

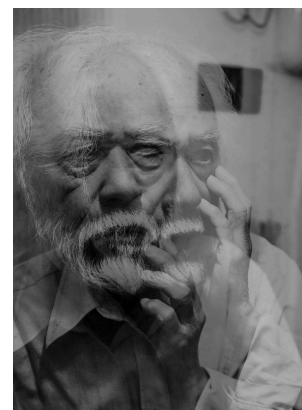
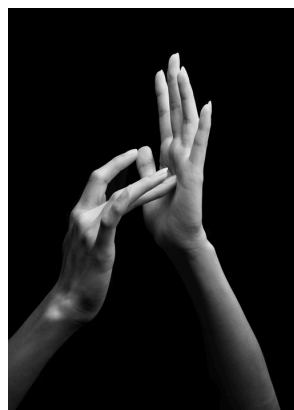


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REACH Newsletter | September Edition

Welcome to our latest newsletter! We're excited to bring you updates on what's been happening at Reach Inc. and what's coming up. *Let's dive in!*





DSP Appreciation Spotlight

This month, **Group Home Manager Cassandra Bulard** would like to recognize three exceptional Direct Support Professionals whose dedication, flexibility, and commitment make a meaningful impact on the lives of the people they support.

April Hotchkiss

"April is one of the residents' strongest advocates. She consistently encourages residents to step outside their comfort zones by trying new activities and foods, often leading to positive experiences, greater confidence, and personal growth. Her encouragement and support help residents discover new possibilities."

Agnes Elizarde

"Agnes has been a dedicated member of the Mark Alan team for many years. She regularly steps in to cover shifts and support the 24-hour staff, helping ensure consistent care and coverage. Her flexibility, dependability, and willingness to help whenever needed are truly appreciated."

Harmony Ryan

"Harmony builds strong, meaningful relationships with each resident and makes every interaction personal. She can always be counted on to help make birthday celebrations and house parties fun, welcoming, and memorable. Her ability to create moments of connection and joy brings something special to the home."

Thank you, April, Agnes, and Harmony, for the care, compassion, and dedication you bring to your work every day. Your commitment helps create a supportive environment where residents can grow, connect, and enjoy meaningful experiences.



National Suicide Prevention Month: Recognizing Signs, Offering Support

What can we do?

- **Take time to connect:** A genuine conversation can remind someone they matter.
- **Listen without trying to fix everything:** Being present and showing compassion can be powerful.
- **Notice changes:** Trust your instincts if someone seems different or is struggling.
- **Encourage support:** Help connect people with trusted friends, family members, or professionals.
- **Create belonging:** Inclusion, kindness, and respect can help people feel seen and valued.

You don't need to have all the answers to help someone. Sometimes, simply being present, listening, and reminding a person they matter can make all the difference.

A Reminder for Everyone

You don't need to have the perfect words to support someone. Sometimes, the most meaningful thing we can offer is our time, our attention, and the reminder that someone matters.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis or thoughts of suicide, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Did You Know?

Sometimes, the people who need support the most may not always show it. A person can be struggling quietly while still showing up for work, spending time with others, or appearing like everything is okay. A simple question like, "How are you really doing?" can open the door to a conversation that someone may need.

Why It Matters

Every September, National Suicide Prevention Month reminds us that every person deserves to feel valued, connected, and supported. Suicide prevention is not only about moments of crisis; it is about building communities where people feel comfortable asking for help and know they are not alone.

For people with disabilities, mental health can be impacted by unique experiences such as feeling isolated, facing barriers, being misunderstood, or having fewer opportunities for connection. When we create inclusive environments where people feel respected and heard, we help strengthen belonging and hope.

Warning signs may include:

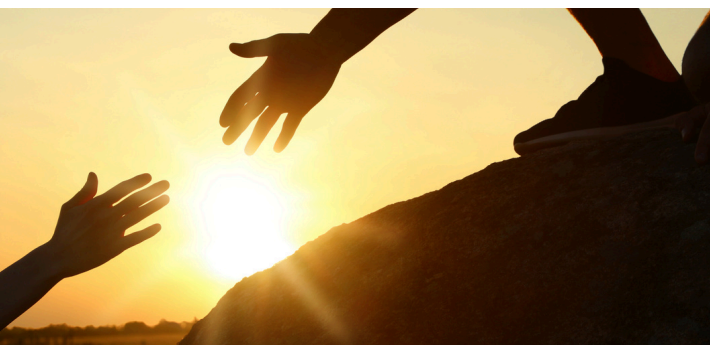
- Withdrawing from people, activities, or things they usually enjoy
- Expressing feelings of hopelessness, guilt, or being a burden
- Sudden changes in mood, behavior, or daily routines
- Talking about wanting to disappear, not wanting to live, or feeling like there is no way forward
- Giving away belongings or saying goodbye in unusual ways

A gentle reminder this month

"You never know what someone is going through. Be kind. Always."

