

SB

254

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2000 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

No. 1
Bill Version: SB 254
(S) Publish Date: 2-8-00

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction) _____ Dept. Affected Health & Social Services
Title Heirloom Marriage Certificates BRU State Health Services
Component Bureau of Vital Statistics
Sponsor Rules Committee at the Request
Requester Governor Component No. 961

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
Personal Services	37.4	37.4	37.4	37.4	37.4	37.4
Travel						
Contractual	12.5					
Supplies	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.3
Equipment	8.0					
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	68.2	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
----------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES (1005)	269.9	269.9	269.9	269.9	269.9	269.9
---------------------------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts	68.2	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	60.2	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7	47.7

Estimate of any current year (FY2000) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time	1	1	1	1	1	1
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The Bureau of Vital Statistics registers over 5,000 marriages per year and has over 200,000 marriages on file. Of the marriages on file fewer than 50% are in the bureau's automated database. To implement the heirloom marriage certificate the bureau must undertake the following activities:

1. Design and print the heirloom stock and all advertising media
2. Develop computer program to print certificates
3. Develop computer program to allow keying of pre-1977 marriages into automated database
4. Key back marriages as requested
5. Process and mail requested certificates

Prepared by: Peter M. Nakamura, MD, MPH
Division: Public Health
Approved by: Karen Perdue, Commissioner
Agency: Health & Social Services

Phone: 465-3090
Date/Time: _____
Date: 12/6/99

PREPARER TO PROVIDE ALL DISTRIBUTION COPIES TO GOVERNOR'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

For further distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

ANALYSIS (cont.):

Costs:

One Time costs:

Design and print certificate stock and ad media NO COST -- collaboration for donation through Children's Trust.

Develop computer program to print certificates	5,000
Develop pre-1977 marriage keying program	7,500
furniture and miscellaneous for new position	5,000
computer for new position	3,000

On going costs for processing, keying and mailing of requests:

1 new position, range 10	37,400
postage & mailers (see calculation below)	10,300

Total First Year Cost	68,200
-----------------------	--------

Supply and Revenue cost calculations are based on the following calculation:

Expect 70% of current year marriages (5,300) and an average of 4000 from prior year marriages to request the heirloom certificates or $(.7)(5300) + 4000 = 7,710$ requests per year. (the heirloom certificate will not and cannot replace the legal certificate that is issued)

Supply costs

Postage (@ 0.33 each)	2,600
Mailers (@ 1.00 each)	7,700
	10,300

Revenue calculation:

Certificate Cost (@ 10.00)	77,100
Children's Trust Fund (@ 25.00)	192,800

Total Revenue	269,900
---------------	---------

Therefore, all program costs will be covered by the increased collection of program receipts

STATE OF ALASKA

Birth Certificate



SAMPLE

I certify that this is a true, full and correct copy of the original certificate on file in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health & Social Services.

Registrar

Date

Governor of Alaska

moved & passed

AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN SENATE HES

TO: SB 254

Page 1, line 6:

Delete "of \$25"

Insert "established by regulation"

Page 1, line 8:

Following 'registrar.'

Insert:

"(b) The department shall adopt regulations that establish the amount of the fee for each design of an heirloom certificate of marriage. Notwithstanding AS 37.10.050(a), each fee shall be set at an amount that is more than the estimated actual costs to the department not to exceed the estimated fair market value of a comparable artistic rendition."

Page 1, line 11:

Delete "(b)"

Insert "(c)"

Page 1, line 14:

Delete "(c)"

Insert "(d)"

Page 2, line 1:

Delete "(d)"

Insert "(e)"

Page 2, line 5:

Correct section number.

AMENDMENT # /

OFFERED IN SENATE HES

TO: SB 254

Page 1, line 6:

Delete "of \$25"

Insert "established by regulation"

Page 1, line 8:

Following 'registrar.'

Insert:

"(b) The department shall adopt regulations that establish the amount of the fee for each design of an heirloom certificate of marriage. Notwithstanding AS 37.10.050(a), each fee shall be set at an amount that is more than the estimated actual costs to the department not to exceed the estimated fair market value of a comparable artistic rendition."

Page 1, line 11:

Delete "(b)"

Insert "(c)"

Page 1, line 14:

Delete "(c)"

Insert "(d)"

Page 2, line 1:

Delete "(d)"

Insert "(e)"

Page 2, line 5:

Correct section number.



*Working in partnership
with communities to
prevent child abuse
and neglect*

SB 254 "An ACT relating to heirloom certificate of marriage."

- ◆ SB 254 creates an heirloom marriage certificate bill with proceeds to go to the Alaska Children's Trust.
- ◆ The heirloom marriage certificate bill is expected to raise close to \$200,000 a year for the Alaska Children's Trust.
- ◆ The Alaska Children's Trust was created by the legislature in 1988 but was not activated until 1996. Governor Knowles appointed a seven-member board and worked with the Legislature to kick-start the fund with a \$6 million dollar deposit. The trust balance is currently over \$9 million thanks to donations and income reinvestment.
- ◆ Since FY 98, the Trust has awarded over \$860,000 to 30 community-based programs statewide with the overall goal of reducing child abuse and neglect.
- ◆ In 1989 a bill creating an Heirloom Birth Certificate was signed into law. The proceeds from the sales of these certificates support the Alaska Children's Trust.
- ◆ 10 years later on June 24, 1998 the ACT in conjunction with the Division of Vital Statistics sold our first Heirloom Birth Certificate. Since that time, over 2000 heirloom birth certificates have been sold, raising \$49,500 for the ACT.
- ◆ Alaskan artist Rie Munoz and graphic artist Sue Kraft donated their talents to create the birth certificate.
- ◆ The heirloom marriage certificate will be modeled after the birth certificate. An average of 5,300 couples get married in Alaska every year.
- ◆ It is anticipated that sales/revenues of these marriage certificates will be stronger than the birth certificates. It is estimated that 70 percent of newlyweds will want a keepsake marriage certificate. That, coupled with an expected 4,000 or sales from prior-year marriages, would bring in about \$193,000 annually for the trust.
- ◆ All program costs will be covered by the increased collection of program receipts.

STATE OF ALASKA

Birth Certificate

Child John Q. Alaskan, Jr

Sex: Male
Date of Birth: 09-99-99
Place of Birth: Juneau

Mother First Name: Jane
Middle Name: M
Maiden Name: Doe

Father First Name: John
Middle Name: Q
Last Name: Alaskan



I certify that this is a true, full and correct copy of the original certificate on file in the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Department of Health & Social Services.

