

2018 IMPACT REPORT



“

Covenant House Alaska is a blessing. I say it every day—I am thankful for this place.”

— Mack, 19, CHA Youth

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WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION

We serve suffering children of the street, and protect and safeguard all children with **absolute respect and unconditional love.**

OUR VISION

We lead change that motivates our community to end youth homelessness **so at-risk youth can pursue a lifetime of opportunity.**

WHO WE SERVE

Since 1988, **Covenant House Alaska has served more than 30,000** at-risk youth experiencing homelessness.

Covenant House Alaska is nationally recognized for the innovative work we do to provide at-risk youth everything they need in one place—so they can move forward to a brighter future.



A Youth Shelter Reborn

Dear Friends: Covenant House Alaska marked 30 years of service in 2018! And with that milestone, we gratefully look back at all we've accomplished together as a community, including the tremendous outpouring of support four years ago for the building of our new Youth Engagement Center (YEC) at 755 A Street.

Where we once had cramped, dark quarters in our old shelter downtown, we now have 60 beds and enough open space for youth to grow and flourish into productive and thriving young adults. We envisioned our new shelter as a sanctuary where at-risk youth can heal, learn and be wrapped in critical services—and since our opening day, that vision has been realized. In fact, our youth helped lead the design of the building! From a safer, more concealed entryway to more space for healthy activities, youth partnered with our team to create a building where at-risk teens can succeed in life.

829 different youth received help from CHA last year.

Because of this new space, we have witnessed a dramatic change, not just in the number of youth we serve, but in the innovative ways we serve them. We have also seen an upsurge in more serious problems that bring these youth to us in the first place. Over 800 young people had the courage last year to seek help at Covenant House Alaska after already suffering a lifetime of trauma, including family

violence, trafficking, alcohol or drug abuse, and sexual or physical abuse at home. But when they walked through our shelter doors, they knew they had a chance to beat the odds.

This Impact Report will give you, our supporters and donors, an earnest look at the work being done here at Covenant House Alaska. We are now starting to track the data that gives us a more accurate idea of how our youth fare after leaving the safety of Covenant House.



We have witnessed a dramatic change, not just in the number of youth we now serve, but in the innovative ways we now serve them...”

— Alison Kear

We want you to know that none of this could have been accomplished without your help—65 percent of our funding comes from private donations like yours. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our Alaskan youth, recognizing their potential, and giving them a second chance to achieve a productive and meaningful future.

ALISON KEAR
CEO



JUDITH CROTTY
CHA BOARD CHAIR



HOMELESS IN ALASKA: MORE YOUTH EXPERIENCING SERIOUS PROBLEMS

28% HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING

46% HAVE BEEN
SEXUALLY ABUSED

66% HAVEN'T FINISHED
HIGH SCHOOL

26% ARE PREGNANT OR ALREADY HAVE
CHILDREN ON ARRIVAL (GIRLS)

40% HAVE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

60% HAVE BEEN IN FOSTER CARE

Nearly every teenager who arrives at Covenant House Alaska has experienced trauma—and they are experiencing more serious problems than ever before, including sex trafficking, abusive homes, substance abuse and mental health issues. **These adverse childhood experiences put youth at greater risk of exploitation later in life.**



“

Alaska has the highest rates of child abuse and neglect in the nation – we see this every day in the young people who seek sanctuary at our shelter.

— Covenant House Alaska

*Institute of Social and Economic Research
*Modern Slavery Research Project at Loyola University New Orleans 2016

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS

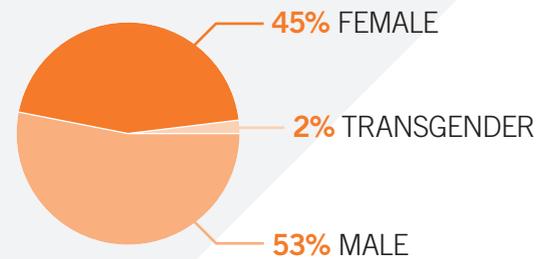
AVERAGE AGE OF YOUTH WHO ARRIVE AT CHA FOR THE FIRST TIME **19 YEARS**

YOUTH WHO CAME DIRECTLY FROM OR HAVE BEEN IN FOSTER CARE **80%**

Twenty years ago, Alaska Native youth made up over 20 percent of the population at our shelter. Today, almost half of our youth are of Alaska Native and Native American descent. We are seeing an influx of at-risk youth coming from rural Alaska to Anchorage as the state economy continues to decline. (See data below.)

