

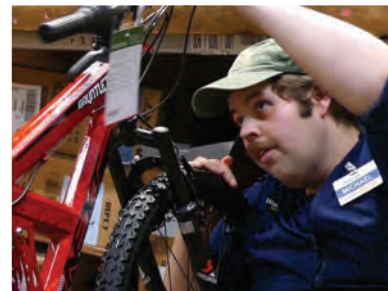
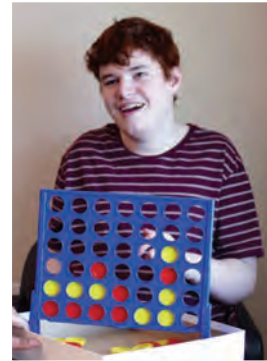
CONNECTIONS

35th ANNIVERSARY
REPORT



ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE, COMMUNITY BELONGING, AND QUALITY OF LIFE





35 years...in it for the long run

Even through challenging times, we have been relentless in our mission to make a difference in the lives of seniors, children and adults with disabilities, and youth with mental health concerns. Even as we've adapted to the changes brought on by COVID, we will continue to support community belonging, independence, and quality of life in those we serve.

Seniors and people with disabilities have been increasingly isolated in their own homes. Some elders have limited family support, and the support we provide makes a big difference. Having someone stop in for a few hours to help with chores or cooking brightens up their day with a bit of company.

The past few years, seniors and individuals with developmental disabilities have survived several cuts in how much services they're eligible for, or that are covered by state funding. We've been advocating to keep these services, and encouraging those we serve to advocate for themselves and share how much these services mean to them.

We have become the primary provider of Children's Mental Health services in Ketchikan and Prince of Wales. As a result, the program has grown to meet the increasing demand for care. In particular, our therapeutic foster care has continued to grow both in numbers and in

reputation. We are so proud to provide trained foster providers to youth and families who need treatment and supports in a home-like setting until they can find a permanent path forward.

Our Early Learning Program (aka Infant Learning Program) is the only one in the area, and our staff continues to serve families over telehealth, phone calls and 'visits-in-the-mail'. We all miss the in-person interactions and hope to get back to in-person care as soon as the COVID crisis passes. We continue to co-host with the Children's Mental Health program in providing parenting support classes by Zoom. These classes take place once a week in the early evening and are open to anyone in the community.

Throughout this pandemic, our direct support staff have been on the front lines: providing care in peoples' homes, doing grocery shopping for elders, working with

children who experience mental health and behavioral challenges in school. These staff, along with the assisted living / family habilitation homes we facilitate and foster care providers, are truly the foundation of what we do.

In 2018 we started an endowment fund with the Alaska Community Foundation, with the goal of funding more of our own services as state support becomes increasingly unreliable. Thank you to all of the Legacy Donors who contributed this past year. We are proud to be a part of an organization that continues to look for innovative ways to care for this community, work together as a team to get people the support they need, and be good stewards of donations from people like you. We look forward to providing support to the people of Ketchikan, Prince of Wales, and Metlakatla for years to come.



Bess Clark, Executive Director



Alonso Escalante, Board President

Early Learning Program

Oceana loves the water, as you might expect from her name.

"If there's a puddle, or even if there's a drop of water, she'll have it on her," says Angie Taggart, Oceana's mom. "Everybody says it's because of her name."

Angie heard about Community Connections a few years ago, after having a complicated birth with Oceana. She met with staff in our Early Learning Program and they saw a few things that Oceana needed help with, and have been able to resolve some of them since.

"When she started walking, she would fall all the time," says Angie. But now, "she still runs into things, but she doesn't fall over like she used to."



Community Connections staff guided Oceana through different exercises, like sitting correctly, picking up blocks, stepping up on a step, and chewing. They gave ideas to Angie too, of what Oceana could work on even without a therapist there. Staff also helped Angie understand the mental health side of how a child develops, like how they learn to express their emotions.

"It was really nice just to have that encouragement," she says. "They make you feel good about yourself as a parent."

Angie and Oceana love spending time outdoors, at the beach or at the swing in their backyard.

Children's Mental Health

Logan loves animals.

"He's utterly obsessed with animals," says Randi Braz, his mom. "One week it'll be turtles. And then another week, it'll be lizards."

Logan is 11 years old, and lives in Kasaan on Prince of Wales Island.

A few years ago, Logan was struggling in school; he was distracted a lot and had trouble keeping friendships with his classmates. He has attention-deficit/hyperactive disorder, which led to other issues with boundaries and low self-esteem.

Randi heard about Community Connections through a friend, and decided to get some extra support for Logan. She grew up in a household where mental health wasn't really talked about, and so was nervous at first. It can feel isolating when your kid is acting up more than other kids.

