

## Our Mission Statement

- » Facilitating life transitions for at risk and vulnerable youth.

## Our Guiding Principles

- » All people have the right to be loved and treated with respect and dignity.
- » Every youth should be able to find shelter, food, warmth, and caring adults whenever they need it.
- » Our actions should reflect our beliefs.

## Our Staff & Volunteers

Last year, more than 40 volunteers served youth at The Door. They helped teens with homework, played games, cooked dinners, and built relationships. In addition, eight volunteer and missionary groups helped with several large projects. Their epic contribution totaled more than 1760 hours!

These volunteers, combined with our **AMAZING** employees, are vital to what we do, we just can't say enough about their contribution.

**1760**  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



*Fairbanks Youth Advocates is a 501c3 non-profit, governed by a board of directors. All contributions are tax deductible. We are licensed by the State of Alaska as a Residential Child Care Facility with a specialization in Emergency Shelter Care.*

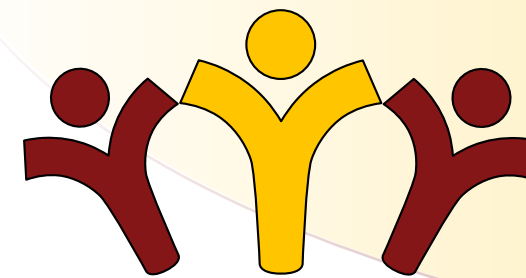
Your Abundant  
**GIVING**  
See our website for needed items



Home baked ninja gingerbread cookies dropped off at The Door!

The clothing items, food, and other gifts you donated in 2015 went directly to youth in need—filling their bellies, keeping them warm, and helping to meet their individual needs. We also shared your donations with other organizations in our community, including the Fairbanks Rescue Mission, the Center for Nonviolent Living, and Stone Soup Cafe. We make sure your

generous gifts reach those who need it most. Thank you—thank you for giving!



# FAIRBANKS YOUTH ADVOCATES

*Facilitating life transitions for at risk youth*

## 2015 ANNUAL RETROSPECTIVE



We've been looking at the big picture lately, because being absorbed in the day to day tasks of running a shelter can obscure the impact we are actually having on kids and families. 2015 was a great year, and largely because of your help. In

review—last year we:

- » Served more kids
- » Provided more services
- » Utilized more individual and group volunteers and special projects
- » Accepted two tons (literally) of donations
- » Received financial contributions from many new individuals and organizations
- » Expanded our counseling program
- » Recruited and trained new employees
- » Began focusing on youth outreach

One question I am always asked when I speak to groups is, "*How long does a youth stay at The Door on average?*" Our goal is to reunite kids to their families as quickly as possible. Last year we had much greater participation in our family mediation and reconciliation services. We are happy to see that our efforts are working—most kids return home within a week. We will continue encouraging youth and their families to work towards conflict resolution, whenever possible.

As we learn about providing shelter for teens, we realize that we still have work to do. We are doing a good job of reaching kids in school, but we need to improve our outreach to kids who have dropped out of school, who aren't connected with schools, and are on the streets. This year, we will focus on reaching out in creative ways to connect with the youth who need our services.

We have also been asking ourselves, "*what else can we provide to help kids succeed?*"

- » A home for pregnant and parenting teens?
- » A social enterprise or employment program?
- » A youth hang-out spot?

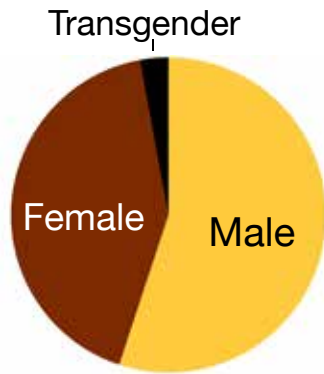
To help us explore answers to this question, a full-time AmericorpsVISTA member has recently joined us for the next three years.

**YOUR** support is the backbone that allows us to reach youth wherever they are: at movie theaters, on buses, or wandering around in stores and businesses where you work, play, and live. When you recognize us around town in our efforts to reach kids, please know that YOU are a part of it. We are forever grateful for your participation, prayers and financial donations.

