



NiJo Catching Dolly's at Sheep Creek!



NiJo spent the day at Sheep Creek and had a blast reeling in some feisty Dolly Varden. Great weather, great fishing, and even better memories. He definitely enjoyed every minute out there!

Here are some interesting facts about Dolly Varden: they're actually a type of char, not trout; they have bright, colorful spots; and they put up a strong fight in cold, clear streams like Sheep Creek.

Reach Newsletter – August 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!



Summer Community Resource Fair & Disability Pride Celebration!

We were proud to host our Summer Community Resource Fair & Disability Pride Celebration at beautiful Savikko Park on July 25—and what an incredible day it was! In celebration of Disability Pride Month, we joined with families, friends, and community members to uplift the voices of individuals with disabilities, promote inclusion, and connect people with valuable local resources—all in a fun, supportive, and welcoming environment.

The park was filled with laughter, music, and a strong sense of community as guests enjoyed delicious food, games, resource booths, and exciting prize giveaways. The energy and joy throughout the day truly reflected the spirit of Disability Pride and the power of coming together. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event such a meaningful and memorable success!

A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community Partners

We couldn't have made this event such a success without the generous support of our amazing community partners. Door prizes were provided by The Alaska Club, Fly Trampoline Park, Nugget Alaskan Outfitter, Juneau Pizza and Kindred Post, with water and chips donated by Safeway and Costco.

Their contributions helped create a welcoming atmosphere filled with fun, connection, and celebration. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to supporting our community and making this day truly special for everyone involved. Thank you for helping us bring people together and celebrate Disability Pride with joy and pride.

Looking Back: Summer Picnic Recap



REACH Board and Officer Positions

Fiscal Year 2026

Matt Jones
President

Karen Carey
Vice President

Jim Scholl
Treasurer

Kristen Spencer
Secretary

Valorie Ringle
Member

Nelea Fenumiai
Member

Will Jamison
Member

Olivia Atherton
Member

Stacy Sedgwick
Member

Robert Frick
Recipient Member



A Heartfelt Thank You to Our Community Partners!



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:

Pedro Romero – 20 years
Andrew Conteh – 11 years
Oren Galletes – 7 years
Alma McCallep – 7 years

Joselle Lopez – 4 years
Keyi Liang – 2 years
Lorin Alford – 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:

Devin Tatro – Employment Specialist
Ariana Drobet – Job Coach
Connor Price – Job Coach



Mark Your Calendars for August

August 15

Steelhead Bingo
4934 Steelhead St. – 5PM

August 18–22

REACH Spirit Week
All REACH locations

CHEERS TO OUR AUGUST 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.

Colleen James – August 1
Valorie Ringle – August 5
Qin Zhou – August 7
Morris Carrillo – August 9
Justin Henn – August 11
Sequoia Kasnick – August 15
Carol Schaaque – August 16

David Self – August 17
Sherri McDonald – August 21
Carlota Genil – August 25
Niamh Dardis – August 29
Laurel Stafford – August 30
Cassandra Washington – August 31





Balanced Beginnings: Parental Stress Management Skill Building

All new parents experience stress, and learning how to manage it can make a big difference. The Infant Learning Program (ILP), in partnership with Bartlett Regional Hospital, is offering Balanced Beginnings, a free weekly virtual group focused on building parental stress management skills and creating supportive connections.

What to expect:

- ✓ Confidential, small group sessions via Zoom
- ✓ Practical tools to help manage parental stress
- ✓ Opportunities to connect with other new parents
- ✓ Facilitated by Sara Gress, MS, RN, IBCLC, PMH-C (Bartlett Regional Hospital) and Renee Sullivan, LPC, PMH-C (REACH Infant Learning Program)

Join us every Tuesday from 12 to 1 PM to build resilience and gain helpful tools for managing the challenges of new parenthood. Connect with others, find support, and remember—you're not alone on this journey. Taking time for yourself is an important step toward a balanced and healthy start for your family.



Discover Local Events with the Juneau Community Calendar!

What Is the Juneau Community Calendar?

The calendar, hosted by KTOO, features an up-to-date list of local events open to the public. You'll find everything from music and art shows to cultural festivals, nature walks, educational workshops, and family-friendly gatherings.

