



**Covenant  
House  
Alaska**

Bridge to Success



# Groundbreaking Ceremony



June 29, 2021

## About Bridge to Success

When the Youth Engagement Center was built in 2013, it really transformed the space from just basic shelter services to a space where our community partners could provide all the other services young adults need to become healthy and stable. This includes healthcare, counseling, a high school classroom, job internships, case management, enrichment programs – to name a few. But even then, we knew we would eventually need to evolve our model of care even further to bridge the gap between shelter and long-term stable housing.

Through the Bridge to Success project, Covenant House Alaska, in a partnership with Cook Inlet Housing Authority, is building 22 new on-site “micro-unit” apartments to serve young adults ages 18 to 24. This allows a young person to move seamlessly from shelter, to apartment living. They supportively gain independence, and ultimately cross that bridge toward securing their own permanent housing – successfully launching them into adulthood.

*“Innovation comes when you have the time, space and mental capacity to look at your organization and think, ‘how can we be different?’ Because of the support from our community, we have been able to ask that question instead of, ‘how do we keep the lights on?’*

*Now, we find ourselves standing on a metaphorical bridge that we built together – ready to watch some of the most incredible transformations to ever happen. Not only to individuals, but to our Alaska community as a whole. It’s exciting and I’m humbled to share this moment in history with everyone who has believed in us.” - Alison Kear*

## June 29, 2021

**11:30 a.m.** Lunch provided by Yeti Dogs

**12:00 p.m.** Program begins

Invocation by Covenant House Alaska Director of Pastoral Services **Dave Bacher**

Smudging Ceremony performed by Covenant House Alaska Youth Engagement Specialist **Eddy Falcon**

### Remarks

- **US Senator Lisa Murkowski**
- **Alison Kear** Covenant House Alaska Executive Director
- **Carol Gore** Cook Inlet Housing Authority President/CEO
- **Greg Cerbana** Weidner Apartment Homes Vice President Government Affairs
- **Mike Abbott** Alaska Mental Health Trust CEO
- **Joseph Everhart** Wells Fargo Commercial Banking Executive Vice President
- **Tobias Lazar** Covenant House Alaska Alumni and Covey Café Manager

**Closing** - Joe Hemphill Covenant House Alaska Chief Development Officer

**12:50 p.m.** Groundbreaking opportunity for photo & interviews



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Bridge to Success

Thank you to our funders and community of supporters who made the vision of Bridge to Success come to life. Your support tells a vulnerable young person that they matter.



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CommunityWINS grant

Trust

Alaska Mental Health  
Trust Authority



BLUE CROSS



Thank you to Alaska cAKE Studio and Yeti Dogs for partnering with us for a delicious lunch!