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Skate Park  
Red Room
- Random  
People Who  
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# Wellspring Notes

Fall 2009

## Linda's Heart Song

I love to sing, it just does something for me down deep in my heart. I had the chance to be part of a worship experience this summer that I would love to recreate. It was a little piece of heaven on earth. Sort of like that certain time in the afternoon when the sun shines in the window, casting its glow over a room making everything look more beautiful. It is here and then quickly gone.

Ignite Alaska, in May, was kind of like that. This amazing moment that will only be recaptured in part by the photos and video footage; and a song remembered when it is played on the radio.

## Send Money!

We just completed our first external audit. We were ready and it went well! We were able to pay our CPA from Richards, Johnson and Granberry, P.C. with grant funds. Please contact us if you would like a copy! The accountant met with our board

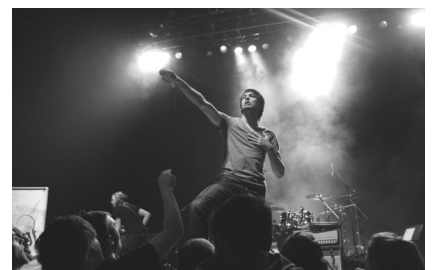
Every now and then we hear a song that takes us back to a memory, kind of like when our young people hear "One Way" or "Never Let Go," songs that our last band sang with us every Friday night. We hope it will remind them of hot food, people who remember their names and kindness.

One afternoon, Jack, a 13 year old skate boarder came into the café and handed me his earphones and said, "Listen, Linda!" It was the beautiful sound of Kim Walker, of Jesus Culture singing "He Loves Us" I just listened until Kim starts to say something like, "If you ever felt the love of Jesus, you would never be the same. It

would change you!"

Nick, an SOS member, said to me this summer, "I just don't think I can believe like you." I told him that I didn't have any desire to have him believe like me. That unless he had a revelation of who Jesus is, he shouldn't change anything. It is about a relationship, not a set of beliefs alone.

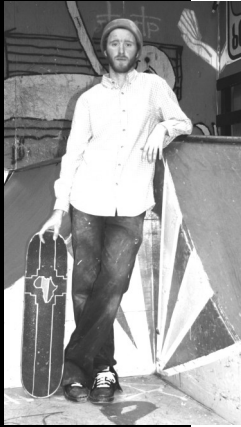
God is singing a love song over this generation. I am glad to sing along. I for one will never be the same.



Benny from The Lost Concept at Ignite Alaska, May 2009!

and told us that we need 100 new donors to give us \$50 a month or 50 donors to give us \$100 a month to keep us out of trouble. Please consider sending us a one time gift from your PFD! or making a regular gift to support the part of our ministry that makes you

happiest. Love to feed kids? Keep skateboarders out of your garage or off your sidewalks? Give kids a chance to play music together or have someone to talk to in a crisis? This is your chance to make a statement; "Linda, you can count on me! I am with you!"



Jeremiah Tindall,  
Program Manager

Through the vehicle of AmeriCorps, we give young people opportunities to finish school, try new job opportunities, and have a positive impact on their community through service.



New name: Seasons of Service as we expand into the school year!

## New Program Manager: Jeremiah Tindall

In May 2009, we were desperate to add a skate park instructor for our summer camps! I sent an ad to Christian Skater's International and found Jeremiah! He joined our summer staff for June and July and we ran two three week camps. When camp was over we heard that MJ Murdock Charitable Trust had approved our grant request to add a Joel's Place Program Director to our staff. Jeremiah decided to apply for the position.

Our committee completed

interviews and are pleased to announce our selection of Jeremiah as our new program director.

He will be traveling to Africa with Tom's Shoes in October and then attend a Christian Skater's Conference in Ft. Lauderdale before returning to start the new position in November.

Jeremiah is a graduate of Knox College with a Bachelor's Degree in Music. He has started Open Mic Nights in the Red Room on Thursday nights at 8.

He will also be giving piano, guitar and violin lessons as part of our Indie School Program.

Jeremiah is an educator, skate boarder, started his own skate shop in Minneapolis and is currently recording his own original music.

In November, he will oversee the Skate Park, Shop, Café, Music and Indie School staff and programs at the Youth Center.

Please stop by to meet him!

## Random People Who Care at Cornerstone by Kelli

"I never, in a million years, thought I'd be here." These were the words of Shelly, as we talked and got to know each other at our Random People Who Care booth at Cornerstone Festival this summer. I knew she was referring to not only being there at Cornerstone, but also to the fact that she was here on earth, alive, after a long struggle with

depression and suicidal thinking.

Her words were echoed by many people who stopped by our booth, many adults, who thanked us for being a resource for kids dealing with difficult issues. Saying, when they were young, and dealing with things like cutting, they thought they were the only one.

I assured Shelly and the others that the gratitude is shared by us at RPWC. We are sincerely thankful to them for holding on, for having faith in God, and for trusting us with their struggles.. And on the rare occasion, when I get to express that face to face, it's an incredible honor.

