

# *Annual Report FY 2014*



**thrivalASKA**

# *Play N Learn Center, Inc. dba Thrivalaska*

Play N Learn was founded in 1974 as a community based non-profit. Its founding mission statement is delivering quality services to children, families and communities in the interior. Due to program changes and a move away from being primarily a child care provider Play N Learn has changed its business name and revised its mission. We are now Thrivalaska with a mission statement of "Helping Children and Families Thrive." While the company's business name has changed and our mission statement revised we continue to be an organization with strong guiding principles and a continuous desire to improve. We remain a learning organization for staff, families and providers and value each person individually. For 2014 we continue to operate: Head Start Birth to Five, **thread** Resource and Referral, **thread** Child Care Assistance, and the School Age Program. We built an outdoor environment at our thread Resource and Referral program, started a partnership with Tanana Valley Watershed Association and our first annual fundraiser in cooperation with the Carol Brice Family Center.

Through maintaining our programs, improving ourselves, and expanding our outreach we intend to continue being an advocate in early care and education in our community and state. By combining fiscal sustainability with employee retention and the longevity of children and their families it is our goal to continue operating and improving our organization.

For the next year we hope to expand our partnerships in the local community and extend our donor base. We successfully increased our in-kind amount from a small amount in 2013 to over \$40,000 in 2014. Consistently we look for support and ideas to benefit the families well into the future both from within as well as board members and the local community.

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Member Agency





## ***thread***

**thread** Resource & Referral provided resources, training and support at local community events throughout the Interior/Northern Region in FY14. This includes communities within the Fairbanks North Star Borough, communities as far north as Nome as well as south to Delta and Healy. We participate and collaborate with community partners such as Friends of Creamers Field, Literacy Council, Fairbanks Children's Museum, State Fish & Wildlife, Resource Center for Parents and Children, the state Child Care Program Office, Best Beginnings, Department of Education and Early Development and more, on numerous community events such as Fairbanks Museums without Walls, Babes in the Woods, Alyeska, Best Beginnings Family Health Fair, Preschool Discovery, Kids Day at the Fair, and other family or community events. In cooperation with Tanana Valley Watershed Association we built an outdoor environment at 1908 Old Pioneer Way and will begin using it summer of 2015.

**thread** offered monthly training workshops on everything from child development, reading with children, to nutrition and getting kids outdoors. We offered monthly CPR/First aid classes, provided training required by Child Care Licensing, conducted workshops at the Northern-Interior AEYC Early Childhood Conference, and on-site by request. We offered training in Fairbanks, North Pole, Nome, Delta and Healy. We held full day Super Saturday Trainings on topics such as "Involving Families," "Inclusive Child Care" and "Infants & Toddlers."

**thread** Child Care Assistance provides critical support to families seeking employment, working and/or participating in educational opportunities in order to increase their employability and ultimately achieve self-sufficiency. Child Care Assistance helps with child care expenses based on a sliding fee scale for eligible families. Our offices are conveniently located in the Carol Brice Center, and have expanded to include a welcoming reception area and direct entrance for families, with accessible parking. We provide a great variety of information and pamphlets on program requirements, applications to apply for assistance, finding child care, Alaska IN! Program (enhanced referrals for families with children experiencing disabilities).

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## ***Head Start Birth to Five***

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program which serves children from birth to 5 years and their families. Head Start offered services out of two locations: The 1949 Gillam Way Fairbanks location and a second location at 500 East 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. North Pole. Starting with 2014 one classroom at the 1949 Gillam Way location offered full day full year services while the others were part day part year. Early Head Start is located at 1949 Gillam Way Fairbanks and offered full year full day services for 16 infants and toddlers.

Services offered for both programs include child development services, disability and special needs services, field trips, health screenings, developmental testing and much more. All services are family centered, by furthering the development of the children as well as the future success of their families. Services are offered with a belief that people can identify their own strengths, needs, and interests and are capable of finding solutions.

### Program Highlights:

- ❖ 191 total children served;
- ❖ 191 total families served;
- ❖ Many opportunities for parent involvement such as: family fun nights to promote literacy development, open house, art show, resource fair and more;
- ❖ Based on testing performed, children in the program exhibited significant increase in fine motor skills, literacy and math;
- ❖ The programs continue to have significant community partnerships.



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## ***School Age Program***

The School Age Program at Pearl Creek Elementary has been part of the Thrivalaska family of programs since 1991. The program operates during the school year from August to May and services families with children attending Pearl Creek Elementary. Activities are planned and prepared so children learn “by doing” in an environment that fosters independence, social development, and allows for the practice of life skills with respect and guidance as needed. Children are encouraged to resolve conflict in a positive way and to encourage one another to make healthy and appropriate choices.