"With Community Connections, they kind of know what's going on with him," says Randi. "They have this way of talking to him and interacting with him and making me feel like I'm doing a good job as a mom. So that was really helpful."

Community Connections staff were able to come be in the classroom with him, to help him stay focused on tasks. They also met with a clinician regularly, to work through Logan's challenges.

Though Logan still faces challenges, he's doing a lot better in school. Randi says their home life is a lot more peaceful too.

"He's more conscious about letting people have their boundaries and their space and talking about his feelings and stuff. It's just a much more easygoing family life, I think."

They enjoy beachcombing, walks in the park, and of course Logan likes reading about animals and drawing too.

"He just keeps growing and flourishing."



Disability Services

Terri is looking forward to some peace and quiet.

She's planning on moving into her own place soon, and is excited to be able to live more independently.

Terri Simpson grew up on Prince of Wales, and graduated high school several years ago. She has a developmental disability, and needed some help finding a job that was a good fit for her particular skillset.



After some trial and error, Community Connections helped Terri find and settle into a job at the Klawock Cooperative Association, where she coordinates distribution of food packages to low-income families. She inventories all the food, and does intake paperwork for families who want to join the program.

Terri's aunt Martha heads up the food distribution program, and Martha knew that Terri was a hard worker, from Terri's experience volunteering. Now, Terri has basically taken over coordination of the program, with Martha overseeing and providing some guidance.

Terri is excited to move into her own place, now that she has a job and is able to keep a steadier schedule. She currently lives with family.

"We have two little poodles and three cats...it gets noisy," she says. She's looking forward to some peace and quiet in her new apartment.

In order to live on her own, Terri has needed to learn some basic living skills, like how to do laundry and cook meals. Community Connections staff help her learn those skills, so that she's able to do them independently.

Since Terri is Alaska Native, she was able to recently apply to live in an apartment complex in Craig. Fingers crossed!

Senior Services

Larry Miller has lived in Ketchikan since 1973, and he's not leaving anymore.

"I've been in this neighborhood my whole life," he says.

He spent many years as a commercial fisherman: longlining for halibut and blackcod, crabbing, and a little bit of everything else too.

As Larry has grown older, he has needed more help around his house. Five years ago, Community Connections was able to help set him up with a few hours each week of in-home support, funded through a state grant. A Community Connections staff person comes in to help with housework, cooking, moving around the house, shopping for groceries and doing other errands, and sometimes just taking a trip out of the house for a change of scenery. Kathleen is his primary support staff these days.

"It's pretty much a miracle in here," he says. "She comes in here and just does her little tornado thing, and everything is sparkling [clean] behind her."

Larry wants to stay in his home, and with daily support, he's able to do that.

"To tell you the truth, without Community Connections I'd be in an old folks' home," he says.

Community Connections recently helped Larry get approved for what's called a "waiver", which just means he is now eligible for more hours of support each week, which has been much needed.

His family lives in the neighborhood, and he has good neighbors that check on him too. But a big part of having a support staff come is just the company; it's nice to have people around.

"I look forward to the company," he says. "Kathleen's always cheerful."



Service Area



Main offices:

Ketchikan | Craig

Communities served:

Metlakatla | Saxman | Thorne Bay | Naukati | Whale Pass | Kasaan | Hydaburg | Klawock

Employment

3rd



Largest
private employer
in Ketchikan and
Prince of Wales

195



Employees
(year round jobs
with benefits)

\$8,366,066

Paid out in payroll
and benefits

Individuals and Families Served

135



Infants and families
served through Early
Learning Program

242



Children
served in
Children's
Mental
Health

15



Therapeutic
foster homes

39

Children in therapeutic
foster care

55

Children and adults with
developmental disabilities
served

74



Seniors and
veterans served

icons by flaticon.com

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

In 2018 we started an endowment fund

with the Alaska Community Foundation, with the goal of funding more of our own services. Thank you to all of the Legacy Donors who contributed to this fund in the past year; they are indicated by a small tree icon next to their name. This fund will ensure a stable and sustainable future for the people we serve, including children, adults with disabilities, and elders.



















Thank You for your support











Donors Oct 2018 to Oct 2020





Adventure Karts Expedition
AJ Pierce
Alaska Commercial Company
Alaska IBEW Local 1547
Alaska Liquor Store 🌲
Alaska Pest Management 🌲
Alaskan & Proud
Alisa Thompson
Alonso Escalante 🌲
Alvin Angeles
Alyce Bethel
Amazon Smile
Angela and Brien Salazar 🌲
Anne and Duncan Chalk 🌲
Arthur and Sharon Wilson 🌲
Athena DeWeese and Adrian DeVera
Audrey and John Gilbert 🌲
Awesome Shredding
Barb Bigelow and Richard Smith 🌲
Barbara Mestas 🌲
Barbara Rauschenbach
Barbara Stanley 🌲
Basic Transportation
Becky Daggett
Bess and Clarence Clark 🌲

