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Marylee Bates
Executive and Program Director
Fairbanks Youth Advocates
Fairbanks, Alaska

Re: Application to Board of Directors

Dear Ms. Bates:

I want to help. I want to be *useful*. I want my sons to learn responsibility, gratitude, and compassion, and I want them to learn by example.

I have never been homeless. At times, I have been scared, and alone, helpless, angry, and so very sad that my body would ache. But I was all of those things at a home, in a warm bed that I often wasn't allowed to leave because I was grounded. I can understand my fair share of things, but the feeling of having nowhere to go or no space to call my own is just beyond my reach. I want to know more. I want others to know more. Most importantly, I want to be a part of something that is making today a little bit better than yesterday for so many in our community.

My passion is justice. Not in the moral sense but more as it pertains to law enforcement and the Alaska legal system. I have approximately 6 years of work experience that has served to further cement my interest in the field. I have served as a 911 dispatcher and a paralegal both for the government and in the private sector. I am pursuing my paralegal degree through UAF and will graduate next year. Between full then part time work, and recently, to full time stay at home mom, this degree has been a long time coming.

My strength lies in my experience. I know what it's like to live in a village, as many homeless youth once have. I grew up in a town with fewer than 150 people. At far too young an age I learned of the havoc and destruction that drug and alcohol abuse will cause and I saw first hand the cycle of domestic violence and sexual assault that is so rampant in Alaska.

My attached resume details my professional history. In short, I'm good with people. Those of all kinds, all backgrounds and in varying emotional states. People don't call a police department or an attorney when they're having a good day. More often than not, my professional interaction with clients occurred on their worst days and that's something I am very comfortable with. I can also provide sound experience operating