Registrar

Alfred Szonqi

Dated

AUG 05 1998

Governor of Alaska

Long Kowalski

ISSUED BY THE ALASKA BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS

Heirloom Birth Certificate



Celebrate the birth of a child with an Heirloom Birth Certificate featuring the artwork of Alaska artist Rie Muñoz. Suitable for framing, the certificate is a beautiful and permanent record now available to anyone born in Alaska.

In Embrace, by Rie Muñoz, poignantly depicts a parent's love. Each 9-by-12 inch certificate also includes the child's name, date and place of birth, and the name(s) of the parent(s).

A collaborative effort between the Alaska Children's Trust and the Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics, the Heirloom Birth Certificate contributes to the well-being of all Alaska children. Proceeds from sales of the \$35 certificates go to the Trust, which provides grants to Alaska communities for prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Available for purchase by parents, family or friends, an Heirloom Birth Certificate makes a unique baby gift.

Birth certificates aren't just for newborns. Commemorate birthdays, anniversaries, retirements and other special occasions with the purchase of an Heirloom Birth Certificate.

Thanks for the generous support of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Providence Hospital, Bartlett Regional Hospital, Charter North Hospital and the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association.

To order the Heirloom Birth Certificate



To order your own or your child's birth certificate fill out the information form below. For additional birth certificate orders, you may photocopy this brochure.

Friends or relatives can purchase a gift certificate to be redeemed by the individual or immediate family member. Provide as much information as you can.

Gift Certificate

Name of Child

Date of Birth

Place of Birth

Mother's Maiden Name

Father's Name

Signature

(Individual named on certificate, legal guardian, or parent)

Purchaser's Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Daytime Phone

Relationship to Child *(BIRTH, FOSTER)*

(ie. friend, relative, legal guardian, parent)

Send the completed form with your check for \$35.00 (payable to Bureau of Vital Statistics) to:

Bureau of Vital Statistics
Heirloom Birth Certificate Program
Alaska Department of Health/Social Services
P.O. Box 110675, Juneau, Alaska 99811-0675

For more information, call the Bureau of Vital Statistics at (907)465-5592.



Alaska Children's Trust 1998 Annual Report



President's Letter	2
ACT Board of Trustees	2
Mission Statement & Goals	3
How the Trust Works	4
Grant Awards	5
Why Alaska Needs a Children's Trust	9
Alaska's New Child Protection Law	10
FACT Report	13
How You Can Help	14
Directory of Staff & Volunteers	16

Working in partnership with communities to prevent child abuse and neglect

ACT Board President's Letter

*M*oving into it's third year, the ACT is gaining momentum as it forges new partnerships between business and private individuals on behalf of children. The opportunity to invest in family exists now as never before. Thanks to the combined efforts of the ACT and the FACT, two highly successful fund-raising efforts added substantially to the corpus of the fund, exemplifying the generosity of corporate Alaska in support of child abuse prevention efforts. The first annual "Mush for Kids" in Fairbanks turned into a Musher's Olympics because the early April spring weather cancelled any hopes of mushing competition! Members of PRIDE, the professional musher's organization, exemplified by their presence and actions that children deserve our support.

In August, Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. sponsored the first annual ACT Golf Tournament in Anchorage. It was a magnificent day and an impressive turn-out on the links, once again raising both awareness and funds in support of prevention efforts on behalf of Alaska's children.

Our continuing partnership with the Alaska Legislature was evidenced by the passage of legislation authorizing the Alaska Children's Trust License Plate. Alaska's school children have submitted 250 possible designs for our consideration. We anticipate that the ACT plate will be available this fall.

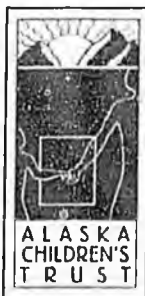
The ACT Board is also excited to promote the sale of an Heirloom Birth Certificate featuring the artwork of celebrated Alaska artist Ric Muñoz. Over 500 certificates were sold in the first six months, yielding \$25 apiece to the ACT. These are two wonderful opportunities for Alaskans to support prevention efforts statewide.

In addition to seeking ways to increase the corpus of the ACT fund, the board is challenged to spend the annual earned interest on community-based programs that prevent child abuse and neglect. This year we received 51 innovative and challenging applications. A total of \$285,700 was awarded to 15 programs from Kotzebue to Bethel to Wrangell. Three of the awards were ongoing funding of a 1997 proposal to allow for program continuation.

Shari Paul continues to efficiently and energetically staff our Juneau office. Through her efforts, an ACT website was created this year to make prevention information available through technology: www.state.ak.us.

As we head into the closing year of the 20th century, we are more convinced than ever that prevention efforts today will ensure a healthier community of children and adults in the new millennium. We know what works. We know the costs. We know the tremendous energy it takes to help one family take one step forward. Join us in celebrating what we all are doing to ensure that not one more Alaska child has to experience abuse or neglect.

Carol H. Bruce



Alaska Children's Trust Board of Trustees

Carol H. Bruce, (Chair) Fairbanks, Owner/Trainer Family Training Associates
Robert Malone, Anchorage, President and CEO/COO Alyeska Pipeline Service Co.
Judy Salo, Kenai, 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

Working in partnership with communities to prevent child abuse and neglect

Overview of the Alaska Children's Trust (ACT)

The Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) was created by the Legislature in 1988 (AS 37.14.200 - 37.14.270). In 1996, Governor Tony Knowles activated the Trust by appointing the board of trustees and securing a \$6 million appropriation as seed money for the Trust. The Trust is designed to promote and financially support community initiatives to strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect. The Trust balance is now close to \$9 million thanks to private donations and income reinvestment.

OVERVIEW

History of Children's Trust

The concept of a children's trust originated in the 1970s and was developed by the late Ray E. Heller, MD, a nationally recognized pediatrician in the field of child abuse and its prevention. Dr. Heller asked, "If trust funds were in place to care for our nation's highways — why not have a trust fund to care for our nation's children?" His concept was the catalyst for the nationwide network of community-based programs that have been initiated by state children's trust and prevention funds.

HISTORY

All fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico have passed legislation to establish a trust for the prevention of child abuse and neglect. Alaska was the twenty-fifth state to create a Children's Trust Fund in 1988, though funding was not appropriated until 1996.

