**FAIRBANKS YOUTH ADVOCATES**

**CLEARWATER MINISTRIES**

Clearwater Counseling began in 2006. The counseling arm of Clearwater Ministries (Clearwater Counseling) continues to the present day. In 2008, Clearwater Counseling officially became Clearwater Ministries with a 501(c)(3) IRS designation. Please review this link for details of the original intent of Clearwater Ministries.

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/cbp/main/search/entities> --search Fairbanks Youth Advocates

**FAIRBANKS YOUTH ADVOCATES**

In 2012, Clearwater Ministries officially changed its name to Fairbanks Youth Advocates. Clearwater Counseling was still doing business in 2012, and The Door began to take tangible shape: the decision to use the 501(c)(3) designation, previously given to Clearwater Ministries now knows as FYA was made, a shelter was started in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, funding was researched and secured and properties were purchased, a block grant was secured, and in mid-2013 the building of The Door commenced at 138 10th Ave. The Door opened in 2014 and was licensed by the State of Alaska as a Residential Child Care Facility (licensing continues to the current).

**FYA, THE DOOR, CLEARWATER COUNSELING: THE RELATIONSHIP**

Initially, the vision for FYA was ONE: The Door would be the physical structure where homeless youth, ages 12-18, would be temporarily housed. Clearwater Counseling would continue provide therapeutic care, counseling, and groups for both youth and families from The Door and the general public. However, this “ideal” never really occurred. Instead, Clearwater Counseling became a financial revenue stream for The Door. The primary counselor for CC was Dave Bates, and his areas of counseling included sexual addiction, couples’ sexual therapy, addiction treatment, PTSD, anger management, domestic violence groups, depression, anxiety, etc. His treatment modalities included brain spotting, cognitive behavior therapy, and basic 12-step programming. Below is the gross revenue generated by Clearwater Counseling:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CALENDAR YEAR** | **GROSS** |
| **2018** | ***254,764.76*** |
| **2019** | ***361,211.51*** |
| **2020** | ***335,423.57*** |

In the past, Clearwater Counseling “donated” money to The Door. The exact amount of the donations has not been tracked well and can only be deduced by random transactions between banking accounts. However, banking and verbal evidence suggests that tens of thousands of dollars have been “donated” to The Door since 2013.

**WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?**

The largest provider of mental health services in the state is Alaska Department of Corrections. Unfortunately, there are minimal, if any, mental health services for homeless youth or their families. Fairbanks Native Association has developed programming and secured grants for AI/AN populations. But, that leaves the majority of the population we serve without mental health services. As the 2021 Annual Report from The Door indicates, nearly 50% of the youth we serve deal with mental illness and 61% come from domestic violence situations. Therefore, if FYA does not provide some mental health treatment (support groups, mediation, one-on-one, etc.) to those we serve, they will not receive any mental health assistance…likely until they end up in prison.

As mentioned above, the counseling portion of FYA also provides a revenue stream. The exact amount is still unknown, but it is safe to say that operating the counseling portion of FYA DOES NOT negatively impact the financial bottom line. At its worse, it breaks even AND provides services to homeless youth, their families, and the community. At its best, it generates a healthy revenue stream AND provides services to homeless youth their families, and the community.

**GOALS MOVING FORWARD (REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL)**

* Build-up the counseling portion of FYA to more closely mirror its 501(c)(3) purpose
* Rebrand the counseling center: **Keystone Counseling** (A keystone is “the central stone at the summit of an arch locking the whole together”)
* New name, new logo, new colors, new website—locking together both the counseling center and The Door
* Hire 0.75 -1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Administrative Assistant--requesting to hire Stephanie (volunteered last 6 weeks to clean up medical billing process & procedure)
* Bring Jaime Darcy-Dowler on FT AND hire another counselor
* Begin to integrate groups, mediations, forums, one-on-one & family counseling, and other mental health modalities into The Door on a regular basis
* Link with UAF and explore offering healthy living skill groups, classes, etc.