



thread

Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2011

thread's mission is to advance the quality of early education and child development by empowering parents, educating child care professionals and collaborating with our communities.

thread is Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) Network.

connecting early care & education to Alaska



This past year, more than any perhaps in **thread's** history, have the investments in early care and education been so important

to childrens' success in school and in life. These investments mean healthier children, higher graduation rates and a competitive workforce in Alaska. Investments in early education provide the best return: Alaska's future leaders.

Families nationwide and in Alaska are continually challenged by rising child care costs, decreasing job opportunities and funding cuts to programs that help ensure our children's healthy development.

Even in these tough times, we have remained true to our priorities by supporting programs and policies that are making a difference in the lives of Alaska's families and children.

These are programs like **thread's** training and quality initiatives for early childhood professionals and early care and education programs. With resources from

the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA), **thread** supported the early education field with over \$330,000. This money was awarded in grants to over 200 early childhood professionals working to advance their skills and earn an AA or BA. In addition, **thread** awarded 133 grants to early care and education programs working to improve the quality of their learning environments. These grants improved the quality of early education across the state.

Positive child development and quality early education is the foundation we provide our young children. This foundation is made of three key factors: accessible,

affordable and quality early care and education. This is **thread's** "three-legged early learning stool," where all factors are essential for positive early childhood outcomes.

Thank you for your support of young children, families and early education professionals. We look forward to working with you to continue to raise our voices, share our stories and invest in Alaska's children.

Stephanie Berglund

Stephanie Berglund, **thread** CEO



*"Positive child development and quality early education is the foundation we provide our young children for their success in life. This foundation is made of three key factors: accessible, affordable and quality early care and education. This is **thread's** "three-legged early learning stool."*

Stephanie Berglund, **thread** CEO

Statewide Network & Community

Highlights



With two staff, including an Executive Director and program staff person, Child Care Connection opened its doors in Anchorage in May of 1986. A lot has changed in the 25 years since the organization began providing quality services to early educa-

tors and families. **thread** – a name chosen to signify “the common **thread**” that ties together Alaska’s network of Child Care Resource and Referral organizations in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks, honored this history with 25 anniversary events held statewide. The anniversary and theme of “*Growing through Generations*” culminated with a Winter Wonderland party held in Anchorage in January, 2011 where **thread** founders, children, families, early educators, elected officials, artists and musicians gathered to celebrate quality early learning in Alaska.

- Among the twenty-five anniversary events held throughout the state, **thread** hosted an early learning fair in Juneau, an ice cream social in Wasilla, a special provider training on family generations in Fairbanks and a community quilting party in Anchorage.

- **thread** also previewed it’s first television commercial on statewide Alaska stations and through online video, promoting **thread**’s new name and brand as well as the importance of quality early learning.

- **thread** and partners continued to raise awareness around issues important to Alaska’s children and families by visiting with Alaska’s elected leaders and participating in state and nationwide events like “Step Up for Kids” and Provider Appreciation Day.

- Each year, **thread** sends a team to NACCRRRA’s (the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies) Symposium in Washington D.C. to advocate in support of legislation important to children. Alaska’s own parent advocate Chris Murray shared his story about his family’s challenge in finding affordable child care in their Southeast community, when their son Anderson was born. Chris and his wife’s story helped point to the importance of legislation that impacts the choices in safe, quality and affordable child care to all families.



thread leaders, founders and “mothers” of early education gather in front of **thread**’s 25th anniversary quilt with Senator Mark Begich (D-AK). (l-r) Abbe Hensley, Candace Winkler, Stephanie Berglund, Senator Mark Begich, Bonny Headley, Kathe Boucha and Mia Oxley

Family Services

Highlights

thread helps families make good choices about the early care and education needs of their children. **thread** provides child care resources and referrals to families statewide with offices and staff in Juneau, Fairbanks, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Wasilla and Anchorage.

