

# Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

## 2005 Annual Report

We build caring, confident youth and future leaders.



[www.campfireak.org](http://www.campfireak.org)



## Historic Milestones for Camp Fire USA Alaska Council

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a milestone is defined as *a significant point in development*. In 2005 Camp Fire faced a historic challenge – after 20 years in the Family Resource Center it became necessary to find a new home for our administrative office. Within the process of seeking solution, Camp Fire experienced many wonderful milestones during the year. Many dedicated parents, donors and alumni demonstrated their belief in our mission and stepped forward to become strong and effective advocates. The 2005 Alaska State Legislature recognized the importance of Camp Fire’s work and appropriated \$1M to assist the agency with finding a new home. We signed a lease with the Anchorage Community Land Trust for a larger, more efficient and cost-effective administrative office, providing long-term stability for our core programs. Camp Fire’s new office will be located in Mountain View and our move will occur in 2006.

We are very proud to report to you that Camp Fire is emerging from this process with a strong, committed base of support; and a stable future. We are positioned to seek more opportunities to reach more children and that is what we are all about – *Today’s Kids. Tomorrow’s Leaders*. Camp Fire is deeply committed to the youth of Alaska and sincerely grateful to you, our donors, volunteers, community members, and staff who work hard to fulfill Camp Fire’s mission of building caring, confident youth and future leaders.

We invite you to enjoy Camp Fire’s story as told on these pages and please know that we sincerely welcome your interest and involvement.

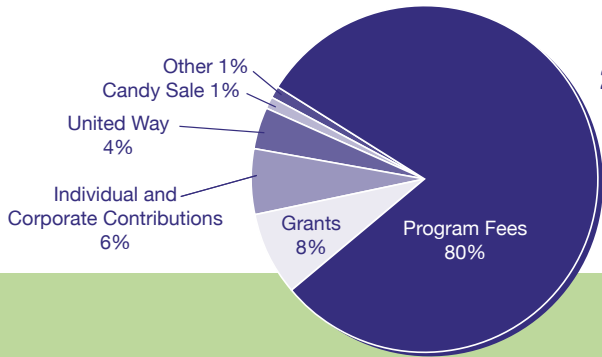


Barbara Dubovich  
CEO

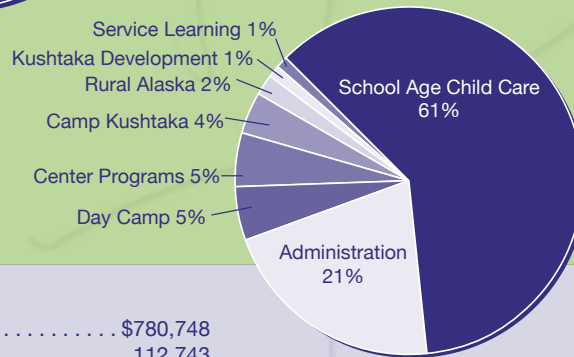


Leslie Hiebert  
President

# Statement of Financial Position – December 31, 2005



## 2005 EXPENSES: \$4,612,416



<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current .....	\$780,748
Long-term .....	112,743
Property .....	116,030
<b>Total Assets .....</b>	<b>\$1,009,521</b>

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Current .....	\$214,802
Deferred Revenue .....	19,250
<b>Total Liabilities .....</b>	<b>\$234,052</b>

**NET ASSETS \$775,469**


Audited financial statements for the year ending December 31st, 2005, were prepared by Mukunda, Cottrell & Co., Certified Public Accountants.

## Board of Directors

- Leslie Hiebert, President
- Blythe Campbell, 1st Vice President
- Ken Lord, 2nd Vice President
- Diane Jung, Secretary
- John Rodgers, Treasurer
- Barbara Dubovich, CEO

- Debra Caldera
- Carrie Couey
- Joe Darnell
- Ray Dinger
- John Gliva
- Robert Harris
- Matt Kolesky
- Eunice Long
- Mary Louise Molenda
- Sara Pate
- Tessa Rinner
- Lisa Simono
- Dianne Toebe

*Camp Fire USA operates quality programs which reflect best practices.*



For the past six years, sixth grader Christopher has attended Camp Fire each day after school while his parents are at work. “Camp Fire is a fun, happy, carefree place,” he says. He especially likes playing in the gym and going outside. Christopher has a quick smile and likes to joke around, but his face takes on a thoughtful expression when he talks about Camp Fire staff. “They care about how you’re feeling and they’re interested in what’s going on in your life,” he says. They also help him with his math homework, which is important because he wants to be a pilot when he finishes school. Christopher says he’s excited, but “a little nervous” about entering junior high school next year.

