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Annual Report 2007



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From The Executive Director



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It's been a wonderful and exciting year at REACH, Inc. (REACH).

In January 2007 we began the first phase of the renovation of The Canvas Community Art Studio and Gallery with a grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. With additional grants from the Rasmuson Foundation and the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Douglas-Doran Foundation and generous donations from community donors, the second phase that will complete the Art Studio and Gallery began in December 2007, with an anticipated completion date of April 2008. When completed, the community art center will include a gallery, pottery studio with kilns, open studio workspace and a small café as an expansion of our day habilitation program. The Canvas Community Art Studio and Gallery has been a successful effort to include the community in the lives of people with disabilities, allowing the opportunity for people of diverse backgrounds to engage with each other on a level playing field through the arts.

In October 2007, REACH was awarded a major grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development for the development of our fourth assisted living home. REACH purchased property in the valley on Mendenhall Loop Road and has embarked on a construction schedule to begin in the spring of 2008. This home, when completed, will provide housing for four young adults in need of appropriate residential alternatives as they transition from their parental homes.

In September 2007, REACH received a grant from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services through the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to replace the boiler at our principal location in Juneau.

We appreciate the generosity of the funders mentioned above but also want to thank the many individuals throughout Southeast Alaska who made donations to REACH in 2007, to allow it to continue to fulfill its mission. Your support in making this possible is greatly appreciated.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the more than 200 REACH employees who come to work each and every day with the desire to make a difference in the lives of REACH's clients, the client's families and the community.

Sincerely,
Richard Fagundes



Intake and Resource

Intake and Resource Program is the gateway to services at REACH, connecting families and individuals with resources in our community. The Resource Team provides advocacy, technical assistance and case management support to individuals seeking developmental disability services and to those who are already eligible and on the waitlist for services.

The STAR Program (Short-Term Assistance and Referral), is a grant funded project that supports the Intake and Resource Team activities. Services focus on linking families to other resources and help families avoid crisis by providing short-term financial assistance to meet a variety of needs including, healthcare, therapeutic services and equipment; developmental products, transportation, access to social, cultural, and recreational activities and much more, depending on the individual need. The STAR Advisory Board (Andi Story, Jan Guertin, Sarah Bosma, Dayna Focht & Beth Mcready) oversees the distribution of STAR and Mini Grant funds to eligible individuals.

During the past year, the Intake and Resource Team provided a variety of services to 86 individuals and their families who are on the waitlist for services, as well as Care Coordination to 40 families and individuals who receive Medicaid waived services. The Respite Program provided 6,000 hours of respite to 76 families.

Moving Towards Independence

Chelsea and her family recently moved to Juneau from Wasilla and contacted REACH for services. While she awaits Waiver services, Chelsea has requested the support of the Intake and Resource Team in her move



towards independence. She now has her own apartment and is continuing her education. She is receiving mentoring to assist her in exploring and making connections. Chelsea has become an active member of our community, volunteering at the local homeless shelter, participating in recreational activities with ORCA, pursuing her interest in art at the Canvas Studio and live theater at Perseverance. Her passion for horses has recently led to involvement with a local stable and the responsibility for the shared-care of a horse that she exercises, grooms and rides. Chelsea describes her current life as “awesome”.

Residential Services

This past year REACH reorganized to form the Assisted Living Department consisting of individuals who receive 24-hour wrap-around services. The department serves residents of the three Assisted Living Homes and individuals who live in their own homes and receive waivers for round-the-clock staff support. Staff provide a full range of services including facilitation of social, recreational and employment activities, support with activities of daily living, and monitoring for health and safety needs.

Several capital projects have been completed at the group homes this year. Northland Assisted Living Home had the carpet replaced with new wood grain floors. Residents said they find it easier to get around now that “the floors are smooth and the bumps are leveled out” and didn’t mind too much when they had to leave to give workmen plenty of room. Mark Alan Assisted Living Home had new rain gutters installed, siding repaired, and a good start made on landscaping the front yard. Plans are to complete the landscaping and fence in the spring as soon as weather allows. Residents are looking forward to enjoying their new yard this summer.

The Beneficiary Advisory Group and REACH staff and board members have been working toward finding funds to construct new assisted living facilities on the Mendenhall Loop Road property that was purchased last year. Grants have been applied for in hopes of obtaining the financial backing to turn our dreams of building into reality.