Throughout 2011, **thread**:

- Provided individualized child care referrals to almost 8000 (7975) families across the state. This means **thread** staff engaged with 1595 parents and families in the Northern / Interior region of Alaska; 1116 in Southeast Alaska and 5264 parents and families in Southcentral Alaska.
- Was selected as one of 13 Child Care Resource & Referral Organizations (CCR&Rs) by NACCRRRA - the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies and the Department of Defense to increase the availability of child care for military families, provide additional training opportunities and improve quality child care in Alaska.
- Supported 2307 families and early educators with enhanced services to benefit children experiencing special needs.
- Upgraded computer programs and telephone systems to provide improved customer service and quality assurance to families in Alaska.
- Kicked off a year of statewide community and family events with the launch of **thread**'s 25th Anniversary celebration at the 4th Annual Book Party in the Park. Alaska's Senator Mark Begich (D-AK) joined the Book Party by donating his favorite children's books. **thread** celebrated twenty-five events throughout the year, culminating in a Winter Wonderland party in January in Anchorage attracting over 850 people.



Provider Services

Highlights

thread provides training, combined with consultation to early educators to improve skills and the quality of early care and education in Alaska. Statewide, **thread**:

- Served 2115 early educators with professional development classes for a total of over 16,000 clock hours of training.
- Met on-site with early educators at 239 child care programs throughout the state. Through these visits, **thread** helps early educators improve their child care programs by setting up rooms to better fit children's developmental needs; making more educational materials available; encouraging family involvement or creating safe outdoor play areas.
- Distributed almost \$90,000 directly to early educators to enhance their training and supported 133 programs with mini-grants seeking to improve the quality of their learning environments.
- Launched new online (distance learning) courses through the Child Care Aware Training Academy. This online and self-paced training offers courses anytime and provides credits for early educators seeking their Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.
- Supported the early childhood workforce with over \$330,000 in American Reinvestment Recovery Act (APRA) funds. These funds supported early educators in higher education and improved the quality of environments in early care and education programs.
- Worked with seven early education programs, their staff and families in using *Strengthening Families*, a proven and cost-effective approach to building Protective Factors around children by supporting family strengths and resiliency. When the five Protective Factors are present in families, including **parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, and healthy social and emotional development**, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect decreases.
- Invited over 700 (475 new members & 232 renewing members) early childhood professionals to join the Alaska SEED Registry, an online database that is part of Alaska's System for Early Education Development. The SEED Registry helps track important educational information about early education professionals and paints a picture of the needs of the early childhood workforce.

thread is generously supported by

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Community Partners

Alaska Children's Trust
Alaska Community Foundation
Best Beginnings
NACCRRRA, the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
University of Alaska Southeast
United Way of Anchorage

Government Support

The State of Alaska, Department of Education and Early Development
The State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Child Care Program Office
The State of Alaska, Office of Children's Services

