

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Around 350 BC, Aristotle wrote, "For the things we have to learn before we can do them, we learn by doing them." The concept of learning through experience is ancient and while a hands-on approach is enlightening, it is through reflection on the experience where learning occurs. As we enter the seventh year providing the Get REAL Financial Reality Fair program, it's a valuable opportunity for us to look at the learning and growth achieved at the foundation.



This past year was monumental in the number of students reached, however we were recently reminded by one of the principals from our first schools, "Even with the impressive numbers, it's the individual student and family that matters. That's where the stories, the heart, and the impact resides. You impact one young person through their experience in the reality fair, you positively influence their pathway for a lifetime and the likelihood that life lessons of financial literacy will be passed on through children of their own. This is what we refer to as a legacy." What a powerful reminder how our foundation goals are achieved, not by increase in headcount, but increase in the lives of those young people we meet.

Experiential learning focuses on the learning process for the individual. The Get REAL Financial Reality fair program teaches students budgeting through interaction and observation, as opposed to reading about the process or being told by parents and/or teachers that it is necessary for successful living. It provides valuable insight that is significant to the students overall understanding of the real-world environment.

Hunter, a student who participated in a reality fair a few years ago recently connected with a volunteer from a fair he attended. At the fair, Hunter picked a high paying job, bought an expensive house, and purchased a lot of other high-end amenities for a lavish lifestyle. Even though those choices put him way over budget, he felt it didn't matter because he had such a high income and it would all work out. In real life, Hunter was not used to managing his personal financial needs: he received \$200 per week allowance, his unlimited and many times over limit cell phone charges, his own car, insurance and gas and clothes were paid for by his parents. Unfortunately, Hunter's parents divorced right about the time he graduated. His mom couldn't help him financially; he drifted from one low paying job to the next. We caught up with him when he was about 20. He said, "you know that fair we did at the high school? Well I've been thinking about it and I'm trying to make a budget and stick with it and set some personal goals. I'm just not able to buy everything I want, and I have to save something." We are just starting to see the fruits of our labor with stories like Hunter's.

In the seven years since we held our first fair, we've gone from a small organization doing just a few fairs a year to covering all of Alaska and growing throughout Hawaii. We have learned from our errors, adjusted to correct, and we've innovated where necessary. All of this has served our consumers as we bring financial education to our high school students in a comprehensive, fun, more interactive way than we could seven years ago and I know as we move forward into the next seven years that we will be giving these students something they will find value in, for the rest of their lives.

Karina Wentworth - Executive Director



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS	2018	2017
UNRESTRICTED CASH	\$68,500	\$116,646
RESTRICTED CASH	95,798	100,410
PREPAIDS	957	955
SECURITY DEPOSIT	940	940
TOTAL ASSETS	\$166,195	\$218,951

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$18,905	\$17,571
RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	95,798	100,410
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	51,492	100,971
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$166,195	\$218,951

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

INCOME	2018	2017
DONATIONS	\$314,840	\$387,200
GRANTS	15,000	5,600
MEMBERSHIP	-	-
MISC. OPERATING INCOME	-	12
INTEREST ON CASH	52	66
INTEREST ON RESTRICTED FUNDS	388	260
TOTAL INCOME	\$330,279	\$393,138

OPERATING EXPENSES

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS	\$246,393	\$192,228
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE	35,379	33,784
PROGRAM RESOURCES	25,761	22,886
PUBLIC RELATIONS	15,574	12,975
SUPPORT SERVICES	19,332	18,780
OFFICE OPERATIONS	16,519	13,931
OFFICE OCCUPANCY	15,647	14,869
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,609	1,265
PROMOTIONAL	5,084	2,378
ADVERTISING	-	1,138
RESEARCH	-	-
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$384,298	\$314,234
NET INCOME	\$(54,018)	\$78,904

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR GENEROUS GIFTS IN 2018

Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
Chad Bostick
National Cooperative Bank
Chenega Future, Inc.
Dan McCue
Lynn & Jack Short
Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union
Northern Skies Federal Credit Union
Pick.Click.Give
Stong Communities Award
Tongass Federal Credit Union
True North Federal Credit Union

