

# Kawerak Newsletter

"Qaniqta" meaning "Let's Talk" in the Inupiaq dialect

KAWERAK, INC., UAF NORTHWEST CAMPUS, AND OTHERS WITH NEWS FROM THE BERING STRAIT REGION

FALL 2015

## Halibut Donated to Four Communities in Need

By Planning

**K**awerak received and distributed 10,000 lbs. of halibut on July 29. It was



*Jeremy Kazingnuk (Bubba), from Diomedede helping his grand-father Dennis Soolook, Sr. bring fish home*

donated by the **SeaShare** group out of Bainbridge, WA. SeaShare exists to help food banks across the nation fill homes with seafood from the Pacific Northwest. Based on an average 4-ounce portion, SeaShare has donated more than 200 million servings of seafood in the past 20 years, much of it coming from Alaska with its great network of donors. The halibut processing for this shipment was donated by many generous Alaska seafood companies, including Ocean Beauty Seafoods and North Pacific Seafoods in Kodiak.

Earlier this year, several tribes contacted the Eskimo Walrus Commission for technical assistance in declaring a local harvest disaster and requested outside assistance. Kawerak was then approached by the State of Alaska, Governor Walker's office, to receive and distribute the halibut

to the four communities that are heavily reliant upon walrus meat and other marine mammal resources to fill their freezers. The residents of Diomedede, Gambell, Savoonga and Wales received the boxes of frozen halibut to supplement their far below normal levels of nutritional sustenance currently secured for the year. The low harvest of walrus is due to the changing Bering Sea ice and wind conditions in recent years. The Bering Sea ice is normally considered one of the primary breeding and haul out area for walrus. Vera Metcalf says, "Although the donation is good news, it's only a temporary solution as climate change makes hunting more difficult."

It was great to partner with local airline companies to save on the cost of moving the 10,000 lbs. of halibut after it arrived in Nome. Kawerak and the tribes recognize:

**Bering Air, Erickson Helicopters, Ravn Alaska, and Lynden Transport, Inc.** for the donation of the air freight for 200 boxes of frozen halibut and forklift services to move pallets for shipment. We give special recognition to the **U.S. Coast Guard** for flying the halibut up to Nome on their C130.

Melanie Bahnke, President of Kawerak notes, "This was a great partnership between **SeaShare, the U.S. Coast Guard, Bering Air, Erickson Helicopters, Ravn Alaska, Lynden Transport, Inc., the State of Alaska, Kawerak, Inc., the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Native Village of Diomedede, the Native Village of Gambell, the Native Village of Savoonga and the Native Village of Wales** to overcome several logistical issues to bring the most vital and basic resource to four communities in the Bering Strait."

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US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ANCHORAGE, AK  
PERMIT #456



**Kawerak Newsletter**  
Kawerak, Inc.  
PO Box 948  
Nome, AK 99762  
(907)443-5231 phone  
[www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org)

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*Ublaakun suli* translated in the Inupiaq language means: *Tomorrow again!*  
Quyanna! Visit our website at [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org).

*"Just when I cooked the last of our walrus from our freezer, we received the donation of halibut, which filled our freezer. We are so grateful and thankful for the fish and express our thanks over and over."*

*A quote from a resident of Gambell*



*Carol Piscoya, Community Services Vice President, with Coast Guard Captain Mark Morin, Commanding Officer of the Air Station in Kodiak.*



*All smiles in Savoonga as the donated iviisa (halibut) is distributed - Trent Noongwook and Jaylene Miklahook receiving their share.*

Kawerak, Inc.

## Nome Archaeology Camp, *By the 11 Campers and 4 Camp Sponsors (listed below)*

**B**etween July 19-26 eleven students from Savoonga, Buckland, Kotzebue, Selawik, Nome, Girdwood, Fairbanks, and Anchorage explored Northwest Alaska's rich cultural heritage from a base camp near Salmon Lake, just outside of Nome. From there, campers gained experience in archaeological survey and GPS mapping, recorded oral histories with local elders, launched field trips to study museum curation at the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, visited the historic Pilgrim Hot Springs, and worked together as a group to take care of daily camp chores.

