

thread

connecting
early care & education
to alaska

FY15-FY16 annual report

Serving Alaska's



Families



Early Educators



Communities



FROM THE CEO

As we celebrate 30 years of service, **thread** continues to grow to strengthen families and the early care & learning sector across Alaska. Over the past two years, we connected more families with high quality child care thanks to an updated on-line child care search tool, and have refocused our services to early childhood educators to ensure that we are providing the supports they need to grow the quality of early care & learning.

We have focused on strengthening our partnerships with communities across the state and together are working to elevate the importance of early care & learning, including activities such as the Summit on the Economic Impact of Early Care & Learning. In addition, we are working in urban and rural communities to design and implement more quality early care & learning options by developing statewide systems of support as well as customized local solutions.

Our growth and success is due to these partnerships and friends like you who support us in our important mission. At the core of this work are our strong, hard-working staff and Board of Directors who lead by example and through our agency values. They work to ensure our next 30 years will strengthen the quality of early care & learning even more and that we continue to make a difference in the lives of young children and families in Alaska.

Stephanie Berglund

Thank you.

You make **thread** strong.

The support **thread** receives from you, and others like you from across Alaska, makes our work possible.

Thank you corporate donors, sponsors, and supporters for your continued partnership, collaboration, and generosity.

To our individual donors and volunteers, we thank you for being a part of **thread's** team and making a difference in the lives of families and young children in Alaska.

Together we have accomplished a great deal in the past two years. And together we will continue to advance the quality of early care & learning in our state for years to come.

We appreciate your passion, dedication, and generosity!

Together, we made this possible.



In May, 2015, **thread** opened Nature Connect, an outdoor playscape in Fairbanks. This new outdoor classroom features a weather station, an interactive nature trail, bird feeders, fairy gardens, a dry creek bed, and more. It's the perfect setting to encourage children, families, and early educators to connect with nature!



In October, 2015, **thread** hosted Boosting Alaska's Economy: a Summit on the Economic Impact of Early Care & Learning. National and local speakers shared information on the short-term and long-term benefits of investing in early childhood in Alaska, inspiring a room full of local employers, early care & learning professionals, and community leaders.



In 2015 **thread** announced the first recipient of the Cindy Harrington Heart & Mind Award. This award honors early care & learning professionals who demonstrate professionalism and strength of character, especially when overcoming barriers. This was the first award of **thread's** annual awards program that recognizes outstanding individuals and programs in the early care & learning industry.



thread launched a new and improved Online Child Care Search Tool in January of 2016. The new online tool is free and makes the search for quality child care easier for families throughout Alaska. It also provides valuable tools and resources families can use in their search process.



In 2016, to celebrate our 30th anniversary, **thread** teamed up with the Alaska State Council on the Arts for an exciting project called the Art By Children (ABC) Project. This collaboration brought artists into early care & learning programs across the state to create 30 pieces of art with the help of the young children in the classrooms.



thread and the North Slope Child Care Team worked together with a vision of creating vibrant child care in the North Slope communities. **thread** celebrated the opening of a new child care center in Utqiagvik, and a planned center is opening soon in Nuiqsut.



Thanks to a strong community investment, the Hiring, Educating, and Retaining Teaching Staff (HEARTS) initiative has made a dramatic difference in Juneau. By increasing access to **thread** services and needed resources, in less than three years the employee turnover rate for licensed child care centers in Juneau has dropped 72%.



In early 2015, Alaska's System for Early Education Development (SEED), housed and managed by **thread**, produced Alaska's Early Care & Learning Core Knowledge and Competencies (CKC). CKC create a roadmap for individuals in early care & learning to follow on their career pathway, as well as indicate the necessary skills, knowledge, and attitudes required to professionalize the field.

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

2,498

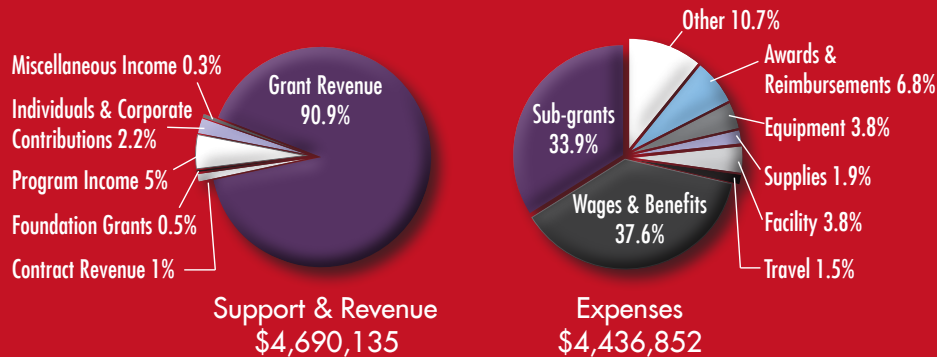
Early Educators served in Alaska

14,930

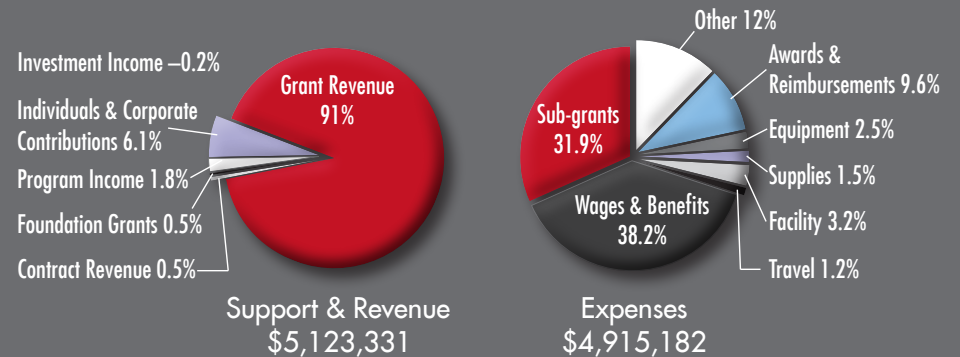
Families served in Alaska



FY15 Financial Summary



FY16 Financial Summary





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Join **thread** in advancing the quality of early education and child development in Alaska. Are you ready?

- Give online at www.threadalaska.org.
- Sign up for Fred Meyer Community Rewards, 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.

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thread's Vision: All early care and learning 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