

# Uqaaqtuaq News

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

"Uqaaqtuaq," for experience, happening, history, true story

WINTER 2011

## Camp Igaliq 2010 a Resounding Success!

by Bridie Trainor, Director, Wellness Program



Twenty five youth from the whole region attended Kawerak's Wellness Program, *Camp Igaliq*, July 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> held at Norton Sound Health Corporation's camp at Nuuk. Earl Polk and Evon Peter shared stories and lessons along with Elders and guest presenters.

Other presentations included:

- ◇ *Basket Weaving* by MaryJane Litchard,
- ◇ *Drum Making* by Sylvester Ayek, Brian Muktoyuk, and Bernard Penetac,
- ◇ *Dancing and Drumming* by the King Island dancers,
- ◇ *Values* by Stephanie Johnson,
- ◇ *Suicide Prevention* by Collette Topkok,
- ◇ *Motivation and Perseverance* by Lester Keller,
- ◇ Marjorie Tahbone, Ms. World Eskimo Indian Olympics,
- ◇ *Music and Inspiration* by Tom Mute,
- ◇ *Health Awareness and Edible Plants* by Moriah Sallafie and the CAMP department,
- ◇ *Maaqi* (steambath) by Earl Polk,
- ◇ Elder stories, and
- ◇ Good food by Grace Pullock.

Five participants from last year's camp returned as mentors.

For more information about Kawerak's Wellness Program contact: Aprille Pitt or Bobby Evans, Wellness Coordinators at (907)443-5231.

### Congratulations to MaryJane Litchard for receiving the coveted ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES 2010 Eileen Panigeo MacLean Education Award



Pictured above is MaryJane Litchard, Kawerak's ABE/GED Program Specialist/Instructor with Alaska Federation of Natives 2010 delegates from the Bering Strait Region. See full nomination on page 2. Pictured front row, left to right: Pauline Koezuna, Bernadette Alvanna-Stimpfle, DeAnn Moore, Mary Jane, Loretta Bullard, Marjorie Tahbone, Kelly Ningealook, & Carolyn Ningealook. Back row, left to right, Marilyn Koezuna-Irelan, Melanie Bahnke, Donna Barr, Karla Nayokpuk, Aisha Savage-Concha and Sandra Tahbone. Picture courtesy of Clara Langton.

## 2011 KAWERAK, INC. Bering Strait Regional Conference

### "BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS"

Potential Workshops: Innovative Tribes Panel | Bering Sea Issues Forum | BSSD/NPS Parent Input Forum | Sustainable Northern Shelter | Leadership Development | Regional Transportation Program | Internet Safety | Small Business | Alternative Energy | Community Emergency Disaster | Backhaul Update | Healing Circle | Beading | String Games | Foster Parenting | Domestic Violence | Tribal Council of the Year |

*Native Dance Celebration | Traditional Attire Fashion Show | Reindeer Stew Dinner*

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY at [www.kawerak.org](http://www.kawerak.org)  
February 22-24, 2011  
Nome Recreation Center

Contact: Barb Nickels  
443-7427/434-1833  
[rc.coord@kawerak.org](mailto:rc.coord@kawerak.org)

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TO THE  
PUBLIC

## Eileen Paniego MacLean Education 2010 Award Nomination

The Alaska Federation of Natives President's Eileen Paniego MacLean Education Award is named in honor of MacLean, a teacher and state representative who was an advocate for Alaska Native education. Recipients of the award are chosen based on their commitment and accomplishments that improve educational opportunities for Alaska Natives. Below is Kawerak's nomination of Ms. Litchard.

MaryJane (Anuqsraaq, Little Wind) Litchard was born in Kotzebue and spent her early childhood in Lost River and Teller. She and her family moved around Alaska, living in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Barrow, and Nome. In her blended family, MaryJane shares 18 brothers and sisters and many relatives throughout Alaska and the US. In an effort to further her education and become a role model for her own six children, MaryJane pursued her Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

Drawing from the inspiration of her Elders, including her grandfather, artist James Kivatoruk Moses, MaryJane developed her love for native arts through drawing, painting, and basket weaving. MaryJane has grown into an artist in her own right and is active in the Bering Straits Inuit Council

and often shows her work at regional and state gatherings, including Kawerak's Regional Conference, Alaska Federation of Natives Conference, and the Festival of Native Arts. Her work has been showcased around the state, and last spring she was invited to be the artist in residence at the Sitka Museum. She periodically teaches art through the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

MaryJane extends her love of culture from the visual arts to the healing arts. She has learned healing techniques from traditional Native healers and Japanese healing touch, and shares her techniques with her community.

