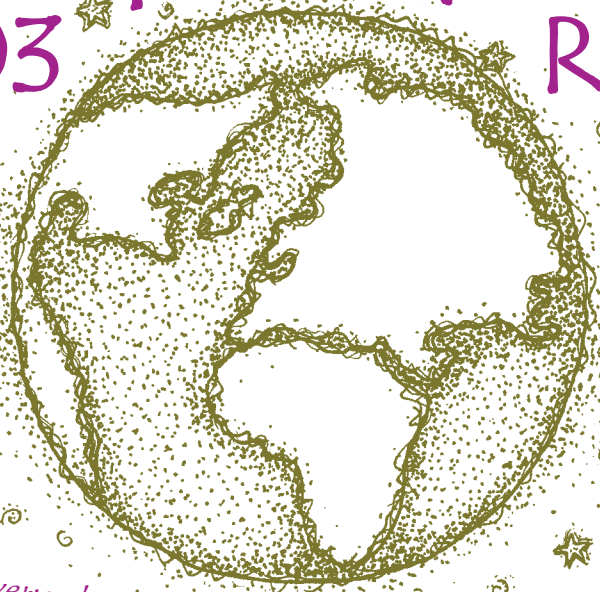


2003 Annual Report



"Imagine a world where every child was loved, cared for and was given every opportunity to reach for their very best; that is our dream – we hope you'll share it with us."



Camp Fire USA™

Today's kids. Tomorrow's leaders.

ALASKA COUNCIL



Mission

"We build caring, confident youth and future leaders."

Core Programs

School-Age Child Care
Summer Camps

Community Centers
Rural Alaska Programs

From the President & CEO

Dear Friends of Camp Fire USA Alaska Council,

This past year has been a challenging one for Camp Fire USA, Alaska Council, with the decline in state assistance, but we are pleased to report that our programs are strong as we continue to serve the youth of Alaska. We want *all* children to have access to learning opportunities that build upon their unique strengths and abilities.

Our School Age Child Care program continues to serve over 1200 children daily both in Anchorage and Fairbanks. We are very pleased to have relocated our Anchorage Summer Day Camp program to the campus of Alaska Pacific University, and we look forward to a long and productive partnership with APU. This summer, we are expanding our camping program into the Matanuska Valley. Our rural program is also growing. We visited 21 villages last summer, teaching swimming and cold-water survival skills to over 900 youth, and are pleased to have even more villages on our schedule for the summer of 2004. Camp Kushtaka, our resident camp located on the magnificent Kenai Lake, continues to provide children with an enriching overnight camp experience.

Our community center program suffered a setback when we lost our Human Services Matching Grant. Although we were able to maintain our Community Center programs at Fairview Recreation Center, Loussac Manor, Birch Park and Spruce Park, we had no choice but to close our Mountain View Community Center. We appreciate the strong support we have received from ConocoPhillips and others for the Center program, and we continue to look for ways to serve the youth in Mountain View.

A year ago last October, we launched our Champions for Children Breakfast as an annual appeal to the community for direct financial support of Camp Fire USA Alaska Council's programs and services. We are very pleased that more than 300 individuals have made a financial contribution and become our partners as we strive to sustain our work and meet our vision.

We are proud of our work and we are thankful for the many partnerships we enjoy with individuals, families, program partners, agencies, funders and our community. We thank you all for your support, as we look forward to another year of building caring, confident youth and future leaders.

Jacquie Luke, President

Barbara Dubovich, CEO

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Seth Campbell with Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich.

Seth

DURING MY SECOND SUMMER AT CAMP, a group of us went on a long and difficult 3-day, 18 mile hike. It was wet, the trail was steep, our packs were heavy, and we pushed hard. We had some difficult moments, challenged at times by fatigue and frustration,

and we had to work through those moments within a team of relative strangers. We all stretched and pushed and compromised, and at the end of the hike, each one of us learned something about ourselves. Me, I found that I could be more outgoing and comfortable in front of groups. Last year I gave my first speech at school, and in November I spoke in front of a full house in the grand ballroom of the Hilton Hotel. The audience included the Mayor.

This summer, I plan to return to camp as a counselor in training, and I look forward to taking a group of campers on that same kind of hike.



