



Our Vision  
*To make Anchorage the first city  
without prejudice as the first step  
to eliminate racism in Alaska*

Bridge Builders Newsletter

April 2009



### **Greetings Members and Friends!**

We hope you were able to come to Meet the World! Thanks to all who participated. It was delightful and successful, with over 1,500 people attending despite the wealth of Fur Rondy choices available to them.

Thanks also to HACA, our co-sponsors for the Mayoral Candidate Forum. It was an interesting and well-attended event, so many people became more familiar with the candidates and the issues.

Don't forget to vote for *your* choice of mayor in the Anchorage municipal elections on April 7th.

Go to [www.muni.org/elections](http://www.muni.org/elections) for voting information or call the Office of the Municipal Clerk 343-4376 and 343-4311.

See you at the voting booths!

*Elsa Sargento, President*

Paula Pawlowski, Director

**LAST CHANCE**  
for tickets to dinner & poker!

Winners play in the  
World Series of Poker!

## Fundraiser Dinner

*Hosted by Anchorage East Rotary*

## and Free Poker Tournament

*by Alaska Poker Association  
following fundraiser dinner at 5:45pm*

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Join us for an evening of games, food, music and prizes at the Captain Cook Ballroom.

**March 28th, 2009**

Doors open - 4:00pm

Dinner - 4:30pm

Tickets - \$250.00 per person

**Grand Prize:**

**1 Main Event Seat at the 2009 World Series of Poker**



### Cultural Events Calendar

Now available online at:

<http://www.bridgebuildersak.com/BridgeBuilders2009Calendar.pdf>

Please check back often for updates!

### Upcoming Bridge Builders Events:

March in the 4th of July  
Parade:

July 4, 2009

Anchorage Parkstrip

*Interested in sponsoring  
and creating a parade  
float? Please call 277-  
1882.*

Gala Banquet & Ball  
2009 Honoring  
Excellence in  
Community Service:

Additional Final Table Prizes:  
One \$2,500 seat at a 2009 World Series of Poker event  
One \$1,500 seat at a 2009 World Series of Poker event

*All proceeds equally divided in support of:  
Bridge Builders of Anchorage, Friends of Alaska CASA, Hospice of Anchorage, and Mary Magdalene Home Alaska.*

For more information, call Kevin Curtis at 222-5675 or 632-3104.

August 15, 2009  
*Captain Cook Hotel*

*If you would like to volunteer on a committee for Bridge Builders, please call: 277-1882*

Leadership Anchorage Selects a Bridge Builders Community Service Project:

## Keep Me Safe

*Helping newcomers to Anchorage prepare for emergencies despite language, cultural and experiential challenges.*

**We need your input!** Please tell us what you wish *you* had known when you first arrived in Alaska, so we can help current and future newcomers be better prepared for an emergency in this great and challenging environment.

Email suggestions to [bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org](mailto:bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org) or call 277-1882. Thank you!

*Leadership Anchorage is an Alaska Humanities Forum program. For more information go to <http://www.akhf.org>*

### The Pledge of Mutual Respect:

"We the people of Anchorage, Alaska, pledge to respect one another, celebrating the differences that make us unique: our customs, spiritual beliefs, cultures, colors, dreams and ancestral traditions. Standing together, hand in hand, young and old, we affirm that through mutual respect we can build a stronger more harmonious community, a more unified nation and a better, safer world."

*Bridge Builders is membership-based and is a registered 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization.*

### "Did you know...?"

...Bridge Builders advocates for your children's education? This year begins our Education Focus. We will begin by connecting with many communities to collect your experiences and

**Great News!** You will be able to make your donation by participating in the PFD checkoff! Go to [www.pickclickgive.org](http://www.pickclickgive.org) for details.

stories regarding education. Stay tuned for more details.