**In the box to the right students share some of what they learned!**

*Created by the 11 campers: Andrew Kennedy, Harding Black, Sam Cross, Ben Cross, Jacob Weber, Martin Hadley, Anna Warnock, Emma Frankevich, Sara Toolie, Jennifer Smith, and Daphne Stein in partnership with the Nome Culture Camp sponsors: Alaska Geographic, National Park Service, Kawerak, Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum & Bering Straits Native Corp.*

### Learn More!

Are you interested in hearing more about the 2015 Nome Archaeology Camp or would you like to participate in future camps? Contact Hannah Atkinson at [hannah\\_atkinson@nps.gov](mailto:hannah_atkinson@nps.gov), 907-442-8342 or visit [facebook.com/nomearchaeology](https://www.facebook.com/nomearchaeology) to stay informed!

### Archaeology-What We Learned

- Hunting techniques and subsistence activities.
- What people lived in: tents and semi-subterranean houses.
- How to tell prehistoric and historic apart: prehistoric is before writing, historic is after.

### Archaeological terms and methods

- Marked archaeological sites with a GPS.
- Took soil samples with a soil probe.
- Measured artifacts with a tape measure.
- Learned about radiocarbon dating.

### Sites we visited:

- Caribou drive line
- Tent rings
- Village site
- Pilgrim Hot Springs

### Possible Careers:

Cultural Anthropologist, Archaeological Educator, Tour Guide, Museum Director, Paid Internships, Fish Biologist, Artist, Photographer, Native Corporation Executive, Curator, Ecologist, Pilot, and Interpretive Ranger.

### Oral History: Stories from the past, morals for the future.

### How do we share stories?

For thousands of years people in Alaska passed down stories by

word of mouth. Today we still share stories orally, but also record them by transcription or recording them with tape recorders. We discovered that it is our responsibility as youth to pass on our stories to others.

### Why do we record stories?

We record stories so we can learn from our past so we don't repeat mistakes.

### Morals

Morals are lessons one might take away from stories. There are many different types of morals. For example, one moral that is often used in stories told by our ancestors is to pay due respect to all things. Another moral used in a story told by Guy Martin is that you should not steal.

### Shamanism

Shamanism is also a big part of cultural storytelling, but is the one subject that we heard the least about. A shaman can be "magical," "mystical," and "unknown." Shamans can be good or bad, but they are rarely both. According to stories we heard from elders, shamans were powerful individuals. Some people also call shamans "medicine people".

### Oral History and Science

One fascinating aspect of oral history we learned about was the intersection of science and traditional stories. One example Guy Martin spoke of was of geologists

"reading the Earth" and discovering hard evidence of a humungous storm about 2,000 years ago. This storm coincided with a story originating from around that same time telling of a ferocious storm destroying villages across Alaska. We thought it was interesting that stories can complement and support scientific evidence and that the two traditions can coincide.

### Museums

- We keep artifacts in museums to respect the spirit of the items.
- Not every community has a museum.
- Types of museums: 1) State, world, and local museums; 2) Cultural Center, Heritage Center; and 3) Repository (storage).
- Work we do at museums: 1) Catalog artifacts; 2) Connect with Native Elders; 3) Archaeological research; 4) Compare/contrast different cultures; and 5) Help visitors.
- Artifacts are old and fragile so we should be careful around displays.
- How do museums collect artifacts? 1) Donations; 2) Archaeological sites; 3) Traveling exhibits; and 4) Many artifacts from Northwest Arctic region are kept in different states and countries.



*Left to right standing: Andrew Kennedy, Harding Black, Andrew Tremayne, Samuel Cross, Ben Cross, Jacob Weber, Martin Hadley, Hannah Brewster, Anna Warnock, Emma Frankevich, Matt Ganley, Sara Toolie, Hannah Atkinson, Jack Omelik, Jennifer Smith. Left to right kneeling: Jeff Rasic, Daphne Stein, and Jillian Richie.*

Kawerak, Inc.

## Scrap Metal Recycling Project

By Lucy Olanna, Brevig Mission IGAP Coordinator and Reuben Adams, IGAP Assistant



Brevig Mission IGAP Laborers, **Brandon Tocktoo** and **David M. Olanna** prepping scrap metal for shipment and a flat of the materials after they arrived in Nome.

