

### United Way 2011 Wrap-Up



Surrounded by pink helium-filled balloons, Design Alaska employees gathered on Friday, November 4, in the reception area for the 2011 United Way Campaign Wrap-Up Party. Office Manager Kym Pihlaja kept the group in suspense as she unveiled the final week's pledges and the grand total for this year's event. Twenty-four employees (out of 68) made pledges this year for a total of \$17,356. Combined with the Design Alaska 100% match, our 2011 **GRAND TOTAL** came to **\$34,712**. This contrasts with last year's campaign in which 25 employees (out of 69) pledged \$16,608, bringing that grand total to \$33,216 (\$1,496 less than this year's grand total).

As in past years, each donor received a balloon with a Pay Day candy bar at the end of the ribbon. Inside the outer wrappers were slips of paper reading either "Thank you for your donation" or "You've won . . . !" The "Balloon Prizes" were \$25 gift cards to various local businesses. This year's winners were: Jack Wilbur – Regal Cinemas; Tom Marsh – Cold Spot Feeds; Tony Mustered – If Only, a Fine Store; Mark Frame – Barnes & Noble Bookstore; Wendy Presler – Prospector Outfitters; Rebecca Gumbs – Pagoda Restaurant; and Mike Dean – Brewster's.

Jeff Putnam did the honors and drew from the lockbox, holding 670 tickets, the three winning names for the large prizes. Mike Dean won the top prize of two Alaska Airline tickets up to 40,000 miles. Second prize was a PhotoSmart eStation, which was won by Marilyn Fye. Third-place-winner of a Bamboo Mousepad was Mark Frame.

LIVE UNITED



On November 11th, Design Alaska held an Ice Cream Social for Florian Kienle, our telecommuter from Florida. He came up to look at some of the projects that he is working on. It was great catching up with the latest from him and his family in Florida.



On November 8th, Skye did a presentation on the renovation projects that she was involved in over the summer. Skye shared her experiences working on houses in Fairbanks, Alaska; Kennecott, Alaska; and Las Vegas, New Mexico. Thank you Skye for sharing your adventures!!!



## Welcome to the Design Alaska Family!



James Bartlett and Jennifer Vey are happy to announce the birth of their son Jaxon Clark Bartlett. Jaxon was born on Friday, November 18th, 2011 at 8:47am. He has been welcomed home by three older brothers, Justin, Joshua and Geoffrey. Congratulations!!!!



## Congratulations Marcus and Miranda



Marcus and Miranda met at North Pole High School during their junior year and started dating their senior year. They attended University of Alaska Fairbanks together and he proposed on Alki Beach in Seattle. He said, "During our 2007-2008 Christmas break, my grandparents invited the grandchildren (my younger brother, older sister and her boyfriend of 5 yrs. and of course myself and Miranda) on a Holland America cruise from San Diego to Mexico where I planned to ask Miranda to marry me at some point in a romantic place in Mexico. But the idea was quickly scrapped after our trip started out on the wrong foot with a trip to Tijuana the night before our cruise departed. But even with the Tijuana setback, I worked to get my plan back on track and with the help of my sister and her boyfriend, I was able to find Alki Beach and propose to Miranda with Seattle's night lights as the backdrop." After 7 years of being together, they were married on October 29th and left for their Italian honeymoon the following morning.

## Upcoming Holiday Reminders



We have some fun holiday events coming up and we don't want you to miss out on them!!

Friday, December 16th is the Design Alaska Turtle Club Christmas dinner. We encourage all employee to come, bring a guest and have a great time. Social hour and appetizers start at 6pm and dinner starts at 7pm. Come and enjoy an evening out with great food and fellowship.

Friday, December 23rd is the Christmas Potluck and Gift Exchange. This is a great time to meet the families of fellow coworkers. Design Alaska will close at noon so we can enjoy an afternoon potluck and Chinese gift exchange. Children 12 and under will receive a gift from Design Alaska. The Chinese Auction lasts until the last brave soul takes the last present under the tree.



**If you had one word to describe yourself, what would it be and why?**

Alicia Mayo	Mischievous: I can either be innocent or devious - you never know. Course I always like Troublemaker...
Rick Hoegberg	Maverick: In spite of a certain Alaskan ex-governor borrowing, without permission, my lifelong moniker, I can prove ownership: MaveRICK. Synonyms include unorthodox, unusual, neophile, non-conformist, contrarian, pioneering, explorative, NOT argumentative, in short, an electrical engineer!
Andy Foran	Learner: I pursue new things because I want to learn about them. When I pick up a hobby, I am likely to obsess over it for a few months because when I am a blank slate, I can learn a great deal with little effort. As I gain understanding of the topic, the learning slows down. Thus, more and more time must be invested for the same amount of knowledge. When I am no longer excited by a topic, I move on to the next one. The road traveled is more important than the destination.
Chris Miller	Entertaining: If I am sitting with a group of quiet people, I can almost not help myself but to speak up and engage the group in conversation. I can't stand dead air.....
Lona Uzueta	Loved: I've always felt that I am loved. I feel loved by my family and many friends. I've had teachers who showed much love toward me. One special person in particular was my piano teacher; she's been gone for many years, but I feel she loves me still. And I've gotten through many situations simply by remembering that God loves me.
Robin Rader	Faithful: Because my dad is faithful. I was going to say friendly but I don't have that many friends.
Kym Pihlaja	Blessed: Keith and I recently became sponsors to 2 children in the Dominican Republic and reading some of their stories makes me realize how blessed I am. I have Jesus, my parents, siblings, kids, granddaughter, pets, church family, co-workers, and friends. Material things don't even compare to the joy of having each of these relationships. I have been truly blessed.

