



Welcome, Baby Eliza! Congratulations to Hillary and Family!



We're thrilled to share some joyful news—Hillary, our wonderful Speech Language Pathologist, has welcomed a beautiful baby girl! Baby Eliza arrived happy and healthy, and both mom and baby are doing well. Please join us in sending warm congratulations to Hillary and her growing family as they embark on this new and exciting chapter!

Welcome to the world, Eliza!

Reach Newsletter – July Edition

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



They Did It—Bronze Medalists!

A huge congratulations to JaLe, AnJo, and TaBi for their amazing performances at the Special Olympics State Basketball Games in Anchorage!

JaLe and AnJo brought home 3rd place and bronze medals, and TaBi earned a 4th place finish and a bronze medal as well! Their teamwork, determination, and passion lit up the court all weekend long. They represented ReachAK with pride, heart, and unstoppable energy.

Let's give a huge cheer to JaLe, AnJo, and TaBi—you made us all incredibly proud!

A Message from the Custodial & Facilities Coordinator

Everything on our end is running smoothly, and that's largely thanks to the incredible support from Supported Employment and our job coaches. Your dedication makes all the difference—Custodial wouldn't be what it is today without you. Thank you for being an essential part of our team!

Tim Marshall
Custodial & Facilities Coordinator

A group of people, including adults and children, are walking away from the camera on a paved path. One child in the center is in a wheelchair. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

July Is Disability Pride Month

Walking in Their Shoes: Tips for Better Understanding People with Disabilities



Listen Actively

Listen actively without making assumptions, and ask respectful questions when needed.



Use Respectful Language

Use person-first language to emphasize the individual, not the disability.



Champion Accessibility

Recognize that accessibility is essential, not optional, and support needed accommodations.



Respect Autonomy

Offer assistance only when invited, and always prioritize the person's voice and choices.



Commit to Learning

Keep learning by exploring diverse stories and perspectives about disability.

Why It Matters

Over 1 billion people worldwide live with a disability, yet many face barriers to full inclusion. Disability Pride Month honors their voices and challenges stigma. It shows that disability is natural and something to be proud of, promotes equal rights, and brings people together to celebrate their strengths.

Did You Know?

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law on July 26, 1990. Source: ADA National Network
- Approximately 1 in 4 adults in the United States lives with some form of disability. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Invisible disabilities include conditions like chronic pain and mental health issues that are not immediately visible but still affect daily life. Source: Invisible Disabilities Association

Quote of the Month

"We are all different. That's what makes us beautiful." – Unknown

In a world that often pressures us to fit into one mold, it's easy to forget how our differences add value and beauty to life. This quote encourages us to celebrate diversity in all its forms, including disability. Embracing what makes each person unique helps build more inclusive and compassionate communities. When we honor every individual's story, we create a richer, stronger world. This month, let's take pride in our differences and recognize them as a source of strength and connection.





REMINDER: Save the Date for the Summer Community Resource Fair & Disability Pride Celebration!



July 25, 2025



Savikko Park

Join REACH, Inc. for a day of community, celebration, and connection at our Summer Community Resource Fair & Disability Pride Celebration:

This event will offer:

- ☒ Live Music
- ☒ Delicious Food
- ☒ Giveaways & prizes
- ☒ Arts, crafts, and games & prizes
- ☒ Resource tables hosted by local nonprofits
- ☒ Opportunities to learn about services, get support, and build community



This festive and inclusive event is a great opportunity to share, learn, and celebrate Disability Pride in a welcoming, supportive environment. Mark your calendars—we hope to see you there!

We look forward to coming together to celebrate Disability Pride and to spotlight the many valuable services available in our community. Stay tuned for more details—we hope to see you there!



Mark Your Calendars for July



- ✓ July 18 – Steelhead Bingo
4934 Steelhead St. – 5PM
- ✓ July 25 – Summer
Community Resource Fair &
Disability Pride Celebration
- ✓ July 26 – Northland BBQ
9377 Northland St. – 3PM

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 June:

Michelle Boster – 13 Years
Cass Wilson – 4 Years
Donald Wilson – 4 Years
Jacob Mallinger – 4 Years
Nita Budhrani – 8 Years
Corazon Acosta – 10 Years

Jennifer Bellman – 15 Years
Jacqueline Bell – 24 Years
Gloria Magallanes – 8 Years
Maria Rosales – 17 Years
Thomas Sasser – 9 Years

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:

Kai Edmunds
Samuel Shorty

CHEERS TO OUR JULY 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.

Christopher Umbs – July 2
Ryan Hellman – July 3
Shannon Gress – July 5
Victoria Moore – July 5
Diana Austin – July 7

Jeffery Lane – July 10
Renee Sullivan – July 13
Lorin Alford – July 20
Justin Roberts – July 21
Kathleen Willard – July 24



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're thrilled to put the spotlight on the outstanding team at Mark Alan Group Home. Their dedication and compassion make a real difference, and Group Home Manager Cassandra Bulard is here to share her heartfelt appreciation for all they do.

"The Mark Alan team is a solid group who always ensure our residents are well taken care of. They're consistently willing to lend a hand, go the extra mile, and do whatever it takes to ensure the residents are living their best life. I'm truly grateful for each and every one of them." – Cassanra Bulard

Direct Service Professionals on Cassandra's Team

Merry Bunton	Agnes Eilzarde
Harmony Ryan	Xinyi Liang
April Hotchkiss	Lorin Alford
Tina Kegg	Debbie Riodan
Barbara Lager	Oliver Butikofer



FROM THE DESK OF SHANE WALKER AHA CPR INSTRUCTOR:

Now that summer is here it is time to check your first aid kits. Make sure you have restocked the adhesive bandages, dressings, bandages, cold compresses, and other items you may have used. Be sure to check all medications and eye wash containers dates and replace any out-of-date items.

Make sure your boat, rv, and backpacks have first aid kits, so you are prepared for the unexpected while enjoying the outdoors. Replace the batteries in your emergency equipment like flashlights, radios, and other battery operated equipment before you head out. Having the right first aid kit for your activities will bring peace of mind and added safety for you and those you care for.

We are Officially Paperless!

Exciting news! As part of our commitment to sustainability, REACH has transitioned to a paperless newsletter. By reducing paper waste, we're making an environmentally conscious choice—and we invite you to join us!

Staying connected is easy! Simply scan the QR code, email your full name to reception@reachak.org, or visit reachak.org to read the newsletter online.

This change helps us be more efficient, eco-friendly, and ensures you receive updates faster than ever. Thank you for supporting this important step toward a greener future!

SCAN ME



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