The National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Funds was established in 1989 as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, and is the means for state trust funds to network resources and to provide leadership and technical assistance to all states. For more information on the National Alliance of Children's Trust, visit their Web Site at: <http://www.calib.com/nccanch/>

Alaska Children's Trust Goals

To accomplish the ACT's mission, the Trustees have established three goals:

- decrease 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 by promoting responsible parenting and care giving; and
- increase the grant-giving ability of the ACT by:
 - Fundraising to increase the corpus of the fund
 - Pursuing other funding opportunities.

The goals are to be achieved through:

- funding community-based family support and child abuse and neglect prevention programs;
- educating the public about child abuse and neglect through media campaigns;
- coordinating resources and sharing information; and
- encouraging collaboration and developing partnerships with public and private organizations.

Mission Statement

Alaska's children deserve to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment. The mission of the Alaska Children's Trust is to generate funds for and commit resources to community-based programs that strengthen families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

GOALS



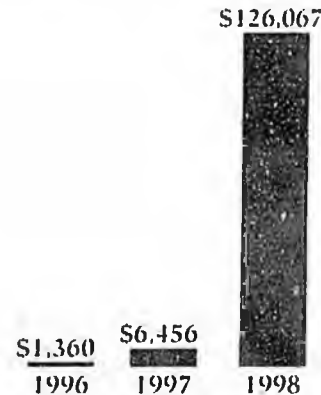
How the Trust Works

STRUCTURE

- The Alaska Children's Trust is a savings account for children.
- The Trust's funds grow through 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 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 fund and the investments. The ACT is established in the Office of the Governor.
- A seven-member board of trustees administers the ACT. The Trustees are appointed by the Governor. They include the Commissioner of Health and Social Services, the Commissioner of Education, the Governor or designee, and four public members.
- The Trustees set goals, award and monitor grants, and raise funds.
- The Trust partners with a broad range of people (parents, private business, state agencies, community groups, concerned individuals) to help support Alaska families and prevent child abuse and neglect.

FUNDRAISING

The Alaska Children's Trust Annual Contributions and Fund Raising



FINANCIALS

Alaska Children's Trust Financial Statements

Statement of Invested Assets

June 30, 1998

	(in 000s)
Cash and equivalents	\$ 250
Marketable debt securities	3,229
Equity securities	4,761
Interest and dividends receivable	17
Total investments	\$ 8,257

The June 30, 1998, audited financial statements are available from the Department of Revenue, Treasury Division, by calling 465-2350.

Statement of Investment Income and Changes in Invested Assets

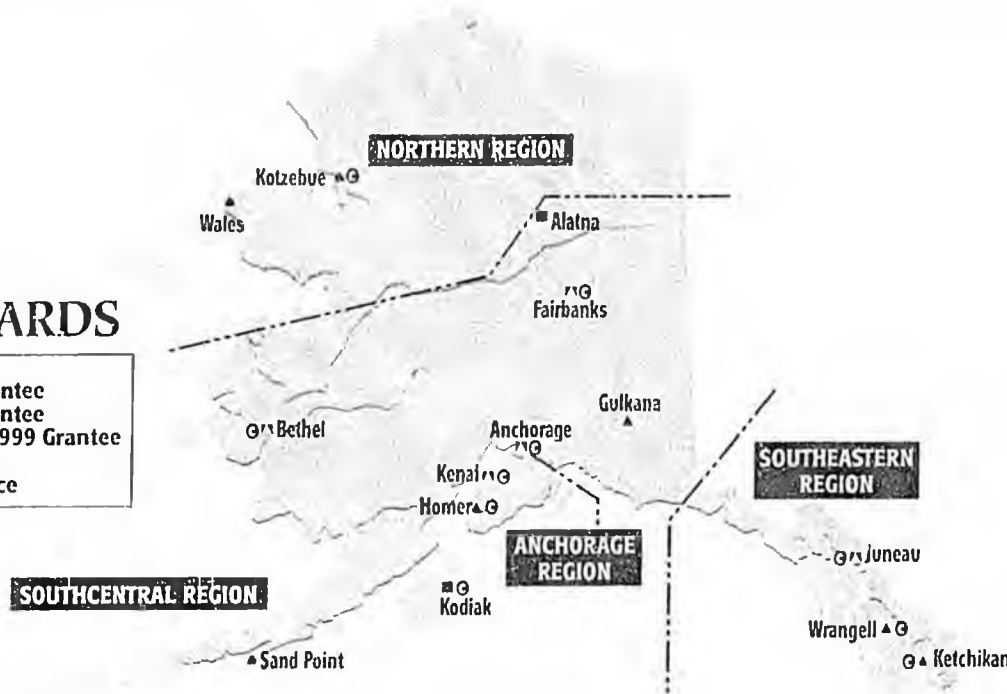
June 30, 1998

	(in 000s)
Principal Assets	\$ 1,538
Income distributed to Income Assets	(217)
	<u>1,291</u>
Income Assets	14
Income distributed from Principal Assets	247
	<u>261</u>
Total investment income	1,552
Total invested assets, beginning of year	6,929
Net contributions (withdrawals)	<u>(224)</u>
Total invested assets, end of year	\$ 8,257

The Children's Trust at Work
Reaching Children Across the State

GRANT AWARDS

- Fiscal Year 1998 Grantee
- ▲ Fiscal Year 1999 Grantee
- ▲ Fiscal Year 1998 & 1999 Grantee
- ⊙ Family Services Office



FY 1998 GRANT AWARDS

MALE GUIDANCE PROJECT OF ALATNA
 Alatna Tribal Council • Grant Award: \$6,572

The project encompasses eleven activities normally accomplished by male members of the Athabaskan and Inupiaq society that are centered around the yearly subsistence cycle. These activities will demonstrate a productive male's role as it occurs in the family and community, the relationship between the seasons, the need for preparedness from one season to the other, and how the activities and actions during some seasons affect one's success throughout the year. All of the activities will take place in and around the villages of Alatna and Allakaket, and will utilize the male population of Alatna, including the Chief and Second Chief, as the activity instructors.