Fiscal Year 2011

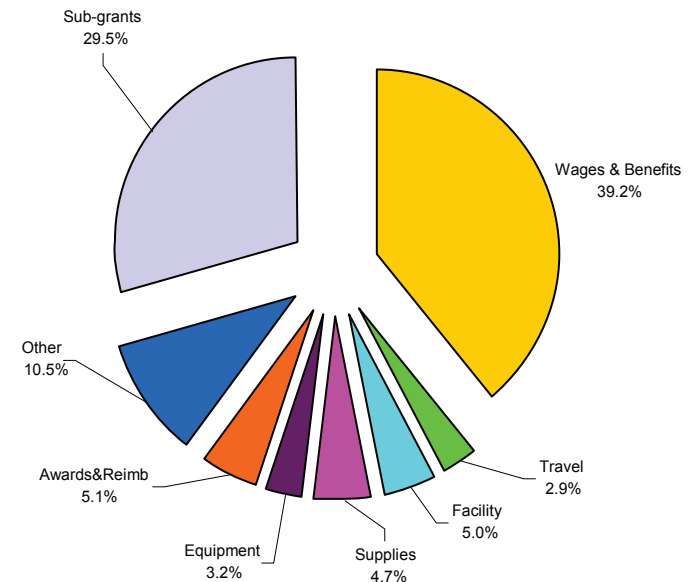
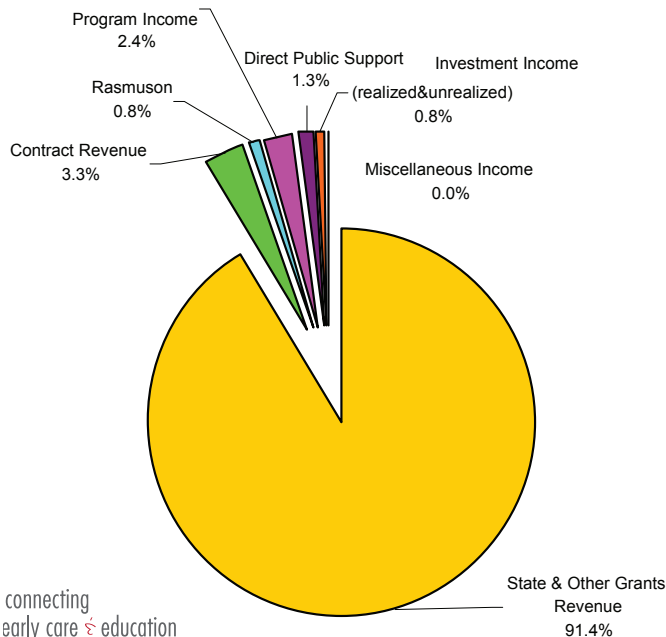
Revenue & Expenses

SUPPORT & REVENUE

State & Other Grant Revenue	\$3,021,695
Contract Revenue	\$109,704
Program Income	\$79,704
Direct Public Support	\$41,713
Investment Income	\$25,322
Miscellaneous Income	\$49
Total Support & Revenue	\$3,277,487

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$3,115,201
Supporting Services	\$223,310
Total Operating Expenses	\$3,338,511
Net Revenue Over Expenses	\$(61,023)
Administrative Rate:	6.8%



Investing in Children



Sharing Our Stories

Every voice counts.

We all have an important role in educating the public and our elected officials about the success and challenges of quality early care and education programs in Alaska. Sharing our stories as parents, early educators or community members, is one way to make our voices heard and help influence policy. Personal stories about the challenges of finding quality child care or about running a successful program are how we make the sometimes complexity of these issues come to life. Sharing a hardship or inspirational story can touch someone into action and make a difference!

Share **your story** with **thread**.



twitter



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Follow **thread** at twitter.com/threadalaska

Join our on-line Action Center

Visit www.threadalaska.org



thread offices

Southcentral office

thread services in southcentral Alaska are delivered from the Anchorage office, which also serves as the lead statewide network office.

3350 Commercial Drive, Suite 203
Anchorage, AK 99501
Office Hours: 9:00am-5:00pm
Telephone: 907.265.3100
Fax: 907.265.3191
Toll Free: 800.278.3723
info@threadalaska.org

Southeast office

thread services in southeast Alaska are delivered in partnership with AEYC-SEA in Juneau.

3100 Channel Drive, Suite 215
Juneau, AK 99801
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:00pm
Telephone: 907.789.1235
Fax: 907.789.1238
Toll Free: 888.785.1235
info@aeyc-sea.org

Interior/Northern office

thread services in northern/ interior Alaska are delivered in partnership with Thrivalaska (2011). Previously, these services were also provided through the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

1908 Old Pioneer Way
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Office Hours: 8:00am-5:00pm
Telephone: 907.479.2214
Fax: 907.749.2486
Toll Free: 866.878.2273
thread@thrivalaska.com

Board of Directors

Board Directors & Key Staff

Find **thread** and network partners' Board of Directors and key staff contact information at:

www.threadalaska.org

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