**L**ucy Olanna and Reuben Adams from the **Native Village of Brevig Mission**, spearheaded the effort through the **EPA IGAP** (Environmental Protection Agency Indian General Assistance Program) by hiring local laborers, coordinating with **Bering Straits Development Corp.** and **Kawerak**, and cleaning up the large amount of scrap metal that was lingering in their community. The scrap metal was prepped and shipped to Nome by barge in mid-Sept. and filled six connex vans and four flats. A special thanks goes to **Alaska Marine Lines** for shipping the items at a discount. The scrap was received by **Raven Recycling and Logistical Services** (RRLS).

This new small business, an L.L.C. owned by John Odden, Marc Lee, and Larry Overbay, is getting started on stock-piling scrap metal that eventually will be shipped out for recycling. Brevig Mission is pleased to finally clean and remove the old bulk fuel tanks and other discarded metal items from the community. Scrapping these items helps beautify the environment, frees up valuable space in the landfill and improves safety. RRLS is happy to be part of regional recycling efforts. If your community is interested in a scrap metal project, contact Kawerak's Environmental Coordinator, **Anahma Shannon**, at 1-877-219-2599 or 907-443-4249 or email: env.coord@kawerak.org.

## Boiler and Burner Training

By Laverne Kimoktoak, Koyuk Tribal Coordinator

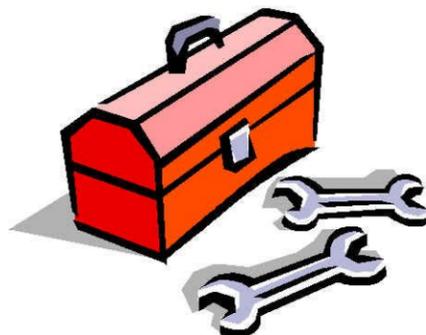


From Left to Right: **Nathan Charles, Joshua Dewey, George Anasogak, Instructor-Dan Phinney, Agnes Anasogak (front), Darold Dewey, Bo Adams, and Anthoni Kimoktoak Sr.** Photo taken by Laverne Kimoktoak.

**B**oiler Troubleshooting and Burner Repair classes were held in Koyuk on March 29 to April 3. Seven participants attended and received certificates. Each participant learned the principles of combustion and boiler thermodynamics, control systems, fuel pumps, ignition

systems, draft and venting controls, boiler operations, and how to perform annual tune-ups. They also reviewed common equipment failures and their causes and learned which parts most often need to be replaced in this six-day, forty-hour course. **UAF Northwest Campus** delivered this course in

partnership with **Norton Sound Economic Development Corp.** (NSEDCC) and the **Koyuk IRA Council**. The NSEDCC grant for community based training covered student tuition, instructor's time and travel, and provided course materials and supplies at no additional cost to students.



## KNEWS Program

By Katie Bourdon, Workforce Development Director

**K**awerak's Native Employment Work Services (KNEWS) has recently hired Angela (Toolie) Hukill as the Job Development Specialist. Angela was raised in Savoonga. She will be working with our clients to find volunteer placements at local work sites to earn their Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) benefits. She recently traveled to Stebbins, Savoonga, and Shaktoolik to meet with clients and worksites. Angela enjoys traveling and working with people. She is outgoing, friendly, and has a positive attitude. Welcome Angela!

School has started, and this is a great place for volunteer opportunities. Clients may be interested in learning more about preparing and serving food, assisting a coach with sports activities, monitoring gym safety during evening gym, helping teach bilingual classes, assisting a special needs student in the classroom, or being an aide in the classroom.

Is there something you are already good at? Do you want to do more with your interests and hobbies? Do you want to volunteer at something you might be interested in doing as a paid job? Is there something new you want to try? These are great



**Angela Hukill, KNEWS Job Development Specialist**

questions to ask yourself, so that you have a more enjoyable volunteer experience. If your family receives an ATAP benefit and you are interested in volunteering in your community to support your participation hours, please ask your Case Manager about KNEWS volunteer opportunities.

Could your organization benefit from having temporary volunteers to help carry out special projects?