PASSAGE HOUSE, PROJECT NURTURE
 Covenant House Alaska • Grant Award: \$28,000

Passage House is a residential facility for single pregnant and parenting mothers, age 16 to 20. Since 1993, its 31 graduates have consistently demonstrated the long-term benefits of this environment, which at one time nurtured and structured their lives for up to 18 months. In comparison to teenage mothers tending for themselves, Passage House graduates demonstrate decreased rates of second pregnancy, domestic violence and child abuse, and increased rates of employment and independence from public assistance. Passage House seeks to extend its services by adding an aftercare component, Project Nurture, that will maintain contact with graduates at 1-month, 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month intervals following discharge and as needed. Staff will make home visits to graduates, and the graduates will themselves become mentors for current residents. Goals for improvement include: a) 100 percent employment with at least 50 percent employed at the vocational level one year after discharge; b) 0 percent unplanned second pregnancies; and c) 0 percent child abuse and neglect as documented through the Division of Family and Youth Services.

"I am building a healthy relationship—soon to be married. I focus on goals and don't give up on myself."

—Passage House graduate

CALL-IN SHOW
 Bethel Community Services, Children's Mental Health Department • Grant Award: \$22,311

The Bethel Community Services Children's Mental Health Department proposes to do a weekly morning informational call-in show on parenting issues and weekly evening call-in show for children and young adults. The shows will be broadcast through KYUK-AM radio, which serves Bethel and 52 villages in the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta. The morning call-in show will feature agencies and individuals in the region that work with families, parents, and children. The show will address parenting issues and provide general information about children in Alaska. The evening call-in show will be for younger listeners and will address adolescent issues. Community Services and KYUK will pay some of the expenses.

The Children's Trust at Work

Reaching Children Across the State

"What the team members gained in hosting a meeting and working together for a common cause was worth any and all efforts made during the program."

—Taking Action:
A Village Response

TAKING ACTION: A VILLAGE RESPONSE

Kodiak Area Native Association • Grant Award: \$11,598

The villages of Larsen Bay, Ouzinkie, and Akhiok will receive intensive outreach, educational, and informational programs, as well as participate in developing a localized media campaign using culturally relevant materials and local residents as presenters. The services will be provided by the Kodiak Area Native Association's Social Services Department in conjunction with Project: Making Medicine, an Indian Service Training program for the treatment of child physical and sexual abuse. Community teams will be created in each of the villages. Teams will focus on promoting cultural traditions and healing practices.

MULDOON COMMUNITY WORKS

Muldoon Community Development Corporation • Grant Award: \$30,000

Muldoon Community Development Corporation (MCDC) is establishing a community center that will help decrease the incidence of child abuse by: 1) training and employing welfare recipients who are eligible for welfare-to-work programs; 2) creating a safe, supportive social environment for families with children; and 3) bringing related services vital to these families' well-being directly to the community center. The center is located in the Muldoon Mall and includes a laundromat, computer learning center with tutors and Internet access for children and adults, crafts, reading, homework center, office, and meeting space. The MCDC is also working with other programs to locate at the community center.

POSITIVE FUTURES: A NEIGHBORHOOD MENTORING PROGRAM

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Anchorage, Inc. • Grant Award: \$35,382

The purpose of this program is to prevent child abuse and neglect by empowering the at-risk youth of this target community with education, relationship skills, improved self-image, and a stronger sense of social belonging. The Positive Futures program will mobilize and engage adult volunteers to serve as mentors to at-risk children of similar ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and preferably from the same neighborhood. Recruitment will focus particularly on the need for African American adult male volunteer role models. A professional caseworker will work full time to assess, screen, match, and support all volunteers and the children with whom they are matched. There are currently 48 children from the Mountain View neighborhood waiting and hoping to be matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister. This grant award will double the number of volunteers in the program.

PARENTING AWARENESS RADIO MESSAGES

Alaska Public Radio Network (APRN) • Grant Award: \$49,065

APRN proposes to produce and distribute a 12-month series of daily messages to parents, children, and extended family on the importance of meeting children's basic developmental needs. APRN's daily series, called Parenting Awareness, will reach 80,000 listeners in 330 communities statewide. The series will provide parenting tips and childhood development information based on source materials and guidance from the University of Alaska's child development experts. The messages will be voiced by Alaska's Native celebrity, Heartbeat Alaska's Jennie Greene.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Boys and Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula • Grant Award: \$22,500

The Boys and Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula, in conjunction with community professionals, will provide violence prevention programming for youths, coaches, and parents who belong to the club. They expect to directly serve 120 youths and their parents. By training volunteer coaches in implementing the project, they will indirectly serve 1,480 youths in the Central Peninsula area who participate in their athletic leagues.

PARENT OUTREACH PROJECT

Resource Center for Parents and Children (RCPC) • Grant Award: \$25,071

The Parent Outreach Project is designed to positively influence families, raise community awareness, and change attitudes about child abuse and neglect. The project will create grass root community parenting information and support groups in several neighborhoods and villages in the Northern Region. The groups will be facilitated by a Parent Outreach Specialist who lives in the area and who has been trained by RCPC to provide parenting education, information, and support to parents in his or her area. The project will also distribute information and materials about parenting and prevention received by the National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse.

FAMILY LITERACY GOES TO WORK

Literacy Council of Alaska • Grant Award: \$17,727

The Family Literacy Goes to Work project aims to prevent child abuse and neglect by meeting the educational and parenting needs of families who are financially disadvantaged. Services provided include parenting instruction, job readiness and shadowing for adults, child care and learning activities for children, and fun activities for families. Two separate four-week intensive sessions will occur Monday through Thursday for three hours. Ten to twelve parents and their children will be enrolled in each session.

"We have made dramatic changes in our discipline policy at the after school program and are seeing an 80% decrease in the incidence of violence!"

—Violence Prevention

MENTORING PROGRAM

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Juneau, Inc. • Grant Award: \$15,736

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Juneau will enhance its preventive and support service in Juneau to youths from single-parent families and from families that have experienced substantial upheaval due to divorce, death, mental illness, and other reasons. The project will maintain "50 matches" between at-risk youth and Big Brother or Big Sister volunteers.

SUPPORTED PARENTING PROJECT

Fairbanks Resource Agency • Grant Award: \$20,304

The Supported Parenting Project will serve families (including foster, adoptive, and extended families) with parents who experience developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, and/or who are in the midst of family crisis. It will help them develop healthy parenting skills and prevent child abuse or neglect. Educational sessions, supervised by two trained facilitators, will be offered from September 1997 to June 1998. These sessions will provide skills training in a hands-on environment with modeling, activities, discussion, brainstorming, role playing, and parent-child activities. Additionally, a trained family support specialist will provide in-home training, clarification, follow-up, and support to ensure that newly acquired parenting skills will be successfully incorporated into the family's daily life.

