



ACCESS
ALASKA

2018

Annual Report

OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENTLY
AND TO ENCOURAGE THE
TOTAL INTEGRATION
OF PEOPLE WHO AND Alaskan
EXPERIENCE AND
A DISABILITY ELDERS
TO LIVE IN THE COMMUNITY
OF THEIR CHOICE.



Opening Doors to Independence

| www.accessalaska.org |

A Letter from the Board President

Welcome to Access Alaska's 2018 Annual Report! We hope you find this report to be informative and illustrative of who we are and what we have done in the past year.

With the future of many of our funding sources in question, this is a time to reflect on why we are here as an agency and who we serve. It's a time to look to our Mission to help understand why we matter to the people in our communities:

Our mission is to encourage and promote the total integration of people who experience a disability and Alaskan elders to live independently in the community of their choice.

We've worked hard to help individuals become strong self-advocates and strive towards achieving their independence. We're helping individuals to live independently in their homes by providing consumer directed personal care for assistance with activities of daily living. Through our durable medical equipment program, we provide individuals discharged from the hospital with the tools they need to go home sooner. We've engaged in significant advocacy efforts to help our consumers learn that they have a voice and it matters that they are heard.

This past year we served over 800 consumers from our (5) offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Wasilla, Kenai and Dillingham. We loaned over 3,519 pieces of durable medical equipment (DME) to 1,875 people that otherwise couldn't afford it. We helped 3 people move out of Nursing Homes and into their own homes and communities.

While we have an incredible organization, we haven't done any of this on our own. Our successes have come not only from the hard work of our dedicated staff, but also through the support of consumers, stakeholders, foundation and community partners.

As Alaskans, we are building strong united communities where people with disabilities and elder Alaskans are meaningful parts of those communities.

Please continue to join us and support the independent living movement in Alaska. We know that you share our vision of Alaska as a place where every elder and person with a disability is empowered to advocate for full integration in their community of choice as an active, engaged and valued member. We appreciate everything you do to make that vision a reality.

Nothing about us without us,



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Programs and Services

MISSION

Access Alaska encourages and promotes the total integration of people who experience a disability and elder Alaskans to live independently in the community of their choice.

VISION

Alaska is a place where every elder and person with a disability is empowered to advocate for full integration in their community of choice as an active, engaged, and valued member.

VALUES

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Choice
- Consumer Control
- Advocacy
- Empowerment
- Dignity
- Community-Based

Intakes and Referrals

3,892 individuals received information, resources, referrals and assistance

Durable Medical Equipment Loans

3,519 pieces of Durable Medical Equipment Loaned out to **1,875** individuals

Nursing Home Transitions

3 individuals moved out of nursing facilities and into their own homes

Medicare Counseling and Outreach

800 Seniors received information and assistance with enrollment

Peer Groups

- WallBusters/Systems Advocacy
- Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury
- Multiple Sclerosis
- Visually Impaired

Independent Living Programs

270 individuals **across disabilities** received a variety of services to assist them in living independently

77 individuals with **Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injuries** received case management, independent living skills and peer group support

30 individuals received low vision and mobility skills training for the **Visually Impaired**

14 individuals with **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** received independent living skills teaching and self-advocacy services

79 **school aged youth** received transition services in the classroom and through summer vocational skills training sessions

Consumer Directed Personal Care Services

383 individuals received direct care support for activities of daily living

Linnea-Scars Tell Stories



January 29, 2019 was a memorable day for Access Alaska as we were celebrating as an agency the culmination of more than 2 years of diligent effort to receive accreditation, simultaneously the staff of the DME Department was working to fit an adult size wheelchair to a young lady with a neuro-muscular disease that requires surgical corrections periodically.

As we had only chatted with the mother over the phone and had not met the young lady we were only guessing at which would be the best fit and did not realize that she needed to wheelchair ASAP for the Battle of the books that was happening the next day.

I chose to abandon modification of the adult size share once I saw her sitting in it and found a smaller pediatric sports chair to adapt to her. The office was clearing out as the accreditation exit interview ended and I remained with the mother and daughter fitting the wheelchair enjoying a quiet moment to converse with the young lady about fear of surgeries with the top of my head and craniotomy scar clearly visible I asked her if she wanted to touch it and traced it with my hand over hers so that she could feel the score and the Burr holes that remained in the bone as I told her "Scars are like tattoos, but with better stories."

Her mother sent a photo of Linnea at the Battle of the books where her team got 5th place out of 53 teams.