*We hope you enjoy this new informative section containing tidbits of BB history and info.*

Asian Alaskan Cultural Center  
proudly presents Asian Culture Night 2009

## Rimli Roy and Surati

for performing arts from India and the New York area

### An Evening of Dance & Music

7:00 p.m. Friday, March 27th

Atwood Concert Hall

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts

Tickets available at [www.CenterTix.net](http://www.CenterTix.net) or 263-ARTS (2787) or at the CenterTix box office

*Major Sponsor: Neeser Construction, Inc.*

*Sponsored by: Alaska Arts & Culture Foundation, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Anchorage Arts Advisory Commission, Anchorage Daily News, Anchorage School District, Rasmuson Foundation, BP, Wells Fargo*

Our **2008 Annual Report** and membership forms can be found on our website:

[www.bridgebuildersak.org](http://www.bridgebuildersak.org)

#### Core Purpose:

To promote and celebrate harmony and respect among all cultures.

#### Core Values:

Dignity/Respect/  
Personal  
Trust/Openness/  
Personal  
Commitment/Activism

Join us and discover a whole new world!



#### April 1 deadline for AKHF We the People applications

The Alaska Humanities Forum is accepting grant proposals for We the People projects that encourage Alaskans toward the teaching, study, and understanding of American history, culture, and democratic principles. Deadline for applications is April 1, 2009.

Nonprofit organizations or institutions, individuals, or ad-hoc groups are welcomed to apply for grants to fund projects that promote the humanities in Alaska. The Forum's grant program makes a variety of projects possible, including publications, films and other media, lectures, exhibits, public meetings, oral history, and humanities based research. The "We the People" grant program will award requests up to \$10,000.

2009 Bridge Builders  
of Anchorage

Board of Directors  
and Staff:

**Elsa Malapit Sargento**

The deadline for proposal submission is Wednesday, April 1. For more information, including grant guidelines and instructions to apply, please visit the Forum's web site at [www.akhf.org](http://www.akhf.org) or call/email the Forum's grant office (907-272-5373 or [grants@akhf.org](mailto:grants@akhf.org)).

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## BLACK VIOLIN

**Friday, April 3**  
7:30 pm Atwood Concert Hall

Student Violin Workshop with Black Violin. For enrollment information, call 272-7546. Great for ages 10 and up. Tickets are \$12-\$27 and are available by calling 263-ARTS and [www.akjt.org](http://www.akjt.org).

Creating the ultimate synergy, classically trained violinists Kev Markus and Will B team up with their hip-hop DJ, TK, to use funk-driven sounds and a positive message to expose young people to the arts.

16th Annual Benefit Dinner  
**April 4, 6:00 pm**  
Downtown Marriott

Champagne reception, silent and live auctions and a performance by Black Violin.

For more details, please check the website:  
<http://www.akjt.org/>

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**The Alaska Native Heritage Center presents:**

**Saturday, April 11**  
Contemporary Native Performance and Visual Art Celebration

Visual art, live performances, engaging storytelling and dramatic presentations focus on the cultural connections among Native groups across the country.

Admission is \$1.00  
World Premier of David Boxley's play "The Three Enemies"  
Performance by:  
Steven Alvarez  
Brian Adams

*Filipino American*  
President

**Angelina Estrada-Burney**  
*Mexican American*  
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**Gabrielle LeDoux**  
*Eastern European*

**Modou E. Manneh**  
*Gambian*

**Barbara Niziol**  
*Polish American*

**Yohyon Pharr**  
*Korean American*

Ed Mighell  
Roland Adams  
The Alaska Native Heritage Center Dancers

For more details, including the flyer, please check the website:  
<http://www.alaskanative.net/>

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## Events at the Anchorage Museum

Museum closure  
4/1/2009 - 5/29/2009

The museum will be closed in April and May to accommodate the move into the new \$106 million addition. During this time, crews will also renovate parts of the existing museum. Expect the museum and most parts of the new wing to re-open May 30.

Gold: Anchorage Museum Gala 2009  
April 4: 6:30 to midnight  
Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center

One of the season's most celebrated social art events, the annual Anchorage Museum Gala elegantly combines art, mingling, music and dancing.