SUMMARY OF FY 1999 GRANT AWARDS

SECOND YEAR FUNDING

MEDIA OUTREACH FOR PARENT EDUCATION

Big Dipper Community Circle-Kotzebue • Grant Award: \$9,650

This project will provide parenting education to rural Alaskans by radio and printed materials. The presentation will be harmonious with predominant Inupiat Eskimo culture of the region and toll-free telephone lines will encourage and enable interaction between listeners and presenters. This project will serve the Northwest Arctic Borough and Point Hope. KOTZ is the primary source of news and information for this area. The staff and volunteers will plan, conduct radio shows, respond to requests from the public and agencies, and coordinate collection and dissemination of information through newsletters and newspapers. The anticipated achievements are: a) increased awareness of factors contributing to child abuse and neglect throughout the region; b) increased and more appropriate use of existing services; c) improved parenting skills; d) increased interest in positive parenting in developing parenting skills as evidenced by larger numbers of call-ins; e) increased family-centered activities and parental involvement with school and other institutions affecting children.

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB PREVENTION PROJECT

Central Kenai Peninsula and Seldovia • Grant Award: \$20,038

The Boys and Girls Club, in conjunction with community professionals, will continue to provide violence prevention programming for youths, coaches and parents involved in the Central Peninsula and Seldovia programs. The Club will serve youths who are currently members, as well as at-risk youth who will be referred to them by the alternative high school. By training staff and 150 volunteer coaches in violence prevention skills, they will also serve 1,480 youth in the Central Peninsula area who participate in athletic leagues. The goal of this project is to continue to curb youth and family violence and promote awareness of causes of violent behavior.

"PROJECT NURTURE"

Organization: Covenant House Alaska-Anchorage • Grant Award: \$21,000

Passage House is a residential facility for single pregnant and parenting mothers ages 16 to 20. Since 1993, its 38 graduates have consistently demonstrated the long-term benefits of this environment. In comparison to teenage mothers fending for themselves, Passage House graduates demonstrate decreased rates of second pregnancy, domestic violence and child abuse rates, and increased rates of employment and independence from public assistance. The continuation of this grant, "Project Nurture" will maintain contact with graduates at 1-month, 3-month, 6-month, and 12-month intervals following discharge and as needed. Staff will make home visits to graduates. Graduates have become mentors for current residents. Anticipated achievements include: a) 100% employment, with at least 50% employed at the vocational level two years after discharge; b) 0% unplanned second pregnancies; c) 0% child abuse and neglect, as documented through DYS.

COMMUNITY PARENTING PROJECT

Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Inc. • Grant Award: \$20,556

The overall goal of this proposal is to provide parenting classes and a support network to the parents of the Eastern Aleutian region. The primary target will be parents of children under the age of three. These services will supplement the current crisis intervention and referral components of medical and behavioral health care and will include the addition of parenting classes, support groups, and home visits. The anticipated achievements are to decrease the number of nonemergency after-hour calls to clinics, decrease child accident emergencies, promote healthy infants and children, and increase community-based parenting support and resources.

"Before my children and myself only communicated by yelling, but now we are talking to each other learning, about each other. I'm forever grateful to have the opportunity of participating in a great planned program."

*—Rose Sweet
Supported Parenting
Project*

The Children's Trust at Work

Reaching Children Across the State

SUPPORTED PARENTING

Organization: Fairbanks Resource Agency-Fairbanks • **Grant Award:** \$22,674

Supported Parenting is a parent education program designed for parents with developmental and learning disabilities, and for family crisis/dysfunction. Home-based services are provided for support and parenting intervention to keep children safe and healthy. This program provides an unduplicated service to the area by helping parents gain the self-esteem and communication skills necessary for optimum parenting skills.

SUMMER FAMILY EDUCATION PROJECT

Organization: Gulkana Village Council-Gulkana • **Grant Award:** \$9,000

The Summer Family Education Project will stress academics for the children and provide family counseling to curb neglect and abuse. The program will have a classroom segment for academic instruction and a field setting for traditional cultural experiences. Additionally, the Village elders will team up with children to teach traditional stories, dances, and songs. A home assessment of family needs will be completed. The anticipated achievements are a) children will have a positive academic experience, building on successes and ensuring a head start for the next school year; 2) children will have the opportunity to spend time with the Village Traditional Chief and the elders who are all positive role models for the children; 3) children will spend quality time with their own fathers, increasing opportunities for positive father-child communication.

INFANT LEARNING/PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Organization: Homer Children's Services-Homer • **Grant Award:** \$23,239

The Infant Learning Program/Parents as Teachers (ILP/PAT) is an early childhood family education and support program providing information and support to families of children birth to three years with developmental delays. Home-based services will be extended to all families regardless of delay, primarily in the home but with a center-based playgroup. The anticipated outcomes include a higher level of parenting and nurturing skills among all family members, a better understanding of their children's development and better use of community resources.

"ISSUES AND ANSWERS FOR PARENTS" AND "TEEN TALK"

KYUK/ARCS-Bethel • Grant Award: \$15,450

This grant will allow for the continuation of a weekly morning informational call-in radio show, "Issues and Answers for Parents," and a weekly evening call-in show for children and young adults, "Teen Talk." "Issues and Answers for Parents" features invited guests from agencies and individuals who work with families, parents, or children. The show addresses parenting issues and provides general information about children in Alaska. "Teen Talk" is produced by young volunteers and addresses adolescent issues.

DZUUGGE'GHAK'AE PROGRAM (FAVORITE CHILDREN'S PLACE)

The Native Village of Eklutna- Anchorage • Grant Award: \$37,792

The Dzuugge' Ghak'ae Program is a mentoring program. This program will work with Native single parents between the ages of 16 to 30 who are at risk for encountering problems that may lead to an unhealthy home environment for their young children. The program will promote families helping other families. Traditional parenting skills will be learned. Monthly activities will be planned with the intent of helping to network with each other, to participate in healthy activities, seek out assistance from community resources, and share with childcare responsibilities. The anticipated outcome is a safe stimulating environment for young families while helping to create a supportive family network.