Behind every person is a story we may not see. Someone may be facing challenges, carrying worries, or navigating difficult moments that are not visible to others. A small act of kindness, a thoughtful conversation, a genuine check-in, or simply taking the time to listen can make someone feel seen and supported.

This month, let's choose compassion. Let's create spaces where people feel comfortable asking for help, sharing what they're experiencing, and knowing they are valued. Sometimes, the smallest moments of connection can bring the greatest sense of hope.





Deaf Awareness Month: Creating Connection Through Understanding

Deaf Awareness Month is a time to recognize the Deaf community, celebrate Deaf culture, and learn how we can create more inclusive spaces.

Being Deaf is not about limitations—it is about identity, language, and connection. Many Deaf individuals use American Sign Language (ASL), while others communicate through different methods such as speech, writing, technology, or other forms of expression.

Did You Know?

- Deaf culture has its own language, traditions, and community.
- Communication looks different for everyone.
- Simple actions like using captions, facing someone while speaking, and being patient can make a big difference.

True inclusion starts with understanding, respect, and a willingness to learn. This month, let's celebrate the voices, stories, and contributions of the Deaf community.



World Alzheimer's Month: Understanding, Supporting, and Connecting

September is World Alzheimer's Month, a time to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease, reduce stigma, and show support for individuals, families, and caregivers affected by dementia.

Alzheimer's is more than memory loss. It can affect how a person thinks, communicates, and experiences the world around them. While each person's journey is different, everyone deserves patience, dignity, and meaningful connection.

Did You Know?

- People living with Alzheimer's can still experience joy, emotions, and meaningful relationships.
- A calm, supportive environment can make a difference in someone's daily life.
- Listening, showing patience, and honoring a person's preferences are important parts of compassionate support.

Supporting someone with Alzheimer's starts with "seeing the person first not just the diagnosis." Through understanding, kindness, and respect, we can help create communities where everyone feels valued and included.

Every person has a story. Every person deserves to be seen, heard, and supported.

WE ARE HIRING

Join Our Team

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ Job Coach – Supported Employment
- ✓ Direct Support Professional (DSP)– 24-Hour Shift
- ✓ Direct Support Professional (DSP)– Day Habilitation
- ✓ Direct Support Professional (DSP)– Med Complex
- ✓ Custodial



NOW HIRING: CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for meaningful work where you can make a difference? REACH is hiring! Join a team dedicated to creating opportunities for connection, independence, employment, and growth for people experiencing disabilities.

Explore current job openings and find your opportunity to make a difference every day.

Scan for more details



SCAN HERE



Celebrating Our Staff Appreciation Winner: Chris Brown!

Please join us in congratulating Chris Brown, our Staff Appreciation recipient!

Chris is someone his team can always count on. He consistently steps in when coverage is needed and takes on extra responsibilities with a positive attitude and willingness to help.

His work in Day Hab also reflects his patience, care, and dedication to the individuals he supports. Chris takes the time to help people feel comfortable, understood, and supported throughout their day.

Thank you, Chris, for your dependability, flexibility, and commitment to the people we serve. We're grateful to have you on the REACH team!

Congratulations, Chris!

EMPLOYEES MARKING ANOTHER YEAR OF DEDICATION

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

Todd Wright - Shredder (19 years)
Lauro Untalasco - Cust State (19 years)
Maily Miramontes - DSP (18 years)
Fely Roman Cruz - DSP (15 years)
Sherri McDonald - QA Director (13 years)
Hillary Landers - ILP SPCH THER (7 years)
Harmony Ryan - DSP (6 years)
Cassandra Washington - ILP ADM TECH (6 years)
Mitchell Henderson - Shredder (5 years)
Qin Zhou - DSP (4 years)
Naomi Studevan - Exec Director (2 years)
Viktor Wilfong - Cust State (1 year)
Scott Hunter - Cust State (1 year)

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Please help us extend a warm welcome to our new employees who recently joined the REACH team! We are excited to have you join our awesome organization and bring your skills to the people and businesses we serve:

Cherie Bownman - DSP

CHEERS TO OUR BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS!

