain a crucial part of Alaska's infrastructure—supporting the economy, local businesses, and hardworking families across the state. And while we know the impact ripples all throughout Alaska, we remain acutely focused on our youth who need safe spaces to grow and thrive—spaces where all children can truly discover the best in themselves and others.

With heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, advocates, and dedicated staff—THANK YOU! Our impact is your impact, and thousands of Alaskan kids, families, and communities depend on our services to live, grow, and flourish in this incredible place we all call home.



Mel Hooper

PRESIDENT AND CEO



Katherine Burrill

BOARD CHAIR

What WE DO



Rural Alaska Program

We bring day camp experiences to communities across Rural Alaska, focusing on wellness, cultural and intergenerational connections, and encouraging community engagement.

Summer Camps

Camp K, Camp Fireweed, and Summer Adventure Camp — three different summer camps operating in five locations, serving youth ages 5 through 17. We really do have something for everyone! There is an overnight camp, an outdoor day camp, and licensed day camp programs.

School Programs

Our after school programs are the cornerstone of our organization, where we deliver quality school-age programming in elementary schools throughout Anchorage and Eagle River.

Community Centers

Serving youth at no cost to families, these programs are offered before and after school, during school breaks, and over the summer at five different program sites.

Teen Leadership Programs

Serving teens ages 14-17, the Leader in Training Program at Camp K and the Counselor in Training Program at Camp Fireweed provide engaging learning and training opportunities that support the development of leadership skills and workforce readiness.

2024

AT A GLANCE



3,774

TOTAL YOUTH SERVED

678,457

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED
THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND
NON-FEE-BASED PROGRAMS

2,234

RURAL ALASKA YOUTH SERVED
AT NO COST TO FAMILIES

“

This is our final year participating with Camp Fire. It has been a lifesaver for our jobs, and we greatly appreciate everything it has done for our family. We've recommended a lot of people and greatly appreciate everything you have done.

”

—CAMP FIRE PARENT



ADAPTING TO CHANGE

In Fall 2024, the Anchorage School District introduced an important change to school start times, prompting us to adapt our programs to best serve the community. This shift inspired a comprehensive reimagining of our program model—our first major restructuring in over forty years—to better meet the needs of families, youth, and educators across the city. Our goal was to ensure ongoing continuity of care and support for Alaska’s youth, demonstrating our commitment to being responsive and adaptable in a changing environment.

It wasn’t without challenges. Like many providers, we faced staffing shortages and operational hurdles. But thanks to strong partnerships—including with the Alaska Afterschool Network—we adapted quickly and strategically. Together, we adjusted staff-to-youth ratios to meet both programmatic needs and the realities of a changing workforce, allowing us to maintain the high quality of care our families count on.

Out of the disruption came opportunity.

This new model provides youth and staff with more concentrated time together after school, strengthening mentorship, building deeper peer connections, and creating a more supportive, nurturing environment. These extended hours also allowed us to expand our programming in meaningful ways—welcoming new community partners, offering more in-depth learning experiences, and empowering youth through creative, hands-on projects.

None of this would have been possible without donor support. Because of you, Camp Fire Alaska was able to lead with flexibility, resilience, and vision—turning a complex challenge into a powerful opportunity for growth. As a result, Alaska’s youth are more connected, engaged, and inspired than ever. Together, we are building a stronger, more adaptable future—for every child, every family, and every community we serve.



“ The Camp Fire staff care about
my feelings, and they are always
here for me. ”

—CAMP FIRE YOUTH





“

I like to play with my friends,
have fun, and I'm just happy
when I'm at Camp Fire.

”

—CAMP FIRE YOUTH

ANCHORAGE'S OUTDOOR DAY CAMP

Tucked quietly behind a tangle of birch and spruce in the heart of Anchorage, Camp Fireweed is more than a youth day camp—it's a place where Alaska's wild beauty meets everyday life.

Every summer, laughter weaves through the trees as youth aged 5 to 15 explore a world crafted just for them. Camp songs echo through the trees, tiny hands dip into cold creeks, older campers build shelters with logs and moss, and all of them—regardless of age—feel the same magic: that sense of wonder that only the outdoors can bring.

Camp Fireweed offers something for everyone. The youngest campers chase butterflies and learn how to swim. Middle groups climb, hike, and paddle, while teens take on leadership roles, learning to guide others while deepening their own connection to nature. Each level is carefully tailored to challenge, excite, and inspire. In rain and shine, campers discover more about themselves as they learn new skills, brave exciting activities like the rock wall, and develop friendships that last well beyond the months of June and July.