# School Age Child Care

Licensed school age child care programs help working families and keep kids safe while offering them challenging activities, learning experiences and meaningful opportunities for involvement and membership. Each program is located in the elementary school where the participants are enrolled, creating consistency and eliminating transportation worries for parents.

**Christopher**

- 26 licensed programs in Anchorage
- 2 licensed programs in Fairbanks
- 1,200 youth served daily

*Camp Fire USA provides Alaska's youth with positive experiences which promote healthy life choices.*

Nine year old Carina thinks that camp is great because of the wide variety of things for kids to do like swimming, hiking, rock climbing and canoeing. “Camp Si-La-Meo is an easy place to make friends,” she says. “I always have a good time, and I adore the counselors.” While having fun at camp, Carina is also gaining confidence. She loves spending time with the horses at Turnagain Trails. “I have a special friendship with one of them. His name is Ringo. He’s a Leopard Appaloosa that understands I’m in charge. Sometimes he can be stubborn, but he usually listens to me.” We think the horses like spending time with Carina, too.

# Summer Camps

Camp is a place where children develop self esteem, independence, leadership ability, environmental awareness, a taste for adventure and friendships that can last a lifetime. With the supportive guidance of caring adult counselors, campers experience a sense of belonging, acceptance and appreciation.

## **Camp Kushtaka**

An overnight camp on Kenai Lake in Cooper Landing


## **Camp Si-La-Meo**

Two day-camp programs in Anchorage and the Mat Su Valley

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



**Carina & Ringo**



Marielle was seven years old when she first heard about Camp Fire coming to her village. She really wanted to go, like her cousin George, but he told her that camp was only for kids eight and older. A look at the calendar showed that the first day of camp was June 24th, and that was also her birthday! She excitedly started packing. Since she didn't have a swimsuit, she packed shorts and a t-shirt for the swimming and water safety lessons she knew would be part of camp. "Everyone had to wear a life jacket and there were lots of boats in the water to keep the kids safe," she remembers. Marielle also liked the arts and crafts and scavenger hunts. Her advice to others is to "sign up now for Camp Clam Lake so you can have the best days of your life."

# Alaska Rural Program

Marielle

The Rural Alaska Program teaches swimming and cold-water survival skills to children and teens in rural villages across the state. Alaska consistently has one of the highest drowning rates in the country. The program also includes boating safety, healthy life skills, and recreational activities such as crafts, camp-outs, hikes and community service projects.

Villages served in 2005:

Ambler • Aniak • Chenega Bay • Grayling • Hughes  
Kaltag • Kiana • Kongiginak • Nulato • Point Hope • Shageluk  
South Naknek • Stony River • Tatitlek • Upper Kalskak • White Mountain

*Camp Fire USA acts as a trustworthy organization  
that ensures experiences which are safe, secure and dependable.*

If you ask seven year old Romello what he thinks about the Camp Fire program in his neighborhood, the first thing he'll tell you is what he doesn't like about it. He does not like the fact that Camp Fire is closed on the weekends and holidays. In fact, when he was six years old he wrote a letter to Camp Fire's CEO encouraging a change in the rules so Camp Fire could be open "all the time." Romello likes going to Camp Fire every day after school while his father is at work. He knows all the kids there because they live in his neighborhood and most of them go to his school. Outside of Camp Fire, Romello is involved in martial arts, soccer and Sunday school. And he's really good at math.