This month, we're celebrating the birthdays of some of our amazing employees! Join us in recognizing their special day and wishing them joy, success, and a fantastic year ahead.

Miguel Romero - Sep 01
Laicee Ekis - Sep 01
Barbara Lager - Sep 03
Donald Jackowick - Sep 08
Jackie Bell - Sep 12
Jennifer Bellman - Sep 13
Timothy Marshall - Sep 15
Joshua Berg - Sep 16

Charles Mattingly - Sep 21
David Cook - Sep 21
Tirso Galamay - Sep 24
Vey Harris - Sep 24
Mitchell Miller - Sep 30

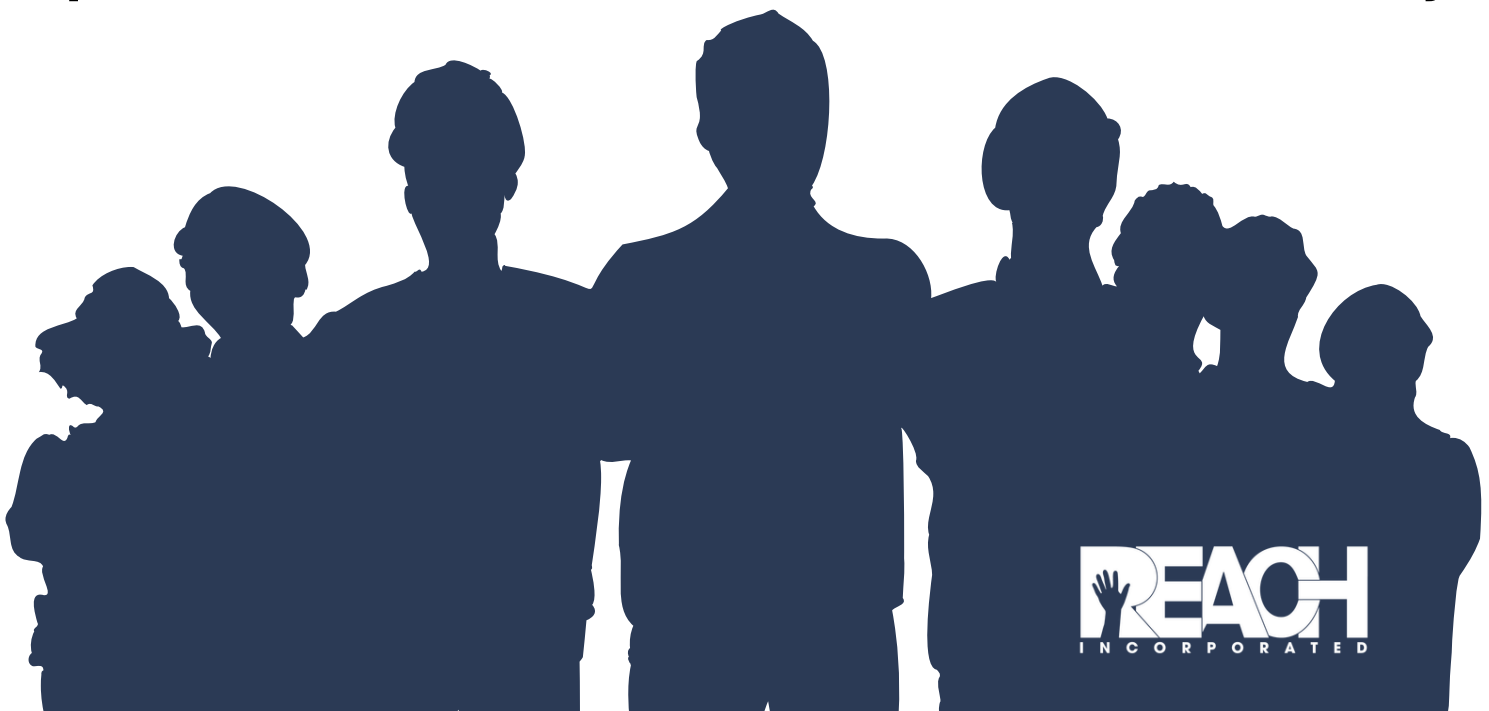


OFFICE NOTICE
CLOSURE

HAPPY
LABOR DAY

SALUTING THE WORKFORCE

Please note that REACH Shredding and the REACH main office will be **closed on Monday, September 07, 2026**, in observance of Labor Day.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT!