Contact **Katie Bourdon** or **Angela Hukill** at KNEWS for more information at 1-855-443-4275 or 907-443-4275 or email wd.director@kawerak.org. We can renew your organization's site agreement, update your available work activities, and discuss what volunteer opportunities are available.

**KAWERAK'S VISION: "Our people and tribes are thriving."**

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak has increased our training and technical assistance services in the following communities:

**BREVIG MISSION COUNCIL**  
**DIOMEDE**  
**ELIM**  
**GAMBELL**

**GOLOVIN**  
**KING ISLAND**  
**KOYUK**  
**MARY'S IGLOO**  
**NOME**

**SAVOONGA**  
**SHAKTOOLIK**  
**SHISHMAREF**  
**SOLOMON**  
**STEBBINS**

**ST. MICHAEL**  
**TELLER**  
**UNALAKLEET**  
**WALES**  
**WHITE MOUNTAIN**

Kawerak, Inc.

**COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM**



**OPEN THE DOOR TO A CAREER PATHWAY BY PASSING THE GED.**

**A GED DIPLOMA LEADS TO:**

- A JOB OR A BETTER JOB
- HIGHER WAGES
- VOCATIONAL TRAINING
- POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

**STUDENT ENROLLMENT BENEFITS**

- FREE SERVICES INCLUDING:
- GED MATERIALS
- ONE-ON-ONE TUTORING
- GED.COM REGISTRATION AND PRACTICE TESTING

**\*\*FREE TRAVEL TO NOME, LODGING, AND PER DIEM, DEPENDANT ON AVAILABLE FUNDING, TO STUDENTS WHO QUALIFY THROUGH GED READY TESTING AS "LIKELY TO PASS" THE OFFICIAL GED TEST.**

**\*\*CALL TODAY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY**

**TOLL FREE: 1-800-478-7574  
or 907-443-4467/4470  
or email: rhuffman@kawerak.org**

**IMPROVE YOUR LIFE!**



*Roy Ashenfelter harvested a moose in September at Pilgrim River, photo with his brother-in-law, Dave Sellie. Photo taken by Loretta Bullard.*



**YOUTH EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT TRAINING**



**ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

- AGE 18-24?
- CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE GED PROGRAM?  
**OR ALREADY HAVE A GED OR H.S. DIPLOMA?**
- MEET INCOME GUIDELINES?
- HAVE BARRIERS TO GAINING EMPLOYMENT?

**THIS PROGRAM WILL ASSIST IN GED ATTAINMENT AND PROVIDE PAID WORK EXPERIENCE!**



**QUESTIONS OR WANT TO APPLY  
CONTACT KAWERAK YOUTH EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT  
907-443-4361 OR 1-800-450-4341  
ASK FOR KRISTINE!**

*or email: ye.director@kawerak.org*

**FALL TIME SUBSISTENCE WORD SEARCH**

R V Q E I T A G U S J B A W H  
M Q U E W A Y T U T T A V A K  
Q A I P I G I N B H J M O V J  
G I G N Z A K P I K M C D W N  
T M A X R Y V D N N I L Q Y U  
D N T L L L S U K I M P I K N  
W I A O I G A L U K M D E T A  
N T E Q Q L T E Y D G U D M H  
X P G D D P I I Q R Q E B V H  
O N H Q W U T T U T G S M N P  
L N R K H O T I U L A T D B Q  
C D Q H R L Q O L N X C J G O  
O P T L I N K I Q Q A A K Q D  
J K Z S U J A O B H G A R Y A  
K T B X Z I Q R W E W A J K M

- AKPIK (salmonberry)
- SUGAT (blueberry)
- KIPMIK (cranberry)
- ALUIT (blackberry)
- IGALUK (fish)
- TUTTU(caribou)
- TUTTAVAK (moose)
- TINMIAQ (bird)
- NUNA (land)
- TAGIUQ (ocean)
- AAQQIK (to store food away)
- NIIGPIAQ (Eskimo food)

*Inupiaq Puzzle by Marjorie Tahbone, Cultural Materials Development Specialist Eskimo Heritage Program.*

# Native Artist Professional Development

By Alice Bioff, Business Planning Specialist

**M**aster artists from the Bering Strait Region attended the Native Artists Professional Development (NAPD) Training sponsored by Kawerak and the **Surdna Foundation** in Nome on July 22-23.

