

BEACONHILL

907.222.0925 855.277.2004 info@beaconhillak.com 2807 Arctic Blvd, Ste. A, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 www.beaconhillak.com

April 26, 2021

Dear Members of Rotary District 5010,

Thank you for your willingness to partner with Beacon Hill to support Alaska's 3,100 children in foster care. A recent local study noted that "Child abuse and neglect causes detrimental effects to victims that often last a lifetime. These effects not only diminish the health and quality of life of the individual, but also impose costs on society as a whole through increased expenditures on health care, child welfare, criminal justice, education, as well as lost workforce productivity" (Klouda, Nolan. "Economic Costs of Child Abuse and Neglect in Alaska in 2019," November 2020). Without support, children in foster care face incredibly hard odds.

Beacon Hill exists to serve, support, and encourage each of these children, and to engage the community in responding to their needs. We have two Family Support Centers where children in state's custody can enjoy weekly visits with their siblings and parents in a home-like setting. These regular visits encourage family reunification (lessening the time a child is in care) by offering family bonding activities such as child-led play, art, reading, and shared meals around a table. In 2020, we facilitated positive family contact for 145 children and their parents. Research shows that "families that spend time together regularly have a greater likelihood of timely reunification, and frequent family connections may also decrease depression, anxiety, and externalizing problem behaviors in children" (Casey Family Programs, 2020).

Providing ready-made bags of art activities, games, and books will be enjoyed by families during their weekly visits. Beacon Hill partners with other organizations across the state who facilitate family contact such as Office of Children's Services, Alaska Family Services, Alaska Youth and Family Network, CITC, and Chosen). We would be happy to share the bags with these partners.

Thank you for partnering with us to make a difference in the lives of Alaska's most vulnerable children. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Warmly,



Kristen Bierma, MS, LPA
Executive Director, Beacon Hill



P.S. For additional information about Beacon Hill and how our programs benefit children statewide, visit our website www.beaconhillak.com.