## Welcome Design Alaska's Newest Employee



Hi my name is Laura Lancaster. I was just hired to be a Jill of All Trades in Archives, Accounting and wherever else I'm needed.

I grew up in sunny Salt Lake City (It was 60 degrees there on Thanksgiving). It was my dream to live in Alaska so I moved to Juneau in 2006. During Juneau's summer, I was a ranger at Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center. During winter, I worked in the call center and the mailroom at the Permanent Fund Dividend Office. (For some reason, cruise ships don't visit Alaska in winter.) I moved to Fairbanks in May of 2010 when my boyfriend was accepted as a graduate student in wildlife biology at UAF. Until recently, I was a driver and tour guide for Northern Alaska Tour Company.

I have both indoor and outdoor hobbies. I spend most of my time writing these days. I'm taking a creative writing course at UAF, and this month I had a small article published in a tour guide trade magazine. My current projects are a western novel and a science fiction novel about genetic engineering. Eventually I'll commit to one and finish the other later.

Cooking is one of my more practical hobbies. Each week I pick a new recipe to try. Most of the time the food is excellent. Rarely, the results are leftovers condemned to rot at the back of the fridge. I scrapbook and knit. I enjoy hiking and am beginning to cross country ski. I hope to pick up archery at some point too.

Some things no one would ever know about me are my family raised pygmy goats as pets, and I'm tied for my high school's record for most medals won at Academic Decathlon. (AcDec is a nerdy quiz contest, but it's nerdy in a good way.)

I worked on a trail construction crew for a year. I look forward to working for Design Alaska and getting to know you all.

## A Serious Problem, Happening 112 Million Times a Year

U.S. drivers got behind the wheel after drinking too much about 112 million times in 2010.

Certain groups are more likely to drink and drive than others.

- Men were responsible for 4 in 5 episodes (81%) of drinking and driving in 2010.
- Young men ages 21-34 made up only 11% of the U.S. population in 2010, yet were responsible for 32% of all instances of drinking and driving.
- 85% of drinking and driving episodes were reported by people who also reported binge drinking. Binge drinking means 5 or more drinks for men or 4 or more drinks for women during a short period of time.

### Steps for Safety

- Seat belts can protect every passenger on every trip. Just by buckling up, you reduce your risk of serious injuries and deaths from crashes by about 50%.
- Choose not to drink and drive and help others do the same.
- Before drinking, designate a nondrinking driver when with a group.
- If out drinking, get a ride home or call a taxi.
- Don't let friends drink and drive.
- Choose not to binge drink themselves and help others not to do it.
- Talk with a doctor or nurse about drinking and driving and request counseling if drinking is causing health, work, or social problems.
- Buckle up every time, no matter how short the trip. Encourage passengers in the car to buckle up, including those in the back seat.

Be safe during this holiday season. There are multiple parties happening all the time and people are not paying attention as well as they should. Plus the recent weather adds in some additional factors. If you plan to drink, have a plan in place. If you are the DD, then stick to that and don't sneak a drink or two. This way, everyone can have a happy holiday!



Adapted from The ABCs of BAC, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2005, and How to Control Your Drinking, WR Miller and RF Munoz, University of New Mexico, 1982.

# December 2011 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Business Managers Meeting	2	3
4 Design Alaska Holiday Symphony 4PM	5	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Janet's Lunchbyte—Trip to Japan	15	16 Design Alaska Holiday Party 6PM—Turtle Club	17
UAF Fall Semester Finals						
18	19 December Birthday Cake	20 Hanukkah Begins	21 First Day of Winter (Winter Solstice)	22	23 Design Alaska Family Potluck—Closing at Noon	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas Day	26 Christmas Holiday—Design Alaska Closed	27	28 Hanukkah Ends	29	30	31 New Year's Eve

## December Birthdays

Elizabeth Johnston	Dec 13
Jeffrey Robbins	Dec 14
Gisela Young	Dec 17
Mike Dean	Dec 22



## January Upcoming Events

**Sun.**, Jan 1st, 2012—New Year's Day  
**Wed.**, Jan 11th, 2012—UAF Wintersemester begins  
**Mon.**, Jan 16th, 2012—January Birthday Cake, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.  
**Thurs.**, Jan 19th, 2012—UAF Spring Semester begins

## Design Alaska Anniversaries

Lona Uzueta	6 Years	Dec. 5, 2005
Billy Brookins	6 Years	Dec. 27, 2005

## Classifieds

If you're looking for a house sitter, look no further. Just give Joyka Degerlund a call for rates and more info: 750-5748. Most pets are fine (except snakes).



Christian and Troy Orr with the boxes and bags of Popcorn that Christian sold for his Cub Scout Pack, Pack 9. Christian was the top seller in his den and his Pack. He sold \$1,020 in Popcorn!! Congratulations Christian and a HUGE thank you to everyone at Design Alaska who purchased popcorn from him. It still amazes me how much support this company gives to the community and I am proud to be a part of such a wonderful organization.