But it's more than fun—it's rooted in something deeper. Camp Fireweed exposes youth to the true spirit of Alaska. Not just the mountains and rivers, but right here in our community, youth can find a quiet, special connection with nature: the crunch of fallen leaves, the call of a raven, the thrill of finding a fox track. For many, it's their first real taste of the outdoors—and for some, it's what convinces them to stay.

In a city full of cars, shops, and noise, Camp Fireweed provides an outdoor adventure just beyond the tree line. It reminds young Alaskans that nature isn't far away—it's home.

“

I most enjoy how rewarding it is to work with youth. Though it can very often be challenging and overwhelming, the impact you can have and the excitement for life they share makes it so much fun.

”

—CAMP FIRE STAFF



34

PROGRAM LOCATIONS

AKIACHAK
ANCHORAGE
ANIAK
ALAKANUK
ATMAUTLUAK
CHEFORNAK
CHEVAK

CHUATHBALUK
COOPER LANDING
EAGLE RIVER
EEK
HOOPER BAY
HUSLIA
KIPNUK

KOKHANOK
KONGIGANAK
KOTLIK
KWETHLUK
KWIGILLINGOK
MARSHALL
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

NAPASKIAK
NIKOLAI
NULATO
PILOT STATION
PITKAS POINT
RUSSIAN MISSION
SAINT MARY'S

SAINT MICHAEL
SCAMMON BAY
TOKSOOK BAY
TULUKSAK
TUNTUTULIAK
TUNUNAK



Our

IMPACT



98%

of youth feel respected and supported
at Camp Fire Alaska.

90%

of youth show increased social skills like
making friends, controlling emotions, and
caring about others.

96%

of youth demonstrated an increase of
life skills such as problem solving and
critical thinking.

“

When working with the children, Elders, and especially the community, I reconnected with my culture. I engaged in our way of life. I want to relive that feeling — it was something I've never felt before. Alongside the children and youth, I also found my spark. ”

—CAMP FIRE RURAL
PROGRAM STAFF



POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

In Summer 2024, Camp Fire Alaska launched a powerful partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, rooted in a shared commitment to removing barriers and increasing access to the outdoors for youth. Together, we set out to bring meaningful outdoor experiences to youth in communities who historically have had the least amount of access—starting at Loussac Place, our Community Center program in Anchorage .

The impact was immediate and inspiring.

Youth explored local streams, learned to fish, planted pollinator gardens, and carefully dissected owl pellets—engaging with the natural world in ways many had never experienced before. These hands-on opportunities sparked curiosity and built confidence, all while connecting youth to the rich ecological story of their home state.

Recognizing the momentum and value of this collaboration, we extended the partnership into the school year—bringing even more nature-based programming directly to our afterschool sites across Anchorage. From wildlife education to outdoor skills, we've been able to offer youth consistent, enriching experiences that deepen their connection to Alaska's lands and wildlife.

This partnership is a powerful reminder of what's possible when we work together.

By combining resources, expertise, and a shared mission, Camp Fire Alaska and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service have reached farther and created a greater collective impact than either could alone. And thanks to donor support, we've been able to sustain and grow this effort—bringing nature closer to youth who need it most.