KINGIKMIUT DANCE PROJECT

Native Village of Wales-Wales • Grant Award: \$13,740

Wales residents will teach traditional songs and dances to community youths. Elders will also teach traditional hunting skills to youths and interested residents, teaching responsibility, self-discipline, and respect. The Program Director will disseminate information and facilitate community discussions on child abuse and neglect. The Native Village of Wales recognizes that the majority of their youths are motivated to be successful for themselves, their families, and their community.

FRESH START

Northeast Community Center - Anchorage/Muldoon • Grant Award: \$15,000

The "Fresh Start" program will provide life skills training, social skills training, and vocational assistance to at-risk youth and single parents. The Center will also offer parenting classes for families and host a series of community meetings on the issues of child abuse and neglect. The services for the children will be provided on a daily basis in real-life environments, while the services for the parents will be provided on a weekly basis in a classroom setting. The program will enable children who have been "cut off" from their peers due to inappropriate behaviors to be reunited with them. The program anticipates serving over 100 parents and 500 children during the year. Finally, quarterly community meetings on the issues of child abuse and neglect will raise the level of awareness and concern in families.

PARENT OUTREACH PROJECT YEAR TWO

**The Resource Center for Parents
and Children-Fairbanks • Grant
Award: \$25,071**

The second year of this project will continue to provide information and training for Parent Outreach workers in neighborhoods and villages in the Northern region. The goal of this project is to positively influence families, raise community awareness, and change attitudes about child abuse and neglect and its prevention. Participants will be linked to this project through direct contact with various tribal governments and agencies working with families. By June 30, 1999, over 700 families will receive parenting information by mail, hand delivery, and by community posters. RCPC will maintain phone contact with the Parent Outreach workers for support and additional information. In addition, this project will develop support for a quality early childhood respite program. This respite program will also provide parenting training and will facilitate parent support groups.



PERSONAL SAFETY SPECIALIST

Tundra Women's Coalition-Bethel • Grant Award: \$22,938

The Tundra Women's Coalition will receive funding for the position of Personal Safety Specialist to focus on sexual abuse prevention education in several Bethel schools (K-6th grade). The curricula to be used is the Committee for Children's Personal Safety programs titled "Talking About Touching." A comprehensive plan for utilizing this Specialist includes: 1) in-service workshops for all preschool and elementary school staff on child abuse and neglect; 2) parent education evenings; 3) ongoing instruction to children, the "Talking About Touching" programs; 4) a community awareness media campaign including written articles, public service announcements, and radio interviews.

THE STRENGTHENING OF GRANDFAMILIES PROJECT

Volunteers of America, Alaska-Anchorage • Grant Award: \$9,472

The Strengthening of Grandfamilies Project will provide services to families parented by grandparents. These services include respite care through summer prevention camp for 12 young children, ages 7-11, who are being raised by their grandparent(s); a winter family camp for grandparented families (40 people); materials for the No Empty Nest (NEN) support group; speakers for NEN meetings and training for a coordinator of NEN. Volunteers of America proposes a strengthening these grandparented families through a multi-faceted approach in which respite is provided and the children and the grandparents are educated, encouraged, and empowered both individually, as well as in a family unit.

PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Wrangell Community Services • Grant Award: \$20,080

Wrangell Community Services will establish parent education classes and parent support services for parents of all age children and adolescents. Three levels of service will be available. Level one provides informational material designed for parents to work on at home without formal assistance. Level two provides Parent Education Classes. Level three involves an ongoing Parent Support Group. The anticipated achievements are to strengthen families through education and support, and to provide healthy alternatives to child abuse and neglect by supporting families to grow, positively change, and creatively solve problems.

What are Child Abuse and Neglect?

Alaska state law defines child abuse or neglect to include the following actions by those responsible for a child's welfare:

- Physical injury that harms or threatens a child's health or welfare;
- "Failure to care for a child" means neglect of a child's necessary physical (food, shelter, clothing, and medical attention), emotional, mental, and social needs;
- Sexual abuse includes molestation or incest;
- Sexual exploitation involves permitting or encouraging prostitution;
- Mental injury is injury to the emotional well-being or intellectual or psychological capacity of a child (as evidenced by an observable and sustainable impairment in the child's ability to function in a developmentally appropriate manner);
- Maltreatment refers to a child suffering substantial harm as a result of child abuse or neglect due to an act or omission not necessarily committed by the child's parent, custodian, or guardian.



**Since FY89
the total number of reports
of harm to children in Alaska
has risen 108%.**

Reports of Harm 1989 - 98

Harm Type	FY89	FY90	FY91	FY92	FY93	FY94	FY95	FY96	FY97	FY98
Neglect	3,989	4,550	5,124	5,907	7,202	7,860	8,799	8,118	8,990	9,726
Physical Abuse	2,400	2,855	3,315	4,037	4,817	4,795	4,458	4,328	4,123	4,119
Sexual Abuse	1,431	1,556	1,681	2,039	2,249	2,421	2,031	1,991	2,094	2,151
Mental Injury	N/A	N/A	99	348	316	357	393	345	315	372
Abandonment	56	60	64	55	33	32	25	16	25	8
Total	7,876	9,021	10,283	12,386	14,617	15,465	15,706	14,798	15,517	16,380

As the table above demonstrates, the Division of Family and Youth Services received 16,380 reports of harm of children under the age of 18 during FY98. This represents a 108% increase from the 7,878 reports received during FY 89. During the same period, the population of children below age 18 in Alaska increased by 19.6%.

Child Protection in Alaska

"No matter where Alaskans make our homes or what we do for a living, we share a common goal — safe, healthy children and strong families. For most Alaskans, that dream is well within reach. Yet, for a growing number of our children, their lives are a nightmare," Governor Knowles stated when he released "Alaska's Children of a Hidden War" in April 1998.

Last year, there were more than 15,500 reports of harm to Alaska's children — from neglect and abandonment to horrors beyond belief: burned bodies, sexual abuse, even murder. We read about them in the newspapers so often that we become immune.

"Alaska's Children of a Hidden War" tells real stories of 134 Alaska child abuse victims taken into state protective custody over just a three-month period in late 1997.

Unfortunately, no extensive research was required for this report. On any average day, Alaska's overworked child protection system fields 43 reports of harm. This equals 1,300 a month — a 97 percent increase in just the past eight years.

