



Petersburg
MEDICAL CENTER

PMC Youth Programs Report October 2025

Workforce Wellness

Three mentors earned certification as American Canoe Association Level 2 Kayak Instructors, strengthening our long-term capacity for safe, high-quality water programs. Our summer team peaked at 15 staff before returning to our core group of five for the school year, maintaining strong morale and teamwork through the transition.

Staff wrapped up summer with a reflective team paddle up Petersburg Creek, using our new kayak fleet and holding a productive season debrief. We continue to prioritize wellness through open communication, flexibility, and professional development. This fall, staff will be present and recognized at the Alaska Afterschool Network Conference in November.



Community Engagement

Partnerships remain central to our mission. WAVE and Petersburg Mental Health Services supported sliding-scale tuition and outdoor gear access for all ORCA Camp participants.

Our Strings & Things group resumed monthly visits with Long Term Care residents, sharing art, cookies, and conversation. Mentors also led youth bike buses during the Roll & Stroll to School Day.

Our Development & Advocacy Coordinator will co-host a conference workshop with Onward & Upward on using community resources to enrich youth programs. Each collaboration expands opportunities and deepens community connection.

Patient Centered Care

Though we don't serve patients directly, care remains central to our work. Coffee with Kinder Skog gatherings resumed this fall, creating space for family dialogue and feedback. The Snail Mail Character Recognition project continues to celebrate youth with handwritten notes of encouragement.

We released our Fall Advisory Committee Report and launched a Substack blog to share stories, updates, and photos from the field. The Risk Assessment & Planning Team meets October 9 to review incidents and update risk management plans, ensuring safety and quality across all programs.

Facility



We added a fleet of nine Wilderness Systems kayaks, funded by the Elks Lodge, WAVE, and PMC. This upgrade improves safety and program sustainability. Long-term storage solutions are being explored.

Financial Wellness

PMC Youth Programs secured \$53,000 in external funding from WAVE, PMHS, the Elks Lodge, and the Alaska Community Foundation, supporting scholarships, gear, and expeditions.

We are applying for the American Camp Association's Character at Camp Grant to expand mentor training and youth leadership development. Ongoing goals include maintaining balanced budgets, improving efficiencies, and diversifying funding sources.

Links

Substack: [Kinder Skog | Substack](#)

Fall Advisory Committee Report: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGygQ6dSYk/KO0EvxP6-cigP9aFGYB3Mw/view?utm_content=DAGygQ6dSYk&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=uniquelinks&utm_id=hfddfb934cf

Submitted by: Katherine Holmlund – Youth Programs Development & Advocacy Coordinator
