

### 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.

### Volunteer Spotlight

Marcy is a jack-of-all-trades here at The Door, master of the kitchen, attentive listener, and wisdom provider extraordinaire.



Marcy Belisle

She was described as “my spirit guide” by staff because of the inspiration and guidance she provides for all. During her time as an intern the last year, she has truly come to know our heartbeat.

Marcy is currently working on a double major of Social work and Child Development and Family Services at UAF while working full time at ThrivAlaska. We are grateful for her ray of light and service to The Door.

## Sheltering At-Risk Teens in Our Community






*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 and Emergency Shelter Care for Runaway Youth.*

## Your Abundant **GIVING**

See our website for needed items

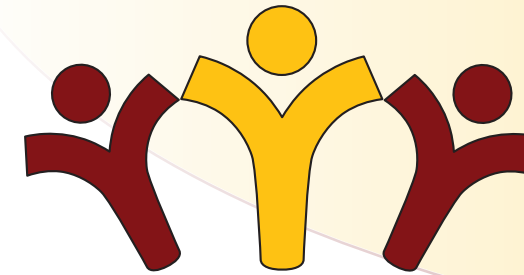
OK, truth be told—*We Get By With a Lot of Help from Our Friends...*  
These are some of the behind-the-scene volunteers in our lives:

### THANK YOU!

-  **Miss Nona Howard**, who brings us gallons of milk weekly.
-  **Alaska Universal Productions & Selena Moore**, who expedite for us so we can keep the shelter staffed.
-  **Claudia and Jeff Pierson**, who shop for us weekly.
-  **King Cab, Alaska Cab, & Arctic Cab**, who provide free rides in special situations.
-  **Sam Barfield** of Total Image Salon—thank you for haircuts!
-  **Gary Pedretti & AlcanTel** for all our IT needs and support.



Jeff & Claudia Pierson



# FAIRBANKS YOUTH ADVOCATES

*Facilitating life transitions for at-risk youth*

Summer 2017

## Finding His Way (...continued)

When Logan enters a room, you know it! Staff at The Door were asked to describe his personality and they answered, “loud!” Shelter Supervisor Kelli Boyle fondly remembers a heartwarming video of Logan’s exuberant response (after waiting six months), when he finally received his birth certificate—a simple piece of paper



Logan

we all take for granted. A new chapter is opening up for Logan following his graduation from the Alaska Military Youth Academy. He has enlisted in the military, and we are all so proud of his accomplishments! As he begins his new journey, we plan to keep in touch because as Logan has said in previous letters,

*“Love y’all, write back, mail is like money here.”*

When asked

what he would want people to know about him,

Logan responded, *“That I keep pushin’ no matter how hard things get.”* A message for all of us. Good luck Logan, you will always be in our thoughts and prayers.



Amelia, Logan & Hannah

## The Front Line

The Door youth shelter has been at near capacity (12 teens) every night since April. Thanks to my excellent staff we’ve kept up with the increased workload. In addition, we took on new outreach programs, celebrated birthdays, dyed eggs and held outdoor Easter egg hunts. We continue to conduct a Seeking Safety group weekly, and occasionally staff attend AA meetings with youth.



Hannah Wing & Hailey Chacon

Keeping 12 teens sheltered is no small task!

Having an effective team is critical in successfully operating an Emergency Youth Shelter which ebbs and flows daily with numerous and ever evolving challenges.



Carla Huggins, Maigen Bosch & Stacy Taylor

Such a job is not for the timid, and ***I am so proud of my staff.*** Thanks to them, we are increasingly providing so much more than shelter....



*~ do justly, love mercy, walk humbly.*

Micah 6:8

*Maigle*



## Fun Facts at The Door

On average 2 to 3 groups a month volunteer to help with sorting donated items, yard work, food prep, construction, house maintenance and other projects.

We can go through 10 gallons of milk a week, 20 pounds of apples, and way too much maple syrup!

