Highlight: Housing First Project

Housing First provides secure housing to chronically homeless inebriates as the first step to self-sufficiency and community reintegration. Housing First has been shown to increase the success of its residents for maintaining long-term housing and to reduce society’s cost burden in services and emergency response to this population.

RurAL CAP Experience

RurAL CAP has owned and managed rental properties occupied by special needs tenants for 10 years. RurAL CAP emphasizes personal responsibility. Tenants are offered supportive services to increase their self-sufficiency, and are involved in improving and maintaining the property, reinforcing security, and in creating a sense of community. This approach has resulted in a low vacancy rate and the improved condition and value of our properties.

Resident Population

Potential residents must be homeless as defined by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) standards, known to be affected by chronic alcoholism, have an income below 30% of the area median income, and must meet HUD's definition of disabled. Applicants must verify eligibility using established procedures.

The Housing First Facility

The first building is a two-story structure with 10 units. The building has a main entrance and lobby area, an office, a laundry facility, and a storage room. The second building includes 38 units and is an elevated two-story structure with parking underneath.

Each unit will have a microwave, small energy efficient refrigerator, stove and dining area furniture. Common areas will be located in the first building for meetings, gatherings and tenant enrichment activities.

“\textit{The problem of homelessness in Anchorage has been longstanding and well-documented. There are perhaps no lower-income or more disenfranchised Alaskans than the long-term, chronic alcoholic, chronic homeless people who inhabit the streets and shelters, parks and woods in Anchorage.}”

- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director
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**CREDITS**
Design & Layout: Angela Gonzalez
Photos: RurAL CAP Staff
Cover Photo: Alisson Phillips and Tierra Wolf team up for a 4th of July three-legged race in Chuathbaluk. Photo by Margaret David
Mission Driven

VISION
Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures

MISSION STATEMENT
To empower low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing and direct services that respect our unique values and cultures

Board Led

2010 RurAL CAP Board of Directors

Executive Committee
President ............................................................... Andrew Ebona
Vice-President .......................................................... Mike Williams
Secretary/Treasurer ...................................................... Olga M. Malutin
Committee Member ...................................................... Donna Brockschmidt
Committee Member ...................................................... Andy Harrington
Committee Member ...................................................... Dr. Anthony Nakazawa

Target Area Representatives
Alaska Native Brotherhood ...................... Andrew Ebona
Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association .... Zenia Borenin
Assoc. of Village Council Presidents .... James Paul
Bristol Bay Native Association .............. Ted Angasan
Child Development Policy Council ...... Donna Brockschmidt
Chugachmiut ..................................................... Benna Hughey
Copper River Native Association .......... Robert Marshall
Kawerak .......................................................... Steve Longley
Kodiak Area Native Association .......... Olga M. Malutin
Maniilaq Association ............................. William Bernhardt
Tanana Chiefs Conference .................. Nancy James
Tlingit-Haida Central Council ............. Harold Houston

Private Sector Representatives
Alaska Christian Conference ............... Rev. David Fison
Alaska Legal Services Corporation ...... Andy Harrington
Alaska Municipal League ....................... Betty Svensson
Alaska Village Initiatives ...................... David Gillila, Sr.

Public Representatives
Akiak Native Community ....................... Mike Williams
Alaska Cooperative Extension Service ... Dr. Anthony Nakazawa
Alaska Dept. of Education & Early Dev... Paul Sugar
Office of the Governor of Alaska .......... John Moller
Municipality of Anchorage ..................... Diane Ingle
North Slope Borough ......................... Taquilik Hepa
University of Alaska, Fairbanks .......... Bernice Joseph

“We support the efforts to sustain Alaska’s uniqueness and Native cultures not shared anywhere else on the planet.”
- Andrew Ebona, Board President
It is my privilege to present to you RurAL CAP’s 2010 annual report. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc. is a private, statewide, nonprofit organization working to empower low-income Alaskans through advocacy, education, affordable housing, and direct services that respect our unique values and cultures.

RurAL CAP continues to be focused on producing measurable results. Incorporated into all aspects of our strategic planning and organizational culture are the questions, “What difference did you really make? How do you measure it?” As we look ahead, we know we’ve made a difference this past year as reflected by a sampling of our 2010 results:

- Delivering early childhood development services to over 1,500 children through Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents As Teachers and the Child Development Center;
- Serving more than 150,000 nutritious meals and snacks to low-income children;
- Developmental screenings completed for 1,242 children;
- Moving 113 previously homeless alcoholics into transitional or permanent housing;
- Beginning construction of a 7-unit affordable housing property which will bring our total number of safe, decent and affordable housing units in Anchorage to 72;
- Recruitment by AmeriCorps and VISTA members of 6,916 volunteers who contributed 41,334 hours of community service statewide;
- Diversion of 137,000 pounds of solid waste from local landfills and backhauling of 55,000 pounds of waste to recycling facilities;
- Reducing utility costs with energy efficiency upgrades to 26 community facilities and more than 2,000 homes through Energy Wise;
- Construction of nine self-help, owner-built homes in Kenai;
- Completion of weatherization services in 10 communities to improve 309 homes utilizing locally-hired employees; and
- Mobilizing hundreds of advocates in support of a Housing First project.

