



FCA NEWS



A United Way
Member Agency

A Taste of Art - Under the Sea - Saturday, February 18, 2011

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A Taste of Oct 2011 Under the Sea

'A Taste of Art 2011' is off to a great start under the assistance of Co-Chairs **David Mongold of Allstate Insurance** and **Cullen Wallace of Madden Real Estate**. Our theme 'Under the Sea' offers a fun way to present the evening and featured artist **Lise (McCann) Hoffman of Oceanic Design** is excited to donate two of her designs.

Event Sponsors **BP, Davis Constructors & Engineers Inc., and Martin Engineering** are just three of our donors.

Please join us on **February 19, 2011**, at the Westmark Gold Room. Doors open at 6 p.m. with a no-host bar. Dinner is at 7 p.m. and M.C./D.J. Jim Matherly and auctioneer Bob Gray of ATC Auctions will start the live and silent auctions at 8 p.m. In addition, Coral Cumming-Houle and Chole Cody will be at the event with their Alaska Photo Booth. What a great time to have a special picture taken. Come join us for this fun-filled evening.

To make a donation to 'A Taste of Art 2011,' please contact our office at 456-4729. We will be happy to pick up your donation. All items should be in 'new' condition unless considered a collectible or antique. Financial support will help underwrite the event's general expenses or can be directed to a specific expense such as framing, decorations or food for volunteers.



Diane Nichols of the **Midnight Sun Lions Club** giving a donation for the programs of Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption to Camille Connelly-Terhune Executive Director of FCA. The Midnight Sun Lions Club repaired and donated the electrical for the front door and the shed.



Teresa Moore Branch Manger of **Credit Union 1** presents Camille Connelly Terhune, Executive Director of Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption, with a check for \$6000. The donation is from Credit Union 1 and their members, which was raised during their Membership Appreciation event in July.



Larry Baker of **Baker & Associates, Inc.** presents Camille Connelly-Terhune, Executive Director of Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption with a \$1200 donation to support FCA's programs.



- OF SPECIAL NOTE & THANKS •
- Dan & Joanne Portwine of **Portwine Plumbing and Heating** donated the new furnace/boiler for FCA.
- **Alyeska Pipeline Service, Huston Contracting** and **Mt. McKinley Bank** for the employees that came and gave us a Day of Caring to remodel the shed, do yard work and replace a new kitchen unit which was donated by Lowe's.
- **Golden Valley Electric** for the new light fixtures throughout the building.

Adoption Program

In the Spring newsletter Vanessa and Alton Huckaby, who applied to adopt from Ethiopia in 2009, described the adoption process and their emotions while waiting for their two daughters. Then, in June of 2010, they traveled to join Emaline and Tigist and upon their return to Alaska, graciously agreed to share the story of their adoption placement.

“For three months we had been looking at our daughters’ referral photos several times a day, imagining the moment we would meet for the first time. Then, at the beginning of June it finally happened and we traveled to Ethiopia. I flew to Addis one week earlier than my husband Alton.

My nerves were flying high when I was sitting in the visitor’s room of the orphanage. When the nurses brought in our girls I was instantly filled with too many emotions to analyze and explain. It didn’t matter because one nurse handed me Tigist, our eight month old, and the other nurse sat Emaline, our sixteen month old daughter, on the ground next to me, bringing her instantly to tears, soon followed by an all out cry. The nurses must have been experienced, because they just turned the other way and walked out. For the next three hours I was a clown; juggling and entertaining; doing anything that would make our children smile and laugh! Three hours later the nurses swept in and retrieved the girls for their dinner time. I was completely exhausted, and at the same time, anxious to come back the next day to visit and create a bond between us.

The rest of the week was much of the same; Tigist was happy-go-lucky, always with a smile, and Emaline was sensitive but starting to become very attached. My husband arrived in Ethiopia after a week, and we went to the orphanage together the morning his airplane landed. Other families were there to meet their children for the first time, as well, so you could feel the anxiety in the room. We went outside to take photos with another couple and that’s when the nurses rounded the corner with our two beautiful girls and handed them to us. Alton took Tigist and I took Emaline and our family was complete. We signed our girls out of the orphanage the next day and spent our first night half awake, listening as hard as we could to ensure that they were still breathing and moving.

We spent another seven days in Ethiopia, obtaining US



Visas and German travel Visas for our return trip and, with a few exceptions, were able to complete the legal process with little trouble. After a wonderful week visiting family in Germany we were ready to board our flight home to Alaska. Finally after ten hours, we landed in Fairbanks and struggled through customs before finally being free to go. We were in a daze driving home; the girls needed changing, we needed a bath, Alton was sick, and our dogs were everywhere as soon as we walked through the door! We were very lucky that it only took a week for our kids to adjust to the time difference.

We have been back for four months now and have had a wonderful experience with every support program session and medical appointment we have attended. Everyone is so willing to help and our daughters seem to be changing and progressing every time we blink an eye. They have both really come out of their shells and developed very strong personalities. At this pace the next twenty years are going to be over and they will be in college before we know what happened!”

