



## TaBi Shines at Regional Special Olympics!

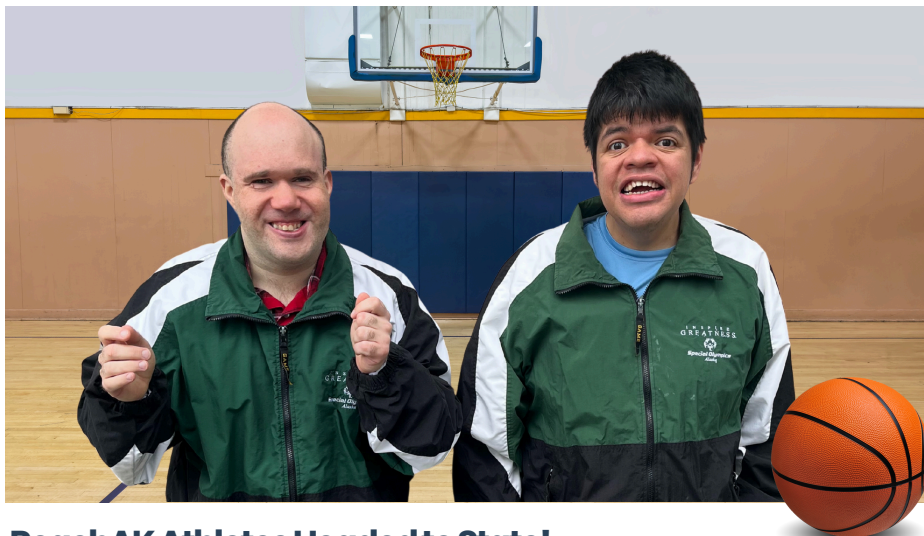
We're excited to share that TaBi earned a medal at the Regional Special Olympics for an outstanding performance on the court! With dedication and hard work, TaBi is now set to represent ReachAK at the upcoming Special Olympics State Basketball Games in Anchorage.

Let's all give a big congratulations to TaBi on this amazing accomplishment! We're cheering you on as you head to the state level—your hard work and talent make our entire community proud!



## Reach Newsletter – June 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!



### ReachAK Athletes Headed to State!

We're thrilled to announce that JaLe, AnJo, and TaBi will be representing ReachAK at the Special Olympics State Basketball Games in Anchorage, taking place June 6–8! They've earned this moment, and we can't wait to see them light up the court.

The entire ReachAK community is behind TaBi, JaLe, and AnJo—cheering every step of the way as they bring their passion and spirit to the game. Go all out—you've got this!

## Farewell and Best Wishes to Mariana Sausedo

We're bidding a heartfelt farewell to Mariana Sausedo, our Supported Employment Manager. After 9 years in Alaska and 2 impactful years with REACH, Inc., Mariana is heading back to sunny California to be closer to her family. During her time with us, she worked closely with our job coaches to ensure our service recipients had the support they needed to maintain meaningful employment. Mariana's dedication, warmth, and leadership will be greatly missed. Thank you, Mariana, for all you've done — we wish you the very best in this next chapter!



## A Heartfelt Goodbye to Two Remarkable Leaders

With mixed emotions, we announce that **Hannah Ashenfelter**, our Director of Operations, and **Laurel Stafford**, our Supported Employment Director, are stepping down after many years of exceptional service.

Hannah's 13 years at REACH have been vital to our organization's growth and success. Her leadership strengthened our operations and helped expand our services. She has made a lasting impact on both our staff and the community we serve.

Laurel's 10 years of dedication have empowered countless individuals to achieve greater independence. Their tireless advocacy has challenged systemic barriers and promoted inclusion. Laurel's passion and commitment have been key drivers in advancing our mission.

We are deeply grateful to both Hannah and Laurel for their remarkable contributions and wish them every success in the next chapters of their journeys. Thank you, Hannah and Laurel, for all you have done.



## A Message from Valorie Ringle

My name is Valorie Ringle. I have been on the board at REACH, Inc. for the past 7 years, through times of worrisome stagnation, frightening COVID, and now a time of exciting potential change. I joined the board during a financial downturn in hopes of helping keep REACH, Inc. as a resource for the Developmentally Disabled in Southeast Alaska. The work we do is too important to the community as a whole and so, even though I am not a financial wizard, I thought I'd stick my oar in. Many of you will remember me as a past president and former secretary of the board.

I am very happy to see the changes happening at REACH, Inc.. Change can be hard; growth and new learning can be scary. I saw this all the time in my classroom as students pushed themselves and me to learn new ideas and skills and put them into practice. The Board of Directors is determined to change and grow alongside everyone else at REACH, Inc.