The average stay is less than one week, although some stay longer.

The most popular games are Mario Kart and Uno, which get very, very competitive!

We are licensed to shelter 12 different youth at any given time.

Thursday night is everyone's favorite night because we make skookies (cookies made in a skillet.)

There are always two staff awake and on duty, even at 2:00a.m.

In 2017 we sheltered 59 teens.

## Parent Voices

*"I'm so grateful that you are there and I know that my daughter is safe."*

*"I love what you do for these kids, thank you for helping my granddaughter."*

## Youth Voices

*"I love the feeling of being protected."*

*"This place is a sanctuary."*

*"The art gave me hope."*

*"I'm really grateful to you guys. Thanks for making this place feel like home."*

## Outreach Opportunities

You would think that in a small town everyone would know about our youth shelter—The Door. But that is not the case. We meet kids all the time who have never heard about The Door, misunderstand its purpose, or heard a rumor that it is always full—and so on. Whatever the reason, in our short three years of service, we have learned that getting the word out to teens will always be necessary. We want teens to know that we are here for them when their world falls apart.

Many youth hang out at the Noel Wien Public Library after school which initiated a discussion with the library staff. They were looking for meaningful ways to keep kids occupied, and we were looking for meaningful ways to connect with kids—a new partnership was born. We utilized the conference room to feed and entertain about 30 teens twice a week. In addition, we visited West Valley High School weekly during lunch hour.

Exploring new outreach options and forging new relationships in the community is vital to connecting with kids and making our presence known. We are grateful for these partnerships and will continue to expand opportunities in the future.

## Saturday, September 9 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Last year One Homeless Night raised about \$20k for The Door. Every critical penny went towards sheltering kids. This year's One Homeless Night Event promises to be another great experience! We are looking for dedicated men, women and children to sleep out for one night to raise awareness and funds to ensure kids have a safe place to stay when in crisis.



We welcome individuals, businesses, churches, and other organizations as sponsors or teams. Last year's sleep out participants included Mayor Karl Kassel, and School District Superintendent Dr. Karen Gaborik, families, and many groups and teams. As an alternative to sleeping out yourself, consider sponsoring a participant. Help make a difference in the lives of kids and visit our website for details on how to participate or be a sponsor.



## Open House & Donor Appreciation



Live Music



Information



Great Food



Good Company

On Saturday, May 13, we celebrated with friends and family at our first Open House. Attendees toured The Door and learned about life and operations in a teen shelter. Outside in our new green space park, guests listened to great music and enjoyed the most incredible BBQ and salads made by Board member and Grill Master Dave Miller and his wife Laurie.

## Priming the Doors



Mayor Jim Matherly & kids

Guests at the Open House also helped prepare three wooden doors that will become venues for youth artists in our Paint The Doors contest. Six artists were chosen by a jury based on their submission concepts. The artwork will be unveiled on June 18 in the FYA Park on 10th Ave., in downtown Fairbanks and will remain there until next summer for all to enjoy. Make sure to stop by and take a look.



## Staff Spotlight



Julie Ashburn, VISTA

This spring our former Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA), Christina, passed the baton to Julie Ashburn. Julie came all the way from Brainerd, Minnesota to serve Fairbanks Youth Advocates for this coming year. She hit the ground running and organized our first annual Paint The Doors Contest and Open House & BBQ. Julie is the smile and brain behind all social media posts. VISTA's help agencies develop capacity, and this winter she will be helping us to develop a long term plan for our campus. Welcome Julie!

## Upcoming Events

[www.facebook.com/fairbanksyouthadvocates](http://www.facebook.com/fairbanksyouthadvocates)

### June 24

Garage Sale: To donate quality garage sale items call Julie at 374-5678

### June 18

Paint the Doors contest unveiled for summer viewing on June 18 in the FYA park on 10th Ave.

### September 9

One Homeless Night/Mayor's Walk



We are seeking to grow our Board, consider joining us. See our website for details.