

AFS Locations

Main Offices

1825 S. Chugach St.
Palmer, AK 99645
746-4080
Toll Free 866-746-4080

Behavioral Health Treatment Center

5851 E. Mayflower Ct.
Wasilla, AK 99654
376-4000

Trans-Alaska Building

165 E. Parks Hwy.
Wasilla, AK 99654
376-2003

Westside Center

899 Commercial Dr.
Wasilla, AK 99654
376-4080

Family First Treasures Family First Center

403 S. Alaska St.
Palmer, AK 99645
746-6260

Anchorage

1251 Muldoon Rd.
Ste. 116
Anchorage, AK 99504
644-5000

Kenai

601 Frontage Rd. Ste. 102
Kenai, AK 99611
283-4172
Toll Free 800-283-4172

24-Hour Crisis Line

746-4080 or toll free
866-746-4080

Visit us online
www.akafs.org



Navigator

Guiding you through our social service programs

ALASKA



FAMILY
SERVICES

May 2018

AFS COA Reaccreditation Achievement to be Proud Of

Congratulations are in order for the COA accreditation team and by extension, Program Managers and all the staff of Alaska Family Services, Inc. on AFS's most recent COA accreditation.

AFS has been an accredited nonprofit social service agency with COA since 2010. What makes this accreditation notable is the brevity in which the accreditation took place and the level at which AFS was awarded full accreditation; AFS achieved a near perfect score. This score reflects the extra work put in by AFS's accreditation team in assimilating all the information provided by program managers.

The score is also indicative of the team work that unites such a variety of programs into a provider of services to its community. It is what drew me to apply for a position at AFS and continues to be a part of why I am proud to say I work for AFS.

COA, The Council on Accredi-



tation, began in 1977. The purpose of the agency was to create a body of standards that would promote and improve excellence in service delivery outcomes within the human service field locally and on a global basis.

To receive accreditation, agencies or programs are evaluated in several areas to ensure effective management of resources and to ensure services provided are in line with acceptable standards to all stakeholders. For consumers, accreditation assures that services being provided meet best practice standards. Criteria includes evaluating

how clients are included in the decision making process of the service delivery, cultural competency, a safe and respectful environment and client privacy.

For staff, accreditation ensures that their health and safety are protected while minimizing their exposure to risk and liability.

Board members and donors are assured of ethical practices, that strategic plans are relevant for the community, organizational operations are efficient and sound financial management is in place.

AFS commends all its staff and their commitment to service within the community they serve.

Noel Crowley-Bell,
TPC Program Coordinator

Choose Respect Paves the Way for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

The 9th Annual Choose Respect March took place March 22, 2018 at 12 pm. 150 advocates began their trek from the Palmer Ice Rink and marched to Palmer Pavilion led by an official Palmer PD escort. Supporters included community members, students from Job Corps, local law enforcement, Alaska Family Services staff, clients, and the Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault (DVSA) Task

Force Coalition.

Participants carried Choose Respect banners and homemade signs in order to bring awareness to a subject often not addressed. The event included a survivor speaker and a memorial balloon release. The speaker shared her story as a current



Continued on page 2

Thanks to Our Donors

Alaska Railroad
Arco Brewery
Excel Gymnastics
Palmer Ski club
Sportsman's Warehouse
AFS Board of Directors



And a big thank you to all our individual members!

"You can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes."

Choose Respect Paves the Way *(continued from page 1)*



Women Residential Reunification Program (WRAP) client who has almost completed the 18 month drugs and violence rehabilitation process so that she may be allowed to be reunited with her children.

Marchers released 150 purple and teal environmentally friendly balloons memorializing survivors and victims. Purple balloons signify domestic abuse and teal signify sexual abuse.

If you missed the Choose Respect March, there's still time to take part in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event June 23rd at

the Menard Center in Wasilla.

The Walk will be held in conjunction with the bicycle rodeo sponsored by Mat-Su Regional Medical Center which promotes bike safety and exercise for kids.

Alaska Family Services and the DVSA Task Force Coalition, in tandem with the City of Wasilla and No More Mat-Su is sponsoring Walk a Mile in Her Shoes to stop rape, sexual assault, and gender violence.

This year, the DVSA Task Force Coalition is extending an invitation to the whole family, or, as task force leader Jeaninne Milne says, "make it less about high heels, and more inclusive; women don't just wear heels, they wear sandals and hiking boots!"

In addition to the Walk there will be games, raffles, shoe decorating contests, and prizes. The Walk will take place on the outdoor track at the Menard Center.

Jeaninne said DVSA Task Force Coalition spearheaded the Choose Respect March this year as well as the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, "It really brings power to the people, highlights resources... a not so scary way of getting resources into peoples' hands."