For over 20 years MaryJane has been an advocate for adult education, and has worked as a teacher of Adult Education around the state. In 2004, she was awarded the Alaska Adult Education Association Educator of the Year award for her commitment to teaching in the GED programs in Barrow, Anchorage and Nome. MaryJane was a member of the statewide GED Math Team, which developed curriculum for adult learners around the state. In her community, MaryJane presents innovative teaching methods at venues such as the Annual Health Fair and Kawerak Regional Conference. Her holistic approach to

learning includes repetition, nutrition, brain exercises, and a positive outlook. Over the years she has contributed materials that help students achieve success in their studies, such as handouts on testing tips and math readiness. Her success in reaching students can be seen all over the region. In addition to her instruction at the Nome Learning Center, MaryJane assists students in the villages of the Bering Straits Region with assessment and preparation for the GED test. Her style and love for what she does reflects a genuine concern for and commitment to the people of her region. Integral to her instruction is the reverence for culture and self-worth. MaryJane shares her experiences with her students and often combines the lessons of art and life into her teaching.

MaryJane enjoys developing new and creative ways for students to learn, and is always willing to implement new techniques into her teaching. At the end of each school-year, MaryJane joins her program and their students in celebrating their successes at the



Mary Jane Litchard (right) with her sister DeAnn Moore of Fairbanks during AFN 2010 Convention. Photo courtesy of Clara Langton.

annual graduation. As a special treat, the graduates receive an original fur flower, lovingly made by MaryJane, to wear on their robes.

About her teaching philosophy, MaryJane says, "Use your life energy positively, apply yourself to your studies, and keep an eye on your journey," and it is echoed in the gratitude of many of her students, including one who wrote, "Your encouragement and guidance led me to get my GED; your inspiration will carry me even further."

Other AFN Education Nominees: Nancy Douglas/Kathryn Eddy, Sitka Sven Haakanson, Jr., Old Harbor Lance "Qaluraq" Kramer, Kotzebue Emily Roseberry, Barrow.

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VISION STATEMENT

***"Building on the Inherent Strength of Our Cultural Values, We Shall Assist Our Tribes to Take Control of Their Future."***

In keeping with this Vision Statement, Kawerak is increasing training and technical assistance services to tribes.

Kawerak Divisions are:

- Community Services,
- Education, Employment & Training,
- Children and Family Services,
- Natural Resources and Transportation

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF:

- 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's Social Science Program Expands

by Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Natural Resources Division's Social Scientist

Kawerak's Social Science Program, which is part of the Natural Resources Division, has recently expanded its staff in conjunction with the initiation of a number of new projects being carried out in collaboration with region tribes and organizations. Lily Ray was hired this fall to work as a Social Scientist on a new project called *Community-Based Documentation of Ice Seals and Walrus* (see her article below). Our program also recently hired Helen Pootoogooluk as a Research Assistant for our *Indigenous Knowledge and Use of Bering Strait Region Ocean Currents* project, and Edwina Krier as our Social Science Research Assistant to work on all of our projects. Eva Menadelook, Eskimo Heritage Program Specialist, is also contributing her expertise to our *Injalit Traditional Knowledge of Walrus in Bering Strait* project.

### New Projects:

Social Science is currently working on a 3 year project called *Local Ecological Knowledge of Non-Salmon Fish in the Bering Strait Region*, funded by the USFWS. This project involves both a non-salmon harvest survey and traditional knowledge interviews with Local Experts. The harvest surveys have been completed and I will be returning to Shishmaref, Wales, Brevig Mission, Teller and Stebbins

early in 2011 to present the results back to each community and to plan for the traditional knowledge interviews. This project is documenting current harvest levels of non-salmon fish and traditional knowledge about the harvest, processing, use of, and importance of these fish to region residents.

Our *Indigenous Knowledge and Use of Bering Strait Region Ocean Currents* project is also a 3 year project and is funded by the NPS Beringian Heritage Program. This exciting project involves collaboration with Shishmaref, Diomedes and Wales, as well as 3 Russian communities (Inchoun, Lavrentiya, Lorino) and Russian researchers. The goal of the project is to document community knowledge about, and uses of, ocean currents in the Bering Strait region in both traditional and contemporary times. The project will involve interviews with Local Experts as well as mapping sessions documenting knowledge of ocean currents.

Kawerak also has a 3 year project, funded by the North Pacific

Research Board, called *Injalit (Little Diomedes) Traditional Knowledge of Walrus in Bering Strait* project. The goal of this study is to learn about the history of walrus populations in the Bering Strait, the history of walrus hunting by Diomedes people, and about any recent changes to walrus, the environment, or the way people hunt and use walrus, and to record Diomedes dialect language related to walrus. This project involves interviews with Diomedes walrus experts to document this information.

These projects all began in 2010 and will continue for several years. If you would like more information about any of these projects, or the other work that the Social Science program does, please contact Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Scientist, at 907-443-4273 or juliery@kawerak.org.



Brevig Mission residents attend a community meeting about the Local Ecological Knowledge of Non-salmon project.

## Community Based Documentation of Ice Seals & Walrus

by Lily Ray, Social Scientist

The Social Science program at Kawerak, Inc. has a new project titled "Community-Based Documentation of Ice Seals and Walrus." The primary goal of this project is to map ice seal and walrus habitat and subsistence hunting areas. The project will also document other information about ice seals and walrus, including community observation of changes to animals or sea ice, challenges to continued subsistence use of these species, and traditional knowledge.