We are fortunate to partner with organizations in serving our youth, including Alaska Native Justice Center, The CIRI Foundation, Cook Inlet Tribal Council, and Southcentral Foundation.

GENDER



46% ALASKA NATIVE OR NATIVE AMERICAN

23% CAUCASIAN

13% AFRICAN AMERICAN

5% ASIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER

13% MULTI-RACIAL/OTHER



CHANGING LIVES

Redefining What a Homeless Shelter Means

On any given night, CHA can provide up to 60 young people with a warm, safe place to lay their heads at our Youth Engagement Center (YEC) shelter. But it's much more than "bread and a bed." It's an intentional space where youth can stretch to their greatest potential with art, music, exercise, cultural programs and computer skills, as well as the necessary services like counseling, education and job opportunities.

Collaboration is crucial to CHA's mission of ending youth homelessness. Inside our building is a community within a community, where lives are changed with help from our on-site partners who provide everything a youth will need under one roof: healthcare, high school classes, cultural workshops, GED preparation, job readiness, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, suicide prevention, mental health services and life skills training. All our partners have space at the Youth Engagement Center, so no youth falls through the cracks.

OUR PARTNERS

- ◆ Anchorage School District
- ◆ AWAIC (Abused Women's Aid in Crisis)
- ◆ Cook Inlet Housing Authority
- ◆ Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- ◆ National Crisis Response Canines
- ◆ Nine Star Education & Employment Services
- ◆ Southcentral Foundation
- ◆ STAR (Standing Together Against Rape)
- ◆ United Way
- ◆ Volunteers of America
- ◆ YWCA

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers embody the mission of Covenant House. Year in and year out they tirelessly give their time to mentor young people and help provide critical services. Volunteers help serve food, sort donations, maintain our facilities, lead art, recreation and music groups, and are consistent role models for our young people. Last year, 656 volunteers gave over 18,000 hours of service to the young people of Covenant House Alaska.

OUR PROGRAMS

Street Outreach

255 YOUTH SERVED

Drop-In Services

402 YOUTH SERVED

5,292 CRITICAL SERVICES WERE OFFERED



I got tired of just going through life. I felt **loved** at Covenant House...and now I am **growing** in life!”

— **21-year-old “Dash” (right)**, Covenant House Alaska graduate who now serves on a federal panel which advocates for homeless youth—the **Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program Taskforce**.



The Journey Begins: Street Outreach and Crisis Care

CHA’s Street Outreach team meets at-risk kids where they are, on the streets, and then builds trusting and safe relationships with them. Inside our shelter, youth receive immediate medical attention at our Wellness Center, critical mental health and substance abuse counseling, as well as a warm meal, a hot shower and dry clothes. 255 vulnerable young people received help through our Outreach and Drop-In services last year.

We help youth ages 13 to 21 who have been trafficked, have fled physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse, have been forced from their homes, and who have aged out of foster care.

Youth Engagement Center (YEC)

20 DAY AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY

69 YOUTH OBTAINED JOBS

334 YOUTH SERVED

102 YOUTH OBTAINED HSD OR GED

208 YOUTH NEW-TO-AGENCY

35 YOUTH PER DAY (AVERAGE)

1,451 VISITS TO WELLNESS CENTER

Crisis to Stabilization: From the Streets to Stable Housing

Youth experiencing homelessness are not hopeless. They are resilient and working hard to achieve success everyday—like stable jobs, diplomas and secure housing. At our 60-bed YEC, young people get the support and guidance needed to reach their full potential. Here, they receive job training, counseling and educational services—and most importantly, the love and guidance they never experienced as children. Last year, 334 young people gained not only shelter and services at the YEC, but also a realization of all the opportunities that lay before them in life.

