REACHing Out

REACH INCORPORATED

REACH, Inc. Monthly Newsletter | November 2026



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REACH Newsletter | November 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!*













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NDEAM Spotlight: Growth, Independence & Success

In recognition of October's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), REACH celebrated the achievements of people with disabilities and highlighted the importance of inclusive employment opportunities. Throughout the month, we recognized the growth, dedication, and successes happening within REACH's Employment Services program.

Alec and Keehan have reached significant milestones in their employment journeys, demonstrating increased independence and confidence in the workplace. Their accomplishments reflect the power of perseverance, meaningful opportunities, and the support of a team that believes in their potential.

These successes are made possible by dedicated staff who go above and beyond every day. **Anita** has quickly become a valued member of the team, building strong connections with the individuals she supports and embracing every opportunity to learn and grow. **Miguel** has continued to strengthen his skills and make meaningful contributions through his commitment to improvement and professional development.

We also celebrate **Matthew**, whose journey with REACH is a wonderful example of growth in action. Over the years, he has progressed from janitorial services to becoming a Lead Job Coach, demonstrating leadership, dedication, and a passion for helping others succeed.

At the heart of these achievements is a team committed to helping people reach their goals. Their dedication, adaptability, and encouragement help create opportunities for individuals to thrive in meaningful employment and build greater independence.

"These are huge milestones for these individuals. To be quite honest, my whole team is fantastic, and they never fail to surprise me. They've all improved in the three months that I have been working with them."
— Roxanne Horton, Employment Service Specialist

As we celebrate NDEAM, we honor the achievements of the individuals we support and the staff who help make those successes possible. Together, they remind us that when people are given opportunities to grow and contribute, great things happen.

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Meet Matthew Talley: Making a Difference Through Job Coaching

Matthew Talley has been a job coach for about 10 years, helping individuals with different abilities succeed in the workplace. For Matthew, job coaching is more than just a job—it is an opportunity to understand, support, and empower others through his own experiences.

Matthew shared that one of the reasons he became a job coach is that he has neurological differences himself. Having experienced criticism and the challenges of being different, he understands the importance of creating a supportive environment where individuals feel valued and encouraged.

For Matthew, one of the most rewarding parts of his work is seeing the individuals he supports become independent and no longer need his assistance. While it marks the end of one chapter, it is also a moment worth celebrating, a sign that they have gained the skills and confidence to succeed on their own.

Through his work, Matthew reminds us that success is not just about finding a job. It is about building independence, recognizing each person's strengths, and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive.

Thank you, Matthew, for sharing your experience and for making a meaningful difference in the lives of the individuals you support!

A Special Thank You to Our Job Coaches

Behind every successful work experience is someone offering guidance, encouragement, and support. At REACH, our job coaches play an important role in helping individuals explore employment opportunities, develop workplace skills, and work toward their personal goals.

From helping individuals learn new tasks and build confidence to providing ongoing support in the workplace, job coaches help create opportunities for meaningful employment and greater independence. They work alongside individuals and employers to encourage success, address challenges, and help build inclusive workplaces where everyone has the opportunity to contribute.

Their patience, dedication, and commitment make a lasting difference, not only in the lives of the individuals they support but also in the workplaces and communities they serve.
To our REACH job coaches, thank you! Your work helps make employment more accessible, strengthens our community, and reminds us that everyone deserves the opportunity to pursue their goals and share their talents.

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REACH Hosts DeafBlind Immersion Experience

REACH recently hosted a two-day DeafBlind Immersion Experience in Juneau, bringing together community members and specialists to learn more about DeafBlindness, accessibility, and ways to better support individuals experiencing hearing and vision loss. Made possible through a grant approved by the Mental Health Trust Authority, the training provided an interactive, hands-on learning opportunity for the community.

A Message from Tim Wilson, Support Service Manager

"Thanks to a Grant approved by The Mental Health Trust Authority, we were able to bring DeafBlind Specialists in from The Helen Keller National Center to provide a training open to the community on October 24th and 25th. The training was interactive, fun, and incredibly educational. The training included information on types of DeafBlindness, a hands-on demonstration on how someone might guide someone who is deafblind, and several blindfolded activities to demonstrate the challenges that people who experience sensory loss face. We hope that a continued relationship with the experts at The Helen Keller National Center will help us provide better and better services to those who experience hearing and/or vision loss. Thank you to The Mental Health Trust Authority, as well as the folks at The Helen Keller National Center for allowing us to provide this opportunity to the community of Juneau."

Thank you to the Mental Health Trust Authority and the Helen Keller National Center for helping make this valuable learning experience possible. REACH looks forward to continuing to build knowledge, strengthen services, and support a more accessible and inclusive community for individuals experiencing hearing and vision loss.



Striking Success: Niall and Kai Head to the State Games!

We're excited to celebrate Niall and Kai, who have been selected to travel and compete in bowling at the State Games!