Are you interested in adopting or know someone who is? On **Tuesday, November 9, 2010, from 6:30 to 8:30**, FCA’s Adoption Department’s **18th annual Adoption Information Session** will be held in the auditorium of the Noel Wien Library. A panel of adoptive parents will share their adoption experiences and be available to answer questions.



Family Services

Our Family Services Department is committed to helping families facing multiple hardships improve their situation and find the services and assistance they need through offering individualized support and parenting classes.

The Family Services Department received recent funding and has expanded its services to include Family Preservation Services in addition to Family Support. We are now fully staffed with three new employees who are eager to jump in. **Rick Medlin** has been in Alaska for about five years, however he is originally from Texas. Rick enjoys hunting and fishing in Alaska. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a minor in Recreation. He previously worked for Office of Children's Services, worked with Juvenile Probation, and worked with a private foster care placement agency. He has worked for Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption Agency in the past and is glad to be back! **Amy Ewton** was born and raised in Colorado and just recently moved to Alaska and loves her new home. She has her Associates Degree in Psychology and is currently attending the University of Alaska Fairbanks to complete her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology with a minor in Spanish. She is the Evaluations Coordinator and helps with brochures, fundraising, community outreach, intake, and any other tasks that may arise. **Drea Hunnicutt** has lived in Alaska for almost 11 years



(Fairbanks for 2 years). Although she was born in South Carolina, she claims Alaska as her home. She attended Dalton Junior College in Dalton, GA. Growing up with 7 brothers and sisters, all adopted, she understands the overwhelming struggles of displaced adolescents and the reward of family support. She has traveled through most of the country as a chef and national trainer for 15 years. While in Fairbanks for the past 2 years, Drea has worked with DOC for the State of Alaska. She now looks forward to serving the community even further by providing much needed resources and support to families struggling economically and emotionally.

Family Services is currently looking for people to adopt families or sponsor a child for the upcoming holiday season. Those wishing to adopt families can offer support in numerous ways from cash donations, to food donations, to gifts, or any other contribution of some kind. Christmas stockings are another way you can make this holiday special for a family. This is an opportunity to help those who are less fortunate and for the betterment of the community around us. With the help of generous sponsors like YOU, Christmas donations will be distributed to families in our program throughout the Fairbanks North Star Borough to make Christmas 2010 a memorable one. For more information, please contact Amy Ewton at 456-4729.

Linda, Drea, Amy & Rick



The Fairbanks Counseling and Adoption Board of Directors would like to invite you to become a member of this worthwhile organization. Board Members have the opportunity to make a difference in their community by helping FCA with policy decisions, publicity and fundraising. Every Board Member uses his/her own talents to contribute to actively running the Agency. For example, Gary Corrick's special pet project is to run the water station at the Mosquito Meander Fun Run/Walk every June. Jasmine Pletnikoff, our Board President, uses her skills as an accountant to help keep FCA finances on track. Richelle Talvi uses her talent to decorate beautiful baskets that are auctioned at 'A Taste of Art.'

There are monthly meetings and occasional ad-hoc committees that are part of being a Board Member. If you think that you would like to be a part of our Board, please call. Any of our Board Members would be happy to talk to you about FCA and how you can contribute to the Fairbanks community. Call 456-4729 and ask for Sabrina or Carol to get started on making a difference.

Street Outreach & Advocacy Program

A lot has happened over the past few months with the Street Outreach and Advocacy Program! Currently, we are wrapping up the 4th summer of the Garden and Bike workshop, a summer-long event that is sponsored by United Way. This year's Bike Shop had a leg up on previous years in that we also were able to employ a former client as an AmeriCorps member for a summer of service to help in maintaining the workshop. Now that the summer is finished, the same client has signed up for a half-year long stint with SOAP and AmeriCorps through the end of the year helping with our Street Outreach Program and daily tasks at the Drop In Center. We are so lucky!

Beginning in April 2010, we also brought on our 2nd year long AmeriCorps VISTA member, Dan Vogel, who hails from Minnesota. Dan will be working with SOAP for a year, and has already begun to establish many creative community partnerships! Dan has begun work on music lessons through a United Way Grant, an art club sponsored by Chartreuse, as well as linking the



clients with the local college radio station, KSUA 91.5, for their own radio show in which they have the chance to DJ and learn radio production (be sure to tune in 2-4PM every Wednesday!)

Finally, we are extremely happy to announce that we have hired Ashley Jewkes as the new SOAP Coordinator.

Ashley received her bachelors in psychology from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2006. She has worked as a security specialist at a halfway house in Lakewood, Colorado and also as a central office assistant to the Mental Health Center of Denver. She is very excited to start her work at SOAP. She began full time October 1st, and we couldn't be more excited.

