WHO we are
WHAT we’ve accomplished
WHERE we’re going

AFACT
Anchorage Faith & Action • Congregations Together
During the past 10 years, AFACT has touched the soul of the city of Anchorage by mobilizing thousands of people around important issues in their lives and their neighborhoods.

2003

January: Pastors form Anchorage Interdenominational Sponsoring Committee
September: St. Anthony Catholic Church forms Local Organizing Ministry

2004

February: St. Anthony holds a meeting on Community Policing with 450 people
October: Sponsoring Committee adopts name of Anchorage Faith & Action – Congregations Together (AFACT)
November: Alaska’s U.S. Attorney announces $50,000 grant for policing in response to St. Anthony meeting

2005

March: AFACT holds meeting on Public Safety with 400 people
August: St. Anthony mobilizes Mountain View residents to seek a Weed & Seed Grant
September: Catholic & Lutheran Native Organizing Ministry hold a meeting on Education with 350 people

2006

March: AFACT Mayoral Candidate Forum with 100 people
March-May: AFACT holds several meetings of Clergy/Cops/Kids
April: Mountain View receives $174,000 Weed & Seed Grant
May: Central Lutheran holds a meeting on After School Children’s Program with 200 people
October: Campfire & Municipality agree to staff and fund After School Program at Central Lutheran
November: Bethel Chapel Action holds a meeting on Blighted Building with 60 people
November: Municipality removes Blighted Building from Bethel Chapel neighborhood
November: AFACT presents a Vision for Youth in Anchorage with 400 people
November: Mayor Begich asks AFACT to represent faith community on Tri-Borough Task Force on youth violence

2007

January: APD Police Chief Huen incorporates AFACT’s principles of Community Policing into the APD Strategic Plan
March: Gloria Dei holds public meeting on Dangerous Bus Stop with 60 people
April: AFACT holds a meeting on Expanding Denali KidCare with 200 people
June: Parks & Recreation begins a Summer Play Program at St. Anthony in response to November’s meeting on youth
September: A New Bus Stop is completed near Gloria Dei Lutheran
November: Central Lutheran & St. Anthony hold a meeting on Children’s Recreation with 200 people

2008

January: Bethel Chapel holds a meeting on the Mountain View Rec Center Boys & Girls Club with 80 people
February: Catholic & Lutheran Alaska Native Organizing ministry holds a public meeting on Education with 200 people
March: Holy Family Cathedral holds a meeting on Homelessness with 300 people
May: Legislature responds to AFAC by increasing Denali KidCare eligibility to 175% of FPL
June: Boys & Girls Club hires outreach staff and quadruples the number of children served
November: AFACT celebrates its Five-Year Anniversary

2009

January: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church holds a meeting on Crime in its Jewel Lake neighborhood with 150 people
February: APD begins Increased Police Patrols in Jewel Lake neighborhood
February: Jewel Lake community Council Passes a Resolution endorsing Gloria Dei’s request for policing
March: Catholic & Lutheran Native Organizing Ministry holds a meeting on Federal Stimulus Funds for Education with 100 people
March: AFACT Mayoral Candidate Forum with 200 people
March: Media reports that every mayoral candidate is making Community Oriented Policing part of their platform
May: Catholic & Lutheran Alaska Native Organizing Ministry Host Canadian Speaker Dr. Martin Brokenleg
June: St. Anthony holds a meeting on Graffiti, Overflowing Dumpsters and Deteriorating Roads in Russian Jack with 100 people
June: Catholic & Lutheran Native Organizing Ministry presents a proposal to the Anchorage School Board to bring a Parent Teacher Home Visitaton Project to Anchorage
Summer: Mayor Sullivan creates “Homeless Coordinator” position, as requested at 2008 Holy Family meeting
September: AFACT holds a meeting on expanding enrollment and eligibility for Denali Kid Care with 300 people
2010

January: DHSS Commissioner Hogan changes DKC enrollment from six-month to twelve-month continuous eligibility
March: Catholic & Lutheran Alaska Native Organizing Ministry School Board Candidate Forum with 150 people
March: AFACt Assembly Candidate Forums held in four churches across Anchorage
March: AFACt leaders travel to Juneau to address legislators on Denali KidCare
April: Alaska Legislature passes a bill increasing Denali KidCare to 200% of Federal Poverty Level
June: AFACt holds prayer vigil when Governor Parnell vetoed DKC bill
August: Gloria Dei Lutheran leader Sandy Fazio hosts the first leader AFACt fundraising party
August: The Anchorage School District brings the national Parent Teacher Home Visitation Project to Anchorage to train teachers in four schools