Workshop attendees were able to work with internationally-known Oglala Lakota artist, **Gerald Cournoyer**, who co-facilitated the two-day training with Alice Bioff and Trisha Walters.

This NAPD Training was developed by **First Peoples Fund**, which assists Native artists by providing the tools and support they need to manage small businesses to achieve economic success. First Peoples Fund's sole purpose is to *help artists sustain themselves, their families and their communities.*

During the training, artists expressed their values and vision that become the guiding principles to growing their business. Artists identified where they are in their artist career as: emerging, artist in business leadership or growing. Planning and budgeting tools were shared which will help artists take that next step as well as intensive pricing and marketing sessions that included discussions on developing a business plan and the small business resources available through Kawerak and the **Alaska Small Business Development Center.**

"This training is a great way for artists at any stage in their career to start or expand an arts business, whether a newcomer unsure about the pricing of their art or a more experienced artist hoping to grow their customer base," said Brandie Macdonald, program man-

ager at First Peoples Fund. *"Everything we do is designed to honor and protect traditional and cultural values, while helping Native artists succeed and thrive as business people."*

Economic development is a priority for many of the communities within the Bering Strait and increasing business skills through education was identified as a means to work towards that goal. NAPD curriculum was identified as a resource to increase business skills due to its unique approach of incorporating the discussion of our indigenous community values and traditions into the discussion of business development. This approach was never seen before in the this region and was well received by the Native master artists who attended the training.

Kawerak has partnered with **First Peoples Fund** since 2013 to train local facilitators to offer the NAPD curriculum. This training is the first of many we will share with our communities. The plans are to bring NAPD to three Bering Strait communities in 2016: Gambell, Savoonga and Shishmaref. (See photo of class on page 8).

For additional information on the NAPD curriculum and to learn more about small business resources available, please contact **Alice Bioff**, Business Planning Specialist, [bp.specialist@kawerak.org](mailto:bp.specialist@kawerak.org) or **Trisha Walters**, Business Development Specialist, [ecom@kawerak.org](mailto:ecom@kawerak.org) at 1-800-219-2599



**Gerald Cournoyer** with a carving by **Tony Weyiouanna, Jr.**



**Brian Sockpick** sharing his artwork.

## Regional Foster Care, By Children and Family Services Staff

**K**awerak's Children and Family Services (CFS) program has increased the number of state licensed foster care providers and applicants by 50% this year but that is still far short of the homes needed to keep all of the region's children who are in foster care in their communities. Recently program staff and community members traveled to Albuquerque, NM to participate in the *Native Foster Parent Recruitment Project*. The purpose of the first meeting in April was to develop a plan to meet specific, data-driven recruitment goals to increase the availability of Alaska Native foster homes in the region. The second meeting, will be in mid-October, and give regional teams an opportunity to reconvene and assess the effectiveness of the plan.

The cornerstone of the recruitment plan for the Norton Sound region is the formation of foster care support teams. The most effective way to keep children in stable out-of-home placements is

to retain the foster parents and relative care-givers who are already serving. The goal is to form support teams around those caregivers. Understandably, not everyone can take children into their home, but we seek community members who are willing to volunteer to provide much needed support services to foster parents. These support providers can choose from a variety of services based on their personal skills and preferences. Services can include things like: helping with respite care, tutoring, driving, meal preparation, and helping children get to various appointments. If you are willing to help provide support services to foster parents please contact CFS. Initially, churches in Nome and Unalakleet are being asked to step forward to identify and organize these important support teams.

In addition CFS staff serves as the contract licensing representatives for the Office of Children's Services. They help families get

through the paperwork and perform home inspections to make sure that the health and safety regulations are met. CFS purchases and distributes many of the safety supplies required to meet those regulations: first aid kits, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and disaster preparedness supplies. CFS also arranges recruiting events, offers training and support to foster parents, and is assisting foster parents to re-form the Nome Foster Parent Support Group.