Talk by Mads Hagstrom  
April 6: 7 p.m.

Talk by Mads Hagstrom, graphic and product designer in Oslo, presented by Alaska Design Forum. A part of the Community Programs series.

*More Info: [www.anchoragemuseum.org](http://www.anchoragemuseum.org)  
Contact Information: 907-343-4326  
Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center  
121 W. 7th Ave; Anchorage, AK 99501*

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## Alaska World Affairs Council

April 3, 2009  
**"Operation Enduring Freedom: Four Alaskan servicemen who have served in Afghanistan will share their insights on their overseas duty"**  
Speakers: Panel of Alaska Service Personnel who have served in Afghanistan

**Mabel Pike**  
*Tlingit*

**Melvin Williams**  
*African American*

**Arthur Yang**  
*Hmong*

**Paula Pawlowski**  
*German Welsh*  
Director

**Denée Dubeau Zah**  
*Finnish Irish*  
*French-Canadian*  
Administrative Assistant

April 10, 2009  
No AWAC Event This Week

April 17, 2009  
**"Who's Watching the world? The Collapse of Foreign Journalism in the American Press"**  
Speaker: Patrick Yack, Atwood Chair of Journalism, Department of Journalism and Public Communications, University of Alaska, Anchorage

April 24, 2009  
**"Points of Conflict and Cooperation between the U.S. and China"**  
Speaker: Joseph Ha, Vice President for International Business and Government Relations at Nike

\* \* \*

AWAC weekly luncheons location: Hilton Hotel  
Doors open at 11:30 a.m. - Program begins at 12:00 p.m.  
RSVP by telephone 276-8038 or by email to [info@AlaskaWorldAffairs.org](mailto:info@AlaskaWorldAffairs.org).  
Lunch Program \$20 for Members - \$25 for Non-Members - \$6 for Coffee Only

For more information, go to <http://www.alaskaworldaffairs.org/>

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Na Keiki O Hawai'i Hawaiian Civic Club Presents

## Ho'olaulea Alaska V

Cultural Celebration  
Scholarship/Cultural School Studies Fundraising Event

Anchorage Senior Center  
Saturday **April 4th**, 2009  
5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Plate Lunch \$12 - Mini Plate Lunch \$7  
Menu: kalua pork, teriyaki chicken, chicken long rice, macaroni salad,  
lomi lomi salmon, rice, poi, cake and juice

\$5 Admission  
for Adults and Children (4 yrs and older)

For more information, e-mail [nkoh.membership@gmail.com](mailto:nkoh.membership@gmail.com)  
Call Annie at 349-5048 or Michelle at 830-7163 to purchase Admission tickets. Tickets for meals will be available at the door.

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## GRANTS SYMPOSIUM

ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELIGATION

Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Mark Begich  
Congressman Don Young

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act included billions of dollars for program administered by federal agencies and we would like Alaskans to be informed about the funds that are available through these grant programs.

The Congressional Delegation extends an invitation to attend a grant symposium we are hosting in Anchorage, Alaska on Tuesday, **April 14, 2009** at the Dena'Ina Center. The purpose of this event is to inform Alaskans on federal agencies' grant programs, particularly those that pertain to the unique needs of Alaska communities and the requirements for eligibility. We feel it is important our constituency be adequately informed about the federal grant programs available and the proper steps to qualify for and obtain grant funds.

The federal agencies that have been invited are:

Department of Treasury  
Department of Energy  
Department of Justice  
Department of the Interior  
Department of Agriculture  
Department of Veteran Affairs  
Department of Labor  
Department of Housing and Urban Development Department of State Department of Education Small Business Association Denali Commission

Representatives will host booths, provide information for distribution, and be available to answer question specific to the grant process for their respective agencies. The event will run from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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## STOP SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE LAST FRONTIER A COMMUNITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Sponsored and hosted by Church Women United with support from Soroptimist International of Anchorage.

