



### Welcoming New Staff

Praise God for 3 new staff members joining our team this summer! Please pray for Caleb, Grant and Jason.



### Covenant Bible Camp

Praise God for in-person opportunities to share Camp in a Box. We are excited teams got to go out to parnter with so many villages!



### Summer Days

Please pray for a great summer of subsistance for our families in the villages.



## COVENANT YOUTH OF ALASKA

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Anchorage, AK 99520

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To read more, visit: [www.cyak.org/ministry-updates](http://www.cyak.org/ministry-updates)

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Cory Alverts



Aune Carlson

FIRST EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH, ROCKFORD  
316 WOOD RD  
ROCKFORD IL 61107-4928



Sarah Bender



Simone Thistle



Jaime Nanninga

Many of our staff raise support, this includes our office staff. Being on the inside makes it a little harder. Please consider supporting one of them!

To help support any of this team, visit:

[www.cyak.org/staff-support](http://www.cyak.org/staff-support)



A relational outreach, discipleship and leadership ministry for Alaska youth and young adults

A ministry of the Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Website [www.cyak.org](http://www.cyak.org)  
Email [info@cyak.org](mailto:info@cyak.org)  
Phone 907-222-1432



## Looking a Little Deeper into the Details

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These are the behind the scenes staff that help things run from the inside.

By Jaime Nanninga

**A**s we often share stories of the ministries and the people we encounter, we also want to remember those behind the scenes. CYAK has an amazing team of people whose hearts explode with the love of Christ for the youth and young adults in our ministry. Included on that team are those who work within the walls of the office and pull things together from the inside.

Cory Alverts is currently serving as the Operations Director and has been a part of the team for 9 years. She has served in different roles throughout the years. She first heard about CYAK with her husband while getting involved in another indigenous-led ministry. Her role allows her to oversee logistics and communication with staff and students which also leads to problem-solving which is her favorite part. When asked about a highlight, she said, "I love it when everyone does their part. It is cool to see how little pieces put together make the whole run smoothly. Like a puzzle, put together, we help encourage youth and young adults and point them to Jesus."

Aune Carlson is the current HR Manager through August 2021. She has been in this role since August of 2020 but has been part of CYAK since 2005 where she was hired after graduating from NPU. She was first introduced to the ministry through her roommate at CBC Ecuador who was from Unalakleet and then told about Bible Camp. Her current role helps streamline, support, and resource the staff to succeed with any issues they face. When asked about a highlight, she said, "We have a great team! It is simply a joy to work with everyone and see how God is leading and shaping them through their ministry."

Sarah Bender is the Admin. Assistant as of January 2021. She was connected to CYAK through other staff after she moved up to Alaska to serve at a local Church. She is the office support and resource for youth, young adults, and churches across Alaska. She also serves as a Youth Pastor so she understands the needs and loves being able to resource others with the materials they need to help

young people follow Jesus. She looks forward to going to Bible Camp in the future. When asked about a highlight, she said, "It is getting to work with the team in the office. I love working closely with the admin team and it is such a blast as we conquer these big projects together."

Simone Thistle is the Finance Assistant and has been on the team for 2 ½ years. She and her husband first heard of CYAK from a friend at ACC who also gave them information about the Aarigaa House, a ministry of CYAK, where shortly after they moved. She wanted to use her detailed and organizational gifts for ministry, which she has found in processing all of CYAK's income. She loves working alongside an encouraging and supportive team. She is also excited to welcome a new daughter into their family in August. When asked about a highlight, she said, "It's more than just a job, it's a calling in which we are all shoulder to shoulder with our fellow team members."

Jaime Nanninga is the Communications and Marketing Manager as of February 2021. She and her husband moved back to Alaska last fall where she first became a Zoom coordinator for at-home school. During this time she heard about the opening at CYAK and

**"We have a great team!"**

being familiar with the ministry, she applied. She was so excited to find a job that allowed her to partner with fellow believers and use her gifts of creativity. Her role helps support many CYAK ministries with communication and materials. When asked about a highlight, she said, "Watching the hearts of the team come alive and sharing the same passions for ministry."

As this team is newer, they seem to be creating an environment that moves smoothly and together in all its parts. They are excited to work together on upcoming office projects and CYAK ministries. Cory said she is looking forward to greater structure and clarity within CYAK so we can fulfill our vision of "healthy and vibrant communities reflecting the Gospel of Christ and led by people God has transformed."