

# *Annual Report 2006*



## **Anchorage Project Access**

## Letter from the President of the Board of Directors

*T*his has been an exciting, challenging and productive year as we've watched the fruits of our labors culminate into Anchorage Project Access (APA). Numerous volunteers were involved in laying the ground work to increase accessibility to health care for income eligible Anchorage residents. Through their diligence, we have accomplished a great deal since we opened our doors in December 2005.

*O*ur first annual report outlines our achievements, accomplishments and plans for the future. It also demonstrates what can be completed when the professional medical volunteers, APA Board and staff and numerous outside patrons work collaboratively and cooperatively together. We hope you take great pride in APA's progress and the role you played. In the coming year, we will continue to work diligently to strengthen APA for the numerous residents of our community who have no other resource for their health care needs. Thank you all for caring and doing your part.

John Schwartz MD  
President APA Board of Directors

## **Anchorage Project Access Executive Board Members**

**John Schwartz MD**  
President

**Catherine Schumacher MD**  
Treasurer

**Jerome List MD**  
Vice President

**Buff Burtis MD**  
Medical Director

**Tom Hunt MD**  
Secretary

**KC Kaltenborn MD**  
Medical Director

## **General Members**

**Barbara Symmes**, Providence Health System in Alaska

**Benee Braden**, Braden and Company

**Beverly Wooley**, Department of Health and Human Services MOA

**Brian Green, PhD**, Christian Health Associates

**Byron Perkins, DO**, Cornerstone Clinic

**Cathy Feaster MSN, ANP**, Department of Health & Human Services MOA

**Joe Josephson**, Josephson Associates

**Marcia Haggerty MD**, Alaska Family Medicine Residency

**Michele Brown**, United Way of Anchorage

**Noel Rea, DHSS**, Office of the Commissioner

**Rhene Merkouris, MD**

**Reverend Father Scott Medlock**, St. Patrick's Parish

**Timothy Kavanaugh MD**

**Tom Nighswander, MD**

**William McCray Jr., MD**, Internal Medicine Associates

## **Staff**

**Charlene Spadafore Vassar**  
Executive Director

**Marti Anne Gilman**  
Patient Care Coordinator

**Stephanie Engel**  
Patient Care Coordinator

## **Our Mission**

**T**he mission of Anchorage Project Access is to increase access to health care for low-income uninsured members of our community by using a volunteer network of providers working in a coordinated fashion to create a compassionate, respectful, equitable, accountable and efficient program of necessary services for those in need.

## **Our History**

**A**nchorage Project Access (APA) is a local replication of a national model that has proven to improve health outcomes and reduce emergency room charity care costs in many communities. Residing fiscally and administratively under the nonprofit structure of Christian Health Associates, the project was founded and brought to the implementation stage through the collaborative efforts of many community stakeholders including a group of local physicians, the Rasmuson Foundation, United Way of Anchorage, Providence Health System, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, The Foraker Group, Christian Health Associates, Anchorage Department of Health and Human Services, Alaska Primary Care Association, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Denali Commission, and Alaska Health Fair.

**A**PA began providing services in December 2005. Initially a core group of physicians and other supporters provided policy development and oversight. Christian Health Associates provided administrative support and clinical support was provided by the volunteer network of participating physicians, hospitals, imaging centers, mid-level practitioners (e.g., nurse practitioners and physician assistants), and others (e.g., physical therapists, pharmacists and podiatrists).

**I**n April 2006, APA was able to add the planned pharmacy component to the client services through an agreement with Carrs/Safeway pharmacies and the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center (ANHC) pharmacy. Project Access patients receive medication assistance cards honored by Carrs/Safeway pharmacy; patients whose primary medical home is the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center receive their medications through the ANHC pharmacy program.

## **Our Challenge for the Future**

**F**iscal year 2006 saw the beginning of a new organization in the health care system in Anchorage with the implementation of Anchorage Project Access. All data accrued during that time will be evaluated and disseminated in 2007. One of our challenges for the future is to leverage this evaluation data to secure APA sustainability. Sustainability, continuous growth in health care providers and patient referrals are instrumental in maintaining our ability to assist the underserved and uninsured. While we currently serve Municipality of Anchorage residents only, our goals for the future are to branch out to the Matanuska-Susitna Valley and the Kenai Peninsula.