RurAL CAP’s strategic planning process encapsulates our vision, mission, values and goals for the coming year. As an organization providing measurable and cost-effective services since 1965, we look forward to another successful year with you in 2011.

Sincerely,

Andrew Ebona, President
Board of Directors
Growth and Good Deeds

Message from the Executive Director

Thank you for your interest in RurAL CAP's 2010 Annual Report!
Two of the themes driving our organization over the past year have been growth and good deeds. Even before the 2010 fiscal year began, RurAL CAP was on an upwards growth curve fueled by an expanded Weatherization program and a strong and successful development team. The year ended with the highest levels of expenditures and good deeds in our 45-year history.

When combined with our for-profit subsidiary, Rural Energy Enterprises, RurAL CAP ended the 2010 fiscal year with more than $40 million in expenditures. Ultimately, however, the true measure of our effectiveness and organizational success is not about our funding or annual budget. It’s about the results achieved by the people we serve. Last year we provided employment to 1,048 Alaskans, up more than 150 from the prior year. The work done by these hardworking employees and the results of that work measured in terms of the documented changes in the conditions and behaviors of the people we serve is what defines us.

During the 2010 fiscal year, RurAL CAP put funds to use from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to do exactly what the act was intended to do: stimulate the economy; create jobs; improve living conditions and reduce the energy burden for low-income families; and strengthen the social safety net for our most vulnerable populations.

As Jamey Gilila, RurAL CAP’s Energy Wise project crew chief in Akiak so eloquently stated at a Board of Directors’ meeting when explaining his motto with his crew, “their work is not just about the pay, it’s about the good deed.”

Our vision of Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, and Vibrant Cultures continues to drive RurAL CAP to innovate and grow in exciting new directions while maintaining core programs which produce the measurable results highlighted throughout this annual report.

I am blessed to work with such a strong Board of Directors and committed staff. Together we have grown new programs and developed new property. We’re serving more low-income Alaskans than ever before and we’re making a positive difference in their lives. Our reputation as an organization that gets things done is solid. We invite you to share in our accomplishments and we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

David Hardenbergh
Executive Director
Kasigluk’s wind resources combined with the high cost of diesel electricity generation makes wind power an economical and clean energy alternative.

Photo by Tara Loyd
Fiscally Responsible

Financial Summary

For fiscal year ending September 30, 2010.

Sources

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<td>Rural Energy Enterprises</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>41,444,509</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Uses of RurAL CAP Funds

- Rural Housing and Planning Division: 30%
- Community Development Division: 15%
- Child Development Division: 43%
- Other Programs: 2%
- Anchorage Services Division: 10%

Sources of RurAL CAP Funds

- Federal - Direct: 35%
- Federal - Through State: 28%
- Federal - Through Other: 30%
- State of Alaska: 7%
- Other: 1%

Uses

- Anchorage Services: 3,196,515
- Child Development: 13,698,869
- Community Development: 4,973,495
- Rural Housing and Planning: 9,705,857
- Other Program: 734,637

Subtotal for Nonprofit Uses: 32,309,373

- Rural Energy Enterprises: 7,605,237
- Change in Net Assets: 1,529,899

Total: 41,444,509

These numbers are unaudited totals; the FY2010 audit is conducted by KPMG.

RurAL CAP’s federally approved indirect rate of 11% of direct costs covers administrative expenses such as those for the executive, accounting, purchasing, and human resources departments, corporate insurance, annual audit, and Board of Directors.
RurAL CAP, founded in 1965, is a private, statewide, nonprofit organization working to improve the quality of life for low-income Alaskans. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors representing every region of the state, RurAL CAP is one of the largest and most diversified organizations in Alaska. Overall, RurAL CAP employed 1,048 Alaskans in 91 communities statewide in FY2010, and expended $32 million (not including Rural Energy Enterprises).

The power of RurAL CAP lies in our ability to listen and respond to the needs of low-income Alaskans. We follow the philosophy that community action is a people process, one which reinforces the values of personal responsibility, community self-reliance, participatory decision-making, and overall well-being. Our strategic planning process is an extension of this philosophy to continually improve our services through feedback, innovation and planning, and results oriented management and accountability that documents changes in conditions, behaviors and specific quality-of-life indicators of the people we serve.

In 2010, RurAL CAP’s payroll was $14,143,001. See below for a breakout by region.

**Economic Impact Map of RurAL CAP Wages**

- **Manilaq Region**: $285,744, 69 Employees
- **Kawerak Region**: $699,129, 95 Employees
- **Association of Village Council Presidents Region**: $3,298,959, 439 Employees
- **Bristol Bay Native Association Region**: $124,713, 22 Employees
- **Alektoof Islands Association Region**: $11,400, 2 Employees
- **Kodiak Area Native Association Region**: $262,380, 17 Employees
- **Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Region**: $1,195,769, 98 Employees
- **Canadian Eskimo Organization of Alaska**: $7,507,418, 232 Employees
- **Cook Inlet Tribal Council Region**: $521,918, 55 Employees
- **Chugachmiut Region**: $32,873, 2 Employees
- **Tanana Chiefs Conference Region**: $202,698, 17 Employees

Charlene Joe reads to her son, Kysen, with books from RurAL CAP’s Parents as Teachers program in Chevak, Alaska. Photo by Jolene Firmin-Telford.
Enhancing Self-Sufficiency

Anchorage Services Division

RurAL CAP’s Anchorage Services Division provides services to chronic homeless alcoholics, many of whom have severe mental health and substance abuse problems. Homeward Bound is one of only a few programs in the United States with comprehensive services ranging from access to detox to housing and employment. The division also serves individuals and families by providing affordable housing opportunities to those with limited income.

