July 28th, 2016

Press Advisory
Area Leaders Participating in Mayor’s March for Youth Homelessness

Press Contact: Fairbanks Youth Advocates’ Director, Marylee Bates, Marylee@fairbanksyouthadvocates.org or call 374-5678 between 9a.m. - 5p.m.

For more information on The Mayor’s March: The public can go to the website www.fairbanksyouthadvocates.org/mayorsmarch or email Sarah Smith, Development Coordinator at sarah@fairbanksyouthadvocates.org for more information.

Background: Fairbanks Youth Advocates has been providing 24/7 safe shelter to homeless youth aged 12 to 18 since April 2014 at The Door. The reality of youth homelessness is that youth often spend their days and nights walking the streets when they have nowhere to go.

Last year (2015) The Door provided shelter for 79 different youth. This year, we expect that number to be even higher - we have remained at capacity or near capacity all summer, and have been forced to turn away youth for lack of space. We can house 12 youth at a time.

The Door fills a long-term community gap in shelter services and provides for basic physical needs, as well as services for transitioning to stability. We provide counseling and family mediation services.

Most youth come to The Door due to high levels of conflict in their homes. Our goal is to return teens home as soon as possible - most youth stay for less than a week. Youth come from many different backgrounds, including families struggling with domestic violence or substance abuse, and military families facing challenges related to deployment and reintegration.

In solidarity and support, North Pole's Mayor Ward, Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Kassel, City of Fairbanks Mayor Eberhart, and Garrison Commander Williams of Fort Wainwright will be joining together to walk the fourteen miles from downtown North Pole to downtown Fairbanks to raise awareness of the challenges of youth homelessness, and funds for The Door.

The mayors are encouraging the community to join them in supporting homeless youth by pledging their support and donating to their march through www.fairbanksyouthadvocates.org/mayorsmarch.

The Event: Mayors Eberhart, Ward, and Kassel are inviting the press to join them at The Door (138 10th Ave) on Tuesday, August 2nd at 2pm. They will be sharing more information on the Mayor’s March and why they are coming together to recognize youth homelessness and The Door.

The Mayor’s March will be held on September 10th, 2016, and will begin at 1pm at the North Pole City Hall and conclude at The Door with a conversation about youth homelessness in our area at 7pm.