Saturday, **April 18, 2009**  
Lutheran Church of Hope  
1847 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Registration 8:30 AM, \$15.00  
(Includes coffee, lunch, snacks)

Featuring speakers from Alaska Dept. of Justice, Anchorage Police Dept., FBI, AWAIC, Catholic Social Services, Mary Magdalene Home, Office of Children's Services

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Registration form and fee (checks made out to Church Women United) must be submitted by **April 11th**.

For information and forms, please contact: Linda Heim at 345-0204 or lindaheim@att.net

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## FILIPINO MIXOLOGY: Dancing to our own Beat

The Alaskero Partnership Organization (APO) invites you to join us for an interactive seminar.

Each session will explore a sampling of key periods in Filipino history, Pinoy pop culture and activities to try and understand the contemporary remix that is "Filipino American Identity." Refreshments provided.

**Saturdays from 1 pm - 3 pm**

University of Alaska Anchorage  
Consortium Library, Room 307, 3211 Providence Drive

Upcoming Seminar Series Dates:

March 28  
**Re-sampling History**

April 11  
**The Floor Is Yours:  
Make Your Own Mix**

For more information:  
guru@alaskero.com ~ www.alaskero.com  
Dr. Gabriel Garcia: 907.786.6532

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# Anchorage Public Library Events

## Create an Embroidered Bookmark

Loussac, Public Conference Room, level 1  
Sunday, April 5, 2-4pm

Create your own fabulous embroidered bookmark with needleworker and author Jen Funk Weber, Karen Bente from Arctic Needle, and members of the Arctic Needleworkers' Embroidery Guild as we kick off National Library Week! The program is open to school-age children, teens and adults. Children ages 6-10 must be accompanied by an adult. No experience necessary. All materials for the project are free to participants.

*Wildlife Wednesdays:*

### **The Bears Among Us**

Wednesday, April 8, 7pm.  
Loussac, Wilda Marston Theatre, level 1

Sean Farley, biologist with the Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game, presents data on the natural history of brown bears in Anchorage and on the Kenai Peninsula. He will share photos of bear/human use of shared trails in urban areas.

## **Global Youth Service Day**

Saturday, April 25, 10:30am-1pm  
Loussac, Public Conference Room, level 1

Teens - Don't miss this fun volunteer party to help prepare materials for the Summer Reading Celebration. Refreshments provided! Call Sue @ 343-2853 to register.

The library's online newsletter has details and more events:

[http://lexicon.ci.anchorage.ak.us/events/calendar/2009/Current\\_Calendar.pdf](http://lexicon.ci.anchorage.ak.us/events/calendar/2009/Current_Calendar.pdf)

## **Forget Me Not Grief Program**

for children, teens and the adults who love them

**Volunteers with diverse ethnic backgrounds needed  
as Group Leaders and Facilitators**

Training in the Peer Group Support Model is required. Volunteers do not need previous experience working with grieving children, teens or adults.

Forget Me Not is a peer support program providing support in a safe place for children, teens, and the adults who love them to share, learn and grow in their grief. The

program does not provide formal counseling or therapy. Forget Me Not is a program of Hospice of Anchorage.

The dates of training are:

Wednesday April 15 6p - 8:00p Intro to Forget Me Not and Facilitation  
Saturday April 18 10a -5:00p Grieving as a Process; Learning to Face Grief  
Wednesday April 22 6p - 8:00p Funeral Home Tour  
Saturday April 25 10a -5:00p Facilitating Grief/ Learning to Facilitate a Group  
Wednesday April 29 6p - 8:00 p Facilitating a Group (cont'd)  
Saturday May 2 10a -5:00p Learning to Facilitate Safe Play  
Wednesday May 6 6p - 8:00p Training Wrap-up and Closing Ritual

In addition to the training, volunteers in the program need to make a one-year commitment for 3 hours twice a month for scheduled Thursday evenings of each month from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The overall goal of the facilitator training is to teach people how to help children, teens and adults process their reactions to grief. Priority for training will be given to those who are willing to make a volunteer commitment to the Forget Me Not Program for one year. Upon completion of the training each volunteer and the Program Coordinator will meet to affirm that the volunteer and Forget Me Not Grief Program will be a wonderful match for all.