A Life Transformed: The Story of Vlad

Vlad was a talented hockey player, had a good job, was married with one daughter, and owned his own home. His life fell apart following a divorce, and by the time he made his way to Alaska in the 90’s, he was a chronic alcoholic and was homeless.

He lived at Homeward Bound for months at a time, but had difficulties remaining sober. He ended up returning to the streets where his situation became life threatening. Vlad’s boots were taken while living in a homeless camp and his feet became severely frostbitten. Due to losing half his feet to frostbite, he had to move into an Assisted Living Home for a period of time. Having been a very independent person throughout most of his life, he yearned for more autonomy and approached Homeward Bound with the idea of moving into the program’s Affordable Housing apartments. Vlad began renting an apartment on June 1, 2005 and has lived in the same apartment for over five years.

Vlad walks again with the assistance of a cane. While he can only walk for short distances, it is a testament of his inner strength. Vlad worked with the Community Bound case manager to secure a steady source of income that would allow him to live independently. He was thrilled to have his own place. The Homeward Bound staff established a special rapport with Vlad and assisted him in obtaining proper medical care and a battery powered scooter. Vlad has been safely housed with a reduction in his alcohol use. He has experienced significant improvements in his health and his independence due to supportive services and his automated scooter. Homeward Bound’s continuum of care, from outreach to mobile case management to affordable housing, has allowed Vlad to live a more stable and independent life.

2010 Anchorage Services Division Highlights

- Garnered support from over 400 community members and purchased a building for a Housing First project in Anchorage
- Began construction on a new 7-unit affordable housing project using Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds in Anchorage
- Homeward Bound staff initiated 2,193 contacts to refer homeless individuals to treatment and move people from homelessness to transitional housing and other forms of safe housing
Homeward Bound
The Homeward Bound program is a 25-bed transitional living facility located in Anchorage which houses individuals interested in seeking a way out of homelessness. It is a self-paced alcohol management program for chronically homeless individuals. Homeward Bound assists residents by providing outreach to individuals in homeless camps and shelters and facilitating access to detoxification, substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Residents are offered transitional housing, case management, housing information, employment assistance, mental health counseling, gender specific services, reintegration activities, volunteer work, individual and group counseling, and life skills classes.

Anchorage Homeless Outreach Program
Making daily visits to homeless camps throughout the Anchorage area, the Anchorage Homeless Outreach Program team creates a bridge between service providers and the homeless to maximize access to resources.

- Opened participation in the Homeward Bound Advisory Council meetings to four previously homeless individuals
- Provided 124 homeless individuals living in camps with emergency cold weather gear
- Contributed over 100 hours of staff time to two Project Homeless Connect one-stop shop events for homeless individuals

Community Bound
Complementing the Homeward Bound program, Community Bound offers specific case management to individuals needing housing assistance and employment development. Community Bound provides participants with training in tenant rights and responsibilities, employment, money management, community volunteer opportunities, social relations, communication and advocacy. In 2010, 56 participants enrolled in employment classes and 18 participants obtained employment.

Homeward Bound Highlights
- 57 Homeward Bound residents resolved one major life issue thereby increasing their likelihood of success in permanent housing
- Since inception in 1998, a total of 379 chronically homeless individuals have been served, with 145 who have moved to stable housing
- Homeward Bound and Housing First projects moved 113 previously homeless alcoholics into transitional or permanent housing

“Let’s let the voices of reason and compassion move ahead with a solution to homelessness that has the potential to save money and save lives,”
- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

Photo taken in Anchorage by Angela Gonzalez
**Housing First Services**
The Housing First program places hard to serve individuals directly into permanent housing without requiring participation in treatment. Individuals receive intensive in-home case management to help them make progress towards self-sufficiency and succeed in housing. Since its inception in 2007, 25 homeless people were assisted in seeking and retaining housing directly from homeless camps. More are expected to be served with the planned Housing First project in Anchorage. See the inside front cover of this report for more information.

**Affordable Housing**
The Affordable Housing program provides rental apartments to individuals with limited credit and rental history. The Affordable Housing program requires a person’s ability to pay rent, to care for an apartment, and be a good neighbor as prerequisites for tenancy. It is especially difficult for those with special needs to find decent and affordable housing.

- 50 heads of household remained safely housed for 12 months or longer
- Designed and began construction on the $1.2 million 7-plex for individuals with incomes at or below 50% of area median income in Anchorage
- Purchased a two-bedroom condominium as rental property for individuals at or below 50% area median income

"While the reasons for chronic homelessness are known, there is no easy solution. Communities committed to providing basic services to their citizens that include emergency shelter, coupled with public policies that address substance abuse treatment programs, affordable housing, rent assistance, homeless shelters and soup kitchens, and behavioral health treatment can help eliminate this growing concern across our state."