Anyone is welcome to join the DVSA Task Force Coalition, says Jeaninne, "The coalition meets every third Thursday at 7:30 am. Anyone can join us at the Windbreak."

Lesley Hoffman
TPC Outreach Coordinator

Inspired Students Open Doors for Tobacco Prevention

Mat-Su Borough is buzzing with budding artists who share a common message: #BeTheFirst.

#BeTheFirst is part of a campaign through the national organization Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids. Each year this organization promotes Kick Butts Day (KBD). KBD promotes youth advocacy to resist the marketing tactics of the tobacco industry which continues to target a new generation of smokers.

This year's campaign focused on encouraging youth to "be the first" generation to be tobacco-

free. 27 students from 7 Mat-Su Schools submitted original designs for the first annual #BeTheFirst poster contest.

Posters were on display at The Wasilla Museum Visitor Center April 7-21. Designs were judged on clarity of message and imagery. Prizes were awarded to entrants in each category; elementary, middle and high school with a grand prize winner selected from those winners. The Tobacco Pre-



Grand Prize Winner Kira N. Loaiza
7th grade Houston Middle School

vention Program will use images from this contest in future media campaigns.

Lesley Hoffman
TPC Outreach Coordinator

2018 Spring Fundraiser

Congratulations to Vicky Jackson, the 2018 Spring Fundraiser \$10,000 raffle winner!



AFS Invited to Baby Fair

AFS CCAP-MOA was invited to attend the Anchorage Baby Fair on April 21, 2018. This was an opportunity to reach out to families who may be interested in the Child Care



program. During the event CCAAP-MOA spoke with dozens of families and shared what they do. Even more rewarding was hearing from a parent who had used AFS services in the past. With assistance, she was able to finish school, get a job, and is now self-sufficient. We're looking forward to presenting at this event again next year.

Colleen Vague
CCAA Program Manager

It's not too late to
Pick.Click.Give.

The deadline to make
or change a contribu-
tion from your 2017
PFD is Aug. 31.

If you've already given
to AFS, thank you.

If you haven't, please
consider making a do-
nation through
Pick.Click.Give.

Today.

Thank you!



PickClickGive.org

Opportunities to be Out and About in Your Community

With spring soon giving way to summer, even if temperatures are telling us different, there are many upcoming opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities.

Frontline Mission is hosting a family picnic on June 2. That event is from 11am-2pm and will feature family fun, activities, and face painting. Food will also be provided.

The bicycle rodeo and the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event will be held on June 9 at the Menard Center in Wasilla.

The 10th Annual Gathering hosted by Knik and Chickaloon will be on June 9 from 10am-4pm. This event is held on the

Fairgrounds at Raven Hall and is both a health fair, native crafts fair and for the first time, will host a ROCK Mat-Su dance. Additional draws for this event include native dancing and drums, a hula hoop contest for all ages and, you guessed it, food.

June 9 also holds the Miles for Meals on Wheels race from 10:30am-1:30pm. It is the largest fundraiser of the year for Meals on Wheels and is followed by a barbecue, prizes, and fun activities with WASI seniors.

Register now for the Heartreach Center 5K for Life and Kid's Fun Run from

10 am-12pm on July 7. Race begins at the Park and Ride on South Trunk Road and is \$25/individual, \$50/family if you register now. Fee will be \$10 more the day of the race.

In July you should try to attend the Ptarmigan Pediatrics health fair and family fun event. The date for that is Friday, July 13 from 2pm-6pm.

Another not to be missed picnic is our own AFS picnic on July 19 held at Loretta French Park from 12pm-4pm. Bring the family and enjoy food in the outdoors!

**"Live today
the way you
want to be
remembered
tomorrow"**

— Dillion Burroughs

Help Strengthen & Support Families. Become an AFS Member Today.

RETURN TO:

Alaska Family Services
1825 S. Chugach Street
Palmer, AK 99645

Phone: 907-746-4080
Fax: 907-746-1177
Website: www.akafs.org

Alaska Family Services is
a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
organization.
Contributions may be
tax deductible as
provided by law.

Alaska Family Services could not successfully pursue its core purpose of “Services for Families Through Intervention, Referral, Collaboration and Education” without the kind and generous support of individuals and businesses in the Mat-Su Valley. Your membership will be used for the direct care of families that enter our services.

To join, simply fill out this form and return it to the address posted on the side.

Thank you! Your support makes a difference.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Personal e-mail: _____

___ \$35 ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$250 ___ Other

Payment form: Cash ___ Check # ___ M/C ___ Visa ___

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CV Code _____

Signature: _____