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REACH Newsletter | October 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!*





DSP Appreciation Spotlight

Dear Mendenhall Woods staff,

The residents at Mendenhall Woods and I would like to take this time to express our appreciation for all the hard work you do! When faced with daily challenges, you all support and work together to help the residents achieve their daily goals and live their best lives. Whether that's assisting them with preparing their meals, encouraging them stay on task with their daily routines, being a good listener and advocate when they are frustrated, sad or having a hard time expressing how they feel. Your teamwork and dedication to the residents show everyday through the residents when they're excited to tell me all the fun things they did on DH or when they finished their chores for the day. You are truly the backbone of this company!! Thank you for all you do!!!!

***Sincerely,
AnJo, NiJo, JaLe, KaEd and Chelsea Kelly***

At REACH, the people we support are at the heart of everything we do. Behind the everyday moments, accomplishments, and milestones are dedicated staff who show up with patience, compassion, and commitment. This month, the residents of Mendenhall Woods and Chelsea Kelly wanted to take a moment to recognize their incredible team and share a heartfelt thank-you for all they do.

The Mendenhall Woods team reminds us that meaningful support can be found in the everyday moments: a helping hand, an encouraging word, a listening ear, or simply being there when someone needs support. Thank you to the Mendenhall Woods staff for the care, teamwork, and dedication you bring each day. Your work matters, and the people you support see it, feel it, and appreciate it.



DSP Appreciation Spotlight

Celebrating the Heart of Steelhead House

This month, we're celebrating the dedicated staff who make a difference every day. At Steelhead House, compassion, teamwork, and a commitment to the people we support shine through in so many meaningful ways. Here's a special message of appreciation from Steelhead Group Home Manager, Kim Jones.

"Sometimes it's the little things that make the biggest difference, and the team at Steelhead House does those things every single day.

A huge thank you to Chris, Vey, Feng, Kiwi, and Don for the care, dedication, and heart you bring to the people we support. You consistently go above and beyond, whether that means picking up an extra shift, staying late when needed, or simply taking the time to make someone's day a little brighter.

Because of your commitment, Steelhead House is more than just a home. It's a safe, fun, and welcoming place where individuals feel supported, valued, and cared for. The long hours and extra effort you put in never go unnoticed, and it's clear that everything you do comes from a genuine desire to help others live their best lives.

Thank you for all that you do. Your compassion, teamwork, and dedication make a real difference every day, and we are incredibly grateful to have each of you on our team. Chris, Vey, Feng, Kiwi, and Don, thank you for being the heart of Steelhead House!"



DSP Appreciation Week Recap: Celebrating Our Everyday Heroes!

This month, we celebrated our incredible Direct Support Professionals and Job Coaches who make a difference every day. DSP Appreciation Week was a special opportunity to recognize the dedication, compassion, and hard work they bring to REACH and to the people we serve.

Throughout the week, DSPs and Job Coaches stopped by the REACH office to enjoy donuts, tacos, waffles, drinks, and pizza, along with daily raffles and prizes leading up to our Friday Grand Prize Drawing! It was a fun week filled with treats, smiles, and well-deserved recognition.

Congratulations to Our Daily Raffle Winners!

A big congratulations to this week's raffle winners:

- Monday: Mon-Xiao (Feng) Lu
- Tuesday: Christopher Brown
- Wednesday: Mary Diamzon
- Thursday: Harmony Ryan
- Friday Grand Prize Winner: Anita Sheakley

Congratulations to all of our winners, and thank you to everyone who stopped by and joined in the celebration!

While DSP Appreciation Week may be over, our gratitude continues every day. Thank you to all our amazing DSPs and Job Coaches for your patience, compassion, dedication, and the meaningful difference you make in the lives of the people we serve.

You truly are our everyday heroes, and we are grateful for all that you do!





Celebrating Our Staff Appreciation Winner: Maria Manilla!



Congratulations to Maria Manilla, our September Staff Appreciation Winner! Maria is an outstanding DSP who brings patience, kindness, and a positive attitude to everything she does.

She is always willing to go the extra mile, whether she's helping make someone's day brighter, showing a coworker how much they are appreciated, or stepping in to make their job a little easier. Maria is a valued member of every team she works with, and we are incredibly grateful to have her on ours.

Thank you, Maria, for your compassion, dedication, and all the extra effort you give each day. This recognition is so well deserved. Way to go, Maria!

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 October:

Jay Prutsman - Cust Lead (24 years)
Merry Bunton - DSP Lead (17 years)
Niamh Dardis - Senior Operations and Services Director (15 years)
Katelyn King - Cust State (9 years)
Anna Mattox - OCC THPST (8 years)
Josh Anderson - Director Custodial (6 years)
Morris Carrillo - DSP (6 years)
Arlene Alcancia - DSP (3 years)
Anthony Bevelhymer - Shredder (2 years)
Kristen Spencer - Board Member (2 years)
Benjamin Fenumiai - Shredder (2 years)

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Please help us extend a warm welcome to our new employee 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:

Jose Quijada - 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.