Most Inspirational Employee

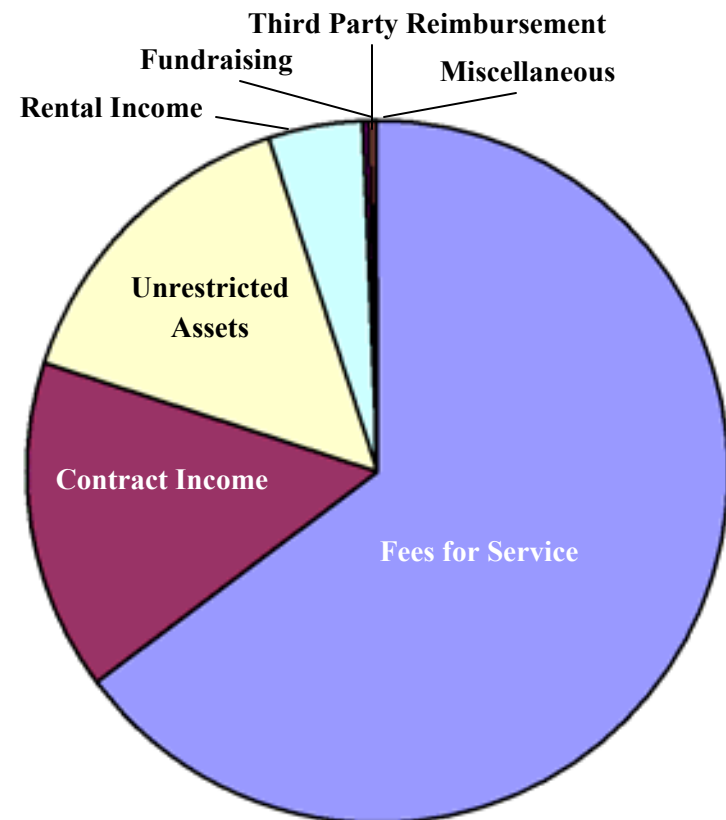
Ed Parish, resident at the Mark Alan Assisted Living Home, received special recognition from the Mount Roberts Tramway at their end of the season party. Ed has been employed by Mount Roberts Tramway for over 5 years and was awarded the “Most Inspirational Employee” commendation and a medal for his “Consistently Positive Attitude and Attendance”.

“Ed shows great pride in his work at the Tram and likes to be a part of the team,” said Direct Service Professional Doug Fanyak, who attended the ceremony with Ed.

Ed is pictured being welcomed by Tram employee Skyler Mazon.

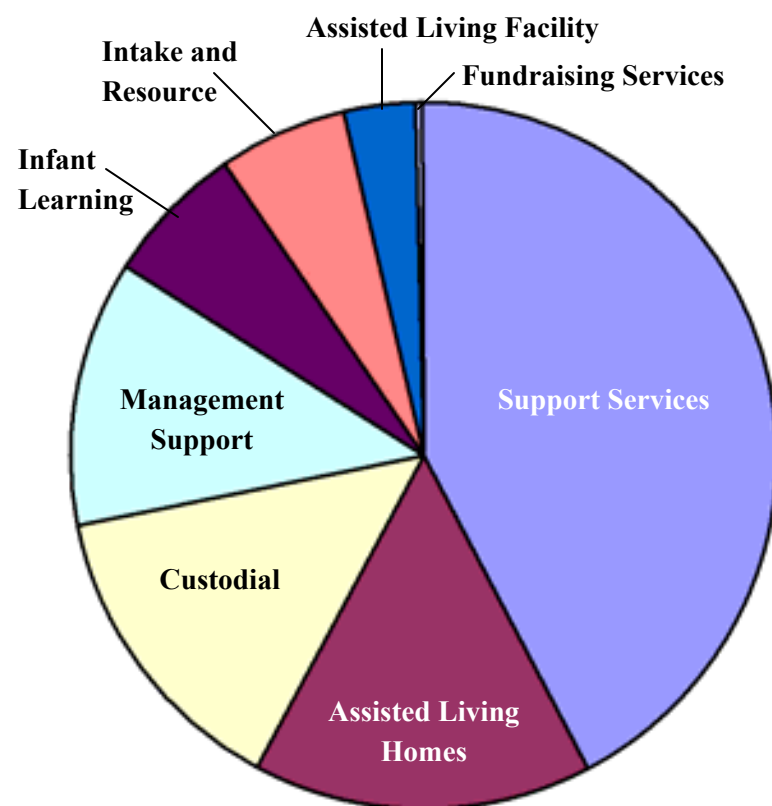


REACH Budget for FY 2007



REVENUE

Fees for Service	\$	6,303,213
Contract Income		1,472,407
Unrestricted Assets		1,470,288
Rental Income		432,977
Fundraising		24,350
Third-party Reimb.		13,347
Miscellaneous		9,047
Total:	\$	9,725,629