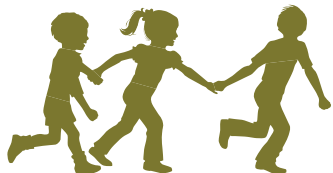
Betty (center) with her Camp Fire kids.

Betty

ONE DAY WHEN I WAS 18 YEARS OLD I was flipping through the university's spring catalogue and saw that Camp Fire was advertising for program staff. At the time I was a full-time student at the University of Alaska and working part time

at McDonalds. I knew what Camp Fire was because I had gone to the center program at Mt. View along with my younger sister. I applied for a job and in January 1994 I was hired as a program aide. Here it is, ten years later, and I am still with Camp Fire! I've received training in early childhood development and learned many techniques for bringing out the best in children and staff. I have advanced within the agency and for the last five years I have served as a Lead Site Director. I have found a career where I can make a difference, every day, in the lives of children.

I now have two children of my own, and have an even deeper appreciation of how important it is for children to have access to quality child care. I love what I do for Camp Fire! I love the children, their families and the people I work with. I will have my own daughter in Camp Fire next year and I look forward to her experiencing everything that makes our council so wonderful!





Deanna with her children Bailey and Bradley.

Deanna

BEING THE MOTHER OF TWO CAMP FIRE KIDS, I can tell you that I am a HUGE fan of the Camp Fire program!!

My name is Deanna and I am the mother of Bailey (11) and Bradley (9). Both have been in the before and after school Camp Fire program at Huffman Elementary since first grade. While it is convenient to have Camp Fire right in the school, it is most important to me that they have a place to be which is both safe and enjoyable.

My children and I love the variety of activities offered, from arts and crafts (they have completed some great projects!) to sports and games. If I arrive before 5:00 to pick up Bailey and Bradley, they let me know that I've short changed their time to play in the gym or work on their current paintings or projects. I can also see that the kids are doing more than playing at Camp Fire.

They are learning to work together when they make a sign for an event or play games. They learn to set goals and achieve them during the annual candy sale. There is also time for homework, which is great when evening schedules get busy. We are such fans of the Family Night Events when parents and kids get together to share a potluck dinner, play games, work on special projects and catch up with each other and the latest happenings within Camp Fire.

The selection of staff has been very impressive. I know that my children are in good hands and I am very comfortable talking to staff about any of my concerns. These are the times when I feel that the staff are truly friends.

Camp Fire is a great place for kids to be! My children and I give it a thumbs up!!

Imagine the possibilities...



Rural Alaska Program



"My Mom taught me how to swim in a swimming pool in Anchorage, but here you have to swim stronger to fight the current and get back to shore. If you just learn to swim in a pool then I don't think you're learning how to swim strong enough."

*- Aniak participant,
7 years old*

Shortly after the 1964 earthquake, Camp Fire USA Alaska Council sent volunteers into rural villages, bringing in supplies and offering a helping hand wherever needed. While there, these volunteers were alarmed to learn of the high drowning rates within these communities. The swift-flowing currents and frigid temperatures of rivers as mighty as the Yukon presented an everyday threat to local youth. Many did not know how to swim, and there was a need for basic water-safety education. Camp Fire knew they could make a difference. The Alaska Council developed a water safety program specific to these villages and sent trained staff to teach swimming and cold water survival skills to children and teens. The program soon grew into a traditional "camp" week and today it includes other activities such as arts and crafts, games, hiking, camping, music, skits, and, of course, campfires.

In 2003 Camp Fire visited 21 villages throughout the summer and taught cold-water survival skills to more than 900 youth. Villages visited in 2003: Koyukuk, Allakaket, McGrath, Anvik, Aniak, Shageluk, Holy Cross, Nulato, Hughes, Upper Kalskag, Beaver, Chuathbaluk, Crooked Creek, Tatitlek, Ruby, Kaltag, Huslia, Grayling, Sleetmuthe, Stony River, and Chenega Bay.

Community Center Program



"I know I'm safe here."

*- Anchorage
participant,
7 years old*

For over 20 years Camp Fire has been providing a safe, consistent and nurturing after school environment for youth in low-income neighborhoods. The center programs are structured much the same as our school-based child care programs, but participation is free to youth and their families, and older youth are welcome. Community center programs include activities such as field trips, academic tutoring, music, arts and crafts and games. Through the activities, Camp Fire staff members focus on helping the participants build self-esteem and develop self-reliance skills. Camp Fire operates two center programs in Anchorage, located in the Fairview Recreation Center and Loussac Manor, an AHFC housing community. In Fairbanks, two more programs are located in AHFC housing at Birch Park and Spruce Park.