## Joel's Place Summer of Service by Marylee

Twenty-three young people, 16-25, gave themselves to a Summer of Service through Joel's Place AmeriCorps Program this past summer. Members were sworn in by mayors Jim Whitaker and Doug Isaacson at the Borough Building on June 11, 2009. As AmeriCorps Members they gave either 300 or 450 hours of service, but collectively they provided 8093 hours of direct service to 15 non-profit agencies in the Fairbanks North

Star Borough. Twenty-one of the Members were from the local area, two came from out of state. Members received a monthly stipend and an Education Award to be used as they pursue their education after high school

According to [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov) "The Serve America Act reauthorizes and expands national service programs administered

by the Corporation for National and Community Service, a federal agency created in 1993. The Corporation engages four million Americans in result-driven service each year, including 75,000 AmeriCorps members, 492,000 Senior Corps volunteers, 1.1 million Learn and Serve America students, and 2.2 million additional community volunteers mobilized and managed through the agency's programs."



## Where kids get help.... fast!

For several years I have been at the table of the Juvenile Justice Task Force, Gang Prevention, Homeless Youth Summit Task Force and the Homeless Coalition. I have listened, learned and written grants finally deciding that the best way to help Fairbanks kids was to see that they receive help the first time they decide to runaway. Maybe if we work together we can form a safety net to get them to the help they need. As a result of some key people agreeing to work

together, Joel's Place received a grant from the Alaska Mental Health Authority Trust to have a Video Camp and conduct a training with National Safe Place, bringing a Safe Place trainer to Fairbanks!

In August, thirteen people from 6 agencies serving at risk youth met with Susan Harmon of National Safe Place for two days of training. Joel's Place has obtained a license to operate this successful program in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. We will coordinate the program, Careline Crisis Intervention a

24/7 hotline will take calls and Presbyterian Hospitality House will provide emergency housing and counseling for runaway young people.

This fall/winter we will hire an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer as the Safe Place coordinator. We are looking for businesses to be Safe Place sites, Volunteer responders and Sponsors for this needed service to connect our runaways and youth in crisis to fast, safe help!

**Volunteer training is scheduled for October 12 from 6-9 pm. Call Linda to sign up!**

To keep up to date on Joel's Place Films book mark [joelsplacelife.com](http://joelsplacelife.com) on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

## Project Safety Net '09: Safe Place video camp

Thomas Tapp and Jorge Arciniega with Seed Films, Valdez, did an absolutely amazing job engaging 20 young people in our first week long video camp.

The young people learned to write and draw a story board, cast, act and film the story. At the end of the week the work began as a few campers met with the instructors to edit and do the finishing touches of

the public service announcement for our new program, Safe Place.

Fifteen young people completed a post event survey at the Video Premiere and said that they had fun. 14 said they would like to make a commercial again and all thought the instructors were interesting. 12 said they would like to do it again, high praise for 10-20 year olds.

My favorite quotes: "There are so many people young and old that should have a place to go if all else fails."

"There are lots of kids who need a safe place."

## to Eagle and Beyond by Jeremiah

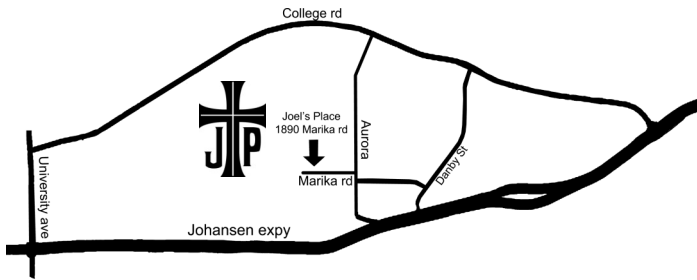
A few of us from Joel's Place took a little trip to Eagle, Alaska in August to help the town rebuild after a catastrophic Spring break-up brought flooding and huge chunks of ice through the center of town knocking down homes in the process. We were able to help the community by building stabilizing tanks that were placed in the holes being dug for their new outhouses.

The trip was a reminder of the importance in remembering that the

things we have in this world are only temporary. In a day, it is possible to lose everything that we have stored up in possessions, but it is the love and compassion that we share with our neighbors that has eternal value. Joel's Place worked alongside Samaritan's Purse, the Mennonite Disaster Service, and Disciples of Christ Disaster Relief.

Do not store up for yourselves  
treasures on earth,  
where moth and rust destroy,  
and where thieves break in and steal.  
But store up for yourselves treasures in  
heaven,  
where moth and rust do not destroy,  
and thieves do not break in and steal.  
For where your treasure is,  
There your heart will be also.

**Matthew 6:19-21**



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Creating a Compassionate Community!

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Yelena Petkova Palmer, VISTA

Teresa McLean, Fiscal Manager

Kelli Boyle, RPWC Program Director

Marylee Bates, AmeriCorps Program Manager

Jeremiah Tindall, Program Director

Cruiz LaCasse, Skate Park Manager

Tyler Franke, Café Manager

Selah Boyle, Barista

Nicole Wells, Front Desk

Leah Byam, Front Desk

And many wonderful volunteers!

## Dessert Extravaganza

With all of the fall treats going around, this will be by far the sweetest. On *November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm* Joel's Place is hosting "Dessert Extravaganza," a fall fundraiser to benefit our programs for youth!

This event will include; a model runway, a cake walk and auction, music, and tons of yummy desserts! We would really be honored to see you at Joel's Place on this day and for you to see what we are all about.

Please don't keep this fun event to yourselves, but feel free to share it with your friends and family, that way they can be a part of this sweet treat as well!



A sweet night to benefit Joel's Place programs for youth!