EXPENSES

Support Services	\$	3,992,170
Assisted Living Homes		1,461,418
Custodial		1,310,875
Management Support		1,157,772
Intake & Resource		570,462
Assisted Living Facility		310,447
Fundraising Services		17,148
Total:	\$	9,434,547

Infant Learning

This past year has been a busy year for Infant Learning Program (ILP) staff. One hundred and fifteen enrolled infants and toddlers with developmental delays received a variety of services throughout the year. Services were provided primarily in the home and included family service coordination, occupational, physical, and speech therapy, and specialized instruction in the northern Southeast area. We responded to 140 referrals this year from parents, physicians, office of children's services/child protective services, and child care providers. We also provided developmental screenings and other activities to many more children than are enrolled in the program each year.

Shaping Young Lives for the Best

Caton Knull was born early with a condition called arthrogryposis that affects the muscles and joints, and particularly the biceps. One in 3000 kids are born with this condition, but most people have never heard of it. When Caton was 3 months old, his doctor at Children's Hospital in Seattle strongly stated that he needed Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy OT/PT. The Knull family began working with REACH Infant Learning Program when Caton was 4 months old.

REACH Infant Learning Program staff provides therapy once a week and Caton also receives regular PT. Sarita, Caton's mom, believes that because of this, Caton was sitting up and crawling at 8 months. Many children with this disability are 2 to 3 years old before they can sit or crawl. Caton is almost two years old and the Knull family takes him to Seattle for doctor visits about once a month. Caton will have surgery to help correct his condition soon. His doctor says that he is in the best shape for the surgery of any child he has seen with arthrogryposis because of his intense, early OT/PT services. Sarita says, "Working with REACH has been a most positive experience, with staff anticipating what Caton needs so his disabilities aren't as significant as they could be."



Employment Services / Custodial

REACH's Employment Services Program works with local businesses to develop competitive jobs in the community for individuals who experience disabilities. In addition, REACH operates several businesses that offer employment and training opportunities, including custodial and shredding.

REACH's Custodial had a busy year with 8 federal contract jobs, 5 State contract jobs and 2 private contracts. These contracts include the Federal Buildings in Juneau and Ketchikan, the Coast Guard Base in Sitka, State Office Buildings (REACH has done custodial work for 5 governors since Hickel), the Forest Service Visitor Center at the glacier, the Ranger Station, Auke and Douglas Post Office, 2 FAA facilities, AEL&P and the Archive Building. NISH (a federally funded program that promotes employment for people with disabilities) has conducted three operations reviews of our custodial contracts in the past several years, giving high praise for the operations.

NISH Custodian of the Year

Terral Kahklan is REACH, Inc's longest continuous employee. Terral has worked for REACH for 27 years. Terral was born in Klawock, Alaska. In 1980 Terral moved into a REACH group home and today he lives independently in his REACH apartment with assistance from his supported living staff.

Terral began receiving vocational supports from REACH in 1980 and has worked in food services at the University of Alaska. He began working with REACH's Custodial program at the Juneau Federal Building with a job coach in 1994 and today Terral is completely independent at work and requires minimal supervision. Terral loves to work and does a great job. He uses Care-A-Van as his transportation to and from work.



In 2006, Terral participated in NISH's Legislative-Fly-In to Washington D.C. where he visited with Senator Lisa Murkowski, Representative Don Young and Liz Connell, Legislative Assistant for Senator Ted Stevens.

Terral was selected as the 2007 Custodian of the Year through the Northwest Region of NISH.

Employment Services / Shredding

In 2005, REACH Inc. developed a document destruction business that would not only provide shredding services to businesses in Juneau, but would also provide employment opportunities to individuals experiencing developmental disabilities. REACH Shredding, which began as a single shredder in a small office, has developed into a thriving business located within the main REACH building.