Maria Rosales - Oct 01
Rudy Lumba - Oct 03
Nelea Fenumiai (REACH family member)- Oct 04
Charlene Zanoria - Oct 04
Gloria Magallanes - Oct 05
Todd Wright - Oct 06
Alejandra Roman Cruz - Oct 14
William Sasser-Gettier - Oct 16

Brianna Fallis - Oct 21
Oren Galletes - Oct 22
Keyi Liang - Oct 22
Gertrudes Capada - Oct 23
Justin McKoy - Oct 27
Kai Edmunds - Oct 27



NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

Celebrating Ability, Opportunity, and Inclusion

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to recognize the contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace and promote inclusive employment opportunities.

A Brief History

NDEAM began in 1945 as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1988, Congress expanded the observance to the entire month of October and renamed it National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Today, NDEAM reminds us that people with disabilities bring valuable skills, talents, and perspectives to the workforce.

Why It Matters

Employment can provide independence, confidence, purpose, and connection. Creating accessible workplaces and removing barriers helps ensure everyone has the opportunity to contribute and succeed.

This October, let's celebrate the abilities and achievements of workers with disabilities and continue building workplaces where everyone can thrive.

A Love Letter to Our Job Coaches

To the people who help turn possibilities into opportunities, thank you.

You do more than help someone find a job. You listen, encourage, teach, advocate, and stand beside individuals as they build confidence and discover what they are capable of.

You celebrate the small victories, work through challenges, and keep believing when the path forward isn't always easy. You help connect people with career paths that reflect their abilities, talents, and interests a key part of REACH's Supported Employment program.

Your work creates more than employment opportunities. It helps people build independence, purpose, confidence, and meaningful connections within their communities.

To every REACH Job Coach: thank you for showing up, believing in possibilities, and helping people reach their goals. Your work matters more than you know. We appreciate you today and every day.



FREE MOVIE SPONSORED BY REACH!

25 PROSPECT STREET
DOCUMENTARY

working is working.
www.prospectortheater.org

Join REACH as we celebrate
**National Disability
Employment Awareness
Month (NDEAM)**
with a special screening
of *25 Prospect Street*.

OCTOBER 18, 2026

2:00 PM

GOLDTOWN THEATER

Come together for a powerful documentary that celebrates disability inclusion, meaningful employment, and the experiences and achievements of people with disabilities.

★ CELEBRATING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH ★

Recognizing the value, talent, and contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace and community.

Running Time: 1 Hour & 30 Minutes

Snacks and drinks available for purchase.

Everyone is welcome.

REACH
INCORPORATED

Questions or need more information?
Contact REACH for details.
info@reachak.org

CELEBRATING NDEAM AT REACH CELEBRATING VALUE, TALENT & INCLUSION

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), a time to recognize the contributions of people with disabilities in the workplace and highlight the importance of meaningful employment opportunities.

The 2026 NDEAM theme, “Celebrating Value and Talent,” recognizes the skills and contributions people with disabilities bring to workplaces, communities, and the economy

FREE MOVIE SCREENING: 25 Prospect Street

To celebrate NDEAM, REACH is sponsoring a free screening of *25 Prospect Street* at the Goldtown Theater.

The documentary offers a look at the Prospect Theater, a nonprofit movie theater built around meaningful employment for people with disabilities. Through the experiences of its employees, the film highlights the value of inclusive workplaces and the impact of meaningful work.

October 18, 2026

2:00 PM

Goldtown Theater

Free admission — everyone is welcome!

Running time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase.

Join us as we celebrate the value, talent, and contributions of people with disabilities—during NDEAM and throughout the year.





Join us for

THE DEAFBLIND IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

AN INTERACTIVE TRAINING PRESENTED BY THE
HELEN KELLER NATIONAL CENTER

This immersive experience offers participants an opportunity to better understand communication, access, and the everyday experiences of people who are DeafBlind.

FREE TRAINING • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

-  **7 HOURS** OF IMMERSIVE LEARNING
-  **2 SESSIONS** HANDS-ON & INTERACTIVE
-  **FOOD PROVIDED**

 **OCTOBER 24 & OCTOBER 25**

 **12PM - 7PM**

 **UAS REC CENTER IN ROOM 116**

 **SCAN TO REGISTER**
Space is limited. Registration closes October 14, 2026.

IF YOU NEED ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE, PLEASE CALL REACH INC AT (907) 586-8228, AHEAD OF THE EVENT TO MAKE A REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION.

