



Partnerships make the difference



2018 Rural Alaska Program Report

WELCOME

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 2 Program Highlights
- 3 Program Overview
- 4 Impact Report & Map
- 5 Camp Fire Difference
- 6 Wellness
- 7 Community Connection
- 8 Community Partners
- 9 Camp Fire Staff
- 10 Partners

BACK Get Involved



Partnerships Make the Difference

Dear Friends,

This summer's Rural Alaska Program was all about local partners, aligning resources, and the deepening impact of growing connections—the stories, photos, and testimonials tell it all!

A leading powerhouse this summer was the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) who sent their Diabetes Prevention Outreach Specialists and Behavioral Health Aides to all 19 communities Camp Fire serves within their region. The partnership enhanced the delivery of the wellness curriculum and connected youth, teens, and families to local leaders and resources within the region.

Local community partners embraced the opportunity as well, spending dedicated time in program. Whether it was local Tribal Council members in Alakanuk teaching about respect or making healthy choices, State Troopers in Aniak addressing cold water safety, or the Red Cross bringing the Pillowcase Project to Akiak — each brought essential programs tailored to individual community needs.

The connection with local leaders, resources, and partners strengthens youth and our communities. It is the work we all do together that truly makes a difference. We are honored to have so many engaged individuals and partners strengthening our youth and communities together!

Warm Regards,

Melanie Hooper
Manager of the Rural Alaska Program



Water safety is one of the needs communities mention most.

HIGHLIGHTS



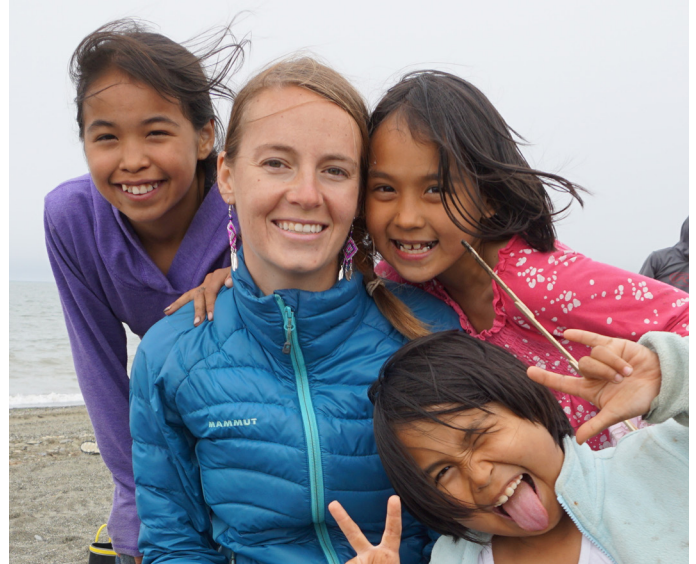
Youth in Kotlik create Super Hero Shields to express what makes them each unique.

“There are no activities like this at the local level—it only occurs when Camp Fire is in town. It means a lot to me because the youth enjoy these activities for one month out of the year.

— Roland Andrews, Kongiganak



Tununak youth led their own Native Youth Olympics by setting up different activities.



Building caring relationships and connecting with youth is one of our core values.



In Atmautlauk, teens participate in traditional dancing during evening events.

Camp Fire Alaska’s mission is to give every child the opportunity to find the best in themselves and others in a fun, safe, learning environment.

For more information on any of Camp Fire Alaska’s programs, visit www.campfireak.org

OVERVIEW

“ With the daily activities they did at Camp Fire, the kids learned a lot and came home and told stories of their experience.

— Emma Kiunya, Kwigillingok



Over the past 55 years, Camp Fire has served 90 communities in Rural Alaska.

“ Camp Fire was able to get the community involved, which I thought was awesome.

— Roberta Agimuk, Chevak



True to Camp Fire’s values, we continue to create opportunity for youth to find their spark, lift their voice and discover who they are.