Program Highlights:

Enrollments have been strong throughout the school year

Sylvia Church was the Director for the first year, and Tina Sauer was the assistant Director for the first year. It was a year of change, but the two have worked well together to continue providing quality services to Pearl Creek families. Laura Mae Harmon continued as a teacher in the program, and we hired two new assistant teachers. Ms. Charlie joined the team in January 2015 and Susan joined the team in February 2015.

Children must be enrolled in Pearl Creek Elementary to attend the Thrivalaska’s before and after school program. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 5:45 PM and we are located in room 221. Our learning environment provides large outdoor play areas for free play and recreation sports and prepared indoor environments for activities and projects. We also serve wholesome morning and afternoon snacks, served family style. Lunches are provided by parents during in-service days and full day holidays. Curriculum is based on themes of interest to the children. Children participate in hands-on activities, music, creative arts, science, math, sports, dramatic play, and practical life experiences.

This year the children have been very interested in hex bugs, rocks, origami, frozen, building, and creating artwork to share with their families!

We provide individual attention, love and respect for each child. Our emphasis is on warm, caring relationships in a nurturing environment that will assist each child in the formation of a positive self-image and high self-esteem. We strive to build strong partnerships with families, encourage participation in activities, family events, and serving as a board member.



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## ***Financial Report –***

Revenue Sources:	Amount	% of Total Revenue
Grant Revenue	\$3,219,158	86.25%
Child Care Tuition	\$248,277	7%
Child Care Assistance	\$122,056	3%
Child Care Grant	\$13,143	0.25%
In-Kind Contributions	\$49,410	1.25%
Other Income including gaming	\$89,063	2.25%
Total Revenue in 2014	\$3,741,107	100%

Functional Expenses	Amount	% of Total Expenses
Head Start and Early Head Start	\$1,833,823	50%
Thread Resource and Referral/CCA	\$971,314	27%
Pearl Creek	\$340,741	9%
Food USDA	\$101,476	2.75%
Management and general administrative	\$410,567	11%
Fundraising: Gaming	\$1,248	0.25%
Other		
Total Expenses in 2014	\$3,659,169	100%

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## Special Contributions

**Executive Director:** Alicia Berka

**Finance Director:** Teo Dornea

**Head Start Birth to Five Director:** Gina Pruce

**thread Director:** Kelly Doughty

**School Age Director:** Sylvia Church

**Board of Directors:** Jim Sweeney, Art Delaune, Steve Bouta, Annemarie Mattacchione, April Johnson, Sheri Walker, Juanita Frazier, Earl Peterson, Callie Ake, Regina Finstad.

**Policy Council:** Charles Towler III, Misty Beck, Kimberly Short, Brier Pacheco, Brittany Oliver, Eric Setterberg, Mary Wiese, Joel Colver, Tyleshea Day, Tamara Toy, Callie Ake.

**Community Partners:** Community Partners: Alaska Health Fairs, Cooperative Extension Services (EFNEP), Fairbanks Community Behavioral Health, Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption, Fairbanks Regional Public Health Center, Fairbanks Safe Rider/Safe Kids Program, Interior Community Health Center, North Pole Lion's Club, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Women Infants and Children (WIC), Fairbanks Resource Agency (FRA), FNSB School District, Project Teach Infant Learning Program (ACCA), Special Education Service Agency (SESA), Adult Learning Programs of Alaska (ALPA), Army Community Services, Division of Public Assistance, Fairbanks Food Bank, Fairbanks Homeless Coalition, Fairbanks Native Association (FNA) Head Start & Early Head Start, Fairbanks Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Interior Alaska Center for Non-Violent Living, Literacy Council of Alaska/Even Start, Office of Children's Services, Resource Center for Parents and Children (RCPC), Salvation Army, Santa's Clearing House, Teen Options, Far North Christian School, FNSB School District Homeless Liaison, Best Beginnings, Noel Wien Library, Early Childhood Commission, Early Childhood Education University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Fairbanks Association for the Education of Young children (FAEYC), Alaska Head Start Association (AHSA), AmeriCorps, Fairbanks/North Pole Fire Department, North Pole First Baptist Church, FNSB Imagination Library, Joel's Place, Alaska Autism Resource Center, Theresa Salzman, Ft Wainwright Soldier Volunteers, thread State Network, Friends of Creamers Field, Museums Without Walls, State of Alaska licensing, After School Partnership, Soil & Water Conservation, Friends of Creamers Field, US Fish & Wildlife, State Dept Fish & Game, Caylpsso Farm, Tanana Valley Watershed Association, Camp Habitat, Fairbanks Day Care Food Program, United Way.