

RECONNECTION

2022
SPROUT Annual
Report



FY2022 Impact

All children are valued and nurtured and give the same to the next generation.



7,696



Books

700



Developmental
Screenings

21



Families Currently
Serviced

2,300



Zoom Hours

12,848



Diapers

RECONNECTING after COVID

DEAR SPROUT CHAMPIONS,

As Sprout emerges from the effects of the pandemic, our program is still being impacted in significant ways. COVID-19 and all its risk mitigation efforts created a strain on our agency that we have not experienced in the past. In FY21-22 Sprout saw significant turnover in Leadership and Staff. Between April of 2021 and April 2022, Sprout transitioned through 3 Executive Directors, we lost nearly all our direct service staff, and our ILP Program Coordinator changed hands. Though staffing has always been a challenge in our rural area, to have more than half the staff turnover all at once was unusual and was directly related to COVID stressors. Despite these challenges **Sprout continues to persevere!** To meet the increasing needs of our enrolled families, Sprout had to re-imagine creative responses to the current staffing shortages. We hired a Developmental Specialist/Social Worker from Seldovia, who eventually moved to Homer, and an Occupational Therapist from Fairbanks, who will work in a hybrid model from there with expected travel to our remote Aleutian villages and Seward. Telehealth and remote work have become very viable solutions for increasing access to services for our staff and families. We also recognize the desperate need for personal connection. The pandemic isolation really affected some of the youngest kiddos, many of whom did not have opportunities for socialization over the past two years. **Despite these major challenges, Sprout continues doing what Sprout does...help families and communities promote healthy development in our children.** In Spring and Fall of 2022 Sprout focused energy on reconnecting with communities across our service area. After a brief lull during the pandemic, we have certainly seen an uptick in referrals from communities across our region. We successfully resumed monthly trips to Seward for direct services and outreach. We also prioritized outreach and engagement

trips to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor, where we reconnected with key community and school district stakeholders. This winter, we have plans to return to Unalaska, as well as travel to the communities of Sand Point, King Cove, and Cold Bay, where we recently developed an MOA with the East Aleutian Tribal Clinics for the first time since taking over the Aleutian region in 2013. In addition to traveling to these Aleutian communities, Sprout scheduled a Good to Grow event with Seldovia, for vision and hearing, and Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) screenings. In 2022 so far, our ASQ community partners screened approximately 700 children, with 78 identified as needing referral. About midway through 2022, we were so excited to resume in-person visits and **have not looked back.** ILP providers currently review a brief COVID policy with each family if community case numbers are high, and determine the best way forward based on the family's preferences and adherence to our ongoing Risk Mitigation Plan. Families have been more than grateful to have these services in-person again. We also resumed our community playgroups, in-person caregiver workshops, and support groups. We still offer a hybrid model with virtual service delivery quite successfully, especially when it enhances our ability to increase access to services that otherwise might not be possible for some families. In addition to these Early Learning Program activities, Sprout continues to grow our Imagination Library, Resource Closet, our Safe Diaper program, provide Car Seat Safety checks, and lead many community outreach events. Support from community members such as yourself has allowed us to successfully round out this year's activities for quite promising and continued growth. As we head into 2023, we encourage you to watch for exciting new programming coming to our Sprout communities!

JUDY KAMARA, Executive Director



And thank you to all of our partners who help us carry out our mission.

Medical Providers, Office of Children Services, School District, community members, MAPP, SKP Resilience Coalition, HECC, The Homer Foundation, statewide partners ACT, Best Beginnings, Infant Learning Program, Help Me Grow, and individual donors.



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COMPASSION

Acknowledge, accept,
and appreciate others
wholeheartedly

CONNECTION

Cultivate safe, secure,
and thoughtful
relationships

COMMUNITY

Welcome voices,
embrace differences,
and offer belonging
for everyone

COLLABORATION

Grow strengths and
skills to create positive
impacts together

*Promoting the healthy development of young children
in partnership with families and community.*