

From the Desk of Dan:

Greetings from REACH, Inc.!

This month, the Key Coalition of Alaska kicked off its 36th year of educating legislators about the value of community-based services for Alaskans with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Key Campaign has built a reputation over the decades of being an inclusive and well-organized event that brings together families, people receiving services, direct support professionals, partners and providers to share the needs of the day.



This year, the Key Campaign and disability advocates will meet with local legislators at the Capitol on February 21 to share information on issues that affect you and your family. They also identified top priorities to discuss with legislators. We've included a copy of the priorities with this newsletter, and you can also find them on the Key Coalition's website at keycoalitionofalaska.org.

We are grateful for the hard-work of the Key Campaign advocates and volunteers. Their important work makes sure the voices of those usually under-represented are heard and taken into account. If you were unable to participate in this year's Key Campaign, you can always support their work by making a donation on their website.

Sincerely,

Dan Elstad
Executive Director

REACHing Out

INCORPORATED

Employee Anniversaries:

We're so proud of the people who work at REACH, and their hard work does not go unnoticed! Please join us in celebrating the following employee anniversaries for the month of February:

Alejandra Roman Cruz – 1 year
David Cook – 1 year
Jennifer Jenkins – 1 year
Jacob Lewis – 3 years
Mary Diamzon – 7 years
Laurel Stafford – 9 years

Ariel Cristobal – 14 years
Cynthia Benin – 15 years
Kathleen Willard – 17 years
Charles Wisner – 17 years
Michael George – 17 years
Danielle Cozzens – 22 years

Happy Anniversary

Infant Learning Program Update:

Our Infant Learning Program (ILP) team has been hard at work creating and hosting engaging events for parents and children ages 0 to 3 at the REACH headquarters. They recently started offering Circle of Security classes to families in the community and will wrap up this series on March 11. Circle of Security is a research-based program designed to support parents and caregivers of children from birth to early childhood age. It is a wonderful 8-week class series that supports parents in reflecting on themselves, their child, and the dynamic dyad relationship. The families dive specifically into attachment styles, the quality of attachment, and building a secure relationship. It's a game changer for the whole family! Watch out for a new class series later in the year.



Staff Updates:

We're excited to announce two new additions to the team! Please help us welcome Tamara Marshall and Sarah Wilson who both join the REACH team as Group Home Managers. Tamara will be managing Northland and Sarah will be managing Steelhead. Both bring great experience and knowledge in the disability field and will be a great addition to our team!



Tamara Marshall



Sarah Wilson