One example from the report — it's certainly not the most graphic — reads:

Report Number 30: A 4-year-old girl was taken into custody because her father severely beat her over her entire body. Her father indicated he was putting her through boot camp training; he cut her shoulder-length hair into a crew cut and the child was made to perform vigorous exercises. The mother was aware of the beating and failed to protect her daughter.

To address these problems, the Knowles administration made child protection a cornerstone of its Smart Start initiative. The Legislature conducted its own audit — which confirmed what the administration had been saying — then approved much of the governor's request. The result is a tough new child protection law, more money for new child protection workers, and more resources for treatment and improved training programs for Division of Family and Youth Services workers.

Alaska's New Child Protection Law

Under Alaska's new child protection law, AS 47.10.011, the court may find a child to be in need of aid if it finds that the child has been subjected to any of the following:

- A parent or guardian has abandoned the child, and the other parent is absent, including leaving the child with another person without provision for the child's support and without meaningful communication with the child for a period of three months, failing to participate in a suitable plan or program designed to reunite the parent with the child, and failing for a period of at least six months to maintain regular visitation with the child;
- A parent, guardian, or custodian is incarcerated, the other parent is absent or has committed conduct or created conditions that cause the child to be a child in need of aid, and the incarcerated parent has not made adequate arrangements for the child;
- A custodian with whom the child has been left is unwilling or unable to provide care, supervision, or support for the child, and the whereabouts of the parent or guardian is unknown;
- The child is in need of medical treatment to cure, alleviate, or prevent substantial physical harm or is in need of treatment for mental injury and the child's parent, guardian, or custodian has knowingly failed to provide the treatment;

Alaska's Children of a Hidden War

Real stories of the 134 Child Abuse Victims taken into protective custody by the Division of Family and Youth Services during a three month period in 1997.



— continued next page

- The child is habitually absent from home and refuses to accept available care and the child's conduct places the child at substantial risk of physical or mental injury;
- The child has suffered substantial physical harm, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer substantial physical harm, as a result of conduct by or conditions created by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or by the failure of them to supervise the child adequately;
- The child has suffered sexual abuse, or there is a substantial risk that the child will suffer sexual abuse, as a result of conduct by or conditions created by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian or by the failure of the parent, guardian, or custodian to adequately supervise the child; if a parent, guardian, or custodian has actual notice that a person has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor within the past 15 years, is registered or required to register as a sex offender, or under investigation for a sex offense against a minor, and the parent subsequently allows a child to be left with that person, this conduct constitutes evidence that the child is at substantial risk of being sexually abused;
- Conduct by or conditions created by the parent, guardian, or custodian have resulted in mental injury to the child, or placed the child at substantial risk of mental injury as a result of a pattern of rejecting, terrorizing, ignoring, isolating, or corrupting behavior that would, if continued, result in mental injury, or exposure to domestic violence;
- Conduct by or conditions created by the parent, guardian, or custodian have subjected the child or another child in the same household to neglect;
- The parent, guardian, or custodian's ability to parent has been substantially impaired by the addictive or habitual use of an intoxicant, and the addictive or habitual use of the intoxicant has resulted in a substantial risk of harm to the child;
- The parent, guardian, or custodian has a mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, or mental deficiency of a nature and duration that places the child at substantial risk of physical harm or mental injury; and
- The child has committed an illegal act as a result of pressure, guidance, or approval from the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

Key Principles of the New Law

- Safety of children is paramount.
- Foster care is temporary and permanency planning begins immediately.
- Child welfare system must focus on results.
- Coordinated approaches and linkages are critical.



1998 Report from the Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust (FACT)

The Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust (FACT) is a 501(C) 3 non-profit corporation dedicated to raising money for the Alaska Children's Trust, and with a secondary mission of raising awareness about how each individual can make a difference in the life of a child. We had a successful year on both counts.

During 1998, our third full year of operation, we raised approximately \$125,000 in direct deposits to the principal of the ACT. Our two major fundraisers, "Mush for Kids" and the "First Annual Alyeska Pipeline Children's Trust Golf Tournament," were complemented by year-round sales of Little Bear's Alaska Reader and small donation solicitations.

"Mush for Kids" was an all day family fun day organized in large part by the mushing association, P.R.L.D.E., Saturday, April 4th in Fairbanks. With Dave Monson and Bill Merchant leading the way, a great many professional mushers participated in a "musher's olympics" on the parking lot at Pike's Landing, Fairbanks' not-for-profit community, led by Debbie Hall and David Leone of the Fairbanks Resource Center for Parents and Children, came out in full force with free, fun-filled activity booths set up on the grounds. Local youths and entertainment groups performed throughout the day, lending a festival atmosphere to the whole affair. The "Mush for Kids" raised over \$40,000 in corporate sponsorships.

In late August, ACT Board Member, Bob Malone, and his incredible staff at Alyeska Pipeline Services Company, took the lead and organized a benefit golf tournament for the Trust. With their help, this first time event took in over \$80,000...we had to turn away ten teams for lack of space! The folks at Alyeska went all out in securing door-prizes and trophies for participating players.

We used the occasion of these events to spread the word about the ACT through television and radio advertisements. Additionally, during April, Child Abuse Prevention Month, we were able to air radio PSAs and news ads. Our thanks to Tom Bodette, who is always willing to lend his famous voice to our efforts, and to Jerry Levine at Connections, Inc., who had donated countless hours of production and editing time to our media efforts.

In closing, we hope to institutionalize these events and plans are already under way for 1999. We have plans for partnering with the Anchorage Center for Families and the Fairbanks Resource Center for Parents and Children to provide an Alas! National Council for the Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPA) network. We remain an all-volunteer organization, with occasional help from contract staff. Anyone interested in working with us for 1999, please give us a call at (907) 248-7676.



Musher Jeff King and friends



"Mush for Kids" was an all day family fun day in Fairbanks. The event raised over \$40,000 in corporate sponsorships.



Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer, Bob Malone and Morris Thompson at the First Annual Alyeska Pipeline Children's Trust Golf Tournament.

Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust Board of Directors

Deborah Bonito, Chair; President, Sourdough Mercantile, Anchorage
Diane Kaplan, Diane Kaplan and Co. Consulting Firm, Anchorage
Mike Pocaro, Pocaro Blankenship Advertising, Anchorage
Mike Burns, President and CEO, KeyBank, Alaska
Vivian Johnson, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation, Bethel
Suzanne Bishop, President, Plain English, Fairbanks

You can help!