From November 6–8, they'll have the opportunity to showcase their bowling skills, enjoy some friendly competition, and be part of an exciting experience alongside other athletes. Participating in the games is a chance to challenge themselves, build confidence, and celebrate the joy of sports.

At REACH, we're proud to recognize opportunities that encourage individuals to explore their interests, develop their abilities, and participate in their communities. Niall and Kai's selection is something worth celebrating, and we're excited to see them represent REACH at the State Games!

Join us in wishing Niall and Kai the best of luck! We'll be cheering them on and hope they have a wonderful experience on and off the lanes.

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Help Us Choose Our Holiday Window Artist!

REACH's Community Artist Spotlight has reached an exciting stage! Lisa Ritter and Leo Kotlarov have been selected to participate in the community voting stage of our Holiday Window Display project. Both artists have submitted their creative concepts for REACH's downtown window at Seward Street and 3rd Street, and now it's up to the community to decide which design will be featured this holiday season!

Meet the Artists and View Their Designs

Take a look at the creative concepts submitted by our two selected artists:

Lisa Ritter



Leo Kotlarov





How to Vote

1. Scan the QR code to access the online voting page.
2. Submit your ratings and help choose this year's featured Holiday Window Artist!

The artist with the highest total number of stars will be selected as REACH's featured Holiday Window Artist and will have the opportunity to bring their design to life for the holiday season.

Voting closes November 3, 2026!

Share the voting page with friends and family, and help us spread the word. Let's come together to celebrate local creativity and bring some holiday spirit to downtown Juneau!

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NATIONAL EPILEPSY AWARENESS MONTH

November is National Epilepsy Awareness Month, a time to learn more about epilepsy, reduce stigma, and support people living with seizures.

WHAT IS EPILEPSY?

Epilepsy is a neurological disorder characterized by recurrent seizures. A seizure is a temporary disruption in the brain's normal electrical activity.
Epilepsy can affect anyone, at any age. Every person's experience is different, and seizures can look very different from one person to another.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 IN 26 PEOPLE will develop epilepsy during their lifetime. Epilepsy is one of the most common neurological conditions, but many people still face misunderstanding or stigma because of it.

SEIZURES CAN LOOK DIFFERENT

A seizure does not always involve shaking or falling. Someone experiencing a seizure may:

- Stare blankly or appear unaware
- Become confused or disoriented
- Lose awareness or responsiveness
- Experience unusual movements
- Have muscle stiffening or rhythmic shaking
- Experience unusual sensations, emotions, or behaviors



Knowing what to do can help keep someone safe.

STAY
Stay with the person and time the seizure. Remain calm and reassuring.
KEEP THEM SAFE
Move nearby objects away and help protect the person from injury. Do not restrain them.
TURN THEM ON THEIR SIDE
If they are unconscious or not fully awake and aware, gently turn them onto their side to help keep their airway clear.
NOTHING IN THE MOUTH
Never put food, water, medicine, or objects in someone's mouth during a seizure. A person cannot swallow their tongue.

WHEN TO CALL 911

Call 911 if:

- The seizure lasts 5 minutes or longer
- Another seizure begins before the person recovers
- The person has trouble breathing or does not regain consciousness
- The person is injured
- The seizure is their first known seizure
- The seizure happens in water

A gentle reminder this month

"Not every struggle is visible, and not every challenge needs to be explained to deserve understanding."

Behind every person is a story we may not fully see. Some people live with conditions that affect their daily lives in ways others may not notice. They may face uncertainty, navigate challenges quietly, or work harder than others realize just to get through an ordinary day. What may seem simple to one person can require extra effort, patience, or support for someone else. Instead of making assumptions about what someone can or cannot do, we can choose to listen, learn, and lead with compassion. Sometimes, the most meaningful thing we can offer is a safe space where people feel accepted without having to explain or prove what they are going through. Because everyone deserves understanding, respect, and the freedom to be themselves without judgment.

SAVE THE DATE

Reach Annual Holiday Party



DEC
11
FRIDAY

Join us on December 11, 2026 for an evening of holiday celebration, fun, and time together! Mark your calendars! More information to come!

OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE

VETERANS DAY



11.11.26

PLEASE NOTE THAT REACH SHREDDING AND THE REACH MAIN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026, IN OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY.

OFFICE CLOSURE NOTICE

THANKS GIVING DAY

PLEASE NOTE THAT REACH SHREDDING AND THE REACH MAIN OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2026, IN OBSERVANCE OF THANKSGIVING DAY.

THURSDAY | 26 | NOVEMBER 2026

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT!