Bett Union-Jakubek and Jim Jakubek 🌲
Betty and Doug McLaughlin 🌲
Bianca Jurczak
Bob Adams 🌲
Bombas Socks
Brynn Bolling and Kevin Castle 🌲
Burnette's Construction 🌲
Caitlin Jacobson
Caleb Kuikhoven
Camden Lambert
Carriage Works
Christa Cichoski
Christina Chambers
Christopher Dowling
Coastal Real Estate Group
Corey Goheen 🌲
Craig Bar & Liquor 🌲
Dale and June Robbins 🌲
Dana Lloyd
Dani Lambert
Danielle Bradley
David and Rebecca Valentine 🌲
Davies-Barry Insurance
Deborah Blair
Deborah Lloyd
Denise Mathena

Diane Gubatayao 🌲
Dick and Margot Miller 🌲
Don and Donna Stein
Doris and Douglas Vig 🌲
Elgee Rehfeld, LLC 🌲
Engle Enterprises 🌲
Erin Jakubek 🌲
Erin Reeve & Associates Financial
First Bank 🌲
Frances Johnson
Frances Young 🌲
Fraternal Order of the Alaska State Troopers
Fraternal Order of the Eagles No. 162
Full Circle Media Arts 🌲
Gary and Jean Emard 🌲
Gold Pan Pizza
Hazel and Paul Fisher 🌲
Heather and Brian Bailey
Ian Clark 🌲
Island Air Express
James and Bill Montiver 🌲
Janet and John Engle 🌲
Jay M Johnson LLC
Jenn Zona
Jenna Lambert

Jesse Yarbrough 
 Jessica Verney
 Jodi Jakubek 
 Joe and Suzi Williams
 Joel Cladouhos
 Jonathan Williams
 Julie and Chris Dowling
 Kara Varberg 
 Karen Stafford
 Kathleen Ford 
 Keene & Currall 
 Ketchikan Softball Association
 Ketchikan Volunteer Fire Fighters
 Keturah Burton
 Kristy Imhof
 KYFMS Event Office
 Lance Haynes
 Leroy and Marilyn Layton 
 Linda and Fritz Peters 
 Lodivinia Credito 
 Lori and Paul Kinzer 
 Lori Nesje
 Madison Lumber & Hardware 
 Mal and Elaine Menzies 
 Marcela Credito 
 Margaret and Tore Lynne 
 Margaret Custer 
 Marian Layton Lloyd
 Marlene Scanlon 
 Martha Bryan 
 Mary and John Brown
 Mary and Terry Wanzer 
 Max E Mertz CPA
 Max Mercer 
 Maxx Keizer

Mellanie Isner
 Michael and Marna Cessnun 
 Michelle O'Brien 
 Michelle Ries
 Mike and Lacey Rose
 Mike, Lea and Nathan Houts
 Milbia Fuller 
 Nancy Abbott 
 Nancy Elkins 
 North Shore Gardens
 Northern Tours of Alaska
 Oceanview
 Pamala Penrose 
 Passages Alaska
 Patricia Leary 
 Paul and Theresa Hamilton
 Peggy Stalter
 Pool Engineering
 Prince of Wales Health Network
 Public Safety Employees Association
 – Ketchikan
 Rachael McNamara
 Rainy Day Quilters Guild
 Ralph and Edith Mackie 
 RC Appliance
 Rebecca Newman
 Roxanne Abajian 
 Ruth and Geoff Bullock
 Safeway – Ketchikan
 Sandra Kinzer
 Scanlon Gallery 
 Scot Menzies
 Scott and Beth Brandt-Erichsen
 Sealaska Corporation
 Sean and Meghan Schroeder

Shauna Lee
 Shawn McAllister
 Sheila McDonough 
 Sheri and Steve Boehlert 
 Sherri White-LeCornu
 Sherry Potter
 Sis Coenen
 SitNews
 Southeast Alaska Resources
 Southeast Exposure
 Southeast Pediatric Dentistry
 Ted Yates
 The Fox Hole
 The Landing 
 The Plaza
 Theresa and Terry Mackey 
 Trevor Storrs
 Walmart – Ketchikan
 Welsh Whiteley Architects
 Whale Tail Pharmacy

Grant Funders

Alaska Children's Trust
 Alaska Community Foundation
 Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority
 Crossett Fund (Seattle Children's Hospital)
 Ketchikan Community Foundation
 Ketchikan Indian Community
 Northrim Bank
 Rasmuson Foundation
 State of Alaska Dept of Health and Social Services
 The Standard Insurance Company
 Wells Fargo Foundation

 = Legacy Donor



721 Stedman St.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 19
Ketchikan. AK

**ECR-WSS
Occupant**