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Commissioner

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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Fairbanks Community Food Bank Recognized for Workplace Safety

JUNEAU, Alaska—Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner Click Bishop approved Fairbanks Community Food Bank for the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program as a result of outstanding employee safety and health programs.

“We are a small local, non-profit that receives free food and gives it away free and we cannot afford big benefits for the people and volunteers who work in this building,” Executive Director Samantha Castle Kirstein said. “We feel strongly that providing a safe workplace and developing a culture of ‘safety first’ is the most important benefit we can provide to the people who work in this building, and we strive to be the safest workplace in town.”

Companies that partner with AKOSH and achieve SHARP status are likely to experience fewer workplace accidents and reduced workers’ compensation insurance costs.

SHARP is a federal recognition program, administered by the Alaska Occupational Safety and Health Section in the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development’s Standards and Safety Division. Participating employers are excused from programmed AKOSH enforcement inspections during the recognition period. However, employee complaints, accident investigations or other significant incidents will result in enforcement action.

For more information on how a business can become a SHARP participant or to see a list of current participants, visit SHARP online at <http://Labor.Alaska.Gov/lss/OSH-SHARP.htm>, or call SHARP Program Coordinator Jeff Kolean at 907-269-4953 or email Jeffrey.Kolean@Alaska.Gov.

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