School Age Child Care



"At Camp Fire I get a lot of attention and help when I need it. We play in the gym and go outside a lot. I get to hang out with my friends, and the staff is really cool."

– Anchorage participant, 9 years old

Kids playing in the gym, making a volcano, creating a puppet show or using quiet time to read, color or do homework. This is what you first see when you walk into a Camp Fire school-age child care program.

Kids learning to have caring relationships with each other and with adults, learning to accept themselves, respect themselves and challenge themselves. This is what you'll see if you stay awhile.

Camp Fire USA believes that every child needs and deserves to be in a safe, nurturing environment before and after school. With more parents working full time outside the home, it is more important than ever that families have access to quality, affordable child care. Camp Fire USA Alaska Council provides school-age child care programs for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. We currently operate 25 licensed programs in Anchorage and three in Fairbanks. By locating each program in the school, Camp Fire can provide a stable transition from the school day to the after school program. Using public school facilities is also a cost-effective way to provide accessible and affordable programs while removing the need to transport children during the day.

Summer Camps



"It's a cool experience out in the wilderness and it's fun because you get to learn how to be a part of a community, to follow rules and to help out."

– Kushtaka Camper, 15 years old

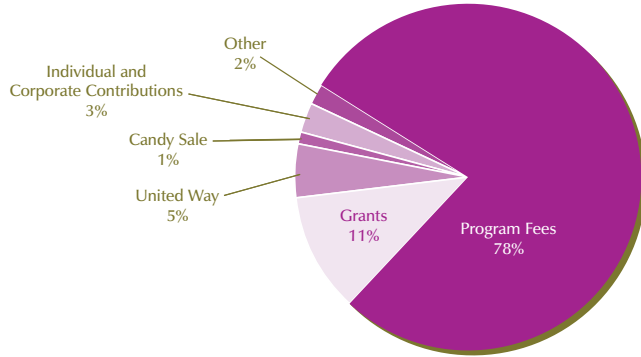
Every summer when the school year ends, hundreds of kids in Alaska head to one of Camp Fire's four summer camps where they spend their days canoeing, hiking, swimming and having fun in the great Alaskan outdoors. But summer camp is far more than just a fun experience; it's a great way for kids to grow as individuals, gain self-confidence and learn respect for themselves and the world around them.

For many kids, camp is their first chance to do things like kayak, climb a rock wall or go horseback riding. And when kids are accomplishing all these things they're also getting support from fellow campers and staff. They get the chance to meet new people, form friendships and learn to adapt to new social situations. The outdoor emphasis fosters competence, stewardship and joy with the natural world.

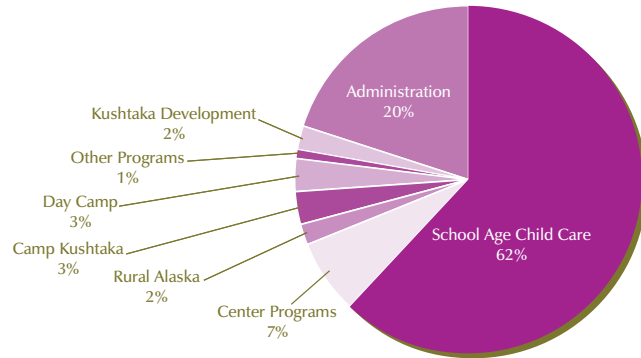


Statement of Financial Position – December 31, 2003

2003 REVENUES: \$4,290,785



2003 EXPENSES: \$4,283,726



ASSETS

Current	\$825,308
Property.....	118,286

Total Assets\$943,594

LIABILITIES

Current	\$218,542
Capital Lease	16,792
Deferred Revenue	8,585

Total Liabilities \$243,919


NET ASSETS \$699,675



Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2003, were prepared by Mukunda, Cottrell & Co., Certified Public Accountants.

Camp Fire USA provides outdoor programs which foster competence, stewardship and joy with the natural world.

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 Camp Fire USA Today's kids. Tomorrow's leaders.	ALASKA COUNCIL
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2003 Annual Report



Camp Fire USA builds caring, confident youth and future leaders.