THE FOLLOWING CREDIT UNIONS SPONSORED REALITY FAIRS IN 2018 AT THEIR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS USING A TURN-KEY PACKAGE PROVIDED BY THE FOUNDATION

Alaska USA Federal Credit Union
Aloha Pacific Federal Credit Union
Credit Union 1
CU Hawaii Federal Credit Union
Denali Federal Credit Union
Gather Federal Credit Union
Hawaiian Community Federal Credit Union
HawaiiUSA Federal Credit Union
MAC Federal Credit Union
Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union
Schofield Federal Credit Union
Tongass Federal Credit Union
True North Federal Credit Union

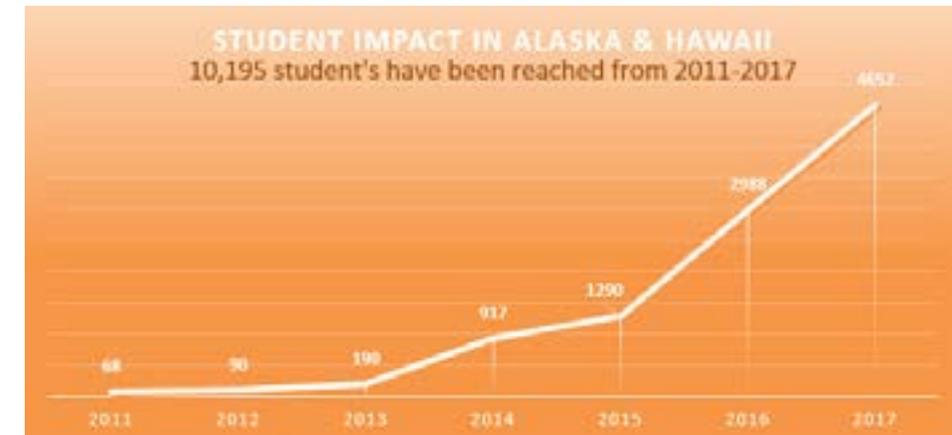
OUR MISSION

The Financial Reality Foundation was formed in August 2014, by Matanuska Valley Federal Credit Union as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit to provide consumers of all ages an opportunity to learn about personal finance in a realistic and memorable way by providing programs that develop their skills and lead them to achieve their financial goals. The programs created and supported by the foundation are at no cost to the consumer, partnering schools, business or community members.

OUR PROGRAM

The Get REAL Financial Reality Fair program has been a successful tool for schools to provide their graduating seniors a fun, hands-on way to learn about managing personal finances. The growth of this program is largely in part due to the collaboration efforts of Alaska and Hawaii Credit Unions and from the continued support of community businesses who assist students in making decisions about everyday expenses and by providing financial advice to help them make a budget.

The FRF goal is to reach every enrolled high school senior in Alaska and Hawaii each year. Due to the rising demand for reality fair events, it was necessary to allocate more funds in 2017 in the areas of: compensation, travel, public relations, and program resources. A part-time Member Education Officer was hired to accommodate the growth in Hawaii. We saw tremendous growth in locations outside our local area including remote locations in Alaska and neighboring islands in Hawaii. We held 57 events in Alaska and 21 events in Hawaii. Our volunteer base increased from approximately 400 volunteers in 2016 to over 900 in 2017.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

"On behalf of the Financial Reality Foundation (FRF) board, I'm extending a huge thank you and our sincere gratitude for your help. Students and parents quickly see the importance of financial education when hundreds of businesses and financial institutions work together to provide a Get REAL Financial Reality Fair. Financial reality fairs have enriched student's lives throughout Alaska and Hawaii and participants are more aware of the decisions they will have to make to be financially comfortable as adults. This enrichment and awareness is possible because of the volunteers, financial supporters and the enthusiasm and hard work of the FRF staff."

Gaye Sarvela, Chairperson - Financial Reality Foundation