Please pass this request for volunteers on to others you think may be interested.

For more information and a registration form please contact:  
Donna Stephens, RN, MEd, CT Forget Me Not Grief Program Coordinator  
Telephone: 561-5322 Email: fmn@hospiceofanchorage.org

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## 2010 CENSUS

### COUNT FOR SOMETHING IMPORTANT WITH THE UNITED STATES CENSUS BUREAU

The Census Bureau is recruiting NOW for the 2010 Census, and you can be a part of it. Data gathered during the census is essential to determining how federal monies are spent on the things that matter the most to you: Health Care, Education, Jobs, Home ownership, Community safety; Community services; Aid for children and seniors.

We are beginning operations throughout Alaska. The Census Bureau offers great pay, flexible hours, paid training and an amazing opportunity for you to further your career and improve your community!

#### **Recruiting Assistants (\$19.00/hr)**

We are looking for a diverse group of energetic team-players who are active within their communities.

For more information call 1-866-861-2010 NOW!

Census Job Posting Website:

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## Entertainment needed for Lion King ticket sales event

Clear Channel Radio is putting together entertainment for West Coast Entertainment, which is bringing "The Lion King", presented by Disney, to Anchorage, September 2nd-October 11th, 2009. "The Lion King" is the longest running Broadway play to ever be presented in Anchorage. This National Touring Company is well received to sold out crowds in whatever city they visit and they expect that Anchorage will embrace the show as well!

The tickets go on sale to the general public on **Saturday, May 2nd, 2009**. Clear Channel Radio will be broadcasting live that morning from Town Square from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 A.M. We are putting together live entertainment throughout that time period plus we will have "warming tents" and refreshments for the crowd. Yes, it is expected that people will begin lining up to purchase tickets and even camping out the night before to be first to purchase tickets to "The Lion King". We are expecting news coverage as well!

We are looking for various entertainment groups within the community to highlight its diversity!

Please contact Chrys Castle, Special Events Coordinator at 743-5128 or [chryscastle@clearchannel.com](mailto:chryscastle@clearchannel.com).

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## BECOME A ROUSTABOUT!

### ROUSTABOUT COURSE

This is entry-level training for those interested in a career in oil and gas exploration and drilling. Roustabouts must be capable of physically demanding work and have the ability to work long hours.

Topics covered include: Rig Safety, Petroleum Geology, Rig Components, General Duties, Health and Safety, and Hazwoper.

NOTE: Completion of training does not guarantee a job nor does the Mining and Petroleum Training Service provide any job placement.

Companies require that potential employees be able to pass a drug test.

COURSE DATE: May 4-22, 2009  
LOCATION: 3901 Old Seward Hwy., #118  
(University Center Mall)

Anchorage, Alaska  
TIME: 8 AM - 5 PM  
COST: \$1,000.00

Pre-registration is required. Attached registration form can be faxed to 907-786-6414 or mailed to P.O. Box 240428, Anchorage, AK 99524. Make checks payable to UA/MAPTS.

Class is limited to 25 students. Registration is first-come, first served.

Mining and Petroleum Training Service  
Univ. of AK Statewide Corporate Programs  
3901 Old Seward Hwy., #118/P.O. Box 240428  
Anchorage, AK 99524  
(907) 786-6413 fax: (907) 786-6414

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## RUSSIAN IN FOUR DAYS

Understand Russian Now!

Katya Paukova will teach you Russian in a way you would never have thought possible. The Denver Schools Languages Director said, "Katya is the most talented teacher I have ever observed." In four days, you will be able to use Russian as though you had studied it for a year.

