



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

Bridge Builders Newsletter

December 2008

Greetings Members and Friends!

Thanks to a great turnout from old friends and new, we had a tremendously successful International Potluck & Annual Membership Meeting on November 1st. We were honored by the presence of so many different communities, as well as dignitaries such as Senator Murkowski and representatives from the governor's office and the office of Congressman Young. As you might gather from the photograph, people from around the globe dined together and learned about each other, and many have already met at or scheduled additional gatherings, and will continue to do so throughout the coming year. We are so excited by the enthusiasm, warmth, and creativity sparked by these gatherings. Hope to see you at upcoming events!



Elsa Sargento, President

Paula Pawlowski, Director



AT&T Downtown Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony

Friday, November 28, 2008

Town Square Park

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. *Holiday Tree Lighting*

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. *Meet & Greet the Reindeer*

Cocoa and cookies provided by
Furniture Classic and the Salvation Army

Military Tribute Tree - Bring an ornament to hang on the Tribute Tree located in the Performing Arts Center lobby. Hosted by: Anchorage First Lady's Military and Family Support Initiative and the Armed Services YMCA of Alaska.

Presented by:
AT&T
Anchorage Downtown Partnership Ltd.
Anchorage Press

For a complete listing of Downtown Holiday Events call 279-5650 or visit www.anchoragedowntown.org



Upcoming Bridge Builders Events:

Celebrate Martin Luther King Day:

Jan. 19, 2009
[Details TBA]

Meet the World:
Feb. 28, 2009

Place: Anchorage Museum
at Rasmuson Center

March in the 4th of July
Parade:
July 4, 2009
Anchorage Parkstrip

Gala 2009 Honoring
Excellence in Community
Service

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

The Pledge of Mutual
Respect:

Holiday Gift Idea from Bridge Builders!



During this holiday season there are many ways and reasons to celebrate. If you are looking for a unique, personalized gift for a special friend or relative, please consider making a donation in their honor to Bridge Builders.

Simply send their name and address with your donation (along with your name and address) to Bridge Builders before December 22nd and we will mail them a personalized card of

appreciation in their name, acknowledging your gift.

Hmong Alaska Traditional New Year Celebration

December 26 & 27
9:00 a.m. - 11:55 p.m.

Location:

Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints
2240 Baxter Rd, Anchorage, AK 99504

- Dance Performance
- Dance Competition: 1st, 2nd & 3rd place
- Culture Shows · Ball Tossing
- Dhia Qeej · Qoj Nkauj Nog Ncas
- Hais Kwv Txhij · Tshuab Nplooj
- Tshuab Tsaj · Tshuab Ncas
- Best singers from Lower 48 and local.

For more information, please contact:

- Arthur Yang 764-3634, cell or 269-0056, work
- Chang Doua Xiong 947-3749
- Youa Thai Vang 947-7669

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Anchorage East Rotary Club Presents

Fundraiser Dinner and Free Poker Tournament

Hosted by the Alaska Poker Association

March 28th, 2009

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

Join us for an evening of games, food, music and festivity at
the Hotel Captain Cook Ballroom.
Doors open at 4pm

"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.

Great News! You will be able to make your donation by participating in the PFD checkoff! Keep posted for how that will happen.

Membership forms can be found on our website:
www.bridgebuildersak.org

Core Purpose:

To promote and celebrate harmony and respect among all cultures.

Core Values:

Dignity/Respect/ Personal

Dinner tickets \$250.00 per person

For more information, contact Sharon Anderson: 907-229-6624 or seanderson@gci.net or bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org or call: 277-1882

Apologies for the last-minute announcement, but we would like to take advantage of a special guest coming to Anchorage on Monday! Kim Kiefer, Deputy City Manager of Juneau will be the guest presenter at Monday's AAHP meeting, see below:

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Alaska Affordable Housing Partnership
Monday December 1, 8:30am
Held at the offices of Neighborworks Anchorage
480 West Tudor Road (near C Street)

PROPOSED AGENDA

1. Juneau Affordable Housing Commission
Kim Kiefer, Juneau Deputy City Manager

Learn about the role of Juneau's new Affordable Housing Commission, how they did it, and what it means for Juneau. Also, hear about the Commission's recent efforts to create an Affordable Housing Trust.