About a week later her mother sent me another email about a swim party where her scars showed around her swimsuit: Linnea told her mom: "Scars are like tattoos with better stories." and that out of my honest sharing she found new courage in dealing with the uncertainty and stigma associated with her medical condition.

- Frank Box, DME Manager



"Scars are like tattoos, but with better stories"

I'd been working with Wilbur for several months, and he has always been one to speak up for himself and express his needs effectively, and for a while one of those needs was to move from the small hotel room he had been in for over three years, that was affecting the quality of his health.

When Wilbur would come in to his appointments he often would describe to me the struggles he was facing due to the nature of the individuals he encountered on a daily basis, that often tempted him to give up all of his progress all together; often in his speech I heard the great poet's heart that once spoke of dreams deferred; hoping that one day having a place of his own would be a reality and not just a day dream. This consumer wanted a life that speaks of true independence according to his needs and deep desires.

Well as of the latter part of 2018 Wilbur's hope's and continued self-advocacy skills paid off! Through the help of those who are in his corner and his constant work opened the doors for him to have a place of his very own, a one-bedroom apartment in a safe building where a healthy culture is not only encouraged but required; quite the opposite of where he was according to him.

The day we did the walk-through together Wilbur could hardly contain himself. He was so excited about the new apartment that often as we walked he would start dancing, and as he would say, "it made him wiggle and giggle".

I am so very proud of Wilbur. A man I look up to and continue to cheer on as we work together to accomplish his life changing goals, and hope referred. Yet what makes me even more proud of him is what he shared with me one day after our normal meeting.

"William I've been thinking about our meeting and my independence, and I've concluded that I like my independence more and more. As a matter of fact, I don't think I need you as much as I once did. I think it's time for someone else to take some of the time I have been using."

While this made me a little sad, I was more proud than anything because Wilbur had come to a place of self-actualization that he had often spoke about but never effectively acted on; he began to dream bigger and carve out his own independent path according to his hopes and desires. It truly has been a pleasure to work with him and be invited into the journey of his life.

-William H. Bynum III, TABI Independent Living Advocate

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"I like my independence more and more. As a matter of fact, I don't think I need you as much as I once did."

Adrien - Youth Peer Mentor



Adrien first began working with Access Alaska in Spring 2017 with the In-School Pre-ETS Program at West Valley High. He received Pre-Employment Transition Services weekly through his Study Skills Period at school and eventually joined Access Alaska's Summer Work Program.

While sampling job tasks at Old Navy, the store manager noticed Adrien's style and work ethic and recommended he apply to Old Navy. By the end of the month-long Summer Work Program,

Adrien interviewed for and landed a job as a sales associate. He continued that job to the following summer and graduation. Access Alaska advocates identified him as a strong candidate to be a peer mentor for the 2018 Summer Work Program.

He applied and was selected to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer, helping Access Alaska staff to mentor and educate his peers through the experience that had opened the doors to his first employment opportunity.

Pre-ETS Staff is proud to report that Adrien immediately found a great job on Fort Wainwright in August, 2018 where he has been able to explore customer service as well as laborer positions at the Exchange.

He is starting to explore options for living on his own and our staff cannot wait to see what he does in the future!

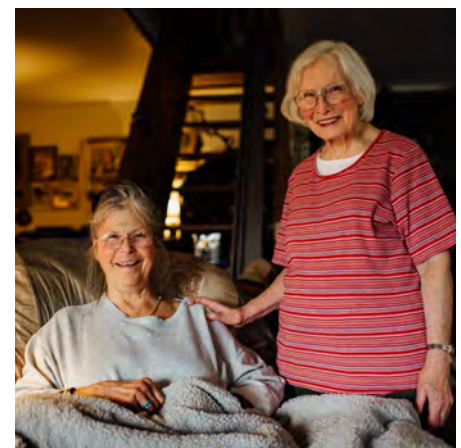
Bonnie- DSP Spotlight

We are proud to recognize Bonnie Stirn as a long-time direct service provider in the community of Wasilla. Beginning in 1996, Bonnie started working with elders in the community who were among the treasured pioneers of the Matanuska Valley and has truly put in a life of service and charity. She has been working with Access Alaska since January 2014 and was presented with an Achievement Award in December 2018.

Bonnie says that she has stayed working in the direct service field for so long because, "There is more to it than just getting people in and out of bed. It is very important to leave someone in a happier frame of mind."