Where: West High School  
Times: April 10, 11, 13, and 14  
Friday/Monday/Tuesday 6-9 pm, Saturday 9-12 am  
Cost: \$170 (\$150 holds a spot)

Info: [whaleymichele@asdk12.org](mailto:whaleymichele@asdk12.org) or call 248-2603  
Checks to West High Russian, 1700 Hillcrest Drive, 99517

Beginners tell two-minute stories in Russian in four days. Katya Paukova uses TPRS and comprehensible input to teach high frequency Russian words through stories. Laugh and learn Russian fast, without studying grammar or using a dictionary. Katya works with FluencyFast, an organization whose mission it is to inspire Americans to build bridges between cultures through languages.

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Anchorage Youth Development Coalition news highlights:

Jane Brown Weekend - "Playshops" and a Talk About Parenting Adopted Tweens and Teens: **April 3-5**, 2009. For more info view the flyer. Steps for

Change 2009: **April 7** at 5 PM at the Anchorage Senior Center.-Child Abuse Awareness Month Planning Committee invites all to attend. For more info view the flyer.

SAVE THE DATE-Healthcare & Human Services Career Fair: **April 15**, 11-4 PM at the Fairview Rec Center.

For more events and details, go to <http://www.avdc.org/>

## Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS) UPDATE

We have 50 individuals who are slated to come to Alaska this year and we are expecting to be assigned up to 90. Twenty-three (23) are from Somalia and 20 are from Sudan. The rest are from Congo and a new group from Burma!

Finally -- we DID get notified about the Bhutanese. We have 25 refugees from Bhutan now on our "waiting list" and we look forward to their arrival in the coming months. This again will be an entirely new refugee group to welcome to the state.

The program has also made some changes. We now have our third Case Manager hired -- his name is Marol Deng and he is from Southern Sudan. A talented man who speaks Nuer, Arabic and Amharic. He came to Alaska from Colorado where he was providing similar refugee services. We have also hired Dang Babuothkai, also from Sudan. Dang too comes with refugee resettlement experience, speaks Nuer and Amharic and is with us as an Americorps member. He will assist Luba Belavtseva in new arrivals case management activities.

Finally we are lucky to have a group of on-call case managers who will be called on throughout the year to supplement our regular staff. These individuals include Fadwa Edias who has been with us for several months already and assists especially with our Arabic speaking clients, Sapana Gurung who is awaiting the arrival of our Nepali speaking Bhutanese clients and Tor Gach from Southern Sudan who is ready to assist any new clients and especially those from African countries.

Also -- the program is trying to address the training needs of our family mentor volunteer core. These are dedicated individuals/ families who take on mentoring a new arrival family. We have held two family mentor meetings and this seems to be greatly increasing our communication and clarity regarding how we all work together to best address the needs of the families. Melissa Bartley our volunteer coordinator has also been working to build volunteer teams to help with a variety of refugee welcome tasks, everything from throwing birthday parties, supporting World Refugee Day planning to bringing new families warm meals. Thanks to all of you who have been involved in the program in these ways. If you are interested in knowing more contact Melissa Bartley at 222-7344 or MBartley@cssalaska.org. And just an early note.. World Refugee Day will be marked on June 19th from 4-7pm at Mt. View Lion's Park -- SAVE THE DATE and join us.

And... YES OF COURSE we need donations to help prepare for the more than 27 family groups on the list that we will welcome this year (and the list keeps growing) :) Donations can always be brought to CSS at 3710 E. 20th ave Mon - Friday 9-5. If those hours don't work, call Kerina Vue at 222-7359 and we will work out a way to connect with you. THANKS for all you do to reach out to refugees.

### Volunteer Opportunities:

Family Mentoring  
English Language tutoring  
Providing warm meals for new arrivals  
Many other project based opportunities

Karen Ferguson, Ph.D.  
Program Director/ State Refugee Coordinator  
Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services (RAIS)  
Catholic Social Services  
3710 E. 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508  
(907) 222-7376 phone, (907) 276-5539 fax  
Kferguson@cssalaska.org

### Ways to get involved

1. NEW! We are in desperate need of a volunteer to help adult clients learn to drive (they already have their learners' permits). This young man begins his first job in Anchorage very soon and will need his own transportation, which is why he wants to learn to drive. Please help him realize his dream of freedom and self-sufficiency in the U.S. and Alaska by giving him the gift of learning to drive.