Another exciting development for the CFS program is the much-anticipated arrival of a team from Presbyterian Hospitality House (PHH) in late October. The PHH team will be in town to train and license several foster homes to provide Therapeutic Foster Care. The presence of these highly trained homes will allow children who need a higher level of care to remain in the region.



Because keeping children in care in or near their home communities is vital for family reunification efforts and to maintain cultural ties, CFS is always looking for new foster parents. If you have a background free from violence, have no current substance abuse problems, and are willing to provide love and care to a child who is in need, please contact **Traci McGarry** at 443-4376 or 1 (800) 478-5153 or email [cfs.dir@kawerak.org](mailto:cfs.dir@kawerak.org) for more information and an application packet. There is a monthly stipend to offset the financial cost of caring for the child and child care assistance is available to working parents.

# Congratulations!



to the following employees who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. And the region Please join us in recognizing their performance for 2015!

**D**eborah Trowbridge is the recipient of the 2015 Alaska Head Start Association Leadership Award. She was nominated earlier this month for the prestigious award, in recognition for her leadership role with Kawerak's Head Start program.

Here is an excerpt from her nomination by Darcee Perkins. "She took the reins and her natural ability to be a leader helped solidify our program and support staff during a time of transition. In August 2015, Kawerak opened a new Early Head Start/Child Care Program which Deb supported by helping develop the program structure, training, and staff needs for program implementation. Deb pays attention to details and understands the importance of recognizing people for the work they do. She is always accepting of input from staff and is always looking at how we can improve our services, and ourselves. Even when she is busy, she always makes time for her co-workers

and the staff she supervises to lead them in the right direction. As an advocate for education in the Bering Straits Region, Deb truly believes in the vision and values of Kawerak Head Start/Early Head Start Program and brings years of experience through teaching and her education."



**Deborah Trowbridge**  
**Head Start Director**



**Employee of the Month**  
**for June**  
**Sarah Kristiansen**  
**Family Advocate**

## Norton Sound Veteran Stand Down Report

By Sharon Strutz-Norton, RN MSN, Veteran's Administration Health Nurse

**T**he Norton Sound Veteran Stand Down held at the mini-convention center on Sep. 12 in Nome was a huge success. Over eighty-seven Veterans attended the event along with several family members. Forty-four enrolled for Veteran's Administration (VA) healthcare, eight completed compensation and or pension forms, several completed forms to obtain their military records, and one applied for a military headstone.

The opening ceremony began with a very professional and moving posting of the flags by the Nome Junior ROTC and the Pledge of Allegiance. Followed by remarks welcoming Veterans by: Shawn Bransky, Alaska VA Associate Director (Veteran), Ric Epperson VA Rural Health Program Manager (Veteran), Mayor Denise Michels, Ron Huffman, Kawerak, Inc/Tribal Veteran Representative, (Veteran), Angie Gorn CEO Norton Sound Health Corporation (NSHC) and Larry Pederson, Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) VP of Lands and Resources and finally an opening prayer by Father Vincent Burns (Veteran).

Organizations who had vendor tables at the event provided education and information including the American Red Cross, Dept. of Labor, NSHC, and the VA with introducing a variety of programs.

US Department of Veterans Affairs, Alaska, would like to express our appreciation to all the volunteers that assisted with event set-up, during the event, and with clean-up afterwards. Without you the event would not have occurred. We would like to express our appreciation to: NSHC, Kawerak, BSNC, and Sitnasuak for their donations. Also, a big thank you goes to Operation New Hope for coordinating shipping the military surplus gear from New Jersey to Nome; American Van Lines for storing the Dept. of Defense military surplus gear until the event date; Q Trucking for delivering the van to the convention center and returning it to the Port; City of Nome Maintenance Dept. for providing the bobcat and pallet jacks and manpower; City of Nome for the mini-convention center; Tribal Veteran Representatives (TVRs) and ROTC members for working the sign-in area and assisting Vet-

erans throughout the event; State of Alaska Military and Veterans Affairs who assisted with the Veteran meal distribution; the individuals that participated in community service; and Bering Air who, yet again, stepped up by donating free cargo space, when available, to transport surplus military gear to remote village Veterans.