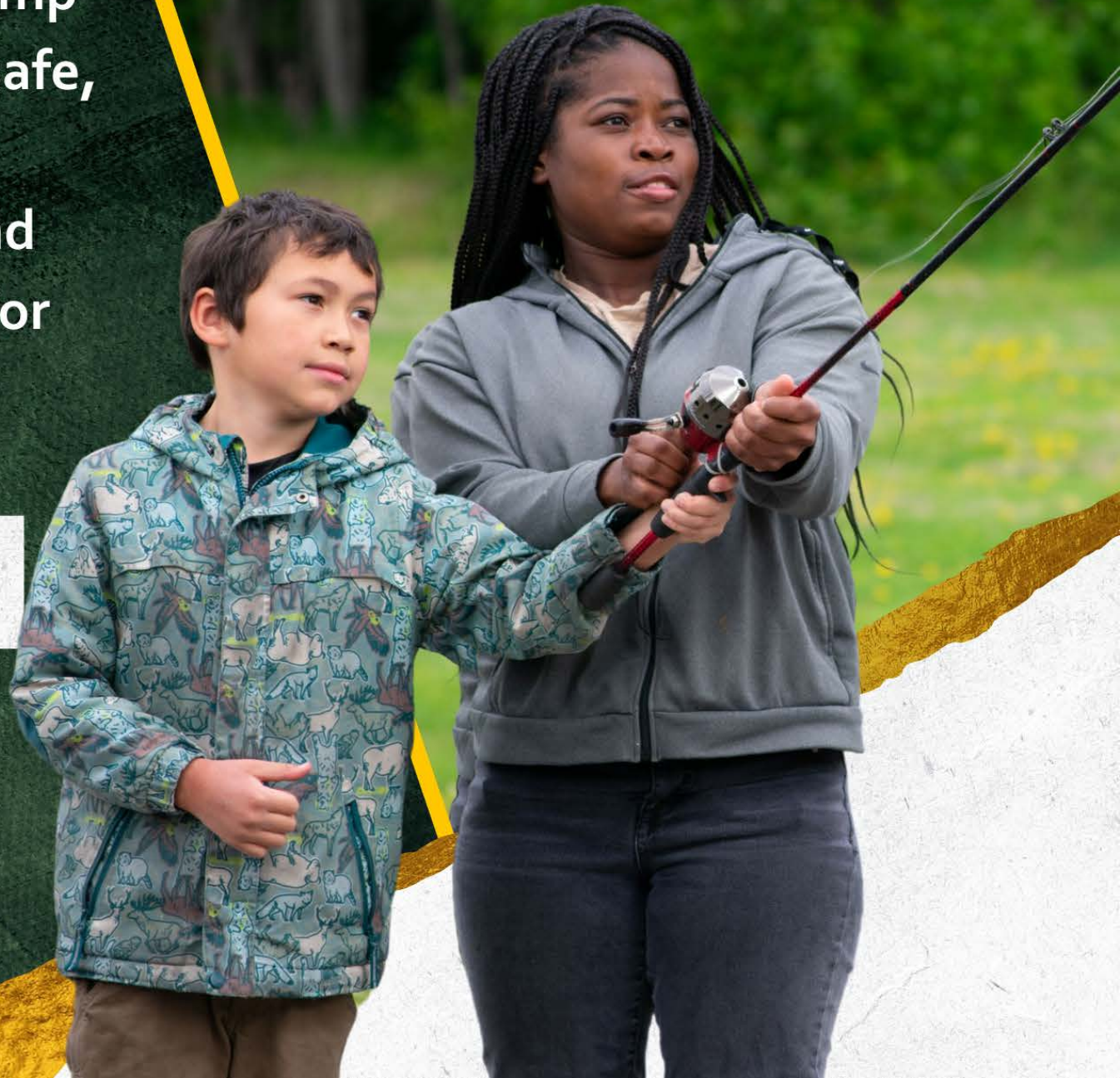
Together, we're not just providing programs—we're opening doors to wonder, learning, and belonging in the outdoors.

“

I'm so grateful to Camp Fire for providing a safe, convenient and affordable before and after school option for my child.

”

—CAMP FIRE PARENT



2024 Wins

AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION CHARACTER IMPACT AWARD

Camp K on Kenai Lake received the Character Impact Award for creating spaces for youth to grow, connect, and learn. Only one camp from each of the five states in the ACA Northwest Region received this honor. Recipients develop effective, creative responses to fill the needs of youth and use the camp environment as a teaching tool. Additionally, winners are chosen for their positive impact on the camp community and for fostering personal growth in individual campers.

RECORD BREAKING EVENTS

Our Champions For Children breakfast and Wild Women Retreat both broke records this year! Over 400 people attended this year's breakfast and raised a record breaking amount of more than \$250,000 to help Camp Fire grow Alaska's future! With the largest turnout yet, 57 Wild Women raised over \$45,000 at our Wild Women Retreat to support Camp K's maintenance, ensuring that children can continue experiencing the magic of Camp K!



60 YEARS IN RURAL ALASKA!

After 60 years of bringing Camp Fire to families throughout Alaska, we have visited over 100 rural communities! It has been an honor working alongside our Tribal partners and organizations to respond to the needs of these incredible communities!

Generous

SUPPORTERS



IN 2024, HUNDREDS OF DONORS, DOZENS OF PROGRAM PARTNERS, AND MANY VOLUNTEERS SUPPORTED CAMP FIRE ALASKA'S MISSION, OFFERING THEIR UNIQUE GIFTS AND RESOURCES TO CULTIVATE AND NURTURE THE LIVES OF YOUTH AND FAMILIES ACROSS THE STATE.