2011

January: AFACt hosts a Health Care Forum with Linda Hall, director of Alaska Division of Insurance with 100 people
January: Bethel Chapel holds a public meeting on the unused Glenn Square Mall with 200 people
January: Glenn Square Mall owners agree to lower the cost of rent
January: ASD responds to Gloria Dei Lutheran by placing the CAP Team in Jewel Lake team
January: AFACt holds a Mardi Gras Fundraiser

2012

January: AFACt holds a meeting on expanding Denali Kid Care to children 12 and under with 200 people
March: AFACt School Board Candidate Forum with 100 people
April: AFACt launches a youth organizing project, “Youth Making a Change”
June: AFACt holds a Spanish Statewide Leadership Training with 22 Spanish speaking members of Catholic Hispanic Ministry
October: Central Lutheran Church & Lutheran Church of Hope hold a meeting on Access to Medicare with 200 seniors
December: AFACt holds an interfaith prayer vigil for Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting victims with 200 people

2013

January-February: Lutheran Church of Hope, Central Lutheran, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Mark Lutheran hold Medicare Town Hall Meetings
March: Bethel Chapel holds a meeting on Crime and Neighborhood Watch in Mountain View
May: AFACt holds a Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser with 400 people
May: AFACt celebrates its 10th Anniversary
May: Catholic Hispanic Ministry holds a meeting on Immigration with Senator Murkowski and 400 people
August: AFACt produces and begins distributing 4,000 booklets explaining Medicaid Expansion
November: AFACt leaders gather in prayer at Governor’s press conference on Medicaid Expansion
November-January: AFACt leaders make 13 presentations in nine congregations on Medicaid Expansion attended by 800 people

2014

March: AFACt Assembly Candidate Forum with 200 people
June: AFACt Voter Registration Drive registers 330 new voters
August: AFACt leaders hold prayer service to address bigotry with 100 people attending
September: Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church holds a Senate Candidate Forum with 250 people

2015

February: First Covenant Church holds a meeting to address the lack of detox facilities in Anchorage with 200 people
March: AFACt holds its first public fundraiser, The Breakfast of Hope
March: 15 AFACt leaders travel to Juneau to move the legislature to pass Medicaid Expansion
March: Samoan community at Saint Anthony’s holds Mayoral Candidate Forum with over 200 in attendance
March: Catholic Native Ministry hosts School Board Candidate Forum with 125 in attendance
June-August: AFACt congregations hold daily prayer vigils outside of Anchorage Legislative offices to encourage Legislators to expand Medicaid
August: Governor Bill Walker signs the Medicaid Expansion into law

2016

February: First Covenant and Catholic Native Ministry hold a second public meeting to address the lack of detox facilities in Anchorage with over 400 in attendance
March: As a result of the public meeting, First Covenant and Catholic Native Ministry formed a Task Force of Substance Abuse Providers that immediately increased access to detox beds in Anchorage
April: AFACt leaders travel to Juneau to meet with legislatures on the state budget crisis
September: AFACt holds “Hope for Anchorage: An Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace and Healing” at Lutheran Church of Hope in response to rising homicide rates with 100 in attendance

2017

March: AFACt congregations hold an Assembly Candidate Forum with over 150 in attendance
March: Catholic Native Ministry hold a School Board Candidate Forum with 120 in attendance

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Our Mission

The mission of AFACT is to work from the faith principles and values of the members, apply those values to community issues, and take democratic action to impact existing social structures for the common good of all citizens, particularly the poor and disenfranchised.

The organization:

- trains members of participating congregations in leadership and organizing skills through workshops, organizational meetings, one-to-one meetings, and Statewide Leadership Training,
- empowers congregation members to confront local issues which impact the lives of themselves and their neighbors and to gradually move to bring about changes in the structures and policies of the larger Anchorage area, thereby reducing inequities and injustices,
- ensures that low- and moderate-income persons are included in decision making in the Municipality of Anchorage, and
- works for the common good of all the citizens by choosing issues which affect the common good of the members of participating congregations, always aware of the demands of justice, fairness, inclusivity, and other principles of faith and democracy.