In an effort to provide quality care closer to home, in the year 2012, the Alaska VA Healthcare System signed an agreement with NSHC and 26 other Alaska Native Healthcare Organizations throughout Alaska. NSHC agreed to provide healthcare services at NSHC in Nome and the outlying village clinics, to all American Indian Alaska Native (AIAN) and non-AIAN veterans who are enrolled and eligible for healthcare with the VA. The VA will reimburse for services provided when a claim is filed and approved. AIAN veterans are exempt from co-pay and non-AIAN Veterans, who require pre-authorization, may pay only very minimal co-pay.

If you are a Veteran who served active duty in the Army, Marine

Corps, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, or Alaska National Guard and you are not enrolled for your VA healthcare earned through honorable service to your country PLEASE logon at :

<https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/ec/vha/1010ez/>. It will only take 10-15 minutes to enroll, then press submit or print a copy and mail it in. Make sure you keep a copy for your records.

If you have any questions or healthcare concerns please email or call: Sharon Strutz-Norton, RN MSN, VA Rural Health Nurse, [Sharon.strutz-norton@va.gov](mailto:Sharon.strutz-norton@va.gov) or 907-399-8065 cell or contact Ron Huffman, Tribal Veteran Representative at [rhuffman@kawerak.org](mailto:rhuffman@kawerak.org) or 1-800-478-7574 or 907-443-4468.



# 2015 Unalakleet Humpy Derby

*By Marie Ivanoff, Tribal Family Coordinator*

This year's Humpy Derby was a success that was enjoyed by many local residents. Elizabeth Pleasant, my aunt, helped me organize and host the event. I personally learned a lot of patience and found it very rewarding to teach about our culture. We used adult-size ulus to cut fish. I also brought my small ulu, which I have had since I was a little girl, to teach some of the children how to cut fish. This knife is the perfect size for children's hands and had been made by members of my family. It was given to me by my grandmother, Roselene Eakon. I also taught Alaska State Trooper, Elondre Johnson, how to cut fish. He did an amazing job on his first one.

It was nice to see families go out and fish together like the old ways. A few children actually learned where to fish just by looking out on the river where fish are making waves. They also learned that dark ripple waves are where the fish are. It was nice to see some of the children step out of their comfort zones to be more outgoing and help out with the derby. It was also fun to watch our Elders fish with children and encourage them. The Humpy Derby family/community event is a good activity to stay active and healthy. The humpies arrived perfectly on time for the event, and that made it a fun day for everyone.

We appreciate all the organizations that donated prizes for the event. Thank you to Bering Air, PenAir, Northern Air Cargo, Everts Air Cargo, 6th Avenue Outfitters, Krier Inc., Kawerak, Aurora Inn, Crowley Marine



Services, Alaska Aviation Museum, Ryan Air Cargo, Morgan Sales & Services, Unalakleet NSEDC plant, Native Village of Unalakleet, Unalakleet Native Corp., and Unalakleet Alaska Commercial Store.

Top left to right: Carter and Paxson Commack and Kanayaq Ivanoff. Second row left to right: Kollin Kotongan, Donovan Cooper, EJ Rochon, and Elondre Johnson. Bottom left to right: Elizabeth Pleasant, Kanayaq Ivanoff, and elder Myrna Katchatag (Photos by Marie Ivanoff).

## Food for the Soul

### Bering Strait Non-Salmon Fish Preparation and Recipes

Tip from Faye Ongtawasruk and Gene Angnaboogok, Wales:

- To salt freshwater fish:
- Clean and gut fish (leave liver and/or heart if desired)
- Add rock salt and soak in water for three days
- Change the water once everyday to remove salt
- Ready to eat or be prepared as desired

From: Kawerak Social Science Program (2013) - Food for the Soul: Bering Strait Non-Salmon Fish Preparation and Recipes. Compiled by Meghan Topkok & Julie Raymond-Yakoubian. Kawerak, Inc. Find the whole recipe book at [www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html](http://www.kawerak.org/socialsci.html).

**INUPIAQ VALUES:**

*Knowledge of Language \ Knowledge of Family Tree \ Sharing \ Humility \ Respect for Elders \ Love for Children \ Cooperation \ Hard Work \ Respect for Others \ Respect for Nature \ Avoid Conflict \ Family Roles \ Humor \ Spirituality \ Domestic Skills \ Hunter Success & Responsibility to Tribe.*



From left to right: Clyde, Credence, and Faye Ongtawasruk, and Loretta Parker, Wales.