464

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

44

IN KIND DONORS

61

PICK.CLICK.GIVE.
DONORS

82

MONTHLY & PLEDGE
DONORS

LEGACY CIRCLE

Donors who have generously included Camp Fire Alaska in their wills or estate plans

Blythe Campbell

Bob and Carol Waters

Cynthia Coulter

Dianne Toebe

Eva Budzinski

Heather Flynn

Scott and Sara Pate

Steve and Jan Fishback

The Estate of Jim and Pinkie Richardson

FIRETENDER'S SOCIETY

Lifetime donor of \$100,000 or more

Alaska Community Foundation

Assoc. of Village Council Presidents

Atwood Foundation

BP Foundation

Camp Fire National

ConocoPhillips Alaska

Cook Inlet Housing Authority

Cook Inlet Tribal Council

Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Ed & Cathy Rasmuson

ExxonMobil

Donlin Gold

GCI

John C Hughes Foundation

Judy Rasmuson

Leo Bustad & Jeanne Davis

Mat-Su Health Foundation

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Municipality of Anchorage

Northrim Bank

Rasmuson Foundation

Robert & Linda Felland

State of Alaska Department of Health

The George and Stephanie Suddock Foundation
thread

United Way of Anchorage

Wells Fargo Foundation

Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN SOCIETY

Our Champions for Children Society members have committed \$1,000 a year or more for at least five years. This steady support gives Camp Fire Alaska the flexibility to take strategic and immediate action on priority needs for the youth and families we serve.

Adrianna Muir
Alaska Career College
Alex & Colette Slivka
Alexandra McKay
Amanda Moser
Amy Costello
Barb Ervin
Barbara Dubovich
Bill & Barb Rosetti
Carmen Gutierrez
Christina Rodriguez
Dave & DeAnne Rand
David Chapa
Denise Brown-Chythlook
Diana V. Lopez
Elstun Lauesen
Eric McCallum
Eric Billingsley
Heather Flynn
Jadee Draughn

James & Mary Miner
Jason & Shannon Metrokin
Jodi & Tim Gould
Josie Hickel
Jon Katcher & Kate Michaels
Karrie Young
Katherine & Justin Burrill
Katie & Justin Bates
Kaylee Devine
Keith Manternach
Kendalyn Mckisick
Kerry Reardon-Scher & Buzz Scher
Kevin Lubbers
Lisa and Bob Doehl
Luz Smeenk
Lynn Wolfe
Mary Knopf & Craig Rice
Matthew Hirschfeld
Melanie & Jesse Hooper
Melissa & Tyrel Williams

Michael Divens
Michele Schuh
Pat Byrne
Patricia Clay
Randy Johnson
Ray Dinger
Rhonda Oliver
Ruth Rosewarne-Kimerer
S. Lynn Erwin
Sara Pate
Sean Elder
Sean & Nichole Hickel
Sherrie Simmonds
Steve & Jan Fishback
Tamie Taylor
Thomas Mason
Walter & Audrie Williams
Weaver Bros.
William Hughes & Michael Fredericks

“ What I like most about Camp Fire is that everyone can be themselves and show that to other people. ”

—CAMP FIRE YOUTH



CORPORATE, ORGANIZATION, AND FOUNDATION SUPPORT

49 Writers

Alaska Airlines Community Advisory Board
Alaska Career College
Alaska Chicks Company
Alaska Children's Trust
Alaska Commercial Company
Alaska Community Foundation
Alaska National Insurance Company
Alaska Sealife Center
Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center
Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
ANTHC Diabetes Prevention Dept.
Association of Village Council Presidents
Atwood Foundation
Bagoy's Florist
Boston Aesthetics
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Camp Fire, National Headquarters
ConocoPhillips Alaska
Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc
Dawn Gerety
Donlin Gold
Double Shovel Cider Co.
DOWL LLC
Ellsworth Foundation
Fire Island Bakery

First National Bank of Alaska

First Presbyterian Church
Food Bank Of Alaska
Fred Meyer Fund
GCI
Green Connection
Global Credit Union Foundation
Hilltop Ski Area
Hotel Captain Cook
HPSI Loyalty Rewards
IMIG Audio Video
John C. Hughes Foundation
John L. and Alice M. Mohr
Charitable Fund
Jon and Cynthia Dawson Family
Foundation
Kaladi Brothers Coffee
Kashunamiut School District
Landly AK
Lower Kuskokwim School District
Lu Young Children's Fund
Lynden Inc.
Mahay's Jetboat Adventures
Major Marine Tours
Matson
Mat-Su Health Foundation

Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria

Northrim Bank
Parker, Smith & Feek/IMA
Petro Star Inc.
Premier Alaska Tours
Rasmuson Foundation
Richard L. and Diane M. Block
Foundation
Ridge and River
Saint Mary's School District
Shuzy-Q
Skinny Raven Sports
SLR International
Spenard Lions Club
Taiga Mining Company, Inc.
The Foraker Group
The George and Stephanie
Suddock Foundation
thread
TOTE Maritime Alaska
Twin Flower Fancies
USI
Weaver Bros.
Wild Scoops
Wilson Albers, Alera Group
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corp.