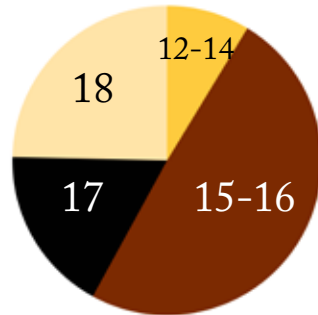
*~ do justly, love mercy, walk humbly*

*Marylee*

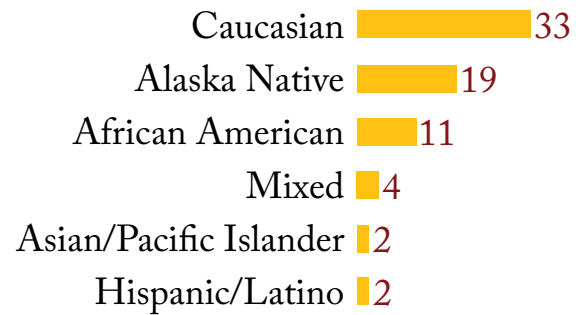
### GENDER



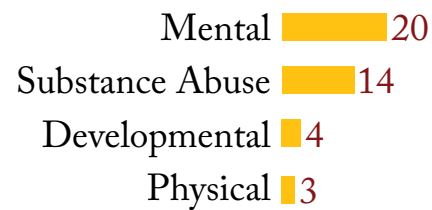
### AGES



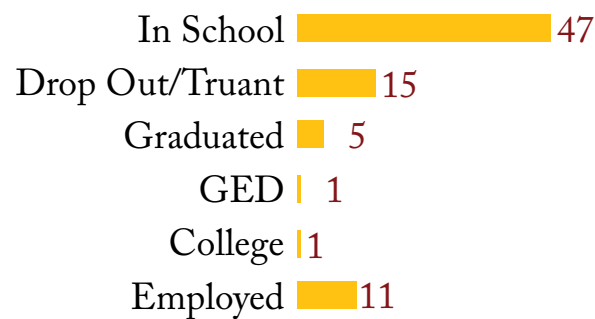
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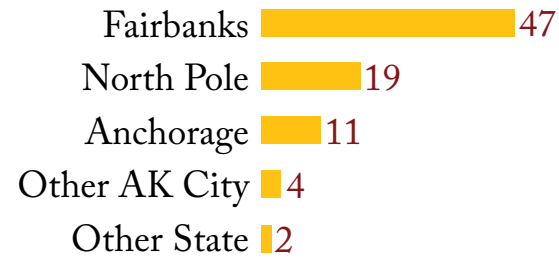
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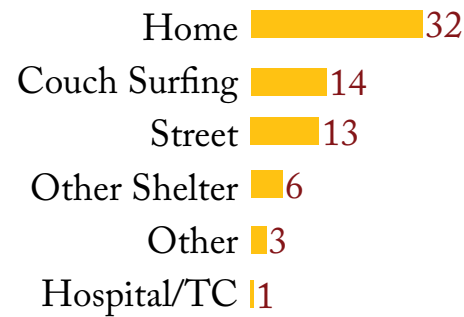
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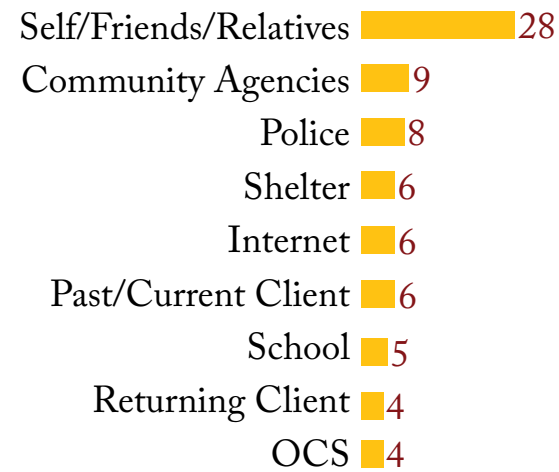
### FROM CITY/STATE