September 2026

SEP
02

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Senior Chair Yoga & Lunch

Juneau Senior
Center

SEP
03

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Engineering on Tap

Devil's Club Brewing
Company;

SEP
04

4:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Downtown Juneau

Augustus Brown
Swimming Pool

SEP
05

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Silent Book Club

Mendenhall Valley
Public Library

SEP
06

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Sip & Stitch

Heritage Coffee
Roasting Company

SEP
07

1PM - 3PM
Monday Board Game Night

Devil's Club Brewing
Company

SEP
09

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
*Wellness Hour – Self-Led
Aquatic Fitness Group*

Augustus Brown Pool

SEP
11

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
*Healthy Bones Aquatic
Fitness Class*

Augustus Brown
Swimming Pool

SEP
14

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
*Senior Sing Along with
Jacque!*

Juneau
Senior Center

SEP
15

5:30PM - 6:30 PM
*Traumatic & Acquired Brain
Injury Support Group*

8711 Teal St
Juneau, AK 99801

SEP
18

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
*Devil's Club Running Club
– Social 5K*

Devil's Club
Brewing Company

SEP
27

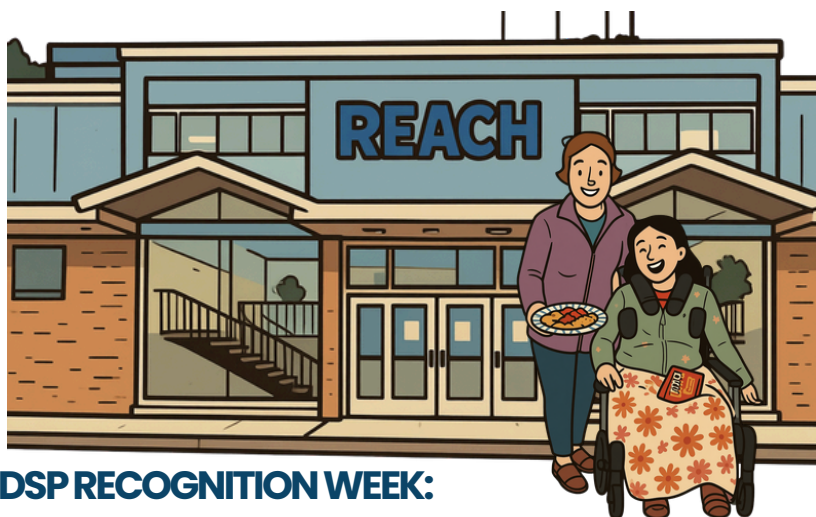
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Artists of all Nations

Juneau Arts &
Humanities Council



Scan for more details





DSP RECOGNITION WEEK: CELEBRATING THE HEART OF SUPPORT

This September, We Celebrate Every DSP
During DSP Recognition Week (September 13–19), we take time to recognize and celebrate the Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) who make a difference in the lives of people with disabilities every day.

DSPs are more than caregivers—they are supporters, advocates, mentors, and trusted partners. They help people pursue their goals, make choices, build confidence, and participate fully in their communities.

EVERY MOMENT MATTERS

The impact of a DSP can be seen in the everyday moments that often go unnoticed:

- Every conversation that builds trust and connection
- Every opportunity that encourages independence
- Every step taken toward a personal goal
- Every moment of patience, encouragement, and understanding
- Every day they show up and make a difference

DSPs help create environments where people feel respected, valued, and empowered to live life on their own terms.

A Love Letter to Our DSPs

If we could put into words the impact you make, we would need more than a few pages.

You are there for the moments others may never see, the quiet encouragement, the patient reminders, the celebrations of small victories, and the steady support that helps someone believe in themselves.

You bring more than your time and skills. You bring kindness, compassion, and a heart that sees the person beyond the support they need. You help create moments of independence, confidence, connection, and belonging.

Thank you for showing up on the easy days and the challenging ones. Thank you for listening, caring, advocating, and believing in the people you support.

The difference you make may not always be captured in words, but it is felt in the smiles, the achievements, the friendships, and the lives made stronger because you were there. You are not just providing support. You are building trust, creating opportunities, and changing lives.

SCAN ME



Stay informed. Stay connected. Subscribe to the Reach AK newsletter today.



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