 Health care and human service professionals are especially encouraged to attend.

Funded through a Mental Health Trust Grant.

 **Helen Keller NATIONAL CENTER** for DeafBlind Youths and Adults

THE DEAFBLIND IMMERSION EXPERIENCE

REACH is hosting The DeafBlind Immersion Experience, an immersive training presented by the Helen Keller National Center for DeafBlind Youths & Adults (HKNC).

This free, interactive experience focuses on communication, accessibility, and the everyday experiences of people who are DeafBlind. Participants will take part in hands-on activities designed to build understanding and awareness.

Event Details

-  **October 24 & 25, 2026**
-  **12:00 PM–7:00 PM**
-  **UAS Rec Center, Room 116**
-  **Food provided**
-  **Free and open to the public**

The training includes two interactive sessions and seven hours of immersive learning. Healthcare and human service professionals are especially encouraged to participate.

Registration is required, and space is limited. Registration closes October 14, 2026.

For accommodation requests, contact REACH at (907) 586-8228 ahead of the event.

Funded through a Mental Health Trust Grant.



Calling Local Artists! **COMMUNITY ARTIST SPOTLIGHT DISPLAY**

**REACH IS INVITING LOCAL ARTISTS TO SUBMIT ARTWORK FOR
OUR COMMUNITY ARTIST SPOTLIGHT DISPLAY.**

Community members may nominate a local artist or themselves. Nominated artists will be contacted to confirm their interest and availability. Those who accept will submit a visual concept showing how they would decorate the window.

The top 3 artists will be selected from the nominations, and the community will vote to choose REACH's featured Holiday Window Artist! The winning artist will have the opportunity to showcase their creativity in our downtown window at Seward St. & 3rd St. throughout the holiday season.

Nominations close: October 15

Community voting: October 16-31

Winner announced: November 1

Artists must be able to safely complete the installation, including ladder use or arranging appropriate assistance. REACH will contact nominated artists before they are considered.

Nominate an Artist or Yourself Today!



Scan Qr Code for more Information



WE ARE **JOIN OUR TEAM** Hiring!

OPEN POSITIONS:

- ✓ Job Coach – Supported Employment
- ✓ Direct Support Professional (DSP)– 24 hour Shift
- ✓ Direct Support Professional (DSP)– Day Habilitation
- ✓ Direct Support Professional (DSP)– Med Complex
- ✓ Custodian (Part-Time)
- ✓ General Maintenance Technician



NOW HIRING: CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for meaningful work where you can make a difference? REACH is hiring! Join a team dedicated to creating opportunities for connection, independence, employment, and growth for people experiencing disabilities.

At REACH, your work has purpose. Whether you're providing direct support, helping someone succeed in the workplace, or supporting our programs behind the scenes, you can help make a meaningful difference every day.

Explore our current job openings and discover how you can grow your career, support your community, and make a lasting impact.

Scan for more details



SCAN HERE

OFFICE NOTICE
CLOSURE



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Please note that REACH Shredding and the REACH main office will be **closed on Monday, October 12, 2026**, in observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT!

OCTOBER 2026

OCT
01

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Science / Engineering on Tap (STEM Talk Series)

📍 Devil's Club
Brewing Company

OCT
02

11:00 - 12:00 PM
Wellness Hour - Self-Led Aquatic Fitness Group

📍 Augustus
Brown Pool

OCT
03

2:00PM - 4:00PM

Silent Book Club
📍 Mendenhall Valley
Public Library

OCT
04

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sip N Stitch
📍 Heritag Coffee
Roasting

OCT
05

6:00PM - 9:00PM
Monday Board Game Night

📍 Devil's Club
Brewing Company;

OCT
07-10

6:30 PM
*FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH EVENT
Gold Town Theater*

📍 171 Shattuck Way

OCT
10-11

7:00 - 9:00 PM
*FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH EVENT
The Rock Dump*

📍 1310 Eastaugh Way

OCT
11

4:00PM
*FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH EVENT
Gold Town Theater*

📍 171 Shattuck Way

OCT
17

3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

*FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH EVENT
Amalga Distillery*

📍 134 N Franklin St

OCT
15

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

*Mini Fig Paint and
Sip (All Ages)*

📍 Devil's Club Brewing
Company;

OCT
24 -25

5:30 PM - 6:30PM

*FILIPINO AMERICAN
HISTORY MONTH EVENT
Roots and Rythm*

📍 251 S. Franklin St

OCT
26

11:00 AM- 12:00 PM
*Senior Sing Along with
Jacque! (60+)*

📍 Juneau Senior Center



Scan for more details



COMMUNITY EVENTS

DON'T MISS OUT!