- Melinda Freemon, Director, Anchorage Services Division
The Child Development Division provides services to prenatal women, children and families in 29 communities across Alaska. The programs offered by the division include Head Start, Early Head Start, Parents as Teachers, and child care.

All Child Development Division programs are designed to facilitate parent involvement and community collaboration. Programs promote the basic tenet that parents are the child’s first and best teacher. Services to children promote positive socio-emotional development, healthy practices, cultural richness and school readiness and services to families support self-determination and empowerment.

2010 Child Development Division Highlights

- Provided early childhood and parent involvement to 1,511 children in 29 communities
- Secured continuation funds from the State of Alaska to support Parents as Teachers in communities that did not have other local early childhood programs
- Purchased a 26,000 sq. ft. lot for a new Child Development Center in Anchorage
- 23,518 hours were donated by parents and community volunteers in support of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs
- Successfully completed the Triennial Federal Head Start Review which focused on ensuring high quality early childhood and family support were delivered to children and families

Evelyn Moore, Teacher Assistant at the Emmonak Head Start, encourages exploration and imagination while teaching the children to recognize their names.

Photo by Barbara Roddy
Making a Difference Statewide

2010 Site Map

ANCHORAGE SERVICES DIVISION:
Anchorage

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPRESENTATION:
Akiak
Akutan
Anchorage
Barrow
Bethel
Douglas
Fairbanks
Fort Yukon
Glennallen

CHILD DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:
Akiak
Alakanuk
Anchorage
Chevak
Copper Center
Emmonak
Haines
Homer
Hooper Bay
Hydaburg
Kake
Ketchikan
Kluti-kaah
Kodiak
Kwethluk
Marshall
Mountain Village
Napaskiak
Nunapitchuk
Pilot Station
Savoonga
Selawik
Seward
St. Mary’s
Stebbins
Sterling
Tanacross
Tok
Toksook Bay

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION:
Akiachak
Akiak
Aleknagik
Anchorage
Atka
Brevig Mission
Chefornak
Chenega
Chevak
Chilkat Indian Village
Chuathbaluk
Cooper Landing
Cordova
Crooked Creek
Eagle River
Eklutna
Ekwoj
Elim
Eyak
Fairbanks
Fort Wainwright
Ft. Yukon
Gambell
Gulkana
Haines
Hooper Bay
Ketchikan
King Salmon
Kodied
Koliganek
Kongiganek
Levelock
Manokotak
Metlakatla
Mountain Village
Napaimute
Napakiak
Naukati Bay
New Stuyahok
Nikiski

Please note: Some communities may not be represented on map.
**Head Start and Early Head Start**

Head Start and Early Head Start are comprehensive child development programs serving low-income children and their families. RurAL CAP has operated Head Starts in rural Alaska since 1965. Head Start serves children ages three to five and Early Head Start serves prenatal women and children from ages birth to three. The programs promote school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutritional, social and other related services. The programs also help parents make progress toward their own education, literacy and employment goals.

In 2010, the Head Start and Early Head Start programs served 973 children and 37 prenatal women. A majority of those served received dental exams and screenings, developmental screenings, and were connected to social services. Local Parent Committees are formed for each Head Start Center to assist the staff in curriculum development, increase community support and offer advice on programmatic and fiscal decisions. Parents help determine the cultural appropriateness and responsiveness of program services.

---

**School Readiness Initiative Accomplishments:**

- For the 4-year old assessments, of the 330 children observed, the percentages demonstrating development mastery are: physical-91%, social-87%, self help-84%, emotional-83%, cognitive-77%, language-70%;
- For the 3-year old assessments, of the 390 children observed, the percentages demonstrating development growth are: physical-78%, cognitive-71%; social-71%, emotional-70%, language-69%, self help-65%.

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**Head Start and Early Head Start Sites**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Akiak*</th>
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<th>Kodiak</th>
<th>Nunapitchuk*</th>
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<td>Napaskiak</td>
<td>St. Mary's*</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Also Early Head Start Sites

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**Savoonga Head Start**

Children practice the concept of weights and measures. Photo by Angela Gonzalez
Child Development Center
In Anchorage, the Child Development Center provides full-day, year-round child care. The Center has an open enrollment policy with a sliding tuition scale to benefit low-income families. The Center is licensed by the Municipality of Anchorage. In 2010, 45 children were served by the Center, and five transitioned to kindergarten. A Parent Council promotes family involvement in the Center’s activities and events.

In 2010, RurAL CAP purchased land to build a new Center in Anchorage. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2011, with completion in 2012. The new Center doubles the capacity of the current location and will serve 64 children.

