

PRESENT.:

ALASKA

CHILDREN'S

TRUST

UPDATE

ALASKA CHILDREN'S TRUST



ANNUAL REPORT — 1996

Strengthening communities — supporting families — preventing child abuse

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History

The Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) was created by the legislature in 1988 (AS 37.14.200 - 37.14.270) to address rising rates of child neglect, abuse, community violence, and juvenile crime. The trust is designed to promote and financially support community-based initiatives to strengthen families and children. Until this year, the trust remained idle with no funds.

Purpose

The primary purpose of the Alaska Children's Trust is to work in partnership with communities, private business, and government to reduce and prevent child abuse, neglect, and family violence.

Mission Statement

Alaska's children require and deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. The mission of the Alaska Children's Trust is to improve the status of children in Alaska by generating funds and committing resources to promote healthy families and to assist in developing healthy communities.

Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) Board of Trustees

Mark R. Williams, Alaska Children's Trust Chair, Anchorage, Vice Chair, Carr Gottstein Foods Company

Carol H. Brice, Fairbanks, President, Family Training Associates

Arliss Sturgulewski, Anchorage, former Alaska State Senator

Morris Thompson, Fairbanks, President and CEO, Doyon Limited

Bruce M. Botelho, Attorney General, Department of Law

Shirley Holloway, Commissioner, Department of Education

Karen Perdue, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services

Alaska Children's Trust Goals

To accomplish the trust's mission, the board of trustees has established four goals:

- Change the climate of tolerance for child abuse and neglect by promoting an awareness of the current plight of many of our children;
- Support the development of safe and nurturing community environments;
- Promote responsible parenting and care giving;
- Ensure children are eager and ready to learn.

The goals are to be achieved through:

- Funding community-based child abuse prevention programs;
- Educating the public, initiating media campaigns and providing information;
- Coordinating resources and sharing information;
- Encouraging collaboration and developing partnerships with public and private organizations.

Why Alaska Needs the Trust – The State of Alaska's Children

Although many Alaskan children grow up in loving homes with parents and other family who tend to their needs, there are many who do not.

Economic hardship, rapid social and cultural change, and many other stresses result in increasing cases of child neglect and abuse, community violence, and juvenile crime.

The statistics support an unsettling conclusion that children in our state are in trouble.*

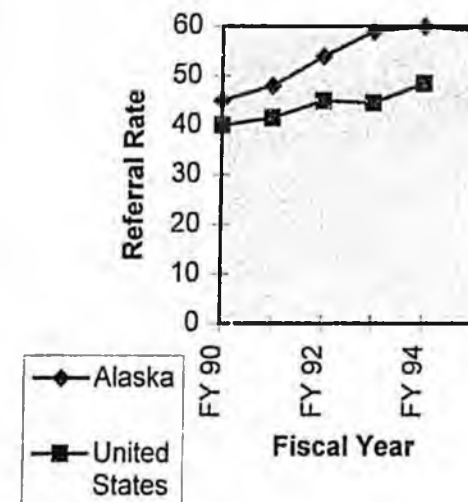
- Alaska leads the nation in per capita cases of child sexual abuse and neglect.
- Each year 125 babies die before their first birthday. Another 160 are born with alcohol-related disabilities.
- More than 10,000 Alaska preschoolers live below the poverty line.
- The suicide rate for Alaska teens is four times the national average.
- Every year 1,450 children are arrested for offenses including assault, rape, robbery, and drug sales.
- Every year 2,200 children drop out of school.
- Each year 3,500 children are reported as runaways.

The goal of the trust is: to give all Alaskan children the opportunity to grow up in a safe and healthy setting so they become responsible and productive adults. The Alaska Children's Trust can support initiatives that directly and creatively address the problems of our youth; it can make a difference.

* From Invest in Our Children: An Investment in Our Future, an interim report from the child health planning work group to the governor and the people of Alaska (October, 1994).

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Rate of Reported Child Maltreatment, Alaska and the United States



From: Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 Annual Report, State of Alaska
Department of Health and Social Services

How the Trust Works

- The Children's Trust is a savings account for children. The principal of the trust is maintained -- only the interest income can be spent.
- The trust relies on gifts, bequests, and contributions of cash or other assets from individuals, corporate entities, legislative appropriations, and federal funds.
- The income from the trust is distributed to community organizations through a grant application and review process.
- The treasurer of the trust is the Commissioner of Revenue. The Commissioner is the official custodian of the cash and investments.
- The trust is administered by a seven-member board of trustees; the trustees are appointed by the Governor. The board of trustees include the Commissioner of Health and Social Services, the Commissioner of Education, the Governor or designee, and four public members.
- The trust board is established in the Office of the Governor.
- The trustees set priorities, award and monitor community grants, and assist in raising funds.

