



## **Six Young Alaskans Recognized as Heroes for Work in their Local Communities**

*Alaska Communications and Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska Announce 2023 Summer of Heroes Honorees*

From stepping forward and developing leadership skills in an effort to make real, positive change in their communities, to using their own stories to inspire and empower others, or simply acting with compassion, young Alaskans across the state are changing lives around them for the better.

Through the Summer of Heroes Program, [Alaska Communications](#) is proud to celebrate six young people for their outstanding community service across Alaska. Five youth heroes at large and one youth hero from the company's employee program each will be awarded a \$2,000 scholarship for their efforts. Additionally, as part of the program, the broadband provider will donate \$15,000 to Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska to further support youth development in the state.

"Communities across the state would look very different if youth weren't stepping up and supporting those around them," said Jim McCarley, Interim CEO, Alaska Communications. "These six youth heroes are helping build local communities that are positive, healthy places to live. We're proud to shine a light on their work and hope their actions inspire others to do the same."

Congratulations to the following 2023 youth heroes:

- **Dalton Ante**, 11, Anchorage
- **Shawn Carter**, 16, Kotzebue
- **Noah Victoriano-Cruceta**, 13, Anchorage
- **Elizabeth Djajalie**, 17, Juneau
- **Aaron Harkley**, 17, Anchorage
- **Josephine Herbert**, 16, Palmer

[Read the inspiring stories](#) of this year's youth heroes.

Now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, Summer of Heroes is a partnership program between Alaska Communications and [Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska](#) to support youth development programs and honor young Alaskans who are making positive contributions in their communities. Since its inception, 80 youth have received scholarships and been recognized for their work in 25



communities across Alaska. Additionally, \$195,000 has been donated to Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska to support the Club’s programs and expand the organization’s capacity to positively impact the lives of young people in Alaska.

“This year’s heroes are extraordinary examples of engaged citizens in their communities. Across our state, these young people model strong character and leadership, and we are thrilled to support them,” said Jennifer Patronas, CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska. “The Summer of Heroes program helps promote positive activities and interaction with youth to help them learn and grow.”

Learn more about Alaska Communications’ work in the community through the Summer of Heroes program at [www.alaskacomunciations.com/summerofheroes](http://www.alaskacomunciations.com/summerofheroes).

### **About Alaska Communications**

Alaska Communications, an affiliate of ATN International, Inc. (NASDAQ: ATNI), is the leading provider of advanced broadband and managed IT services for businesses and consumers in Alaska. The company operates a highly reliable, advanced statewide data network with the latest technology and the most diverse undersea fiber optic system connecting Alaska to the contiguous U.S. For more information, visit [www.AlaskaCommunications.com](http://www.AlaskaCommunications.com).

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska**

Boys & Girls Clubs – Alaska has 23 sites statewide, which offer programs before and after school and during school breaks for youth and teens, 6-18 years old, as well as athletics and licensed childcare programs. Mission is fulfilled through guidance-oriented character development activities conducted in safe, warm and fun environments by trained, professional staff. Key programs emphasize academic success, good character & citizenship, healthy lifestyles, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation. Learn more about programs and activities offered by Boys & Girls Clubs - Alaska at [www.bgcalaska.org](http://www.bgcalaska.org) or 907-248-5437.

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