Camp Fire’s relationship with rural Alaska began in 1964, in response to that year’s massive earthquake. With the support of a national Camp Fire Fund, volunteers and supplies were sent to deliver youth programming in impacted communities so parents could devote their full energy to cleanup and reconstruction.

Following this initial outreach, Camp Fire’s Rural Alaska Program quickly expanded to address the high drowning rates in Alaska by offering swimming and teaching children about cold-water safety. Our program has now grown to include healthy life skills, boating safety, creative arts, cooperative games, outdoor recreation, teen activities, and community events.

We bring the staff, the supplies, the food and the fun while we strive to emphasize the importance of healthy life choices, reducing high-risk behaviors, and encouraging youth and community engagement wherever we go.





2018 HIGHLIGHTS

28 Communities

52 Community Events

94 Weeks

3,708 Participants*

4,639 Lbs of Fresh Produce

21,360 Meals Served


*Youth: **1,963** | Teens: **623** | Adults: **1,122**





Berry picking is a popular activity that encourages traditional foods.



Microgreens help explore year-round fresh food options.

 The program experienced its largest attendance in program history—over 1,000 more participants including a 60% increase in teen participation.

 Community engagement deepened with a threefold increase of adult participation, increasing opportunities for youth, family, and Elder engagement.

 Five new partners came on board to support delivery of the program for a total of over 40 partners supporting Camp Fire's reach to rural communities.



THE CAMP FIRE DIFFERENCE

“ I have been impressed with your staff over two years with two different teams. I’m convinced it’s your training and hiring that make the difference.

— Emily Poole, Kotlik








Getting outside and participating in physical exercise is a staple of the Camp Fire curriculum.



Youth learn to work together through simple games.

What Makes Our Programs Different?

-  Camp Fire is a leader in youth development with ties to rural Alaska for over 50 years.
-  Camp Fire provides a safe environment, caring adults, as well as outdoor games and lots of fun.
-  Our programs are developed to fit the needs and wants of each community we serve.
-  We stay for two to four weeks, allowing for deeper connections and enhanced program quality.
-  Our programs have impact — now and in the future!



At Camp Fire, we build healthy habits every day.



Dental health activities teach youth to take care of their smiles.

Camp Fire's wellness curriculum remains a cornerstone of the Rural Alaska Program, promoting a holistic, healthy, and balanced life by encouraging traditional values. Based on physical, emotional, spiritual and mental well-being, this curriculum implicitly focuses on chronic disease prevention with a special emphasis on tobacco and diabetes prevention.

Program development continues to be led by Luz Smeenk, Dietician and Community Educator with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Statewide Diabetes Program with inputs from Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation's Diabetes and Tobacco Prevention Programs.

This year, YKHC's Diabetes Prevention Outreach Specialists and Behavioral Health Aides joined forces with Camp Fire Staff to enhance the delivery of the wellness program in all 19 Y-K region communities served. Local, engaged leaders brought personal, unique and culturally relevant programming to youth, further enhancing the connection and support of the wellness model of delivery.

Behavioral Health Aides Share Their Experience

“ I had the kids form a circle as the musk ox would do and ask how they felt....It showed how everyone needs to be protectors of the community.

“ We focused on healthy and unhealthy ways to deal with emotions and stress...The kids had such a great list of healthy ways to deal with emotions and stress.

“ I talked about drugs and alcohol, bullying, respecting and helping one another as our ancestors taught us.



Diagramming the body to better understand how things work.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION



Youth prepared and served dinner to Elders during special evenings.



Community events build stronger connections and resilience.



Activities encourage all members of the community to come out and enjoy Camp Fire.

Camp Fire continues to focus on deepening community engagement—all with the goal of providing opportunity for youth, families, and Elders to connect with one another in meaningful ways. This year over 1,000 adults and Elders shared the experience with youth through community events.

We hold our community relationships in high esteem. By opening the door and inviting us in, communities have created an environment where our program—and their youth—thrive.

This summer, 28 communities welcomed Camp Fire and provided opportunities to share experiences, deepen bonds, and strengthen our rural connections.

