

Highlights of Hope



A Newsletter from New Hope Counseling Center

Happy September!

Fall is ramping up! Labor Day camping is over, colors are changing, ACC students and students in the Northern hemisphere are returning to school, and New Hope Counseling Center (NHCC) is busily scheduling students and preparing for our annual **Harvest of Hope Fundraiser Dinner and Auction** which is scheduled for **Oct. 26th from 5:00-8:00pm.**

As we move into this busy fall, I want to take a moment and share some amazing highlights of the Spring and Summer.

- ◆ **In May**, Alaska Christian College (ACC) celebrated their 18th commencement and graduated 9 students. The students received AA degrees in one of the following degree programs: Christian Ministry, Behavioral Health, or Para-Professional Education.
- ◆ **In June**, New Hope Counseling Center began an *extreme makeover!* After 10 years in our current location, NHCC was experiencing growing pains. The need for a more comfortable and spacious waiting room and front office was evident. So in June, under the construction leadership of volunteer, Willie Von Dorp, and sledge hammers in hand, the wall dividing the waiting room and front office came down and created a large, open waiting room with much more breathing space. The front office was moved into a previous counseling office with a design space accommodating both a receptionist and our office manager at the same time; now we can check people out AND answer the phone at the same time.
- ◆ As NHCC began a structural make over in June, we also began an internal make over as Assistant Director and Licensed Profes-

sional Counselor, Peggy Barkman, MA and her husband accepted a call to move to North Dakota for new employment, a grandchild and children (not sure of the order priority). Peggy is the co-developer of our counseling community division and liaison to ACC and has provided invaluable service since 2006. While we are very sad to see her move so far away, we are delighted that through modern technology, she will continue to offer support to ACC and our community through tele-behavioral health (video counseling). Tele-behavioral health is a growing industry which increases access to services and we are grateful that she can continue to work with us in this capacity.



Fall 2019 Issue

Our Mission

To provide the opportunity for students of Alaska Christian College and individuals, couples and families of the Kenai Peninsula to be healed, restored, and equipped through faith-based counseling in order to pursue a life of wholeness and hope.

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Dr. Keith Hamilton,

Please detach and return with your next donation. Thank you!

Is your information correct? If not, please enter corrections below.

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NHCC is a 501c(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax deductible.

NHCC tax ID number is 76-0733573

DONATION OPTIONS

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◆ As the summer progressed into July, much to my surprise, the *extreme make-over* of NHCC continued as volunteer teams took on the refreshment of the building exterior. I left for vacation with a small request of some paint touch ups, and came back to power-washed and re-stained sides, and freshly painted trim, eaves, and railing. Thank you to all who gave of their time, sweat and resources to help New Hope Counseling Center be a more inviting place for seeking healing, restoration and hope. My key verse that month was Ephesians 3:20:

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work in us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

◆ **In July**, we also started our monthly vlogs and revived our Facebook to help keep people updated in the life of New Hope Counseling. If you missed any of our vlogs, you can find them on our website at: www.newhopesoldotna.com. Also, if you are on Facebook, please: like, follow and share our **New Hope Counseling Center** page. Thanks!

◆ **August** had its fill of celebrations, goodbyes and welcomes as well. (*Never a dull moment*).

August marked not only 10 years for NHCC in their current building, but also 10 years of faithful and dedicated service and employment by Licensed Professional Counselor, Ted Mole. Ted and his wife had many years of missionary service in Siberia, before Ted felt called to get his counseling degree at Wheaton College in Illinois. After completing his degree, Ted and his family moved to AK where he began working at NHCC while accruing his 3,000 hours toward state counseling licensure. Through his time at NHCC, he not only has received his counseling license, but he has pursued additional certification in areas such as, but not limited to, Chemical Dependency, Anger Management, and Trauma Treatment.



◆ As we celebrated Ted's 10 years, we also celebrated the two years that Dori Hagen shared her counseling talents with us. Dori is a counselor with Cornerstone Counseling in Homer, AK.



As they have grown, she is now able to work full time in Homer. We are so grateful for her time with us as she brought a vibrant smile, graciousness, and love for Jesus and others.

◆ As we said goodbye to Dori, however, we welcomed two new employees: Lydia Koch and Jamie Larsen. Lydia joins us as a Master Level counselor in the process of accruing the



3,000 supervised experience hours that will position her to apply for state licensure. Lydia has been commuting from Anchor Point to Anchorage weekly to work with Cornerstone Counseling in Anchorage over the last two years and decided it was time to find some-

thing closer to home (or as she said, "this side of the mountain"). In addition to Lydia, and now with our expanded space, we were able to hire a morning receptionist, Jamie Larsen. I love God's timing and a small town. I mentioned the need to a friend (thanks Claudia) on a Saturday, we interviewed the following Friday and she began the following Monday. Jamie brings a heart for hospitality and an enjoyment of office tasks and organization. We are so grateful for the addition of both Lydia and Jamie.



◆ As August and summer drew to a close, ACC welcomed its, yet again, largest class ever, of 105 students arriving the week of August 22nd. The first weekend enabled the students to transition into college life with many social



activities, intermixed with academic testing, orientations, and setting up their rooms. The block party Friday night was a blast with a BBQ and lawn

games. As the students ventured into their first week of school and the reality that they were attending college, (which meant *homework*), they still had opportunity to balance their studies and meet new students and staff as different campus departments hosted game nights throughout the first week. New Hope generally gets to co-host slip and slide kickball (try it sometime), but due to the fires, we did retro games like musical chairs and a new twist on

garbage bag basketball. Super fun to begin introducing the students to the counseling



students down in the basement.

◆ **September** is here now, and the colors are quickly changing, at least here in Alaska.



The Fireweed foliage is a deep red with cotton-like tufts, and the birch and aspen are a beautiful blend of green and gold. The moose are hiding as moose season has begun (although I saw the antlers of a not so lucky moose, but proud hunter, peeking out of a pickup truck) and the caribou are migrating (we saw our first caribou in our neighborhood last week). As we step fully into fall, we invite you to mark your calendars and join us for our annual **Harvest of Hope Fundraiser Dinner** scheduled for **Oct. 26th from 5:00pm – 8:00pm**. We are **changing our venue** just a bit to create more room and comfort. This year we are having our dinner at Peninsula Grace Church, 44175 Kalifornsky Beach Rd., Soldotna. In addition to a new setting, we are also selling tickets this year. **Tickets are \$50 per person** and can either **be bought at New Hope Counseling Center** or **online though our website: www.newhopesoldotna.com**. If you choose to buy your tickets online, please click on 'Donate', enter the total amount and write a note indicating number of tickets for the fundraiser.

Thank you so much for your friendship and partnership in this ministry in helping to bring healing, restoration and hope through Christian Faith-based counseling services.

Debbie Hamilton, MA, LPC, Executive Director and the team of New Hope Counseling Center

NEW HOPE COUNSELING CENTER
PRESENTS
Harvest of
HOPE
ADMIT ONE | OCTOBER 26, 2019
DINNER & AUCTION

Join us for a fabulous dinner, an auction with Senator Peter Micciche, and a program with the students of Alaska Christian College sharing their stories and cultural heritage through dance, drama, and song.

OCTOBER 26, 2019 | 5-8PM
PENINSULA GRACE CHURCH
44175 Kalifornsky Beach Rd, Soldotna