With so much in the mix, and fall and winter upon us, it is more important than ever that everyone keeps SOAP and our programs in their thoughts! We are always in need of socks, bags, sleeping bags, and, if you can, scheduling a time to drop off a hot meal during the week would mean the world. We thank the entire FCA family of supporters in advance!



Music Matters

This is a music education program for our homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth used to explore our clients' creative talent in musical performance as it relates to playing an instrument or singing. SOAP relies on a small portion of a United Way grant that provides funding for a few teachers to instruct our interested clients for several weeks. We have partnered with **Noel Wien Library's** auditorium as a space to host these lessons. We look forward to having our participants perform for part of our annual SOAP fundraising event. The main goal of this program is to improve our clients' lives by showing them that they have the ability to succeed in something they might not have even known they had passion for.



Chartreuse Art Club

Sheri Olesen, owner of **Chartreuse** a fashion consignment shop in downtown Fairbanks, has taken it upon herself to collaborate with SOAP to host an exclusive art club with our clients in the lower level of her business. The club boasts between five and ten dedicated new and seasoned clients with an interest in art who work on individual and group projects related to painting, sketching, sculpting, and building. Chartreuse hosts an annual Halloween haunted house which our clients will help to create. For other projects involved with workshops, the business will host and have an assignment attached to them. Products created in the workshops will be featured and sold at Chartreuse with a

Family Treatment Department

FCA and the clinical team are grieving the loss of Travis Thompson, LCSW. She passed away in June. She left behind family and friends who surely are going through their own grief, but we hear often from her clients who were helped through her clinical skill and the passion she brought to her work. Travis was universally loved by FCA's clients and staff and we miss her terribly.

Fall is one of the busiest times of the year for the clinical team in Family Treatment and this year will be especially difficult without so many of our therapists and other staff members. Anne Brainerd, our long time Clinical Supervisor, has moved on to other opportunities. We miss the energy and laughter that accompanied her like a shadow. Kathryn Dosch, who was a part time therapist and facilitated the Equine Therapy Group, has departed from the agency as well. Laurie Holland-Klein, a contract-therapist for the agency, is moving out of state. We miss them all.

Jenny Cross is taking maternity leave. We share her joy and wish the best for Jenny, the baby and her family. Jenny plans to return to FCA and we will be glad when she does, but we want her to have ample time to care for her family and herself.

Leah Lipka, the previous Intake Coordinator, left the agency to take a job coaching High School swim teams at Lathrop and Monroe. Our loss is her student athletes' gain. She graciously returned to train **Dita DeBoer** who has taken on the position. Dita brings experience, humor and a can-do attitude.

Paul Beals, MA, LPC will be taking over as Clinical Supervisor. He comes to us with an excellent reputation and a broad range of experience. Despite rumors to the contrary, he can't walk on water but fortunately, that won't be necessary in his job. **Carina Dick**, MEd, has also joined our clinical team as a therapist. She is a graduate of UAF and Fairbanks is her home town. We are thrilled to have both of them on our staff.

The rest of the clinical team, Dr. Mikki Barker, Linda Sheridan, Sean O'Neil and Randy Lewis continue to serve Fairbanks by providing therapy to families and individuals. We would be unable to do our jobs without our excellent support staff and the support of the community.

SOAP continued from Page 4:

portion of the sale going to the artist or SOAP. Artists' work at Chartreuse and other art establishments throughout downtown will be available for our annual SOAP fundraising event. The main goal of this program is to help our clients explore their creative talent, make a positive impact in the community, and acquire skills needed to help them live a better life overall.



UAF-KSUA SOAP Radio Show

Through contact with the music director of the University of Alaska – Fairbanks radio station, **KSUA**, we have started a radio show exclusive to SOAP for our clients to participate. For two hours one day per week, SOAP has access to the KSUA studio, and with the supervision of a youth advocate, we have two clients act as guest DJs each week and play some of their favorite music. We also advertise SOAP and its upcoming events while we're on the air. By teaching them how to work together, follow a schedule, and be responsible for what they do and say on the air, this program will help our clients acquire critical job skills needed when looking for a job.

Follow S.O.A.P on:



FCA
912 Barnette Street
Fairbanks, AK 99701

A Taste of Art 2011 - Donation Form

Tax ID #: 92-0064069 • Phone: 456-4729 • Fax: 456-4623

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Donor Form

Donor #:	Donor Name to be Listed:	Business Name (if different):
Mailing Address		E-mail Address:
Contact Person:	Phone:	Person to be Thanked (if different):

Log #	Items Donated & Description	VALUE of Donation \$\$
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2.		
3.		
4.		
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6.		

Check here if:

CASH GIFT

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GIFT CERTIFICATE: Donor

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Voluneteer responsible for donation: _____	Pick-up status Information:	<input type="checkbox"/> Procurer will pick up & deliver <input type="checkbox"/> Needs to be picked up by: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Donor will drop off by: _____
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See information about A Taste of Art 2011 inside!

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