# Community Centers

Romello

Camp Fire operates four after-school community centers in low income neighborhoods in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Each center provides local youth with a safe and protected place to play, an extra measure of adult attention, additional help with homework and opportunities to explore interests. The centers are free to all youth and serve ages kindergarten through twelfth grade.

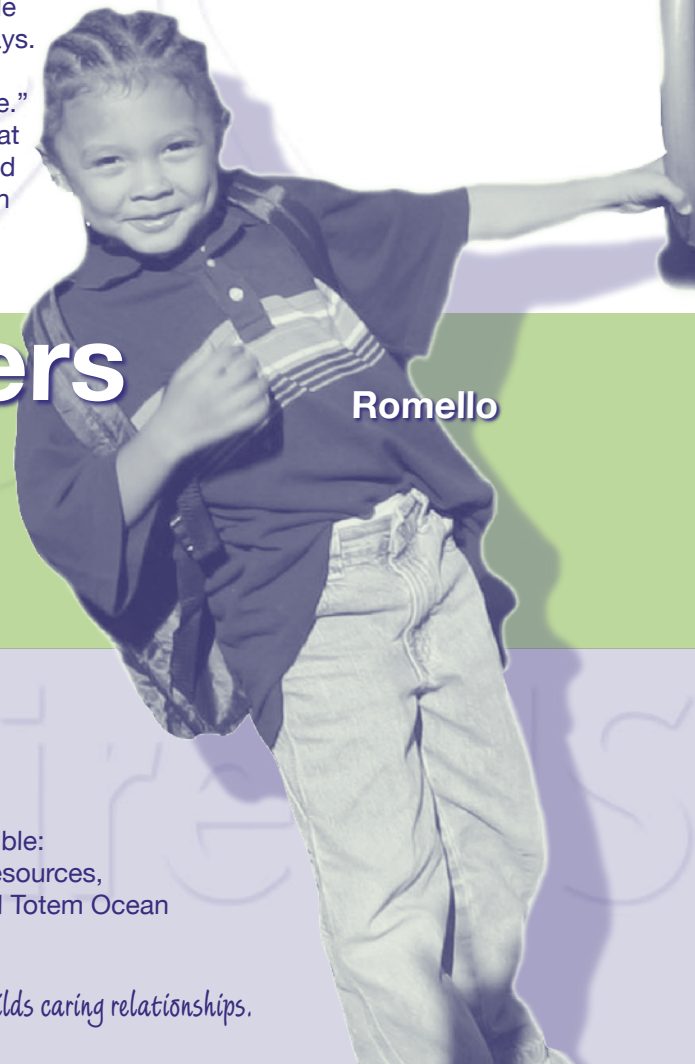
## **Community Center Locations:**

Loussac Manor, Anchorage • Fairview Recreation Center, Anchorage  
Spruce Park, Fairbanks • Birch Park, Fairbanks

Thank you to the following corporations who help make this program possible:

Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation, BP, ConocoPhillips, Flint Hills Resources, Municipal Light & Power, Northrim Bank, Society of Women Engineers, and Totem Ocean Trailer Express.

*Camp Fire USA builds caring relationships.*



## A Few Highlights from 2005

Camp Fire launched its new Community Corps Program.



The Camp Fire Community Corps engages middle school youth in progressive experiences that foster community service. The program launched in the fall of 2005 with 60 middle school students from Pacific Northern Academy, Wendler Middle School and Highland Tech. Students in the Corps gain a greater awareness and sense of community while participating in the initiation, planning and execution of service projects. To learn more about how these youth are making a difference, visit [www.campfireak.org/communitycorps.html](http://www.campfireak.org/communitycorps.html).

Friends of Camp Kushtaka worked hard on many projects.



Home Depot volunteers donated more than 180 hours along with materials for various projects around camp.



The Kawanis Clubs continued their tradition of volunteer work at Kushtaka.



ECI/Hyer employees put many hours and hard work into designing and building a platform for Camp Kushtaka's first yurt.

ConocoPhillips provided funds for a much needed van.



Camp Fire USA Alaska Council is deeply grateful to the 2005 Legislature and Governor Murkowski for appropriating \$1M to a long-term housing solution for Camp Fire.