“

Covenant House Alaska has helped me multiple times in my life by being there when everybody else seemed to disappear. They taught me that I am good, that I am worth something, and that I can have a proper life.”

— **Joseph**, 20
CHA youth



70 YOUTH SERVED

85 PERCENT EXITED TO STABLE OR PERMANENT HOUSING

Learning to Fly: Our Transitional Living Programs

As they gain stability, youth can apply to CHA's **Rights of Passage**, our transitional living program for older youth ages 18-24. Located at **Dena'ina House**, 750 W. 5th Avenue, this 25-bed program is dorm-style living where youth learn to hold down jobs, pay the rent, save money, balance a budget, and cook healthy meals. Although learning to be self-sufficient, youth have much support here, receiving guidance from their case managers and mentors, often the only constant caring adults in their lives. Made possible by our partnership with CITC, the Dena'ina House serves as a critical starting point for at-risk youth to achieve long-term stability—and end the cycle of homelessness.

Covenant House also serves **pregnant teens and young parenting mothers** who are experiencing homelessness at **Passage House** and **Mary's Place**, two separate homes in Anchorage which can house up to 18 mothers and their babies. There, young moms learn positive parenting skills, how to find and juggle jobs while being a single parent, and how to live a healthy lifestyle—both for themselves and their babies.

Expanding Access to Education — One Size Does Not Fit All

Only 35 percent of youth have a high school diploma when they first arrive at Covenant House. By the time they move forward from our programs, 71 percent have achieved a high school diploma or GED! We have dramatically expanded the range of our high school programs so that youth can achieve their educations in a variety of ways, from onsite ASD classrooms to the nationally-recognized JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program. It's never too late for youth to earn a degree for a lifetime of independence. Thanks to our partners—Nine Star, United Way, AT&T, the Anchorage School District, and the Annie E. Casey Foundation—for helping us empower our youth with education.

102 YOUTH GRADUATED FROM OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS WITH A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR GED IN 2018

292 WERE ENROLLED IN ON-SITE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

368 YOUTH OBTAINED CREDITS



Nearly **700** individual lives were changed last year.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

What Happens After Youth Leave Covenant House Alaska?

Our ultimate goal is to help each young person move forward positively in their lives, with education, stable employment and secure housing. We are starting to track what happens to youth after they leave the safety of Covenant House—and it is encouraging news. Our data shows that youth are able to keep their jobs and stay in secure housing after they move forward from our programs.

Your support is truly making the difference in their lives—and breaking the cycle of homelessness.

85% HAD JOBS AND/OR STABLE HOUSING UPON LEAVING RIGHTS OF PASSAGE TRANSITIONAL LIVING PROGRAM

80% REMAINED HOUSED AFTER LEAVING RIGHTS OF PASSAGE

100% OF YOUNG MOTHERS LEARNED LIFETIME PARENTING SKILLS WHILE IN PASSAGE HOUSE

35% EXPERIENCE IMPROVED INCOMES AFTER THEY MOVE FORWARD FROM RIGHTS OF PASSAGE



Empowering Youth Voice

We first met Dash Popoalii three years ago when she came to live at Covenant House Alaska. Things at home with her family had gone drastically downhill, and Dash ended up homeless, and struggling to find a sense of self-worth. Today, she is the leader of Anchorage's **Youth Task Force** which is giving recommendations to one of the most important pilot projects in the country – **HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project** (YHDP). With Dash at the helm, the 20-member Youth Task Force has been lending their insight, using their own experience of homelessness to make meaningful change in our community and the country. Dash talks about the Youth Task Force's work to eliminate the root causes of youth homelessness through their recommendations on the **Host Homes** and **Permanency Navigators** projects:

The first YHDP meeting including the Youth Task Force was a little awkward. For many adults in the room, it was their first experience listening to young people as part of a major planning process. There were times they would make a suggestion about a program and we would have to explain why their idea could actually do more harm than good.