## **Our First Year**

**T**he first year of operation included implementing the foundation for Anchorage Project Access and developing the internal structure of the organization.

### **Board of Directors**

- Board members elected – December 2005
- Meetings held February, May, August and November 2006
- Mission Statement approved – February 2006
- Committees established:
  - ◆ Clinical Leadership Team
  - ◆ Evaluation
  - ◆ Executive
  - ◆ Finance
  - ◆ Governance
  - ◆ Pharmacy
  - ◆ Board Improvement
- Foraker conducted Board training – May 2006
- Published APA's newsletter "The Colleague"

### **Administration**

- Three full-time positions established
  - ◆ Executive Director
  - ◆ Two Patient Care Coordinators
- Office space, furniture, computer systems acquired
- Data base management system for patients and providers contracted through Software Integrity
- Office practices and procedures established
- Web site designed and developed - located at:  
[www.anchorageprojectaccess.org](http://www.anchorageprojectaccess.org)


## Program Development

- Developed a volunteer network of 350 physicians (approximately 155 practices) and health care providers
- Processed 551 applications for Anchorage residents
- In-kind services donated by Risk Benefits Management Services, Carrs/ Safeway Pharmacies and Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center Pharmacy for claims and pharmacy benefit management.
- 551 applications were processed and 236 patients received care

An integral portion of the Anchorage Project Access marketing plan includes participating in community health related events and connecting with agencies throughout Anchorage.

### Our first year of operation included:

- Health related work resource fairs
- Partners with United Way Health Access Committee
- Cover the Uninsured Week activities
- APA employees volunteered at the United Way Gift Program during the Christmas season
- APA was a feature article in “Anchorage Daily News, February 28, 2006, Life and Health, Donated Doctors”
- Monthly, ongoing training with participating provider’s offices
- APA information rack cards distributed in strategic locations, social service agencies, churches and medical facilities throughout the Anchorage Bowl

	<b>Anchorage Project Access Medical ID Card</b>
Patient Name:	
ID Number:	
Effective Dates:	
Primary Care Physician:	
Anchorage Project Access is NOT INSURANCE	

*“I am grateful, if not awed, by the wellspring of skill and good will offered to our community by my colleagues as I have recruited volunteers for Project Access.”*

*-KC Kaltenborn, MD*

**Anchorage Project Access  
Income and Expense  
December 2005 - December 2006**

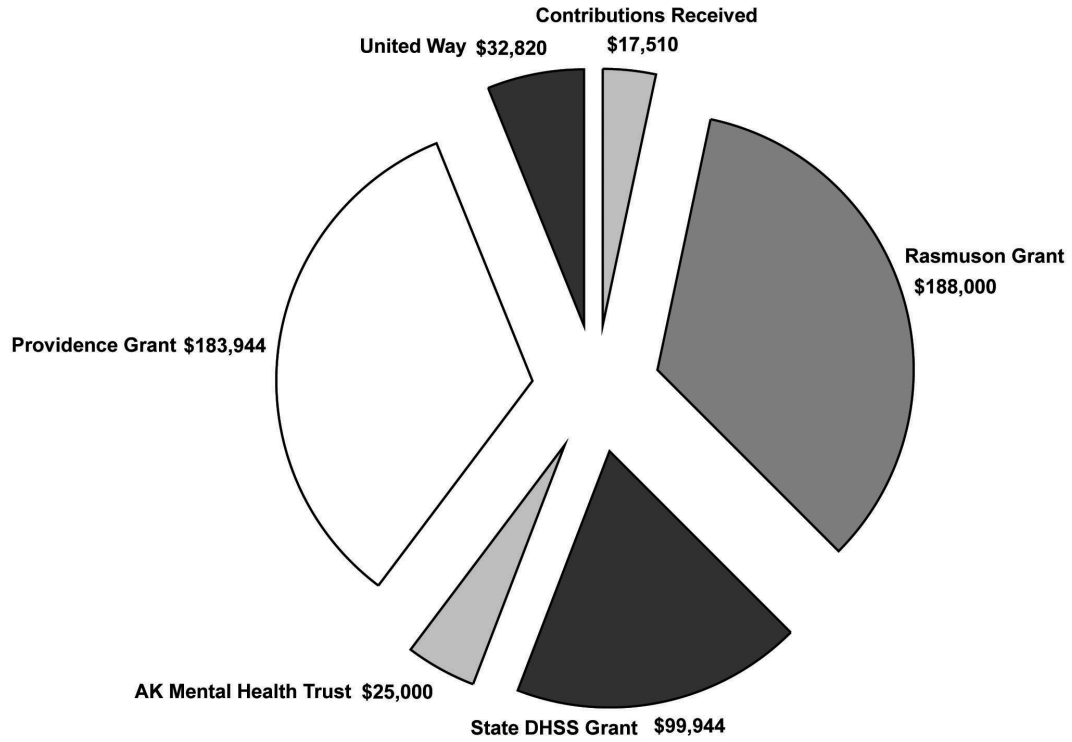
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions Received	17,510.00
Rasmuson Grant	188,000.00
State DHSS Grant	99,944.00
AK Mental Health Trust Grant	25,000.00
Providence Grant	183,944.00
United Way of Anchorage	<u>32,819.56</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<u><u>547,217.56</u></u>

