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## REACH Newsletter | April 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!*



## Thank You, Tim Marshall, Champion of REACH's Facilities Management!

"Tim, I want to take a moment to personally thank you for everything you do. The way you consistently go above and beyond; taking on multiple roles, showing up early, staying late, and handling whatever is needed, none of it goes unnoticed. Your work ethic, reliability, and willingness to step in wherever you're needed make a meaningful difference every day. We are truly fortunate to have you on our team."

**-Naomi S.**

"I appreciate that Tim M. remains polite even under stress and consistently follows through on his commitments. We are lucky to have him!"

**-Sherri M**

"Tim M. brings both skill and good vibes to the team, couldn't ask for a better coworker."

**-Cassie S**

"Tim. M has been a big asset for Reach. I appreciate him so much for helping in all areas that is needed. He goes above and beyond, and I am so happy he is here. Thank you, Tim, for all that you do." **-Sylvia J.**

"Tim takes time out of his day to answer questions, and he doesn't look down on you or make you feel stupid, and he always has a way to make you laugh, even if that is quoting Shrek." **-Lyra G**

"I want to extend our deepest appreciation to Tim Marshall for everything he does for Reach Facilities and Custodial. Tim consistently goes above and beyond, offering his support in every situation with a positive attitude and a willingness to help, no matter how much effort or inconvenience it may require. His dedication and reliability set a standard for excellence, and his ability to tackle challenges head-on makes a meaningful impact on our daily operations. Tim's commitment does not go unnoticed, he is always ready to step in wherever needed, provide guidance, and ensure that our team can succeed. We are truly grateful for his hard work, his generosity with his time, and the genuine care he brings to every task. Reach Facilities and Custodial is stronger, smoother, and better because of him." **-Josh A**



"Come flood or high water, thank you for always being dependable, hardworking, and within Reach." **-Tamara M**

"I appreciate Tim's wit and reliability. He does a great job making sure everything runs smoothly and that the needs of our group homes and staff are taken care of efficiently." **- Sarah C.**

"At MW we greatly appreciate all that Tim does for the home! The residents love seeing Tim when he stops by to fix things, and they are always very curious of what he's doing. We thank you for all you do for MW and the company!!"

**-Chelsea K.**

"He has a great name." **- Tim Wilson**



## Congratulations to Merry Bunton – Staff Appreciation Winner!

Merry's impact at Mark Alan does not go unnoticed. As her manager, Cassandra Bulard, shared, "Mark Alan runs so smoothly thanks to Merry. She is deeply in tune with each resident and consistently provides exceptional care.

Merry is always willing to step in and problem-solve, ensuring everyone is well taken care of. " Her attentiveness, compassion, and reliability make a meaningful difference every day, for both residents and her team.

Merry exemplifies the kind of dedication and teamwork we strive for across our organization. Please join me in congratulating Merry and thanking her for her outstanding work!

## Celebrate Folk Music at the Alaska Folk Festival!



Join the Alaska Folk Festival from April 6–15 at Centennial Hall! This beloved event is completely free, offering everyone the chance to experience the rich traditions of American folk music. The Festival's mission is to provide educational opportunities, nurture non-professional performers, and ensure folk music thrives for generations to come.

Discover performances, workshops, and a celebration of music that welcomes all ages and skill levels. More information is available at [akfolkfest.org](http://akfolkfest.org)

### Reminder: Customer Survey

The annual survey has been mailed out. If a survey was not received, contact Quality Assurance to request one.

This year, survey participants can enter a prize drawing—feedback helps improve future events, and there's a chance to win!



# Autism Acceptance Month

## 5 Tips for Supporting Individuals with Autism

### 1. Practice Acceptance, Not Just Awareness

Embrace differences and promote inclusion in everyday interactions—accept people as they are.

### 2. Respect Communication Styles

Some individuals may communicate verbally, while others may use alternative methods. Be patient and open.

### 3. Create Sensory-Friendly Spaces

Be mindful of noise, lighting, and other sensory inputs that may be overwhelming.

### 4. Encourage Independence and Strengths

Support individuals in building skills while recognizing and celebrating their unique abilities.

### 5. Promote Inclusion in All Settings

Whether at work, school, or in the community, ensure opportunities are accessible and welcoming.

## Why It Matters

Autism Acceptance Month promotes understanding, inclusion, and respect for individuals on the autism spectrum. It encourages us to embrace differences, reduce stigma, and create spaces where everyone feels valued and supported.

## Did You Know?

- ✔ Autism affects 1 in 36 children in the United States.
- ✔ Autism is a spectrum, meaning it presents differently in every individual.
- ✔ Early support and intervention can significantly improve outcomes and quality of life.
- ✔ Many individuals with autism have unique strengths, talents, and perspectives.
- ✔ Inclusive communities help individuals with autism thrive socially, academically, and professionally.

## Quote of the Month

*“Different, not less.” – Temple Grandin*

Autism is not something to be “fixed,” but a different way of experiencing the world. When we lead with acceptance, empathy, and understanding, we create spaces where individuals on the spectrum can truly belong. Every person deserves to be recognized for their strengths, supported in their challenges, and valued for who they are.





## 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:

Daniel Levine: Custodian  
Cindy Rothschiller: DSP  
Stefan Jones: DSP  
Christopher Brown: DSP  
Michelle Cabrera: DSP

## 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:

Joaquin Romero - 22 years	Deborah Riordan - 3 years
Rebecca Brewer - 14 years	Kristian Untalasco - 2 years
Jimmy Mercurief - 12 years	Timothy Marshall - 2 years
Halatono Tupou - 11 years	Jared Jack-Hunter - 1 year
Tina Kegg - 8 years	Nicole Ashley - 1 year
Maria Manila - 7 years	Nympha Lopez - 1 year
Anthony Lopez - 7 years	Andrew Sulhoff - 1 year
Jacinda Fairbanks - 7 years	Cassie Stuart - 1 year
Ligia Romero - 5 years	Serge Eonne - 1 year
Shane Walker - 3 years	Charlene Zanoria - 1 year
Ian Thrower - 1 year	James Weatherwax - 1 year

## Cheers to Our April 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.

April 4 - James Weatherwax  
April 7 - Scott Hunter  
April 9 - Laura Knowles  
April 11 - Debbie Riordan  
April 13 - Cassandra Bulard  
April 18 - Shane Walker, Jacob Lewis, Anne Eichorst  
April 19 - Anthony Lopez, April Hothkiss  
April 21 - Charles Wisner  
April 26 - Eli Soriano  
April 27 - Jose Quijada  
April 29 - Mathew Talley





# REACH Spring Safety Tips: Check Your Fire Alarms

According to the National Fire Protection Association, NFPA, roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. More than one third (38 percent) of home fire deaths result from fires in which no smoke alarms are present. The risk of dying in a home fire is cut in half in home with working smoke alarms. The importance of proper installation and maintaining smoke alarms in your home cannot be understated.

You should install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement. It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms so that when one smoke alarm sounds, they all sound. Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working. A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be kept at least 10 feet from the stove.

People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. Be sure to check the expiration dates on the smoke alarms you purchase so you can tell how many years of life the unit has left before you purchase. Replace the batteries on all smoke alarms every year. An easy way to remember is to change them on your birthday or other significant holiday so you don't forget.

**Keeping your family and yourself safe is one of the most important things you can do.**

SCAN ME



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