The Host Homes project had originally been similar to a foster care situation, in which the family chooses the youth, but we contended that youth should be the ones to choose their host family, through an interview process. Why wouldn't the youth get the choice, the chance to interview the family?

They've already probably been placed in lots of homes they wouldn't have chosen, and repeating that pattern of helplessness would only be traumatizing all over again. Once we put it that way, it made a lot of sense to them and the plan was changed.

When we were first discussing Permanency Navigators—a team of mobile case managers who stick with youth across all programs, instead of working for just one agency or service—someone suggested giving youth bus passes to get to all their appointments. We told the adults that chances are, a lot of youth won't make it on time, or at all, that way. We explained that while it may seem simple to them, things can be really overwhelming to a young person who has already been through a lot. Leaving home, where you're safe, and getting on a bus full of strangers, to go to a place you've never been, walk into a strange building, look for a strange person, understand what you need to do, what questions to ask, what forms to fill out, not knowing what to expect... it's easy for youth

to get anxious or to feel a lot of aversion. We wanted the Permanency Navigator to be a person that could physically show up at your house and drive you where you need to go, vouch for you and walk with you, and make sure you don't feel alone. Think about it: when we were younger we all wanted our parents to be there to do those things with us, but a lot of youth have never had that person to take their hand and help them ask the right questions.

And the adults listened to us, and made the changes we suggested. A lot of us had never felt validated in that way. There was no bumping heads, no one telling us "Oh, you're just a kid, you don't know what you're talking about". It felt so good to actually be heard, and to know that we are contributing to making real change for youth like us in the future.

All the Youth Task Force members are passionate about changing the perspective in this city about youth who experience homelessness. Many of them say they want to have something to do with giving back to Covenant House, or helping the youth who are going to end up here. It's a community effort to shape the next generation, and we get to be a part of it.

Dash Popoalii is the Youth Task Force Coordinator for the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness and was one of the youth leaders in creating the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project in collaboration from heads of more than 40 social services, city and state agencies.

MILESTONES



AUGUST 2013

- Opened new 60-bed Youth Engagement Center with all needed services under one roof.

FEBRUARY 2016

- Chosen by Annie E. Casey Foundation to teach innovative JAG program (Jobs for America's Graduates), which has a 93% graduation rate nationwide. 112 youth are currently enrolled in the JAG program.

APRIL 2016

- Entered partnership with Southcentral Foundation to operate and staff our on-site Wellness Center with a full-time clinician.

OCTOBER 2016

- Expanded transitional living program (Rights of Passage for youth ages 18-21 at newly remodeled Dena'ina House with help from our partner, Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

JANUARY 2017

- Chosen as lead agency in Anchorage for national pilot program, HUD's Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project. Only ten cities across the country were selected for this innovative project, which will address the gaps that lead to homelessness.

OCTOBER 2018

- Acquired Charlie Elder House.

25,000 at-risk youth have been helped by Covenant House Alaska **since 1988.**



Charlie Elder House Acquisition

In October 2018, the Charlie Elder House was transferred to Covenant House Alaska by Catholic Social Services (CSS), which had operated the program successfully since its opening in 2001. The Charlie Elder House, named for the Alaskan philanthropist, is a supportive home setting for young men ages 17-19 who are experiencing mental health challenges and homelessness.