Parents as Teachers
Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an early childhood parent education and family support program designed to empower parents to give their children the best possible start in life. Home visits and group socializations are offered to families in 19 communities across the state. The PAT approach is to support all children so that they will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

2010 PAT Accomplishments
- 493 children and 38 prenatal women served
- 451 children received developmental screenings
- 3,965 home visits completed by staff
- 210 group socializations facilitated by family visitors

PAT Sites
- Alakanuk
- Chevak
- Emmonak
- Marshall
- Mountain Village
- Napaskiak
- Toksook Bay
- Anchorage
- Copper Center
- Haines
- Hydaburg
- Kake
- Ketchikan
- Kluti-kaah
- Kodiak
- Savoonga
- Seward
- Stebbins
- Tok

“*We can all make a difference by giving our children a solid foundation to grow on and the best possible start in life through positive experiences and loving care at all times.*”
- Melissa Pickle, Parents as Teacher Director

Photo taken in Kake by Lori Hessin-Anderson
Building Capacity

Community Development Division

RurAL CAP’s Community Development Division provides training, education, resources, and service opportunities to low-income Alaskans to promote health and wellness, improve environmental conditions, save energy and build capacity. The division focuses on positive solutions that are culturally appropriate and achieve measurable results.

The Community Development Division includes five national service AmeriCorps and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) programs. Each year, RurAL CAP supports up to 150 AmeriCorps and VISTA members in over 50 communities across Alaska. RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Members are recruited locally to address community issues and implement local solutions to those concerns. They gain valuable training, skills and experience and earn an education award after completing a year of service.

Rural Providers’ Conference (RPC)
The RPC is an annual gathering of substance abuse service providers, Elders, youth and family members interested in celebrating and encouraging the growth of the Alaska Native Sobriety Movement. The RPC embraces and unites traditional Alaska Native knowledge and modern approaches to prevent alcohol and drug abuse. In 2010, more than 200 people attended the 27th RPC in Kodiak, co-sponsored by the Kodiak Area Native Association. The RPC included 29 workshops promoting sobriety and wellness, with a strong youth track and local cultural activities.

Building Initiatives for Rural Community Health (BIRCH) AmeriCorps Program
BIRCH AmeriCorps Members design and support community-wide events and activities for youth, families and Elders in the areas of health education, substance abuse prevention and wellness. In 2010, 15 BIRCH AmeriCorps Members completed a year of service. In addition, eight BIRCH Recovery AmeriCorps Members were added as a result of Stimulus funds.

A drum-making class was organized in Haines as a part of an AmeriCorps event.
Photo courtesy of Fred Brouillette, AmeriCorps Member

2010 Community Development Division Highlights
- Over 2,000 homes and residents in 32 rural communities received energy efficiency upgrades and education from the Energy Wise Program that employed 160 rural Alaskans
- Launched the Middle School Partnership AmeriCorps Program in eight schools across Alaska to increase middle school success
- VISTA and AmeriCorps Members recruited 6,916 volunteers who contributed 41,334 hours of community service
- Diverted 137,000 pounds of solid waste from local landfills by RAVEN AmeriCorps Members
- Implemented projects in nearly 100 communities

Tobacco Prevention and Cessation
BIRCH AmeriCorps Members utilize the Tobacco Education and Cessation for Alaskans curriculum and other tools to prevent tobacco use and provide resources to tobacco users who would like to quit. In 2010, 69 tobacco educational presentations were provided, 186 rural Alaskans were referred to cessation services and 59 people were successful in quitting tobacco use. A total of 11 digital stories were created to educate people about tobacco use.
**Students In Service AmeriCorps Program**

RurAL CAP works with the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to coordinate 80 Students In Service AmeriCorps Members. Members address a number of social and health issues including domestic violence, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, employment and training, teen pregnancy, corrections and juvenile delinquency, child development, and child welfare. In 2010, a total of 1,300 volunteers were recruited for 117 community activities.

**Youth Action Project**

In 2010, 10 RurAL CAP AmeriCorps Members volunteered to commit a portion of their service to working with youth by organizing Youth Action Groups in their communities. The project fosters leadership and life skills development that will lead to future employability. Youth Action Groups are strength-based and focused on health topics, community service, outdoor appreciation, fostering adult-youth relationships, environmental action, tobacco prevention, learning Native dancing, and life skills.

**Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN) AmeriCorps Program**

RAVEN AmeriCorps Members improve environmental conditions through youth education, pollution prevention, community clean-up efforts, energy conservation, recycling and other solid waste management projects across rural Alaska. In 2010, 23 rural communities were served. In addition, five RAVEN Recovery AmeriCorps Members were added as a result of Stimulus funds.

**HIV/ STD Prevention - Community Voices Project**

The HIV/STD prevention project, Community Voices, is an opportunity to engage rural Alaskans to develop media around sexual health for rural Alaskans. In 2010, one round of Digital Storytelling training was held with more to be conducted in 2011.

**Early Decisions - Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Prevention**

Through the Early Decisions Project, RurAL CAP distributes individual prevention materials and information (posters, videos, video games and teaching units) for use by FASD service providers, health care providers, schools, and prevention programs across the state. The FASD peer-to-peer curriculum was developed with the input of youth from four rural communities. In 2010, five youth and four AmeriCorps Members were trained on how to use it and engage other youth in the topic of FASD prevention.