What YOU can do to help

Individually, you can join the effort to help protect Alaska's children. Here are just a few ideas:

- Volunteer for agencies in your community that work with children, youths, and families.
- Volunteer in a day care center or school.
- Become a foster parent or adoptive parent.
- Volunteer in the "Safe Home" program in your community, or start one if you don't have one.
- Serve as a friend to youth in trouble with the law.
- Become an advocate for prevention and early intervention services.
- Support preventive, community-based services designed to alleviate stress and promote parental behavior that will increase the ability of families to successfully nurture their children.



To find out more
about what you can do to help,
call 1-800-643-5437

Support the Alaska Children's Trust

Your gift to the Alaska Children's Trust is combined with other private donations and distributed to programs in Alaska that most effectively work to keep children safe and families strong. To add your support you can:

- Make a financial contribution to the ACT.
- Include the ACT in your will.
- Host a fundraiser for the ACT or volunteer your time for scheduled events.
- Purchase an Heirloom Birth Certificate.
- Discuss other ideas or options with the staff or trustees of the ACT by simply dialing 1-800-KIDS or (907) 465-4870.

Two new opportunities to support the ACT and prevention programs!

1

Heirloom Birth Certificate

The Alaska Children's Trust (ACT) is pleased to introduce the Heirloom Birth Certificate, featuring the work of well-known Alaska artist Ric Muñoz. These certificates are available to anyone born in Alaska. This project is a collaborative effort between the ACT and the Alaska Bureau of Vital Statistics. Proceeds from sales of the \$35 certificates go to the ACT.

Our marketing campaign would not have been possible without the generous contributions of Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, Providence Hospital, Bartlett Regional Hospital, Charter North Hospital, the Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, and Financial Consultants of Alaska.

For more information about how to order an Heirloom Birth Certificate, call the Bureau of Vital Statistics at 907-465-3392—or at www.state.ak.us



Actual Size 9" x 12"

2

Alaska Children's Trust License Plate

During 1999, the Alaska Children's Trust will have its own special license plate for sale through the Division of Motor Vehicles. A statewide art contest has been conducted in search of the plate that best describes, "Safe and Healthy Children." The license plate should be available to the public sometime this fall.

Since so many creative art pieces were submitted for the license plate contest, and the Alaska Children's Trust could pick only one, the trust plans to produce a calendar during the year 2000 using artwork by contest participants.

For more information regarding the Alaska Children's Trust license plate or the calendar, call 1-800-643-5437.



Staff and Volunteers

Alaska Children's Trust

Shari Paul, Special Assistant
Department of Community
and Regional Affairs
PO Box 112100
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4870
(907) 465-8638 - Fax
spaul@comregaf.state.ak.us

Friends of the Alaska Children's Trust

Deborah Bonito, Chair
PO Box 92155
Anchorage, AK 99509-2155
(907) 248-7676
(907) 258-0952 - Fax

THANK YOU to all of you who have so generously supported our efforts on behalf of Alaska's children with your time and with your financial support. And special thanks to our corporate sponsors, without whom our major fund-raising events would not have been possible.

GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORS:

Chugach Alaska Corp.
Doyon, Limited
EMCON Alaska, Inc.
First National Bank
Great Northwest, Inc.
Hawk Construction
Houston Contracting
Kanas Telecom, Inc.
Natchiq, Inc.
VECO Engineering
Alaska Telecom, Inc.
ASCG Inspection
Burr, Pease & Kurtz
Carlile Enterprises
Heller, Erhman McAuliffe & White
MACTEL, Inc.
Arctic Slope Regional Corp.
CTG
Carr Gottstein
Ahtna AGA Security
Air Logistics of Alaska, Inc.
Chugach North Technical Services
GCI
Groh Eggers, LLC
Key Bank
Lynden Air Cargo
NANA Development Corporation
Northrim Bank
Northwest Technical Services
Pipefitters Local 375
Sourdough Express, Inc.
UNOCAL
Ahtna Construction
Air Logistics Helicopters
Alaska Industrial Hardware
American Divers
AT&T Alascom
BP Exploration
CIRI
Crowley Marine Services-Valdez
Doyon Universal Services/
Northwest Technical Services
Exxon Company, USA
Pool Arctic Alaska
Sheraton Anchorage Hotel
Sleep Comfort by Nerlands
TCC.LLC

Teamsters Local 959
Udelhoven Oilfield System Services
Alaska Vehicle Transport
Alcan Electric
Anchorage Hilton
ARCO
BP
Carlile Enterprises
Corporate Express
David Green Furriers
Inlet Petroleum Co.
Knowles/Ulmer 98
Oasis Environmental, Inc.
Occantech
Petro Star, Inc.
Prudential Vista
USTravel
Worthington Ford

"MUSH FOR KIDS" FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS:

Alyeska
ARCO
BP
Alaska Railroad
Great Northwest
Alaska Airlines
Connections, Inc.
NBA
Family Training Associates
Northrim Bank
Doyon, Ltd.

This publication was produced by the Alaska Children's Trust at a cost of 10¢ per copy.

Alaska Children's Trust Toll-Free Phone Number: 1-800-643-KIDS (5437)

TONY KNOWLES
GOVERNOR
governor@gov.state.ak.us

STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
JUNEAU

Ab 254
P.O. Box 11000
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1100
907-465-1300
Fax 907-465-1832
www.gov.state.ak.us

February 4, 2000

The Honorable Drue Pearce
President of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear President Pearce:

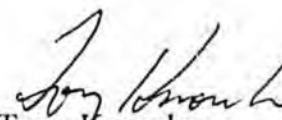
One of the efforts in which the Administration and the Legislature can take great pride is the revitalization of the Alaska Children's Trust. Alaskans have responded with overwhelming support to help build the principal of the trust to more than \$9 million. Proceeds from the trust provide grants to communities and agencies statewide to prevent child abuse and neglect and create healthier lives for children.

One fundraising effort for the trust is the sale of heirloom birth certificates. The sales raised more than \$50,000 for the Children's Trust last year and is the most successful fundraising program of its type nationwide.

This bill I transmit today expands the birth certificate program by establishing an heirloom marriage certificate suitable for display. Hopefully \$25 from the sale proceeds for each certificate would be appropriated by the legislature to the Alaska Children's Trust. This program offers an excellent and appealing way to continue the worthwhile work of the Children's Trust.

I urge your favorable consideration of this bill.

Sincerely,


Tony Knowles
Governor