Together, Catholic Social Services and Covenant House Alaska decided that CHA's expertise in working with at-risk youth was a better fit for the Charlie Elder program. Covenant House Alaska looks forward to helping impact more young lives as we help teenage boys prepare for independent living in a safe, supportive environment. The Program Director of Charlie Elder worked at Covenant House Alaska for five years between 1998 and 2003, and we are happy to welcome her back to the Covenant House Alaska family.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

Anti-Sex-Trafficking Partners

28 percent of homeless youth in Anchorage are victims of human trafficking.* We work with the following agencies onsite at the Youth Engagement Center to bring help and hope to these young survivors of the most heinous crime—sex trafficking:

Priceless

Alaska Native Justice Center

AWAIC (Abused Women's Aid in Crisis)

STAR (Standing Together Against Rape)

FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)

*Loyola University New Orleans, Modern Slavery Research Project (2016). Labor and Sex Trafficking Among Homeless Youth, Anchorage Alaska.



Within 48 hours of finding themselves on the streets, an at-risk teenager will be recruited for sex trafficking.”

— **Josh Louwerse,**
CHA Program Director

WHERE YOUR DOLLARS GO

Our private donors provide 65 percent of our funding. We work to ensure every dollar you donate to Covenant House Alaska serves the children we care for as efficiently as possible. In fact, 87 cents of every dollar you donate goes directly to funding our programs to help the most vulnerable in our community. How do we do that? CHA has a proven track record of raising money through partnerships and private funds. Recognizing the scarcity of resources, especially in the current economic climate, we understand the importance of building partnerships to reduce duplication of services. We make the most of the resources we receive in order to wrap our homeless youth in services and meet their basic needs. (See financials on the right.) That is how we opened the doors to our new YEC shelter in 2013 with no debt. Together with our Board, we committed CHA to expanding our operations and have developed sustainable funding to make that happen.

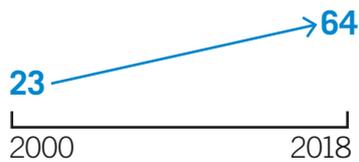
| MISSION & YOUTH PROGRAMS | COST |
|--|--------------------|
| Youth Engagement Center | \$3,268,698 |
| Transitional Programs: Dena'ina House & Passage House | \$1,421,942 |
| Street Outreach & Crisis Care | \$510,929 |
| Employment & Education | \$772,241 |
| Total Program Services | \$5,973,810 |

| SUPPORTING SERVICES | COST |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Management and General | \$797,023 |
| Fundraising and Special Events | \$648,341 |
| Total Supporting Services | \$1,445,364 |

Dramatic Expansion of Our Services at the Youth Engagement Center (YEC)

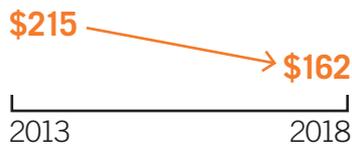
We are serving more youth for longer durations—at less cost per resident. Why is this important? The longer a youth receives compassionate guidance, job training, education and counseling services at Covenant House Alaska, the better the outcome. We are working to make sure that at-risk youth only have a one-time experience at CHA, one that is rare, brief and non-reoccurring. (See data on left.)

WE'RE SERVING MORE YOUTH EVERY DAY...



AVERAGE YOUTH PER DAY

...AT LOWER COST PER YOUTH



AVERAGE ANNUAL COST PER RESIDENT



2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- JUDITH CROTTY, CHAIR** — WELLS FARGO
- AMY MILLER, VICE CHAIR** — PROVIDENCE HEALTH & SERVICES
- BOB FLINT, ESQ.** — COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
- CAROL GORE** — COOK INLET HOUSING AUTHORITY
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2018 PRINCIPAL STAFF

- ALISON KEAR** — CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
- CARLETTE MACK** — CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
- JASON HAHN** — CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER
- ELENA BEGOJEVIC** — CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER
- JOE HEMPHILL** — CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



Every time we reach a trafficked child on the street, or care for a sick teen in our Wellness Center, or help an abandoned youth find a job, you've made an impact. It is amazing what can be accomplished when the community joins together."

— Alison Kear,
CHA CEO



COVENANT HOUSE
ALASKA RECEIVED
THE HIGHEST RATING
POSSIBLE FROM
CHARITY NAVIGATOR