### 2. NEW! Birthday Party Committee Members Wanted:

Beginning March 13th, we will begin to host birthday parties for our clients! Any client who has had a birthday in the past three months (along with their family) will be invited to the CSS Center to celebrate. Many of our clients have never celebrated a birthday and this is a great way to teach them about American culture. This is a great opportunity for you to meet your new neighbors from around the world and learn how they celebrated birthdays in their home countries. Committee members are asked to help us plan a party, provide a cake, and

decorate once every three months. All RAIS supporters are welcome - please bring a gift or a food treat to get in the door!

3. NEW! Want to help welcome refugees to Alaska? Sign up to be on the Warm Meal Provider list. This is an opportunity for you to welcome our new neighbors to Alaska through the gift of food. This commitment would be approximately 1/month, contingent on when we receive new arrivals. We would provide you with family information and ask you to deliver 1 warm meal to the family. We hope that the List could provide 2-3 meals/week for the first two weeks families arrive in Alaska.

4. NEW! For current family mentor volunteers, we will begin having monthly volunteer support meetings with a RAIS staff member; we will meet from 5-6:15 on the last Friday of each month. This is a great opportunity to ask our case managers specific questions, meet other volunteers, and generate/bounce ideas off of each other. Please RSVP to Melissa at [mbartley@cssalaska.org](mailto:mbartley@cssalaska.org).

5. World Refugee Day Steering Committee!

Even though the event is 5 months away we are beginning to hold meetings to plan World Refugee Day, which we are celebrating on Friday, June 19. We need help in all areas: developing an agenda, inviting speakers, creating activities for children, food donations, and music.

Please contact Melissa at 222-7344 or [mbartley@cssalaska.org](mailto:mbartley@cssalaska.org) for more information and/or to sign up for any of these opportunities.

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## HUD HIGHLIGHTS

### HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING PROGRAM

The Notice for the Homelessness Prevention Fund on March 19. It is available at [www.hud.gov/recovery](http://www.hud.gov/recovery). It identifies eligible grantees and the requirements for receiving funding, eligible activities, eligible participants, reporting requirements, and other critical information for grantees and subgrantees.

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY FOR PRE-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

The Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) announces the availability of \$475,000 for pre-development activities leading to the production of rental housing for seniors (including senior assisted living), teachers, health professionals, public safety personnel, lower income families and persons with disabilities. The Application deadline is May 4, 2009, for all programs listed. To get an application kit and find out more about these development programs, download the information at [www.ahfc.us](http://www.ahfc.us) OR contact:

Lona Hammer, Planner  
Alaska Housing Finance Corporation  
907-330-8211 or 1-800-478-2432  
[hammer@ahfc.state.ak.us](mailto:hammer@ahfc.state.ak.us)

### HSS GRANT OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICES IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM

Please see the article at:

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=WHj4J19WfRBh5ZG3yWjdynQpCPPrLKLr5sB4C6WmZH5lkpLGn6hr11440342003?oppld=45467&flag2006=false&mode=VIEW>

### 2009/2010 Community Development Block Grant Facility Capital Project Request for Grant Proposals

The Municipality of Anchorage is pleased to announce the release of the 2009/2010 Community Development Block Grant Facility Capital Project Request for Grant Proposals (RFGP). Under this RFGP, the Department of Neighborhoods seeks to provide grants to selected applicants who will acquire, rehabilitate, or construct capital projects for the purpose of providing services to low- and moderate- income persons. Additional evaluation points are available to projects whose main purpose is one of the following: Childcare centers; Health facilities; Substance abuse; or Facilities serving the severely mentally ill, physically disabled, or persons with alcohol or other drug addictions. Proposals must be received prior to 5:00 P.M., Local Time, **April 17, 2009**. Interested parties may

direct questions or request an RFGP package from Werner Waak utilizing the following contact information: (907) 343-4249 OR email to [wwpur@muni.org](mailto:wwpur@muni.org) (preferred method).