**Alaska Village Indoor Air Quality (AVIAQ)**

The AVIAQ program provides education through home visits and community events to improve indoor air quality in rural homes. Carbon monoxide detectors, green cleaning kits, and other educational resources are installed and distributed during home visits. In 2010, 69 AmeriCorps and VISTA Members were trained as AVIAQ educators and over 950 homes received AVIAQ educational materials.
Solid Waste Management Technical Assistance
RurAL CAP continues to host an expert solid waste liaison through funding provided by the EPA and Senior Services America, Inc. The liaison provides solid waste management technical assistance to rural communities through training, site visits, hands-on demonstrations, and remote contact. Resources are provided for dump closure activities, collaborating with funders, technical assistance, and backhaul of solid waste. In 2010, 23 rural villages were served.

Solid Waste Management Projects
In 2010, RurAL CAP administered 12 solid waste management projects for the Denali Commission and 10 Community Environmental Demonstration Projects for the Environmental Protection Agency. Several of the communities purchased burn units to help eliminate trash buildup in the dumps and landfills. Other communities purchased bulldozers or skid steer loaders to clean up or cover the ash from burn units, containers and equipment for recycling programs, and set-up new recycling, energy efficiency, and composting projects.

Energy Wise
The Energy Wise Program is designed to reduce residential energy costs and provide training and jobs for rural Alaskans. Household energy consumption and cost assessments are conducted with the resident. Crew members teach and discuss energy cost-saving strategies with residents.

2010 Energy Wise Accomplishments
- Reduced electrical and home heating costs for residents in 32 Alaska villages
- 160 rural Alaskans trained and employed for 6-8 weeks
- 2,000 homes received energy use assessments, education and low-cost, efficiency upgrades
- 7,500 rural Alaskans educated on energy efficiency and energy conservation strategies
- $300 worth of basic energy efficiency supplies were installed in each home

VI STA Energy Program
In 2010, 13 VI STA members worked to reduce the burden of energy costs in their rural communities. Projects included planning and capacity building for renewable energy options and home energy efficiency education. In addition, five VI STA Recovery Members were added as a result of Stimulus funds.

Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group (ANSHWG)
RurAL CAP provides administrative and logistical support to ANSHWG which consults with the National Marine Fisheries Service and provides input on the impact of halibut fisheries regulations to subsistence users.

Alaska Environmental Resource Hub Online (AERHO)
RurAL CAP continued to expand the online resource hub (www.AERHO.org), a website dedicated to addressing local and statewide environmental and health issues. AmeriCorps and VI STA Members and sub-grant recipients use the site as a resource and way to connect with each other.

Victor Williams, an Energy Wise team member, seals a door in Ruby. Photo by Kent Banks
Enriching Opportunities

Rural Housing and Planning Division

The Rural Housing and Planning Division assists rural communities and low-income people by increasing affordable housing opportunities, preserving and improving existing housing, facilitating community-based planning, and building the capacity of rural communities to participate effectively in the development of housing and related infrastructure.

RurAL CAP is one of the many organizations responsible for weatherizing homes throughout Alaska. Weatherization makes homes more energy efficient by lowering the cost of home heating and thus making more household income available for other basic necessities that keep local economies alive.

Highlight: Default Avoidance and Foreclosure Prevention Project

In 2010, the ARRA-funded Default Avoidance and Foreclosure Prevention project was developed and deployed in Alaska in partnership with Alaska Legal Services Corporation, Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Alaska and AARP. The project was a statewide housing counseling and legal assistance project aimed at helping homeowners avoid defaulting on home loans or preventing foreclosure. The organizations helped home owners to forge an effective and immediate response to legal and credit issues surrounding foreclosure.

RurAL CAP provided leadership to the effort, and channeled the ARRA funding through two partner agencies with specific expertise in financial counseling and foreclosure assistance, and the capacity to rapidly ramp up their caseload. A telephone hotline was created and a website was developed: www.housinghelpnowalaska.com. In 2010, over 1,500 families were served during the year, and a system has been established for providing ongoing assistance in this area of counseling into the future.

“The Alaska Legislature’s bold action to increase state funding for Weatherization has resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of homes served, the improvement in housing quality and energy-efficiency, and in job creation, particularly in rural Alaska.”

- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

Photo taken in Stebbins by Brad Smith
COMMUNITY PLANNING
RurAL CAP continues to partner with the Denali Commission to deploy a community planning tool that is tailored to the special needs and circumstances of Alaska’s small rural communities. Built around a rural Alaska understanding of the social, political, cultural, and physical environment, the community planning tool helps villages tell their unique stories and plan for the future while embracing their values, culture, and vision.

RurAL CAP provides training and technical assistance to communities that wish to engage in community planning activities. Services include training conferences and events, as well as on-site assistance in developing a community plan. In 2010, innovative community planning models were deployed in seven communities: Kluhwan, Newtok, Toksook Bay, Kotlik, Pilot Station, Napakiak and Russian Mission. Community environmental planning workshops were conducted in Venetie and Fort Yukon under a contract with the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council.

HOUSING SERVICES
RurAL CAP’s housing services program helps communities expand and improve affordable, energy-efficient housing options.