<b>Expense</b>	
Supplies	24,436.59
Admin/Overhead	49,245.08
Consulting	18,378.88
Equipment	7,686.07
Pharmacy	18,257.81
Transportation	334.86
<b>Personnel</b>	
Salaries	140,067.39
Bookkeeping Services	18,031.00
Benefits	<u>19,620.19</u>
<b>Total Personnel</b>	177,718.58
Lease	<u>13,200.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u><u>309,257.87</u></u>

*“To me, APA’s existence means that I live in a community that cares for its residents’ medical needs in an effective way and I am proud to be part of this effort.”*

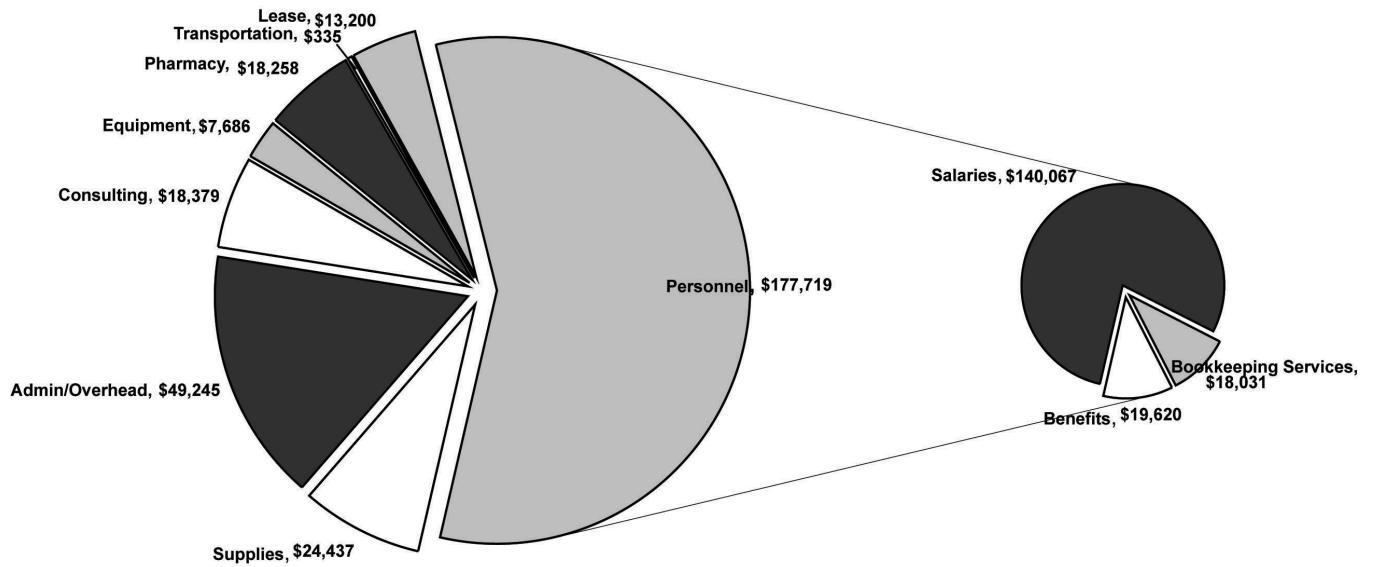
*-Dr. John Schwartz*

**Income by Source**  
Dec 2005 - Dec 2006



**Total Income - \$547,218**

**Expenses by Category**  
Dec 2005 - Dec 2006



**Total Expenses - \$309,258**

*“I would like to thank Dr. John Schwartz for his calm and effective leadership as Board Chair during this first year of operation. I would also like to thank all the physicians and health care providers who are donating services to those community members most in need of care.”*

*-Catherine Schumacher, MD*

*“Project Access has improved our efficiency and clinical care substantially. Instead of spending time imploring our specialist colleagues to see our uninsured patients, or having to play the role of specialist without support, we can concentrate on delivering high-quality primary care.”*

*-Dr. Tom Hunt*

**Thank You** Anchorage Project Access is grateful to the following businesses and private donors who have supported our mission. Additionally, our heartfelt thanks to the 350+ volunteer physicians and health care providers who have graciously volunteered their time and talents to assist our neighbors. Without them, Anchorage Project Access would not exist.

## **Community Partners**

Alaska Health Fair  
Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority  
Alaska Primary Care Association  
Anchorage Access to Health Care Coalition  
Christian Health Associates  
Denali Commission  
Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Health & Human Services  
Premera Blue Cross of Alaska  
Providence Health Systems of Alaska  
Rasmuson Foundation  
State of Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
United Way of Anchorage

## **Private Donors**

Frances W. Burton Foundation	Kathy Dunn
Barbara Symmes	KC Kaltenborn MD
Benee Braden	Kirsten Anderson
Beverly Wooley	Linda Boochever
Brian Green	Lois Watson
Brigitte Landry	Marcia Haggerty MD
Buff Burtis MD	Noel Rea
Byron Perkins DO	Rhene Merkouris MD