"The Alaska Children's Trust was founded on the notion that every Alaskan child ought to get the help they need along the road to adulthood. . . help a kid and you've changed a life. Nobody said it was going to be easy, just worth it. Alaska Children's Trust -- everybody deserves to be a kid once."

- Tom Bodett,
Alaskan Author

Highlights and Accomplishments

- The Alaska Children's Trust board of trustees was appointed in April 1996.
- A strategic plan is established which includes a mission, goals, and action steps to begin moving forward the trust's purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect.
- The current trust balance includes \$6 million from a 1996 legislative appropriation and approximately \$11,000 from individual contributions – a good beginning.
- The Alaska Children's Trust has received letters and resolutions of support from over 100 communities, local governments, organizations, and individuals.
- The trustees have established a core group of volunteers – Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust, a non-profit corporation, to raise money on behalf of the Alaska Children's Trust.
- The Alaska Children's Trust is working in collaboration with state agencies to maximize resources and avoid duplication.
- The Alaska Children's Trust board has initiated a statewide media campaign featuring well-known writer Tom Bodett. The promotional radio spots will be broadcast across Alaska during 1997. Bodett donated money, his time, and his talent to produce the radio spots.

"It's not just another source of funding for traditional programs—we intend to be at the cutting edge of preventing child trauma."

—Mark Williams, ACT Chairman

How the Trust Will Benefit Alaskans

In the summer of 1997 the Alaska Children's Trust board will launch the trust's first direct activities to begin fulfilling its purpose, by making grants to community-based child abuse and neglect prevention projects.

Applications for the Alaska Children's Trust child abuse and neglect prevention funds will be funded on a competitive basis. The annual funding level for the Alaska Children's Trust is based upon annual income earnings from the trust. The amount of funds available for community projects in FY'98 is projected at \$250,000.

The Alaska Children's Trust board of trustees will set priorities and award projects that the board determines will aid in the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Some examples of potential child abuse and neglect prevention projects are listed below:

- Parent support and education projects for at-risk parents through in-home instruction and weekly and monthly classes and seminars;
- Projects to help new fathers with parenting skills;
- Home visits to parents with new-born children to help them connect with parenting resources and to capitalize on the interest of new families in learning how to nurture and protect their children.
- Violence-prevention and conflict-resolution training for school-aged children to teach peaceful alternatives to conflict;
- Mom-to-mom mentoring projects;
- Workshops to help teachers learn how to detect, report, and support abused and neglected children;
- Child development classes in schools.

Information about the application process can be obtained by writing to the Alaska Children's Trust, Office of the Governor, P. O. Box 110001, Juneau, AK 99811-0001, or by calling 1-800-643-KIDS (5437).

How You Can Help

All citizens of Alaska can help prevent child abuse and support families. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- Volunteer your time at a community-based child abuse prevention program.
- Offer to care for the children of a parent under stress.
- Talk to leaders in your community about public policies that support families and children.
- Take a parent education class or join a parent support group.
- Donate to the Alaska Children's Trust on behalf of your own children – your contribution will help for generations.
- Call the Alaska's Children's Trust hot line. Call toll free: 1-800-643-KIDS (5437) for information about the Alaska Children's Trust and Children's Cabinet initiatives.

Directory of Staff and Work Groups

Alaska Children's Trust -- Office of the Governor

Bruce Scandling, Special Assistant
PO Box 110001
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Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust

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PO Box 92155
Anchorage, AK 99509-2155
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mouzer1228@aol.com

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Alaska Children's Trust Toll-Free Phone Number

1-800-643-KIDS (5437)

Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust

- Deborah Bonito, Chair, Small Business Owner, Anchorage
- Dennis Demmert, former Executive Director of Sealaska Heritage Foundation and University of Alaska Southeast faculty, Juneau
- Diane Kaplan, Diane Kaplan and Co. Consulting Firm, Anchorage
- Mike Porcaro, Porcaro Blankenship Advertising, Anchorage
- Mike Burns, President and CEO, KeyBank, Alaska

Contributions to the Alaska Children's Trust

Tax-deductible contributions can be sent to:

Alaska Children's Trust
State of Alaska
Department of Revenue
PO Box 110400
Juneau, AK 99811-0400