Self-Help Owner-Built Homes
Self-Help Owner-Built homeownership projects help modest-income families achieve home ownership through their “sweat equity” contribution which makes the homes more affordable. Their labor helps keep building costs to a minimum, which in turn reduces the cost for self-help homes by up to 30% below conventionally-developed homes. Extensive homebuyer counseling, financial literacy training, and assistance with budgeting and resolving outstanding credit issues are provided to potential self-help participants. In 2010, construction of nine homes was completed in Kenai. Construction on nine new homes will begin in the spring of 2011.

Home Ownership Counseling
The path to home ownership is not as simple as signing on the dotted line and moving in. Even families with stable incomes may find themselves turned away because of lingering credit problems, or a checkered job history, or other issues. RurAL CAP’s financial literacy and counseling program, based on the Kenai Peninsula, helps families prepare for home ownership by getting their financial house in order and learning how to handle the responsibilities of home ownership. The program is closely aligned with the Self-Help housing program, but many successful participants have elected to pursue other home ownership options.

“Alaska Native people have always practiced planning. Their survival over thousands of years in a harsh arctic climate is reflective of their capacity to plan from season to season, year to year and generation to generation. The emergence of villages has introduced new planning needs including solid waste (dumps), energy (electricity, fuel), and transportation (airports, roads).”

- Charlene Stern, Rural Planning Coordinator
Weatherization and Rehabilitation Services

RurAL CAP provides weatherization services in Western and Northwestern Alaska as well as in the City and Borough of Juneau. Weatherization is the division’s longest-standing program. The focus of weatherization is to increase the safety, energy-efficiency and comfort of the homes served. Most weatherized homes receive new insulation on floors, walls and ceilings. Windows and doors are sealed or replaced with more energy efficient ones.

Unlike similar programs in other areas of Alaska and the Lower 48, the Western/Northwestern Alaska program serves an entire community at one time, rather than individuals scattered among multiple communities. Weatherization is saving the average rural Alaskan customer approximately $4,600 a year on home heating expenses, based on pre-and post-AKWARM measures. In Nome, RurAL CAP has partnered with Nome Eskimo Community to deliver Weatherization services to all eligible residents of the city.

Homes receiving weatherization services must be occupied by income eligible homeowners. Priority is given to Elders, handicapped individuals, and households with children under the age of six. In all weatherization and rehabilitation projects, local hire is an important element which provides employment and leaves communities with a more skilled labor pool. In 2010, 213 people were hired and trained locally.

### Impacts of Weatherization and Rehabilitation Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Estimated Energy Savings</th>
<th>Noatak</th>
<th>Stebbins</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Energy Costs Before Weatherization</td>
<td>$9,036</td>
<td>$9,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Energy Costs After Weatherization</td>
<td>$4,593</td>
<td>$3,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Annual Savings</td>
<td>$4,443</td>
<td>$5,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Savings</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carbon Imprint (pounds)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Amount of CO2 Produced Before Weatherization</td>
<td>26,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Amount of CO2 Produced After Weatherization</td>
<td>16,507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate CO2 Reduction</td>
<td>9,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage Reduction</td>
<td>37%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*These are a random sampling of homes in each community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Homes Weatherized</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alakanuk</td>
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<tr>
<td>J uneau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kipnuk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kivalina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noatak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nome</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nunam Iqua</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscarville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stebbins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tununak</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Increasing Energy Efficiency

Rural Energy Enterprises

Rural Energy Enterprises (R.E.E.), a wholly owned subsidiary of RurAL CAP, is a wholesale distributor of energy-efficient and money-saving products. R.E.E. began in 1987 as a result of receiving a federal grant to evaluate the feasibility of engaging in energy-related for-profit activity.

Energy costs represent a major expense for rural Alaskans. R.E.E. reduces those costs by selling a variety of high-quality, advanced-technology energy products. The Toyostove space heater, one of the most fuel-efficient heating systems in the world, can save rural residents $350 to $600 per year in fuel costs, depending on the condition of the house. R.E.E. also offers energy-saving oil and gas water heaters and a variety of other heating and lighting products.

R.E.E. also benefits rural communities by creating economic opportunities in remote villages. R.E.E. maintains business relationships with 233 small entrepreneur dealerships in rural Alaska, and more than 114 dealerships in western Canada and the northwest United States.

2010 Fiscal Year Performance
Gross Sales - $8,359,201
Net Income After Taxes - $610,176 (pre-audit)

Rural Energy Enterprises Products

- Air Conditioners
- Boilers
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors
- Cooking Products for Boats, Cabins, Camps & Emergencies
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Gas Heaters & Stoves
- Indoor Fireplaces
- Inverters
- Marine and Boat Heating
- Non-Electric Oil Heaters & Stoves
- Oil Heaters & Stoves
- Outdoor Fireplaces
- Plumbing Accessories & Fixtures
- Tent/Camp Heating
- Water Heaters
- Wood & Pellet Stoves

“The most effective energy dollar is the dollar that is not spent on heat or light by increasing the energy-efficiency of the home.”
- David Hardenbergh, Executive Director

Photo taken along the Seward Highway by Angela Gonzalez
R.E.E. distributes Toyostove, Bosch ProTankless, NordicStove, Dunkirk, Drolet, Godin, Rinnai, Nestor Martin, Osburn, Vanguard and Toyotomi products. R.E.E. specializes in oil, wood and gas fired direct vent or sealed combustion high efficiency heaters as well as water heaters, gas cook stoves, marine heaters, marine cook stoves, tent heaters and tent stoves.