“*The community really enjoyed the fruits and vegetables. I got a lot of good feedback from the community on family activities and people receiving fruits and vegetables.*

— Shiela Williams, Akiak

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Alaska State Troopers joined youth in Lower Kalskag to teach about Cold Water Safety.

Community volunteers and partners help make this program possible. Each community we serve identifies someone who helps our program run smoothly. These community contacts work with us year-round to secure facilities for running program, housing for staff, receiving supply shipments, and fostering community engagement when our staff arrive.

This year several key local partners joined Camp Fire staff in program to help meet specific and unique needs in each community. These partners brought activities, worked alongside staff, and helped organize events.

Without the commitment, time, and effort these volunteers and partners give to Camp Fire and their communities, our Rural Alaska Program would not be as effective as it is today.




Alakanuk's crisis response team partnered with Camp Fire to deliver tailored programming.


STAFF TRAINING





Staff are diverse and adventurous, receive extensive training, and must adapt and adjust to meet the needs of each community.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

 Cultural Competency and Alaska Native Culture taught by the First Alaskans Institute and the Alaska Native Heritage Center

 Cold Water and Boating Safety taught by Alaska Office of Boating Safety

 Lifeguard training and certification

 Youth Mental Health First Aid training and certification


“ Camp Fire first came to my village when I was a teenager. I remember coming to teen nights and the staff. Because of this experience, I decided I wanted to work at Camp Fire and become a teacher someday, so I am currently going to school in Bethel to get my teaching degree.
— Lewis, Camp Fire Staff








Partner Highlights


Those who went above and beyond assisting our mission:


 **AVCP** celebrates its tenth year supporting Camp Fire, funding 19 communities for a total of 76 weeks of camp.

 **YKHC** and **ANTHC** celebrate their fifth year partnering with Camp Fire with the development of a holistic wellness curriculum, fresh produce, supplies, and program delivery support.

 For the third year in a row, **DHL Express** helped coordinate critical resources and logistical support through **Alaska CargoPort/Lynxs Group** and **Alaska Northern Courier** to ensure the shipment of hundreds of boxes of supplies throughout the state.

 **GCI** made a generous cash contribution and helped supply water bottles to support the wellness curriculum.

 **Wells Fargo** made a generous cash contribution as one of our new funding partners.

 **Lindsay Roberts**, Alaska's first Community Dental Health Coordinator, came on as a new curriculum partner, adding new activities on dental health to our wellness curriculum.

THANK YOU!

ABC Motorhome Rentals
Alaska CargoPort/Lynxs Group
Alaska Native Heritage Center
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium
Alaska Northern Courier
Alaska Office of Boating Safety
Alaska Pacific University
Association of Village Council Presidents
Bent Prop Inn
Bering Strait School District
Charlie's Produce
Chugach School District
DHL Express
Donlin Gold
First Alaskans Institute
Food Bank of Alaska
GCI
Kaladi Brothers Coffee
Kuspuk School District
Lower Kuskokwim School District
Lower Yukon School District
Lindsay Roberts
Lu Young Children's Fund
Matt Hirshfeld
Meyers Farm
Northrim Bank
Rasmuson Foundation
Ravn Alaska
Read on the Fly
Red Cross of Alaska
RurAL CAP
Southcentral Foundation
State of Alaska, Dept. Education and Early Development
University of Alaska, Anchorage
Wells Fargo
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation
Yukon-Koyukuk School District





Join Us—Rural Alaska Is Waiting

Through the contributions and partnerships we have fostered over the years, we have had the opportunity and the privilege of reaching thousands of Alaskans in over 90 communities — and our program continues to grow every year.

We thank our partners, donors, staff, community contacts, and everyone who has helped us provide valuable and meaningful programs to youth across rural Alaska.

