



Youth Restoration Corps serves community needs by involving local youth in hands on educational public projects that benefit all of us. "Whether it's learning about stream hydrology in the classroom, restoring trails or riparian habitat on public lands or, building cabins on the Iditarod trail or playgrounds in Nikiski Alaska" YRC through your support is there promoting stewardship, leadership, respect, job skills, work ethic, responsible action and diversity among today's youth who will become tomorrow's leaders.

www.youthrestorationcorp.org

P.O Box 2416 Kenai AK 99611



Each year YRC works with its agency partners to develop safe community projects that can provide valued hands on learning through community service. That can involve the youthful energy of today's teens. Since 1997 YRC has been engaging today's youth successfully and safely, investing over 67,000 man hours on the ground without injury or incident. In 2013 YRC hopes to begin construction on staff housing at Friendship Mission as we begin our vocational trades training program. If would like to learn about this awesome construction trades learning program for high school youth please contact

YRC staff @ (907) 262-1032 or yrc@acsalaska.net



To The Honorable Senate Chairman and Senators of Senate Finance Committee

My name is Kelly Wolf board chairman of Youth Restoration Corps and former State Representative

Thank you for your time and consideration of funding YRC's legislative request of \$ **325,000.00** through the Capitol budget

Problem:

Every year, around 8,000 Alaskan students graduate from high school, on Kenai Peninsula 13.4% of the students entering high school dropout prior to graduation day. Of the high school graduates, less than half transition into college and only 18.5 percent will still be in school by age 19. Although some high school graduates will go on to non-collegiate postsecondary training, evidence suggests that the number is relatively small. Alaska ranks fifth in the nation for teens not in school and not working. Our state has the highest percentage of teenage suicide in the nation Senators our youth are at risk!

YRC history:

Given Youth Restoration Corps sixteen year track record of successful involvement in community projects which allow youth participation in hands on service learning tasks which instruct at-risk local youth in job skills, stewardship, work ethic, critical thinking, problem solving, responsibility, and respect, as they are supervised by skilled mentors. YRC was established in 1997 as a 501 © 3 nonprofit organization, which has engaged more than 67,000 man hours on the ground with injury or incident. By matching private funds with public grant funds and agencies in order to leverage valued projects that can safely incorporate the youthful energy of today's teens in order to provide an educational and motivational environment. YRC's board and community advisory committee has developed a vocational trades training program for the purpose of involving high school aged youth in construction trades education. For the purpose of involving our high school aged youth in vocational training through the construction of single level ranch style home annually.

“Recognizing that the average age of a skilled craftsman in the construction industry is old enough to be a member of AARP.” The number of young people entering the work force of the construction industry has declined dramatically and is projected to continue. Given that the Kenai Peninsula Borough School district is in support of this YRC program as the districts focus to meet current curriculum standards requires too much time to devote the needed resources to establish such a program. With YRC's nonprofit strength and the school districts support this is an excellent opportunity to work together. What is needed is the one time seed funding which Youth Restoration Corps requested through YRC's legislative Capsis submission. These grant funds will go to provide partial funding for the staff housing at Friendship mission, a homeless shelter of the Kenai and the 2014 funding for the YRC house which will be then sold to forward fund the next single level ranch style house as means to sustain this YRC vocational program. YRC and Friendship Mission are collectively working together to raise matching funds of the staff housing with over \$ 40,000.00 currently raised. Helping the homeless education our youth in construction trades technology through a proven track record of a safe learning environment mentored by skilled individuals with over 70 years of combined counseling experience is winning situation. Under YRC general contractor's license and the hands on learning, academics and employability skills we anticipate community benefit and success. Alaskan youth need to obtain the basic technical skills required for entry-level employment in a preferred career. For some, acquiring these skills will begin in high school and transition in to the YRC vocational training trades program. Our board of director and community advisory committee believes that through this type of accessibility to career and technical hands on education in the local community through on-site classroom instruction, a great many youth will benefit.

Your support for Youth Restoration Corps legislative grant request will make that happen;

Thank you

Volunteer Board of Directors

Affiliations

- Chair Kelly Wolf, resident 30 years, (retired) Alaska State Legislator and contractor
- Secretary-Treasurer Jim Segura, life-long resident, board member to South Central foundation.
 - Pastor Paul Hartley Alaska District Superintendent Nazarene church
 - Penny Carty lifelong resident president of Salamatof Native Association
 - Mr. Jared Swanson lifelong Alaska, owner manager of Ron's Rent it center

Vocational Trades Community Advisory Committee:

The Honorable Lt Governor Meade Treadwell

Mrs. Glenda Feeken (Feeken Realty)

Mr. Braxton Cox (Architect)

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Ms. Maria Lockwood ARCS Electrical Engineer

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