

thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

FY17 annual report

*Serving Alaska's
families, early educators, and communities*





FROM THE CEO

In the course of one year, a lot of amazing things can happen. That is certainly true here at **thread**. We started off the fiscal year by launching Learn & Grow, Alaska's Quality Recognition & Improvement System. This statewide system helps early childhood education programs stay focused on their quality improvement strategy, while providing families with information to evaluate the quality of programs as they search for the best fit for their child.

thread's leadership believes it is important to "walk the talk". That is why **thread** has implemented a 3-week 100% paid parental leave policy for all staff members. This gives families the time to focus on their precious new child by relieving financial worries and stress. It also models the type of family-friendly practices we encourage of other businesses.

In FY17, **thread** had a strong focus on technology. We are in the process of updating our digital infrastructure because technology is critical to **thread** being able to operate as an effective statewide organization. Through our Powering Ahead with Technology Project, we are transforming our technology to ensure we have the ability to serve Alaska's families and the early education industry now and in the future.

This year and every year, we are extremely grateful for you, our friends and partners who support this important work to advance the quality of early childhood education in Alaska. Together, we can ensure every child in Alaska has the best start in life.

Stephanie Berglund

Thanks Donors!

Because of you, more children in Alaska now have access to quality early childhood education that sets them on a path to success in school and in life. We thank you for being a part of **thread's** team and making a difference in the lives of young children in Alaska.

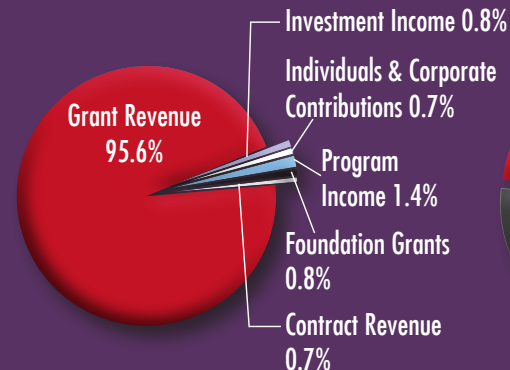
Your support helps early education programs work towards better quality in the classroom, providing children with safe, healthy, and playful environments in which to thrive. Because of you, families throughout Alaska are receiving the support and tools they need to identify and access the right early education programs for their children.

Your generosity also helps spread the word about the importance of early childhood and the critical role child care plays in our state's economy.

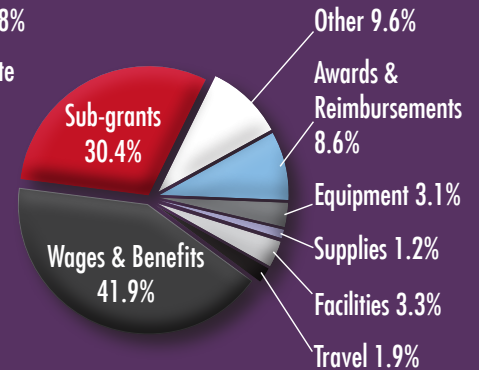
You make all of this possible. Thank you for making **thread** strong!

FY17 Financial Summary

Support & Revenue \$4,858,974



Expenses \$4,729,838



thread provides services for families and early educators from Utqiagvik to Ketchikan and all points in between!

In FY17, **thread** served:

11,868

Families

1,402

Early Educators

FY17 Recap



In FY17, **thread** launched a statewide Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood education programs. This new system is called Learn & Grow and provides the framework for programs to actively engage in continuous quality improvement.

In Juneau, a new sales tax initiative was proposed to support early childhood education. This innovative idea was the beginning of a city-wide collaborative effort to resolve the issues around the lack of quality child care needed to meet the growing demand.



The Powering Ahead with Technology project was a major project in FY17. This multi-year project allows **thread** to upgrade data and technology systems to better serve more families and early childhood educators in Alaska.

thread established the Quality Improvement Program of the Year Award in January of 2017. This award recognizes a child care program that has made exceptional progress on improving the quality of care and education they provide to young children.



In FY17, we celebrated the success of the ROOTS Awards (Retaining Our Outstanding Teachers Stipends). Administered by SEED (the System for Early Education Development), the program provided monetary awards to supplement the low wages of early educators and encourage them to stay in the field. \$791,409 was awarded in wage incentives from 2012–2017.





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Looking to show your support?

There are many ways to join **thread** in advancing the quality of early education and child development in Alaska.

- Give online at www.threadalaska.org.
- Log in at fredmeyer.com and use Fred Meyer Community Rewards to link your Rewards Card to **thread**, organization #82074.
- Log in at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases.
- Give through your United Way workplace campaign, Alaska Combined Federal Campaign #36880, or State Employee SHARE Campaign.
- Ask your employer to match your gift and make it go twice as far!
- Leave a legacy by supporting the Early Education Fund for Alaska's Children at Alaska Community Foundation.

thread's Vision: All early childhood education is accessible, affordable, and high quality to support positive outcomes for children and families.

CORE VALUES: EMPOWERMENT • ACCESS • CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALISM • CHILDREN'S RIGHTS • ENTREPRENEURIAL INCUBATOR