



THRIVING NEWS

Thrivalaska Newsletter

Program Spotlight

Early Head Start Turns Five!

Early Head Start full day services opened five years ago this summer as an addition to Head Start program. According to Micheal Luke, EHS Education & Disabilities Service Coordinator, during the past 5 years we have served 155 birth to age 3 children. One of the great things this program offers is the staff longevity. About half of the staff have been here since the beginning, working through the start-up and continue to work through the new phase in our history. Staff longevity enhances the quality care for children and families.



Robbyn Siler is celebrating her 5th year in Early Head Start with this remembrance. "In my first year of being an early head start teacher we had two little boys. The garbage bin used to sit right outside our window. Every Thursday the garbage truck would come and dump the bin. The boys looked forward to this time of day and Thursdays soon turned into garbage truck day. We had a book in our classroom which they referred to as the garbage truck book and they would insist that we read it to them many times during the day, to the point that I would find ways to hide the book so I could have a break from reading it! One of the boys would grab every toy he could find and put it all in a huge pile and would sit on top of it—I think he called it his trash pile. It was his way of mimicking garbage truck Thursdays. These boys definitely gave us a run for our money but if I could go back, I would do it all again." Early Head Start looks forward to helping children and families thrive in the years to come.

Applause

- * *Heartfelt thanks to the Carol Brice Family Center for their continued support of Thrivalaska.*
- * *Thanks to all the staff who participated and their children in the thread Child Care Assistance commercial on KTVF, Channel 11.*
- * *Thanks to Fairbanks Arbor Day society and State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources for planting a beautiful birch tree on our pre-school playground and teaching us about trees and tree health.*
- * *Thanks to Jewelz and the Tanana Valley Watershed Association for collaborating with Thrivalaska on the Green Up Day fundraiser. Green Up Day was officially May 3rd as established by the National Weather Service. Congrats to John O'Brien for holding the winning ticket. Look for this raffle again next spring.*
- * *Another special thanks to Jewelz and Tanana Valley Watershed Association for collaborating with Early Head Start and Head Start to enhance our outdoor play environments.*

Staff Highlights



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES !

Join us in congratulating the following Thrivalaska staff members receiving their degrees in May:

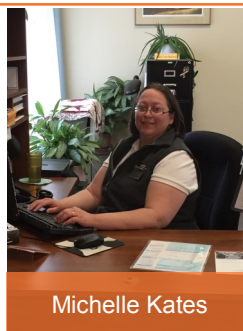
Makia Daniels—AA	Dayne Ellanna—MA
Gloria Martin—AAS	Michaela Perez—BA
Teresa Telling—AA	Abigail Tsigonis—BA
Megan Thomas—AA	

CUP Award Recipient

Michelle Kates is the CUP Award Recipient for “Best Customer Service”. Michelle is always willing to help the team. She is a great positive role-model.

Michelle is cheerful and very helpful, always doing her best to promote goodness in the workplace. She is also very welcoming.

Michelle was nominated after taking on the new child care referral system with enthusiasm. She has gone out of her way to be sure she understands what needs to be done and has made great connections with the Anchorage team. Recently she has had 2 shopper calls that have come back saying that Michelle was wonderful, helping them understand more about what to look for in quality child care. Michelle also works closely with our new providers, spending time with them to answer any questions they might have. Michelle wears a number of hats in her thread position and we receive wonderful, positive comments from providers and parents as well as from people from the community who come into her office, about her kind friendly manner. Thank you Michelle for all you have learned, taken on and for stepping outside of your comfort zone in the past year.



Michelle Kates

The Thrivalaska Board of Directors recognizes employees each month based on creativity, innovation, teamwork, leadership, community service, commitment, outstanding accomplishment, customer service, or resourcefulness.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to the following outstanding employees in May:

Tamara De Los Santos
Micheal Luke
Lisa McDaniel
Bonnie Rogers
Vanessa Reese

 thrIVALASKA
Healthy families. Thriving children.

Careers

We are currently looking for new team members! Take a glance to see what career opportunities are available now! For more information please visit our website at www.thrivalaska.com and click on the “Careers” box to find the job title and full description that might interest you!

Head Start Birth to Five is currently hiring the following positions:

- ⇒ On-Call Substitute Teacher
- ⇒ Cook—full year
- ⇒ Cook—part year
- ⇒ Program Sub 1
- ⇒ Admin Assistant



Get Involved

There are many ways to support Thrivalaska financially!

Fred Meyer—enroll online at www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your Rewards Card to our Organization #88404. You will continue to receive Rewards Points, Rebates and Fuel Points. At the end of each quarter, Fred Meyer will make a donation to Thrivalaska based on the accumulated spending of the Rewards customers linked to Thrivalaska.

Amazon—shop through this hyper link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/920047999> and Thrivalaska will automatically receive cash back.

Escrip—enroll online at www.escrip.com and follow the instructions. Our organization is listed as “Thrivalaska Head Start” Group Identification:#500045240. They are many companies you may patronize including Dell, Barnes & Noble, Safeway and Holiday Gas Stations. Check out the full list of participating companies on escrip.com. Thrivalaska will automatically receive cash back with each purchase.

Did you know..? **Big Daddy’s Barbeque sells Pull Tabs for Thrivalaska!** Enjoy a great meal and purchase a pull tab in support of Thrivalaska.



Donate—Consider a contribution to Thrivalaska! You can call and give us a credit card donation over the phone – call Shelly at 479-0900 x262, or write checks payable to Thrivalaska, mail to 1949 Gillam Way, Fairbanks, AK 99701

Become a Board Member— Thrivalaska has a 14 member Board of Directors consisting of parents and community members who govern, determine policies, establish fees and ensure sustainability. We are looking for business leaders to join our Board team! Thrivalaska advocates for making significant investments in early childhood education. Investing in early childhood is an effective strategy for reducing social costs and promoting economic growth. Strong communities need working families and working families need child care. If you are interested in becoming a Thrivalaska Board member please contact Alicia Berka, Executive Director, at 479-0900 x261.



Live United—give a tax deductible donation to United Way and the Community Care Fund, which will benefit Thrivalaska all year long.

Member Agency



Pick.Click.Give.—There's still time to designate Thrivalaska as your Pick.Click.Give. organization for this year's PFD.

Enrollment Opportunities

Now accepting enrollment applications for the following programs:

Head Start Birth to Five for FREE part day class starting in September 2015. Also accepting applications for full day, full year Head Start and Early Head Start classes—please contact Dotty Harris at 452-4267 ext 260.

School Age Program for before & after school for children enrolled in Pearl Creek Elementary School—please contact Shelly Mensch at 479-0900 ext 262.

Child Care Assistance—need help paying for child care? Please contact thread Child Care Assistance office at 479-2212 to see if you qualify.

Watch for thread Child Care Assistance TV ads and Radio spots this summer!

I can go to work because I have child care

thread partners with Thrivalaska to provide the Child Care Assistance Program, which offers financial assistance for child care to families in Fairbanks and throughout the Northern/Interior region.

We assist hundreds of families each year in paying for the child care they need to be able to go to work or school each day.

Call today to learn more.
907.479.2212

thread connecting early care & education to alaska

thrivalaska
Healthy families. Thriving children.

Funded by the
Department of Health
& Social Services

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CHILD CARE

907.479.2212

Thrivalaska
1949 Gillam Way, Suite F
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

www.thrivalaska.com

Admin Office
907.479.0900

Head Start
907.452.4267

School Age Program
907.479.5437

thread Resources
907.479.2214

thread Referrals
907.479.2204

thread Child Care Assistance
907.479.2212