#### **Moving to Work plan is available for public comment**

AHFC has posted a draft of its first annual Moving to Work plan for public comment. The public may comment via letter or by email through the close of business on April 8, 2009. A public hearing on the plan is scheduled for April 8, 2009 from 3:00 PM till 5:00 PM at the AHFC headquarters, 4300 Boniface Parkway. Persons outside Anchorage may participate via telephone by calling: Toll free 1-888-422-7128, access code 956216. The plan is found on the AHFC web site at: <http://www.ahfc.state.ak.us/reference/plans.cfm>

#### **Non-Profit Funding: A Workshop on Sources and Opportunities**

Join representatives from the Foraker Group, Rasmuson Foundation, United Way, ConocoPhillips, Association of Fundraising Professionals, Southern Region EMS Council, EPA and GrantStation to learn about funding opportunities and resources in Alaska, and to discover what funders look for in grant applications and projects. Creative fund raising tips will also be shared, and time will be provided to brainstorm how non-profits can work together to apply for grants.

When? Wednesday - Thursday, April 29-30, 2009, 8:00-5:00.

Where? UAA/APU Consortium Library, Room 307, University of Alaska Anchorage, 3211 Providence Drive, Anchorage, Alaska.

Cost? \$35.00. Lunch will be provided.

To register, please complete the registration form. For more information contact Deborah Mole, Associate Professor, Reference & Instruction Librarian at [afd1m2@uaa.alaska.edu](mailto:afd1m2@uaa.alaska.edu) or 907-786-1967.

#### **FHA HIKES LIMITS**

To find out if limits in your market have increased, visit <https://entp.hud.gov/idapp/html/hicostlook.cfm>

#### **STIMUL-NATION**

All told, the states of Alaska, Idaho, Washington and Oregon will receive more than \$325 million of the funds. Want to know more about the what's and where's of how the funds will be spent? Visit the Newsroom at [www.hud.gov/alaska](http://www.hud.gov/alaska).

#### **"A LIFELINE"**

Calling them a "critical lifeline" to those "faced with homelessness," HUD Secretary Donovan announced the award of some \$66.3 million to some 300 homeless providers and local governments across Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington to provide homeless individuals and families with "a wide range of housing and supportive services." Three of the pilots went to Northwest groups - Catholic Social Services in Anchorage, the Northwest Rapid Re-Housing Network in Washington and the Opening Doors Rapid Re-Housing Project in the Portland area.

#### **FUNDING-MENTALS**

USDA accepting applications until May 31st, for household water well funds to give rural residents "access to clean, safe drinking water."

#### **DON'T FORGET**

The U.S. Department of Treasury expects to post full details of the Homeowner Affordability and Sustainability Plan to help 7 to 9 million homeowners restructure or refinance their mortgages to avoid foreclosure at its Web site - <http://www.ustreas.gov/>.

Alaska Affordable Housing Partnership meeting, **April 7th** in Anchorage. For more, visit <http://www.hud.gov/apps/calendar/event.cfm?state=ak&record=9206&scheduleID=8967&calendarID=5>

Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Fair Housing Workshop, **April 28th** in Anchorage. For more, visit <http://www.hud.gov/apps/calendar/event.cfm?state=ak&record=9292&scheduleID=9053&calendarID=5>

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More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov) and [espanol.hud.gov](http://espanol.hud.gov).

Is there something happening in your community that you would like to see included here? Please email the details to us at [bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org](mailto:bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org).

Thank you for sending us information about your special event. We think this tool will help keep you informed and give you your options for activities of interest.

#### Contact Information

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phone: 277-1882 fax: 277-1883  
email: [bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org](mailto:bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org)  
website: [www.bridgebuildersak.org](http://www.bridgebuildersak.org)

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