**R.E.E. Management Team**
Mark Callinsky, President & CEO
Lonnie Jackson, Sales Manager
Jill Keller, Financial Manager

**R.E.E. Board of Directors**
David Hardenbergh
Shauna Hegna
Phil Kaluza
Bob Lohr
Virginia Moore
Chris Rose

Rural Energy Enterprise Staff

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Fax: (888) 505-9654
Website: www.rural-energy.com
E-mail: info@rural-energy.com
*Serving rural Alaskans for 23 wonderful years!

“What difference did we make? Ultimately we all want to be able to better answer this question. Whether the question comes from a funder, a board member, someone we serve, or a member of the public, we want to be able to tell you here’s what the problem is, here’s what happened, here’s the result, here’s how much it cost, and here’s how it made the world better.”

- Andrew Ebona, Board President

Photo taken along the Seward Highway by Angela Gonzalez
Honoring Our Partners

Thank you to our funders and partners for engaging with RurAL CAP to fulfill our Vision: 

*Healthy People, Sustainable Communities, Vibrant Cultures*

Alaska Division of Behavioral Health  
Alaska Energy Authority  
Alaska Federation of Natives  
Alaska Head Start Association  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
Alaska Inter-Tribal Council  
Alaska Legal Services Corporation  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Alaska Municipal League  
Alaska Native Brotherhood  
Alaska Native Heritage Center  
Alaska Native Medical Center  
Alaska Native Subsistence Halibut Working Group  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Alaska Village Initiatives  
Alaska Works  
Alaskan Aids Assistance Association  
Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association  
American Legacy Foundation  
Amundsen Educational Center  
Anchorage Area Lion’s Joint Sight Committee  
Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children  
Anchorage Coalition on Homelessness  
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center  
Anchorage School District  
Association of Alaska School Boards  
Association of Village Council Presidents  
Regional Housing Authority  
Association of Village Council Presidents, Inc.  
Bean’s Café  
Bering Strait School District  
Bering Straits Leadership Team  
Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority  
Best Beginnings  
Bethel Family Clinic  
Bristol Bay Native Association  
Bristol Bay Native Corporation  
Brother Francis Shelter  
Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation  
CARRS/Safeway  
Catapult Consulting, LLC  
Catholic Social Services  
Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska  
Charlotte Martin Foundation  
Chugach Alaska Corporation  
Chugachmiut  
City of Hydaburg  
City of Kivalina  
City of St. Mary’s  
City of Toksook Bay  
Cold Climate Housing Research Center  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.  
Community Investment Futures  
Computer Connection  
ConocoPhillips Alaska  
Consumer Care Network  
Consumer Credit Counseling Services of Alaska  
Cook Inlet Housing Authority  
Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc.  
Copper River Native Association  
Covenant House Alaska  
Denali Commission  
Dowl HKM  
Earthplay  
Elihu Foundation  
First Alaskans Institute  
First Books  
First National Bank of Alaska  
Food Bank of Alaska  
Foraker Group  
Gan Yeladim Preschool  
Good Search  
GrassRoots Fair Trade Store  
HOPE Cottages  
Indian Health Service  
Institute for Social & Economic Research  
Kawerak, Inc.  
Key Bank  
Kivalina IRA Council
Kodiak Area Native Association
Kodiak Island Borough
Kodiak Island Housing Authority
Koniag, Inc.
KPMG, LLP
Lower Yukon School District
Maniilaq, Inc.
Municipality of Anchorage
NANA Regional Corporation
National Association for State Community Services Programs
National Center for Physical Development and Outdoor Play
National Community Action Foundation
National Congress of American Indians
National Marine Fisheries Service
Native Village of Alakanuk
Native Village of Kipnuk
Native Village of Noatak
Native Village of Nunam Iqua
Native Village of Oscarville
Native Village of Stebbins
Native Village of Tununak
Nine Star Education and Employment Services
Nome Emergency Shelter Team
Nome Eskimo Community
North Slope Borough
Northrim Bank
Northwest Arctic School District
Northwest Inupiat Regional Housing Authority
Norton Sound Health Corporation
Office of Governor Sean Parnell
Office of Mayor Dan Sullivan
Office of Representative Don Young
Office of Senator Lisa Murkowski
Office of Senator Mark Begich
Pacific Northwest Community Action Partnership
Parents as Teachers National Center
Pick. Click. Give. - PFD Charitable Contribution Program
Providence Alaska Medical Center
Rasmuson Foundation
Reading is Fundamental
Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Salvation Army
Senior Service America, Inc.
Serve Alaska
Southcentral Foundation
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium
Southeast Regional Resource Center
Spirit of Youth
Staples Foundation for Learning
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Tanana Chiefs Conference
The Clothesline Consignment thread
Tlingit-Haida Regional Housing Authority
Tok Community Umbrella Corporation
U.S. Corporation for National and Community Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Rural Development
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of Education
U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
United Way of Anchorage
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Southeast
Wells Fargo
Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
AmeriCorps Member Theresa Lord (at right) supports teens in a team building exercise at the Nenana Spirit Camp.