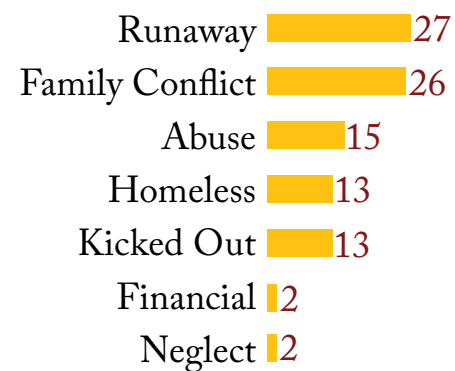
### PREVIOUS LIVING LOCATION



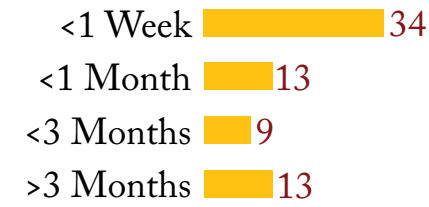
### REFERRED BY



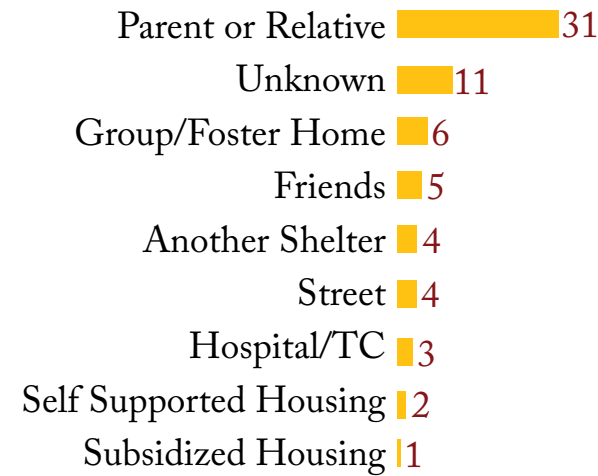
### REASON FOR REFERRAL



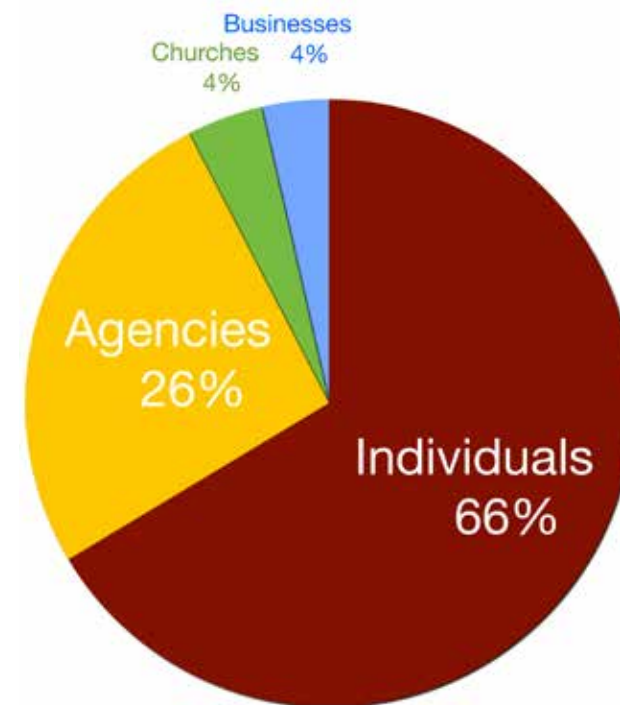
### DURATION OF STAY



### DESTINATION AFTER LEAVING



### OUR DONORS



### Rachel's Story

This year we were part of the stories of 65 young people. These stories are still being written and we know that their stay with us at The Door is only part of their journey.

Rachel stayed with us for many months in 2014 and 2015, after leaving her home due to family conflict and abuse. After a challenging year of transition, she is now thriving on her own. She has a job and an apartment, and reports that things are going really well.

She recently sent this message to us, to share with the youth that come to The Door:

"I was a youth like you - struggling to comprehend life when all seemed hopeless. Trying to find direction but I didn't know what to do or where to turn. Fairbanks Youth Advocates stepped in and gave me a ray of light. They were my home when I didn't have one to go to. I am thankful for them. They gave me my drive and gave my life direction. Don't give up. I understand you might hear that on a daily basis. I'm saying it now because giving up is NEVER the answer."