Bonnie says that each person she works with also leaves her feeling better about the day. Most recently, Bonnie has provided services for Access Alaska consumer, Sunny R. Sunny notes that Bonnie always works with gladness in her heart and even after so many years of doing this work, Bonnie continues to have personalized dedication to each of her clients.

Bonnie expressed appreciation to Access Alaska for being helpful and supportive to her as one of our Direct Service Providers and notes that care providing has been educational for her over the years and she has worked with "such very lovely people."



Bonnie Stirn (right) with her consumer Sunny R. (left)

Jonathan-Independence Expedited

As a lifelong Alaskan residing in Anchorage, Jonathan started receiving Independent Living services with Access Alaska over seven years ago. Through that program Johnathan received many Independent Living skills such as cooking, gardening, and is currently working on additional independent living goals with his Access Alaska Advocate.

This past Spring, Johnathan needed to undergo surgery to repair scar tissue that had built up from a previous operation. After surgery, Jonathan was told he needed to be discharged from extended inpatient acute care facility, even though the healing process was taking longer than expected.

For Jonathan to successfully return to his home, Personal Care Services (PCA) would be a necessity. Access Alaska's Consumer Directed Personal Care program staff visited Jonathan in the inpatient care facility and began the process of applying for services, which can take up to six weeks or longer.

Due to immediate discharge, an expedited application was submitted to the state. Jonathan was discharged days later without the required State PCA assessment and it was clear he would need to make other living arrangements until PCA services were in place.

Access Alaska worked with the State of Alaska in having the assessment done at this temporary address to obtain authorized hours and get back to his own home.

A week later, an authorization letter was given by the state and Jonathan was then able to move back into his home with PCA hours in place and a direct service provider ready to help with Jonathan's road to recovery.

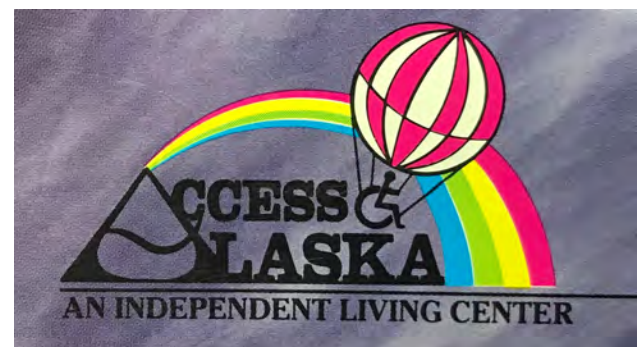


Consumer Jonathan S. with his Direct Service Provider Brian "Bree" Witzke

35 Years of Independent Living

In looking at our Mission one cannot help but look back at how Access Alaska got started. It began when several wheelchair bound individuals in Anchorage were seeking their independence and freedom from a nursing home in 1982.

Access Alaska now helps hundreds of individuals every year live independently in the home or community of their choice. 2018 marked Access Alaska's 35th year of providing Independent Living Services in Alaska, and will continue moving forward with its Mission.



Thank you to all our 2018 donors

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it makes a
huge
impact

2018 Financial Information

Access Alaska has a blended funding stream from state and federal revenue comprised of grants, fee for service and donations. State department cuts and Federal uncertainty has created a real challenge for the non-profit sector. Fortunately Access Alaska maintains a strong position with assets that carry us through difficult times. Additionally we are good stewards of resources while we continually strive to reduce costs while diversifying funding opportunities.

For financial details please go to www.accessalaska.org and view our most recent 990 report and audited financial statement.

Access Alaska, Inc.

Financial Information Fiscal Year 2018

Revenue

Grants	\$1,960,681
Donations	\$ 70,408
Earned Income	\$7,093,286
Total Revenue	\$8,020,773

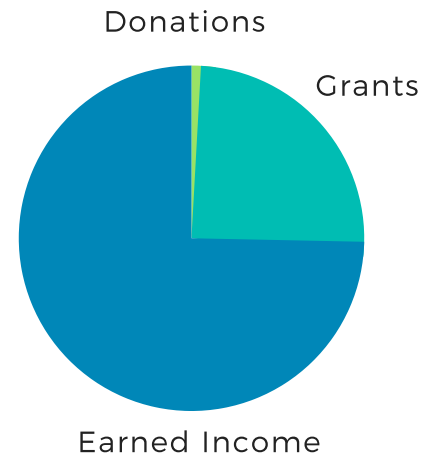
Expenses

Administration	\$1,429,854
Programs and Services	\$7,210,040
Total Expenses	\$8,639,894

Total Assets \$6,617,041

Total Liabilities \$2,660,551

Revenue



Expenses