The size of the REACH Shredding workforce has expanded from 6 to 15 employees (Shredding Technicians) and we now provide document destruction services to over 60 customers within the community. This customer base includes pharmacies, medical offices, realty agencies, law firms, state and federal offices, banking firms, and various other professions. REACH Shredding provides professional services and has a positive impact on the community. As a member of NAID (The National Association for Information Destruction), we offer shredding services in a facility equipped with 24/7/365 video surveillance, motion detector, and alarm system. Not only are we able to offer a much needed service to Juneau, but we are also increasing awareness in multiple areas such as: identity theft, confidentiality, and disability awareness.

Each employee of REACH Shredding is vital in the success of the business. Our trained job coaches focus on building the work-related skills and confidence needed to be successful within the profession of their choice. Independence is our ultimate goal, and our commitment to this goal is shown by the amount of growth seen in our employees on a weekly basis. This personal growth is displayed not only by increased productivity, but confidence, pride, positive attitude, professionalism, and responsibility.

Working Toward Success

Jeff Douglas has been working for REACH since October 2003 and for REACH Shredding since August 2006. Jeff has shown tremendous growth within his REACH Shredding position during this time. As Jeff's confidence has grown, so has his eagerness to increase responsibilities as a Shredding Technician. This growth is displayed through his work ethic, dependability, and attitude.

Jeff's duties have expanded from primarily shredding documents to shredding, sorting, assisting staff with recycling runs and making pick-ups within the community with his job coach. He is well known by our customers and they are appreciative for the professional service he provides.

Not only does Jeff have a perfect attendance record, he also arrives for work with a smile on his face nearly every day. Jeff is truly an asset to REACH Shredding and has been a huge part of the success of the program.



The Canvas

The Canvas Community Art Studio & Gallery was founded in 2006 as the community outreach and day habilitation program for REACH, Inc, and is now a vital presence in the Juneau and Southeast arts scene that serves the entire community.

The Canvas serves everyone in the community interested in arts, and includes a large population of adults with disabilities. We firmly believe that integration of adults with disabilities and the general public through the arts provides a positive environment to educate and build relationships and natural supports.

The art center provides studio, performance and gallery facilities. We offer classes, workshops, lectures, and events for students and artists of all ages and skill levels. Our year-round programming includes classes in the visual, literary, ceramic and musical arts for all skill levels.

Progress in FY07

During 2006-2007, The Canvas had a lot to show for all its hard work. We established partnerships with several local arts organizations, including Perseverance Theatre, the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council, and the Juneau-Douglas City Museum. We also started on the studio's major renovation, with the help from a \$75,000 grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. In June of 2007 we were also awarded a \$107,000 grant from the Rasmussen Foundation towards finishing renovations.

The Canvas Artist Profile: Melanie Adams



Melanie Adams primarily works in acrylic paints on large and small canvases. Melanie's work is distinguished by her unique color mixing that turns out warm hues of pinks, reds, oranges, with contrasting greens and blues producing a retro-style, feminine floral look of the 1920's. She's been working at the art studio for over a year and her work has developed dramatically from rainbows with a strip of grass to the multi-layered looks we see today.

Melanie has exhibited work at The Juneau-Douglas City Museum, Silverbow, and Canvas Gallery. Her art and designs are featured on cards and t-shirts. Her most recent original art piece sold for \$300!

Support Services

In the past year, REACH's Support Services program provided support to 59 children and adults. Sixty-seven direct service professionals working part-time and full-time in Juneau, Hoonah, Haines and Skagway provided over 81,000 hours of services. These services were provided to clients in their own homes, in their families' homes, on the job, and out in the community.

Support Services staff strive to assist children and adults to live full lives in whatever way our clients envision those lives. Clients might request help with household routines like cooking, dressing or cleaning; with accessing community activities like swimming or shopping; or with working for local businesses or running their own businesses.

Six Support Services case managers coordinate these services - working closely with schools, therapists, employers, family members, medical providers, transportation providers, social workers, etc. to ensure needs are being met.

Making Dreams Come True

After working three jobs to save up the money to move, Robert Frick realized a lifelong dream when he arrived in Juneau in 1996. "I drove straight to REACH when I got off the ferry," states Robert. Since then, Robert has continued to realize his dreams. He moved to Alaska because of his interest and fascination with sled dogs and the Iditarod. With the support of REACH staff, Robert saved his money and traveled to Anchorage to watch the start of the 1,100-mile Iditarod sled dog race. He's in the midst of planning for his ninth Iditarod trip. Several years ago, another dream was realized. After much research, assisted by his REACH staff, Robert purchased his purebred Siberian Husky named Paper. Robert says "Dreams were made to be conquered." His next dream—to own a log cabin in the woods.