NOVEMBER 2026

01 NOV
SIP N STITCH
Sun 11/1/2026 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Heritage Coffee Roasting Company

02 NOV
OPEN GYM - MARIE DRAKE GYM
Mon 11/2/2026 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Marie Drake Planetarium

03 NOV
OPEN ICE SKATE
Tue 11/3/2026 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Treadwell Ice Arena

05 NOV
ENGINEERING ON TAP
Thu 11/5/2026 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Devil's Club Brewing Company; Downstairs

06 NOV
WELLNESS HOUR
Fri 11/6/2026 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Augustus Brown Swimming Pool

07 NOV
OPEN PICKLEBALL
Sat 11/7/2026 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Floyd Dryden Middle School

08 NOV
OPEN SWIM - DIMOND POOL
Sun 11/8/2026 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM
Dimond Park Aquatic Center

11 NOV
OPEN GYM - MARIE DRAKE GYM
Wed 11/11/2026 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Marie Drake Planetarium

11 NOV
CREATIVE GROWTH ART MENTAL HEALTH GROUP (NAMI)
Wed 11/11/2026 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
8711 Teal St Suite 200, Juneau, AK

17 NOV
$2 TRIVIA TUESDAYS
Tue 11/17/2026 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Devil's Club Brewing Company; Downstairs

17 NOV
FLOATING YOGA - AUGUSTUS BROWN POOL
e 11/17/2026 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM

23 NOV
SENIOR SING ALONG WITH JACQUE! (60+)
Mon 11/23/2026 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Juneau Senior Center



Scan for more details

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Celebrating Our Staff Appreciation Winner: Harmony Ryan!

Please join us in congratulating Harmony Ryan, our October Staff Appreciation winner!

Harmony is someone her team can always count on. As Cassandra shared, Harmony is always willing to step in when help is needed, whether covering a last-minute shift or finding solutions to ensure the team has the support it needs.

Her flexibility, dependability, and willingness to help others reflect the true spirit of teamwork. These everyday acts of support make a meaningful difference to her coworkers and the individuals REACH serves.

Congratulations, Harmony! Thank you for your dedication, your willingness to lend a hand, and the care you show your team. We appreciate all that you do for REACH!

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 November:

Cassandra Bulard - HM MGR (19 years)
Carissa Heath - Quality Assurance Analyst II (15 years)
Diana Saenz-Bernhardt - MED BILLING (14 years)
Paul Spaulding - DIR SS (12 years)
Shannon Gress - ILP-Contractor (7 years)
Victoria Moore - Legally Responsible Individual (5 years)
Joshua Moore - Legally Responsible Individual (5 years)
William Samato - CUST LEAD (3 years)
Oliver Butikofer - DSP (2 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:

MJ Johnson - Job Coach I
Rebecca DeJean - EMP SPECIAL
Taylen Reed - Job Coach I
Thierry Nkangura - DSP
Martin Ntwali - DSP
Stacy Zellhuber - RECEPTIONIST
Izaac Horton - 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.

Mitchell Henderson - Nov 02
Timothy Wilson - Nov 07
Xiao Lu - Nov 09
Jacinda Fairbanks - Nov 11
Tina Kegg - Nov 12
Joselle Lopez - Nov 14
Merry Bunton - Nov 16
Bertha Lamas - Nov 17
Agnes Elizarde - Nov 18
Derick Nebert - Nov 20
Erin Meade - Nov 22
Izaac Horton - Nov 22
Tamara Marshall - Nov 26

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CELEBRATING NATIONAL CUSTODIAN DAY

Recognizing the People Who Make a Difference Behind the Scenes

In recognition of National Custodian Day on October 2, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the dedicated REACH Custodial team. Their hard work and commitment help keep our community spaces clean, safe, and welcoming.

REACH Custodial provides professional cleaning services to local businesses and public facilities throughout Southeast Alaska, including the Alaska State Office Building, Juneau Federal Building, and Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center.

Beyond providing quality cleaning services, REACH Custodial creates meaningful employment opportunities for individuals who experience disabilities, supporting independence, confidence, and greater participation in the workforce.

Much of custodial work happens behind the scenes, and the effort it takes can easily go unnoticed. Yet, every clean and well-maintained space reflects someone's time, skill, and care.

To our REACH Custodial team, thank you for the pride you take in your work and the difference you make in our community. Your contributions matter, your efforts are valued, and we are grateful for all that you do!



Celebrating Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the rich histories, cultures, traditions, and contributions of Native American and Alaska Native peoples. Here in Alaska, Indigenous communities carry generations of knowledge, storytelling, language, art, and traditions that continue to shape our communities today.

This month is an opportunity to learn from these histories, appreciate the diversity of Indigenous cultures, and recognize the importance of preserving cultural heritage for future generations.

At REACH, we believe strong communities are built on respect, understanding, and a sense of belonging. Celebrating Native American Heritage Month reminds us to honor the unique experiences, identities, and contributions that make our communities stronger.

This November, let's take time to learn, listen, and celebrate the Indigenous peoples whose cultures and contributions enrich our communities.

SCAN ME

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

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