Catherine Schumacher MD	S. Lynn Erwin
Cathy Feaster MSN, ANP	Father Scott Medlock
Charlene Spadafore Vassar	Shelli Stanton
Fred Jenkins	Susan Jennings
Jacqueline Englund	Timothy Kavanaugh MD
Jerome List MD	Tom Hunt MD
Jodi Forsland	Tom Nighswander MD
Joe Josephson	William McCray Jr. MD
John Schwartz MD	

## In-Kind Donations

Risk Benefits Management Services  
Carrs/Safeway Pharmacies  
Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center Pharmacy  
Geneva Woods Pharmacy  
The Foraker Group

## Patient Stories

A gentleman had an open wound on his hand and was referred to Anchorage Project Access for evaluation by a hand surgeon. He had been putting off getting care because of cost concerns. We sent him to a surgeon who removed the lesion. However, the pathology report found an epithelial sarcoma - a very aggressive cancer. The patient was then referred to another surgeon who removed lymph nodes and found that the cancer had not spread. He was then referred to an oncologist through Anchorage Project Access who, in turn, referred him to a radiation oncologist. We encouraged the patient to apply for the State of Alaska Chronic Acute Medical Assistance Program (CAMA); he did so and was enrolled. Through the early detection of this cancerous lesion, the patient was undoubtedly spared an amputation, spread of the cancer, and premature death.

A gentleman in his early 50's was referred to Anchorage Project Access for bi-lateral carpal tunnel syndrome. Counseling had been his profession for many years, but the severity of the carpal tunnel prevented him from writing client notes eventually leading to unemployment for almost two years. Through Anchorage Project Access, the carpal tunnel was corrected in his right hand. He is a surgical candidate for repair on his left hand, but declines at this time because he now has a job in the counseling field. Several times during this gentleman's enrollment in Anchorage Project Access, he commented he was emotionally debilitated by losing his sense of touch as well as his dim financial situation. Our last conversation was positive and hopeful as he described his new job and mapped out his plan to complete his medical care outside of Anchorage Project Access.

*“It has been immensely rewarding personally to see patients track through APA and get the medical care they need. Their appreciation of the volunteer services provided, in the words of the popular TV advertisement, is priceless”*

*-Dr. Byron Perkins*