To become a partner—

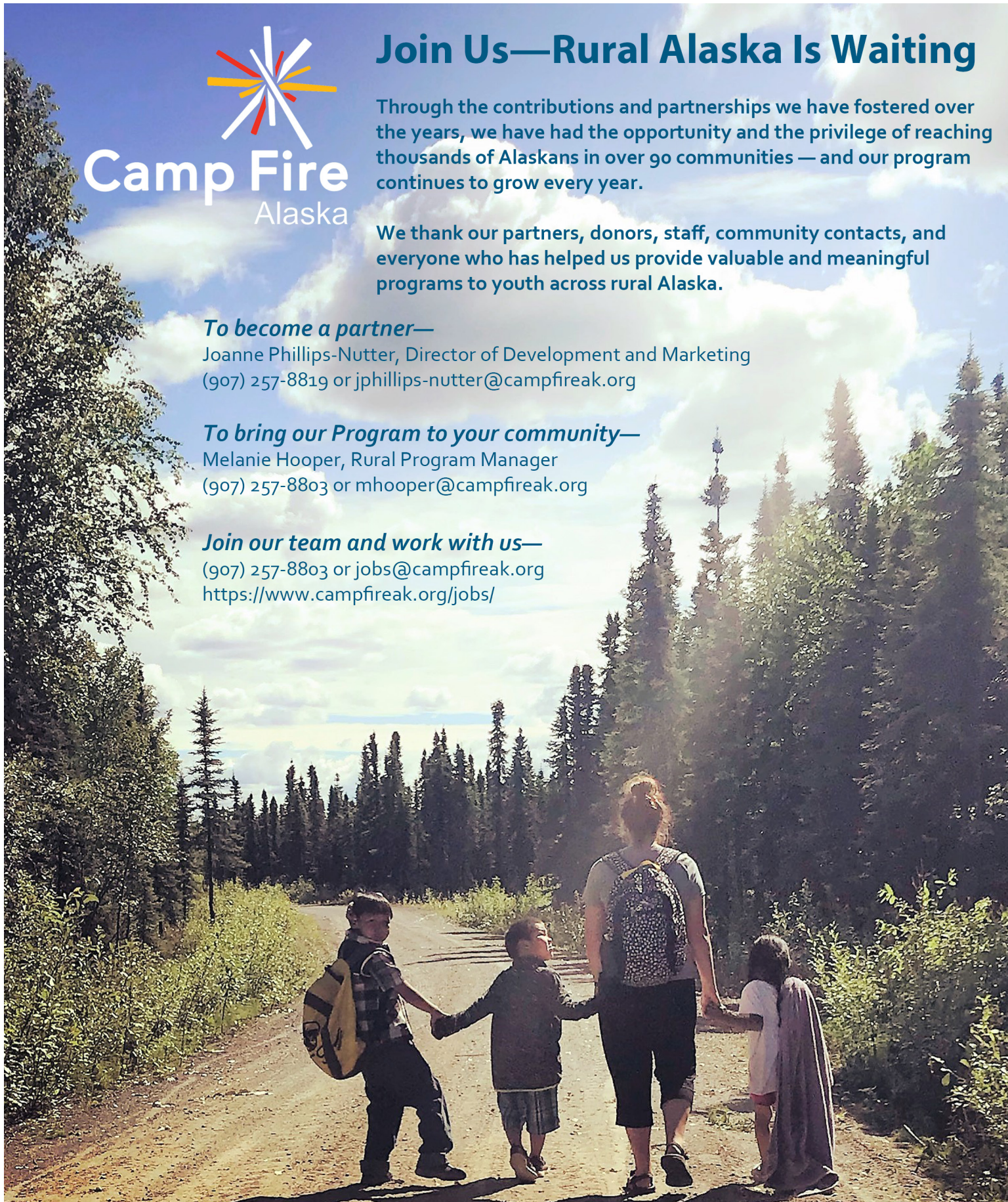
Joanne Phillips-Nutter, Director of Development and Marketing
(907) 257-8819 or jphillips-nutter@campfireak.org

To bring our Program to your community—

Melanie Hooper, Rural Program Manager
(907) 257-8803 or mhooper@campfireak.org

Join our team and work with us—

(907) 257-8803 or jobs@campfireak.org
<https://www.campfireak.org/jobs/>



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