2. Community Updates

Hope to see you there!

Feel free to pass this message on to anyone you think may be interested. Email questions may be sent to me at carma.reed@hud.gov.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!!

Carma E. Reed, Director
Community Planning and Development, Anchorage Field Office
US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Alaska World Affairs Council

December 5, 2008
"Uncharted Waters -- Steering US Foreign Policy Through Turbulent Times"

Trust/Openness/ Personal
Commitment/Activism

Join us and discover a
whole new world!



**Don't forget! You will now
be able to give directly to
Bridge Builders when you
fill out your application for
the Alaska Permanent Fund
Dividend.**

2008 Bridge Builders
of Anchorage
Board of Directors
and Staff:

Elsa Malapit Sargento
*Filipino American
President*

Angelina Estrada-Burney
*Mexican American
Vice President, Public
Relations*

Donna Stephens
*Anglo American
Treasurer*

Angela Jimenez
*Dominican American
Secretary*

Malcolm Roberts

David Shorr, Program Officer in Policy Analysis and Dialogue at the Stanley Foundation

Hilton Hotel - Doors open at 11:30 a.m. - Program begins at 12:00 p.m.
RSVP by Wednesday, 3rd December to the Alaska World Affairs Council
by telephone 276-8038 or by email to AlaskaWorldAffairs.org
Lunch Program \$20 for Members - \$25 for Non-Members - \$6 for Coffee Only

December 12, 2008

"Root Causes of Terrorism"

Dr. Karin von Hippel

Co-Director of the CSIS Post-Conflict Reconstruction Project and Senior Fellow with the CSIS International Security Program

Hilton Hotel - Doors open at 11:30 a.m. - Program begins at 12:00 p.m.
RSVP by Wednesday, 10th December to the Alaska World Affairs Council
by telephone 276-8038 or by email to AlaskaWorldAffairs.org .
Lunch Program \$20 for Members - \$25 for Non-Members - \$6 for Coffee Only

December 19, 2008 - January 2, 2009: **Holiday Break**

You're Invited
to

Aid to the Nations

Dessert Fundraiser & Exhibit
December 1-5, 2008, 7:30pm
1805 Academy Drive

*Come experience the sights, sounds & smells of countries
around the world. Bring your friends and family.*

RSVP at 522-7202

Alaska Medical Missions connects resources in the United States to urgent needs for medical supplies and other aid in developing areas all over the world.

Connecting Resource to Need: In the United States each year, fully functional medical items valued at more than \$200 million are directed to landfills or incinerators. At the same time, hundreds of millions across the world suffer from chronic hunger and a severe lack of medical supplies.

American Medical Association: "The surplus from our health system could be used to heal patients and help physicians in the poorest, most desperate parts of the world. The problem is gathering it together and getting it to where it's needed."

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe: Alaska Medical Missions has sent approximately 710 shipments of medical supplies and other humanitarian aid to more than 80 countries.

Anglo-American
Immediate Past President

David Alexander
English German

Jim Bailey
English Irish Dutch
American Indian

Pastor Thomas Davis
African American

Lusiana Hansen
Samoan American

SJ Klein
Anglo-American

Jim LaBelle
Inupiaq

Gabrielle LeDoux
Eastern European

Modou E. Manneh
Gambian

Barbara Niziol
Polish American

Yohyon Pharr
Korean American

Mabel Pike
Tlingit

Melvin Williams
African American

Arthur Yang
Hmong

Paula Pawlowski
German Welsh
Director

For more information on how you can help or to RSVP, please call or email

Brandon Tatum, Executive Director
Mobile (907) 382-6129 - Office (907) 522-7202
btatum@alaskamedicalmissions.org
www.alaskamedicalmissions.org

Denée Dubeau Zah
Finnish Irish
French-Canadian
Administrative Assistant

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

Refugee Assistance & Immigration Services

NEW REFUGEE ARRIVALS - November Update

Another busy period for refugee arrivals. The program has enrolled 149 new individuals since October 1st.