*Native Artists Professional Development (NAPD) training held on July 22-23 (see article on page 5), from left to right: Tony Weyiouanna Jr., Randall Jones, Jason Iya, Alice Bioff, Gerald Cournoyer, Edwin Noongwook, Benjamin Pungowiyi, Melinda Erickson, Brian Sockpick, and Daryl Kingeekuk. - Not pictured: Dorcas Bloom, Cassandra Johnson, and Trisha Walters.*



*Tony Weyiouanna, Jr. (above left) and Ben Pungowiyi (above right) sharing their artwork at the NAPD Training.*



*John Jacob Mogg, Opik Ahkinga, and Cassandra Ahkvaluk preparing to distribute halibut in Diomedea (above) and Christina Toolie and her daughter Mallery receiving fish in Savoonga (right).*



## Cultural Center Update, *By Moriah Sallaffie, Cultural Center Development Coordinator*



*Construction on the new Richard Foster Building is set to be completed by the end of 2015. The building will house the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum, the Kegoayah Kozga Library and the Katirvik Cultural Center.*

The voting results are in, and Kawerak's Cultural Center has a new name. Formerly known as the Beringia Center of Culture and Science, our new more culturally relevant name is the **Katirvik Cultural Center!** The name *Katirvik* means people's gathering place in Inupiaq and is a close relative of *Katurrvik* which also means gathering space in Central Yup'ik. The cultural center is a place to gather and celebrate all of our Alaska Native cultures, and its name should reflect our indigenous Native languages, so Kawerak conducted a region-wide postcard and online survey to let the people of the region choose the new name. People who took the survey also shared other beautiful names from our region's languages, such as Qerngughvik (a place of gathering) and Nangaghnimnnun kegutfik (place to show our way of life) in St. Lawrence Island Yupik, Katimmavik (meeting place) in Malemiut dialect, Ilitkaani (to learn of or about) in Fish River dialect and Utukakuktuvik (place having old things) (Utukat-

old things) in King Island dialect of Inupiaq. We love to learn words from our Native languages and need ones that help people feel at home in the center, so please mail language suggestions to us anytime. We plan to do as much as we can to include, celebrate and support all the languages of our region in the new cultural center. The Katirvik Cultural Center plans a Grand Opening for the fall/winter of 2016.

Kawerak would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our renaming and fundraising efforts, and to specially recognize our donors of the past year. In 2015 the Cultural Center has thus far received donations from the many people and organizations listed below. If you or your organization is interested in making a donation to complete the Cultural Center you can send a check or money order to Kawerak, Inc. at PO Box 948 Nome, AK 99762 or use PayPal at [www.kawerak.org/katirvik.html](http://www.kawerak.org/katirvik.html). Kawerak is a 501(c)3 and your donation is tax deductible.

**We will be posting a donor wall in our new space, and donors who wish to be recognized will be placed on the donor wall at the following levels:**

- Bowhead Whale \$500,000**
- Beluga Whale \$400,000**
- Walrus \$300,000**
- Bearded Seal \$200,000**
- Halibut \$100,000**
- King Salmon \$75,000**
- Red Salmon \$50,000**
- Silver Salmon \$25,000**
- Chum Salmon \$15,000**
- Pink Salmon \$10,000**
- Trout \$5,000**
- Arctic Char \$1,000**
- Tom Cod \$500**
- Herring \$100**

**Kawerak acknowledges and thanks everyone who has contributed to Katirvik Cultural Center.**

**Bering Straits Native Corporation / Norton Sound Health Corporation / Kawerak, Inc. Board of Directors / DOWL / AT&T / Northern Air Cargo / Elizabeth Perry / Rasmuson Foundation / GCI / First Alaskans Institute / Shaktoolik Native Corporation / Koniag, Inc. / Alaska Permanent Capital Management / Ed & Gail Schubert / Donna James / Melanie Bahnke / Loretta Bullard / Denise Michels / Jessica Graham / Donna Ray / Pearl Mikulski**

**A big thank you to you all!**