At the most recent meeting of the Board, I signed the Code of Conduct that sets a standard of professional interaction throughout the REACH, Inc. community. Naomi Studevan, the Executive Director, worked with the Board to create this policy in response to comments from REACH employees. It sets the standard and outlines a response, so that hopefully all will feel safe and supported in our community. I ask that we all have patience with each other, and presume good intentions as we learn new ways to interact in response to this Code of Conduct.

Another exciting change is the resumption of professional training for everyone who works at REACH as new workers are onboarded and current employees learn new or refresh current skills. I hope that everyone will pay attention to the growth that comes from these trainings and celebrate all the positive outcomes. I certainly intend to!

As always, and concerns or questions can be addressed to the Board at [board@reachak.org](mailto:board@reachak.org). I monitor this email and will respond.





## Spreading Kindness and Creativity

April was a month full of creativity and community at Northland. On April 16th, under the guidance of Manager Tamara Marshall, clients participated in a special Easter Craft Night. They painted smooth rocks and added positive affirmations, turning simple stones into meaningful messages of hope.

In May, the group used the Reach 15-passenger van to explore the Juneau community and hide their affirmation rocks for others to find—a fun and thoughtful way to spread kindness.



## Spring BBQ Night

Northland hosted a fantastic Spring BBQ Bash on April 26th, bringing everyone together for an afternoon filled with delicious food, fun activities, and plenty of sunshine. It was a perfect way to celebrate the season and enjoy each other's company.



## Anna's Back! Recharged, Inspired, and Ready to Make a Difference

The Infant Learning Program is thrilled to welcome back Anna Mattox, who is rejoining us as a full-time Occupational Therapist after a six-month sabbatical. During her time away, Anna traveled through South America, where she volunteered in a variety of settings—including helping rehabilitate rescued monkeys and return them to their natural habitats. Her journey was filled with meaningful adventures and transformative experiences, and we're so excited to see her bring a fresh perspective, enthusiasm, and new Spanish language skills to enrich her work with families in our program. Welcome back, Anna!

## Letter from the Executive

### SAVE THE DATE: REACH, Inc.'s Summer Community Resource Fair & Disability Pride Celebration

Date: July 25, 2025

Location: Savikko Park

As I continue to connect with community members—including organizational leaders, legislative representatives, and neighbors across Juneau—one thing has become clear: while our city may be small in size, it is incredibly rich in resources. However, many residents remain unaware of the breadth of support and services available right here in our local community.

To help bridge that gap, we are reimagining this year's Annual REACH, Inc. Summer Picnic as a Community Resource Fair and Disability Pride Celebration—an inclusive event designed to foster connection, awareness, and celebration for individuals of all abilities.

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



It will be a meaningful opportunity for organizations to share information, distribute materials, and engage directly with the community in a festive, welcoming environment.

### We are currently seeking:

- ☒ Co-sponsors
- ☒ Donors
- ☒ Volunteers
- ☒ Organizations interested in hosting resource tables

If your organization would like to participate or support the event in any way, please contact [ctstuart@reachak.org](mailto:ctstuart@reachak.org).

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!

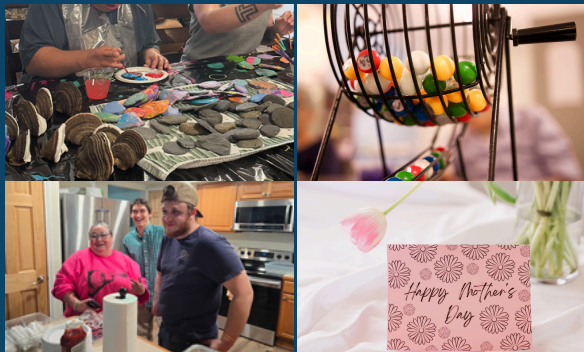


## Mark Your Calendars for June

- ☑ June 18 – Lena Beach BBQ  
9377 NORTHLAND ST. 4PM
- ☑ June 20 – Steelhead Bingo  
4934 Steelhead St. – 5PM



## Looking Back: April–May Event Recap



### MONTH OF APRIL

- ☑ Annual Office Egg Hunt
- ☑ Easter Craft Night
- ☑ Steelhead Bingo
- ☑ Spring BBQ Bash

### MONTH OF MAY

- ☑ Mother's Day Gift Making
- ☑ Steelhead Bingo
- ☑ Reach Rocks Event

## EMPLOYEES MARKING A 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:

|                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chelsea Kelly – 22 Years    | Chevelle Hogan – 4 Years   |
| Alfredo Capada – 14 Years   | Nelea Fenumiai – 3 Years   |
| Agnes Elizarde – 10 Years   | Jimmie Holland – 2 Years   |
| Guadalupe Serrano – 5 Years | Chloe Kessler – 2 Years    |
| Sylvia Johnson – 4 Years    | Charina Laguidao – 2 Years |
| Justin Roberts – 4 Years    | Justin McKoy – 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:

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Brian Espejo     | Charlene Zanoria |
| Ian Thrower      | Cassie Stuart    |
| James Weatherwax | Elisha Hamilton  |
| Serge Eonne      |                  |

## CHEERS TO OUR JUNE 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.

|                          |                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| James Scholl – June 1    | Rebecca Brewer – June 18        |
| Martin Reid – June 2     | Kendra Feller – June 19         |
| Sara Muehlberg – June 5  | Brandon Rindlisbacher – June 20 |
| Corazon Acosta – June 5  | Andrew Conteh – June 24         |
| Joanne Sam – June 10     | Alfredo Capada – June 25        |
| Tara Dymock – June 12    | Jared Jack-Hunter – June 25     |
| Sylvia Johnson – June 12 | Mellissa Wilfong – June 26      |
| Nymphal Lopez – June 14  | Matthew Jones – June 29         |



## June Is Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month – Let's Talk Brain Health



### Brain Health Tips for Every Age



#### Stay Active

Regular exercise increases blood flow to the brain and promotes overall health.



#### Eat a Brain-Healthy Diet

Incorporate fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats like omega-3s.



#### Challenge Your Mind

Keep your brain sharp with puzzles, reading, and learning new skills.



#### Get Enough Sleep

Quality sleep is essential for brain function and memory consolidation.



#### Socialize

Staying socially engaged can protect against cognitive decline.

### Why It Matters

Alzheimer's is not just memory loss — it's a progressive brain disease that affects thinking, behavior, and the ability to perform everyday tasks. While there is no cure yet, early detection and proactive brain health can make a difference.

### Did You Know?

- Over 6 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and that number is expected to grow to nearly 13 million by 2050. Source: Alzheimer's Association, 2024
- Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2024

### Quote of the Month

***"You yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your love and affection." – Buddha***

In a world that often tells us to give more, do more, and be more, it's easy to forget the importance of simply being kind to ourselves. This month's quote is a powerful reminder that self-love isn't selfish—it's essential.

Taking care of your mental health starts with recognizing your worth. Set boundaries, speak kindly to yourself, and don't be afraid to rest. Healing begins when we treat ourselves with the same compassion we so freely give to others.

Let this quote be your gentle nudge to pause, breathe, and reconnect—with you.





## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're thrilled to put the spotlight on the outstanding team at Glacier Woods Group Home. Their dedication and compassion make a real difference, and Group Home Manager Toni Brice is here to share her heartfelt appreciation for all they do. "I would like to thank all my staff at Glacier Woods for their continued hard work. Everyone has gone up and above to ensure that our individuals receive the upmost care. I am truly honored to supervise the amazing team that we have here." – Toni Brice

### Direct Service Professionals on Toni's Team

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Chloe Kessler      | Diana Austin     |
| Pamela Mueller-Guy | Jennifer Bellman |
| Nicole Ashley      | Sequoia Kuznick  |
| Lidia Argueta      | Oliver Butikofer |
| Debbie Riordan     | Enisela Uasike   |



## FROM THE DESK OF SHANE WALKER

Hello from the desk of Shane Walker, Case Manager and American Heart Association Certified CPR and First Aid Instructor at REACH. With June being National Safety Month it is a good time to remember that one of the best steps you can take is to become certified or renew your certification for CPR and First Aid.

CPR and First Aid training helps make yourself, your family, and your family safer and better able to respond when emergencies occur. Being a Certified CPR First Aid Instructor for over 12 years I have heard first-hand stories of infants, children, seniors, and adults whose lives have been saved by my students over the years. Each rescue is important and has a huge impact on the lives of victims who otherwise would face life-long injuries or even death without the help of students who take the time to learn these vital skills. This is especially important in rural Alaska where help can take time to reach you. My deepest thanks to everyone who has their CPR First Aid Card and to all who will be doing so soon.

## We're Going Paperless!

Exciting news! In our commitment to sustainability, we are going paperless with our newsletter. By reducing waste, we're making an environmentally conscious choice—and we invite you to join us! Starting in May, REACH will no longer mail our newsletter.

It's easy to stay connected! You can scan the QR code, email your full name to [reception@reachak.org](mailto:reception@reachak.org), or you can visit our website at [reachak.org](http://reachak.org) to view our newsletter online.

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

SCAN ME



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