Arrivals on November 19th:

1. A family of 7 from Former Zaire. They are French-speaking and Christian. (Mother, Father and 5 children ages 2, 6, 9, 11 and 15)
2. A family of 6 from Former Zaire. They are French-speaking and are Christian. (Mother, Father and 4 children ages 1, 9, 11 and 14)
3. A single man from Sudan. He is 28, speaks Arabic and is Christian.

We are anticipating a few more family units before the end of the year from Former Zaire (Democratic Republic of Congo), Sudan and Somalia.

We are preparing for GIFT which is a program that matches volunteer donors with new families for the holidays. Only refugees who did not receive this last year are on the list.

St. Anthony's Church put together the needed donations for the family of 7 mentioned above. **This is a great model and if any group would like to gather donations for 1-2 family groups in a year that would be terrific!** Let us know if you wish to help on this project.

We have a **volunteer meeting** scheduled for **January 13th from 5:30 to 7:30**. Also check us out on the CSS website (www.cssalaska.org) -- we have our brochure featured there and other links as well. Thank you in advance for your interest in welcoming refugees to Anchorage!

Sincerely,

Karen Ferguson, Program Dir./State Refugee Coordinator
3710 E. 20th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 222-7376 phone, Kferguson@cssalaska.org

CONTINUING PROGRAM NEEDS:

1. Names of rental property owners who might want to work with renting to new refugee families.
2. Cash donations.
3. Donations -- Below is a list of the items we are still collecting. Please feel free to pass this list on.

DONATIONS LIST:

Laundry Baskets
Laundry Detergent
Garbage Cans - kitchen and bathroom sizes
Buckets
Mops
Brooms
Dustpans
Shower curtain rods and hooks
Cutting boards
Sets of knives for cooking
Pots and pans sets
Silver wear sets
Gloves -- mittens for kids and gloves for grownups
New Socks -- for all ages and sizes
Winter Hats -- for all sizes
New pillows
New car seats - infant and toddler
Blankets and comforters
Mixing Bowls
Tea Kettles
Irons
Vacuum cleaners
Gift cards - Walmart and Fred Meyers generally the most useful
Warm meals for new arrivals - contact us for details

Volunteer Opportunities:

Family Mentoring
English Language tutoring
Assisting in Orientation and Job Readiness Classes
Many other project-based opportunities

Greetings,

As many of you know, **Habitat for Humanity-Anchorage** is a Christian, non-profit housing ministry. We build homes with families who have limited income and a

need for simple, decent housing. When complete, we sell the homes to the families at or below our construction costs with a zero interest loan.

Currently, we build 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedrooms homes, either as single family homes or in duplex or multi-unit condominium communities. Typical monthly payments will be between \$600 and \$950, including property tax and insurance or condo dues. We really do get families into simple, decent, affordable homes!

Ours is not an easy program. Partner Families must attend credit counseling and address their financial issues. Partner Families do "sweat equity", working alongside our community volunteers to build their homes and we ask that they work with us in other ways to further our mission in Anchorage.

Applications will be available November 15 thru December 5. We hope to identify 8-10 families who would qualify for our program. (In our experience, that means we may need to interview and work with as many as 200 families.) We will be able to work with small and large families in 2009 and will have both condos and single family homes available.

Please note that the period to obtain applications is brief and the number of meetings is limited.

Margaret Forbes
Family Service Coordinator
mforbes@hfhanchorage.org

Build and Purchase Your Own Home:
You must attend an Informational Meeting for details and to begin your Application for Homeownership.
Meetings will be held **December 2, 4, 5.**
Call 272-0800 for times and location.

To apply for a Habitat Home, you must:

- Be US Citizen or Legal Resident.
- Have lived in Anchorage at least one year prior to purchasing your home.
- Have income between 30% and 60% of the Median for your family size.

Successful applicants will demonstrate:

- Need for adequate housing
 - Ability to pay a monthly mortgage and other costs of homeownership
 - Willingness to Partner with HFHA as we build your home together
- 500 W. International Airport Road - Suite E · Anchorage, Alaska 99518 · 907/272-0800 phone · 907/272-1508 fax
email: mforbes@hfhanchorage.org · website: www.hfhanchorage.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

Paula Pawlowski, Director
phone: 277-1882 fax: 277-1883
email: bridgebuilders@bridgebuildersak.org
website: www.bridgebuildersak.org