A young girl with brown hair, wearing a blue dress, is climbing a yellow metal playground structure. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background features a green wall on the left and a blue sky with white clouds on the right. A yellow decorative shape is in the bottom right corner.

“ We love the Camp Fire program. It makes employment possible and our daughter loves it. We are so happy to have this program offered at our school. ”

—CAMP FIRE PARENT

2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Katherine Burrill, Chair

Sean Elder, 1st Vice Chair

Adrianna Muir, 2nd Vice Chair

Ruth Rosewarne Kimerer, Secretary

Kevin Lubbers, Treasurer

Tom Mason, President Emeritus

Members

Kris Berg

Amanda Biddle

Emily Clark

Kaylee Devine

Anna Kohler

Jason Lyons

Shannon Metrokin

Jenifer Nelson



FINANCIALS

Camp Fire Alaska received a large amount of one-time child care stimulus funding to help stabilize our child care programs. These funds were recognized as revenue in 2023 and continue to help cover deficit budgets. However, as these funds are utilized, we will continue to regrow and recover earned revenue and sustainable funding streams.

ASSETS

Current: \$6,543,397
Long-term: \$1,460,255
Property: \$4,290,243
Total Assets: \$12,293,895

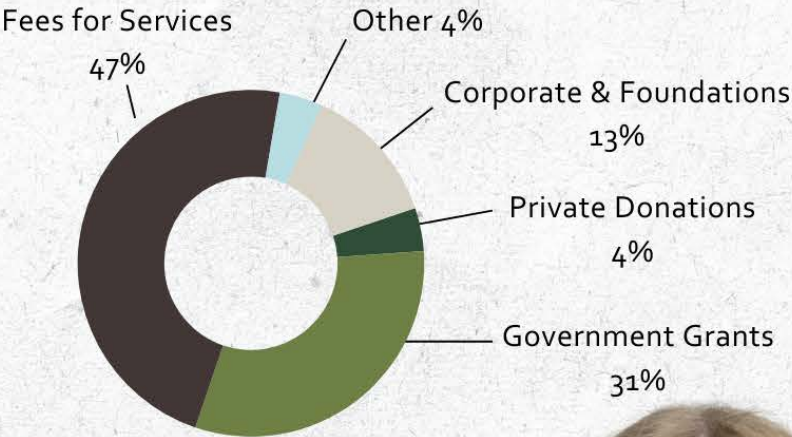
LIABILITIES

Current \$793,255
Other \$350,513
Total Liabilities \$1,143,768

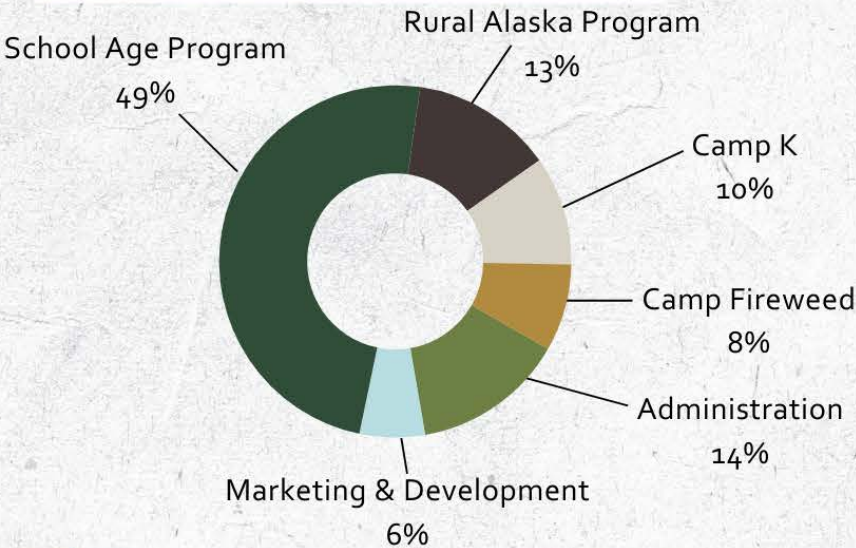
NET ASSETS

\$11,150,127

TOTAL INCOME: \$7,979,818



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$7,774,191



Thank you!

Everything in this report and so much more is made possible thanks to the support and generosity of our incredible donors.





Camp Fire
Alaska

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