OCTOBER 2026

FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH EVENTS



OCT 7
OCT 11

GOLDTOWN THEATER

OCT 7, 6:30 PM
OCT 11, 4:00 PM

See the award-winning Filipino film, *Filipiniana*, honored with the 2026 Sundance Special Jury Award for Creative Vision. 171 Shattuck Way #109

OCT 10
OCT 11

THE ROCK DUMP

YOUNG ADULTS - OCT 10, 7-9 PM
FAMILIES - OCT 11, 11-2 PM

Bring the family or join fellow young adults for a fun night of rock climbing and light refreshments.

1310 Eastaugh Way.

OCT 17

AMALGA DISTILLERY

3 - 6 PM

Sip, snack, and celebrate Filipino American culture with Filipino-inspired drinks and light refreshments

134 N Franklin St

OCT 24
OCT 25

ROOTS & RHYTHM

OCT 24-25, 10 AM-3:30 PM DANCE WORKSHOP
OCT 24, 7 PM SHOW
OCT 25, 9-12 PM T-BOLI COOKING

Cultural dance workshops, performances, and culinary traditions ft. Parangal Dance Company and culture bearers.

251 S. Franklin St.

TBA

ALASKA ROBOTICS

Explore a display of books, comics, and illustrations by Filipino American authors and artists.

134 N Franklin St



National Down Syndrome Awareness Month



Did You Know?

October is National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, a time to increase understanding, celebrate the contributions of people with Down syndrome, and promote inclusion and opportunities for everyone.

Down syndrome is a genetic condition that occurs when a person has an extra copy of chromosome 21. It can affect physical development, learning, communication, and health in different ways. Every person with Down syndrome is unique, with their own interests, strengths, abilities, and goals.

A Story of Inclusion: Madeline Stuart

Madeline Stuart is an Australian model and advocate who has challenged stereotypes about what people with Down syndrome can achieve. After beginning her modeling career, she gained international attention for walking in New York Fashion Week and using her platform to promote greater inclusion and representation in the fashion industry. Her story is a reminder that opportunity, encouragement, and inclusion can help people pursue their goals and show the world what they can do.

A Reminder:

People with Down syndrome have dreams, goals, talents, and unique stories—just like everyone else. Awareness is the first step; inclusion is what makes a difference.



A gentle reminder this month

"Focus on what's possible."

Every person has something special to share: a dream to follow, a strength to celebrate, and a voice that deserves to be heard. Sometimes, all it takes is someone believing in what's possible and creating space for that person to shine. This month, let's look beyond expectations, celebrate individuality, and remind one another that everyone deserves the opportunity to be seen, valued, and included.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a time to raise awareness about breast cancer, encourage early detection, and show support for those affected by the disease.

Breast cancer can affect people of different ages and backgrounds. Knowing your personal risk factors and being familiar with how your breasts normally look and feel can help you notice changes and talk with a healthcare provider when something seems different. Recommended screening can also help detect breast cancer earlier, when it may be easier to treat.

A Reminder: "Take care of yourself. Your health matters."

Making time for your health is an important part of caring for yourself and the people you love. This month, consider checking in with your healthcare provider about your personal breast cancer risk and recommended screenings. Let's use Breast Cancer Awareness Month as a reminder to learn, encourage one another, and prioritize our health.

ADHD Awareness Month: See the Person, Not the Stereotype

October is ADHD Awareness Month a time to learn more about ADHD, challenge misconceptions, and promote understanding and acceptance.

What is ADHD?

ADHD is a neurodevelopmental condition that can affect attention, organization, impulse control, and activity levels. Everyone experiences ADHD differently, and its impact can change throughout a person's life.

Did You Know?

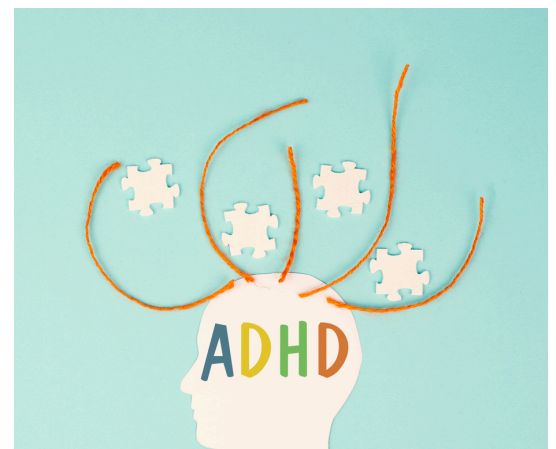
ADHD can come with unique strengths, including creativity, curiosity, energy, problem-solving, and the ability to approach challenges from a different perspective.

Why Awareness Matters

Understanding ADHD helps create more supportive environments where people can use their strengths, access appropriate support, and participate fully in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

This Month's Reminder:

Different ways of thinking deserve understanding not judgment.



SCAN ME



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



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