

The Kitchen Table

Board Spotlight

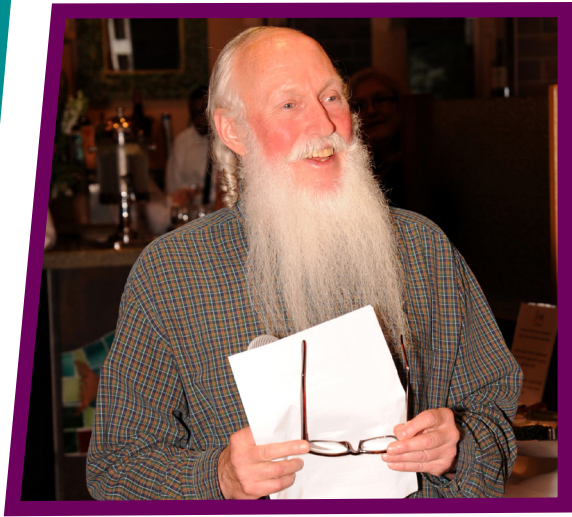
Welcome back to the NeighborWorks Alaska Board, Kathleen Plunkett!

“I was on the NeighborWorks Alaska board from 2004 to 2009. I am honored to be on the board again as the mission is near and dear to my heart. I believe in the community engagement/building/development piece in all of the target neighborhoods. I consider stable housing the first and most important pillar to a healthy family and community.”

We are happy to have such a wonderful person return to our organization!



Preserve the Promise 2018!



We kicked off the fall with a great event - our 3rd Annual **Preserve the Promise** fundraiser! We had emotional testimonials from John Gaughan (one of our residents who's made an amazing journey from Brother Francis to the Adelaide to Stephen's Park) and Michele Overstreet (a member of our Community Leadership Team and one of this year's six NeighborWorks America's Dorothy Richardson Award Winners).

Here's some excerpts from John's remarks:

“Many of you here will hopefully never know homelessness. There's nothing like waking up in the middle of the night, feeling unsafe, being surrounded by strangers, and feeling like you don't belong. Well, I began to feel like I belonged again. With the NeighborWorks staff encouragement and support, I got a voucher and was able to move into a NeighborWorks managed full size apartment. It's truly amazing to have a home! I want to thank NeighborWorks Alaska for working hard and believing in me.”

John's journey is what our work and this event is all about, preserving the promise of access to affordable housing, homeownership, and the tools needed to strengthen our communities! Many thanks to everyone who attended, donated, and continue to support our mission!



Homebuyer Fair a success!



October was a busy month and notable too, as we, for the first time, partnered with Cook Inlet Lending Center to promote homeownership. It was a fun opportunity for prospective homebuyers as well as people who just wanted to go through the whole process from start to finish and talk with all of the people they would meet along the way! We hosted the event here and had 23 people come out to the event. There was a chance to ask lots of questions, get free credit reports, and have some lunch. Attendees enjoyed door prizes, lunch, and learned a lot!

Many thanks to all of our sponsors - Fidelity Title, Radian Guaranty, Home Inspections Plus, Ava Anderson Group, Stacy Allen (State Farm), TCM Restoration, Habitat for Humanity, and of course Cook Inlet Lending Center!



Community Leadership Institute

The 2018 Community Leadership Institute “Standing Strong, Standing Together in Houston” was hosted one year after Hurricane Harvey. Our new Community Development Director, Jay Stange, was able to lead the Community Leadership Institute (CLI) team to Houston this month to network with fellow community leaders and celebrate Michelle Overstreet’s Dorothy Richardson Award.

Here’s a note from Jay on the experience: “Organizers likened the strength and courage of Houstonians recovering from torrential rains to low-income neighborhoods standing strong against a storm of opioid abuse, poverty and lack of community engagement around the country.” Highlights included MyHouse founder’s Michelle Overstreet’s acceptance of the Dorothy Richardson resident leadership award. Michelle and the entire Alaska cohort really impressed everyone at the conference with their passion and innovative work around the issue of youth homelessness! Michelle was thrilled, “I’m so proud to have received a National Community Impact & Leadership Award through the NeighborWorks Dorothy Richardson Foundation! I’m in Houston Texas to receive the award! Thank you NeighborWorks Alaska and Chantel Welch for the nomination. So honored to represent Alaska and the Mat-Su Valley as the first Alaskan to be recognized with this award, and grateful for the opportunity to showcase the work of My House and our Partners on a National stage! People were excited and inspired, and our Alaska team was too!” We’re honored to have had the chance to nominate Michelle for this award, and excited to see the work of the cohort continue going forward.



Welcome Jonathan Pistonnik!

The **Anchorage Reentry Coalition** is a community-based coalition loosely comprised of more than 45 programs, agencies, and individuals that are interested and engaged in prisoner reentry, recidivism reduction, and public safety efforts in Anchorage and in Alaska. Jonathan Pistonnik, Coalition Coordinator since July 2018, works out of the NeighborWorks Alaska office in Anchorage. The Coalition partners collaborates to share information, network, provide direct services in the community and inside correctional institutions, engage in advocacy.