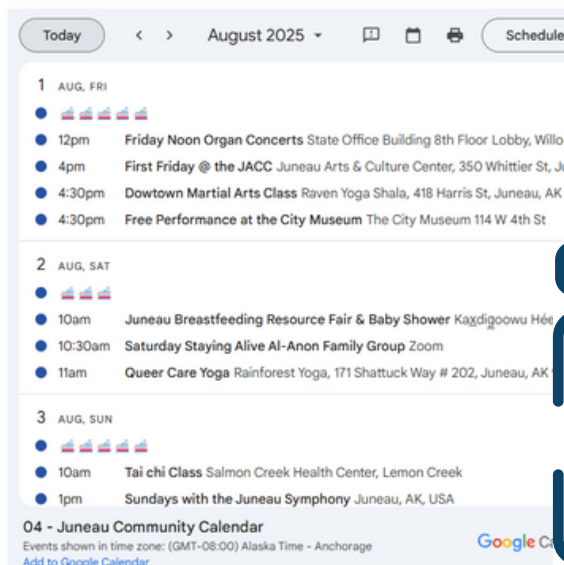
Why this matters:

Participating in community events helps our individuals build social connections, learn new skills, and experience a greater sense of belonging.

Check the calendar regularly to discover upcoming activities that align with the interests and goals of those you support. Plan ahead and encourage participation whenever possible!

How to Access:

Simply scan the QR code below to jump straight to the calendar and start exploring upcoming events. You can also copy events directly to your personal calendar to never miss out! Get Involved — Find Your Next Activity Today!



SCAN ME



A banner image showing a young girl with long brown hair, smiling and holding a pair of goggles over her eyes. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with shelves.

Children's Eye Health & Safety Month

Tips for Healthy Eyes & Safe Sight



Schedule Regular Eye Exams

Get eyes checked yearly, starting before school.



Protect Their Eyes During Play

Use protective eyewear during sports.



Limit Screen Time

Try the 20-20-20 rule to reduce strain.



Encourage Outdoor Play

Sunlight supports healthy eye growth.



Teach Good Hygiene

Wash hands and don't rub eyes.



Why It Matters

Children depend on good vision to learn, play, and explore. Since up to 80% of learning is visual, undetected eye issues can impact school, behavior, and confidence. Early eye exams can catch problems like nearsightedness or lazy eye before they lead to lasting vision loss.

Did You Know?

- ✓ 1 in 4 school-aged children has an undiagnosed vision problem.
- ✓ 80% of eye injuries in children are preventable with proper safety measures.
- ✓ Kids spend over 7 hours a day on screens, increasing the risk of digital eye strain.
- ✓ A child may not complain about vision problems because they assume everyone sees the same way.
- ✓ Sun exposure can damage children's eyes—UV protection is just as important for them as it is for adults.

Quote of the Month

"Seeing the world differently doesn't mean seeing it wrong—it means seeing it uniquely." – Unknown

Everyone experiences the world in their own way. Just because someone thinks differently doesn't mean they're mistaken. Unique perspectives bring creativity, insight, and new ways of understanding. When we value those differences, we build a more compassionate and open-minded world. What makes us different is often what makes us stronger.





Important Summer Safety Reminder from Shane Walker, AHA CPR Instructor

Summer is a time for harvesting nature's bounty. However, in Southeast Alaska it is vitally important to be aware of the danger of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning.

Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning is caused by eating shellfish contaminated with the algae that contains Paralytic Shellfish Toxin. It is extremely poisonous, and as little as one milligram is enough to kill an adult.

Follow these steps to protect yourself and your family:

- ✓ Avoid eating shellfish from untested Alaska beaches.
- ✓ Do not eat crab guts — Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) has been found in them.
- ✓ Cooking or freezing will not destroy the toxin.
- ✓ Commercially sold shellfish and crab are routinely tested and are generally safe to eat.

If you have any questions contact the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to learn more.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

This month, we're excited to recognize the incredible team at Northland Group Home. Their unwavering care and teamwork create a true sense of home, and Group Home Manager Tamara Marshall is here to celebrate all they bring to our community.

At the heart of our Northland group home is a team whose dedication knows no bounds. These incredible women consistently excel, making themselves readily available, in all circumstances, to ensure the well-being and comfort of those we serve. Their commitment is not just a part of their job—it's a reflection of who they are as people. Whether it's stepping in during a crisis by simply being a steady presence, their reliability and selflessness are unmatched.

This team's greatest strengths show up as the unwavering support they offer—not only to our individuals but to one another. They create an environment where compassion thrives, where every person feels seen, heard, and valued. Their ability to lift each other up, share the load, and celebrate even the smallest victories makes our home feel like a family. No task is too small, no challenge too great; they approach every endeavor with a shared sense of purpose and a deep desire to make our home the best it can be.

Their strengths lie not only in their resilience but in their kindness. They lead with love and empathy, act with integrity, and bring a contagious energy that inspires everyone around them, including myself. Driven by passion and fueled by love for the work they do, this team improves lives every single day. Their presence is a powerful reminder that when people come together with heart and intention, extraordinary things happen. – **Tamara Marshall**

Direct Service Professionals on Tamara's Team

Colleen James
Mellissa Wilfong

Xinyi Liang
Sarah Crawford

SCAN ME



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



REACH, Inc. | reachak.org | 907-586-8228
213 3rd Street, Juneau, Alaska 99801