This project is funded by the Oak Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the National



Photo from the Curtis Nayokpuk Collection at the Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.

Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Additionally, the marine conservation organization Oceana is partnering with Kawerak to help with the mapping parts of this project. The Eskimo

Walrus Commission and the Ice Seal Committee are also partners on the project and are helping develop interview and mapping questions. The project will last for three years, and will involve the communities of Diomedes, King Island, Savoonga, Nome, Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, St. Michael, and Stebbins.

The project will produce maps of important places for ice seals and walrus, including feeding, haul out, breeding, molting, and migration areas. We will also map places important for subsistence users, including hunting areas and travel routes. These maps, after community approval, will be added to Oceana's Atlas of Important Ecological areas, and can be used to advocate for special protection of these areas from trawling, shipping, or other development.

Information collected in interviews, such as traditional knowledge and challenges faced by hunters, will be used to create community-approved policy recommendations for protecting subsistence uses of these species. Another goal of the project is to document community knowledge for community use, for example to educate young people. As part of the project, each community is consulted to find out what kinds of traditional knowledge they would like documented. Currently, community suggestions have included traditional safety knowledge for young hunters, respect for ice seals and walrus, and documentation of local marine mammal ordinances. The

information gathered during the Ice Seal and Walrus project will be given to each community and also be archived with the Eskimo Heritage Program, where it will be available to future generations.

In order to better involve young people, Kawerak's Social Science department is partnering with UAF to offer high school students 16 and older an opportunity to earn college credit while assisting with this research. The course, titled "Documenting Traditional Knowledge" will be offered over a 10 day period in each participating community (see page 6). Participating students will learn to assist with traditional knowledge interviews and mapping, and to analyze and present data. They will also learn about ice seals and walrus from local elders and experts.

We are also having an essay contest for high school students in the region, asking them to interview family members or other community members about ice seals and walrus. The two themes for this year are hunting safety and traditional foods (see page 7).

If you would like to know more about this project, the class, or the essay contest, please contact me. My name is Lily Ray, I am trained as a human-environment geographer, and I am leading this project. I am excited to hear from you. I can be reached at [lray@kawerak.org](mailto:lray@kawerak.org) or 907-443-4262.

Kawerak, Inc.

# 2010 Harvesting History Health Fair

by Jessilyn Dunkelberger Prevention Program Coordinator

On November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, the Nome Recreational Center was brought to life by the Annual Health Fair. This impressive event, which is made possible by the CAMP department along with numerous volunteers, drew in a crowd of more than 900 people, including 604 children. Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 149 community members took advantage of the low cost blood screenings that were offered through the Alaska Health Fair. These blood screenings included A1C (estimated average glucose), Vitamin D, Prostate, Thyroid as well as a 24 panel Hematology Profile. Flu shots were offered on both days by Public Health Nursing.

This year's theme, "Harvesting History," focused on family health history and emphasized the importance of cultural and traditional history through out the region. With the music of the King Island Drummers and Dancers playing in the background, the community was able to tour each booth, complete the health fair questionnaire, then choose either a bag of fresh produce or a pumpkin from the patch to take home.

Numerous health education opportunities were available for both children and adults that focused on the prevention of chronic diseases such as diabetes, colon cancer, breast cancer, and lung cancer as well as mental and spiritual health. All of which are issues that greatly impact the Norton Sound region. Kawerak Inc. was on hand to provide participants with information on their services, which included the Wellness Program, Children and Family Services, and the Child Advocacy Center.

Among the agencies represented at the Health Fair were several from out of the region that brought a wide range of health education. The visitors included North Star Behavioral Health, Alaska Kidney Foundation, Southcentral Foundation as well as the Alaska Native Medical Center who provided one of the main attractions, "Nolan the Colon."

Berda Wilson demonstrated the traditional ways of making Agutaq (Eskimo Ice Cream) and the health benefits of its original ingredients. She even encouraged the children watching to help her in the process in order to pass this tradition along (see picture above right). The traditional Agutaq ingredients include: caribou fat, salmon berries, blueberries, seal oil, as well as a little bit of sugar. Liz Murphy also brought a different culture with the Zumba Dance. She really got the crowd moving with the fun Latin dance music. Sandra Rowe, from the Animal House, not only showed the community how to trim their dog's nails, but also taught the youngster's how to clean up after their pets. This helped earn her the community vote for Booth of the Year. The children's vote for Booth of the Year went to the Nome Community Center with their incredibly interactive booth that focused on tobacco prevention, and even included real pig lungs that revealed the effects tobacco has on the body.

The Chronic Care Active Management and Prevention department (CAMP) focuses on empowering people and communities to promote healthy lifestyles and improve the quality of life for people with chronic illnesses. If you or anyone one you know is interested in what CAMP has to offer including diabetes prevention, tobacco counseling, as well as numerous health and nutrition services please call 443-3365 or 1-888-559-3311, ext 3365.



## 10 in 10



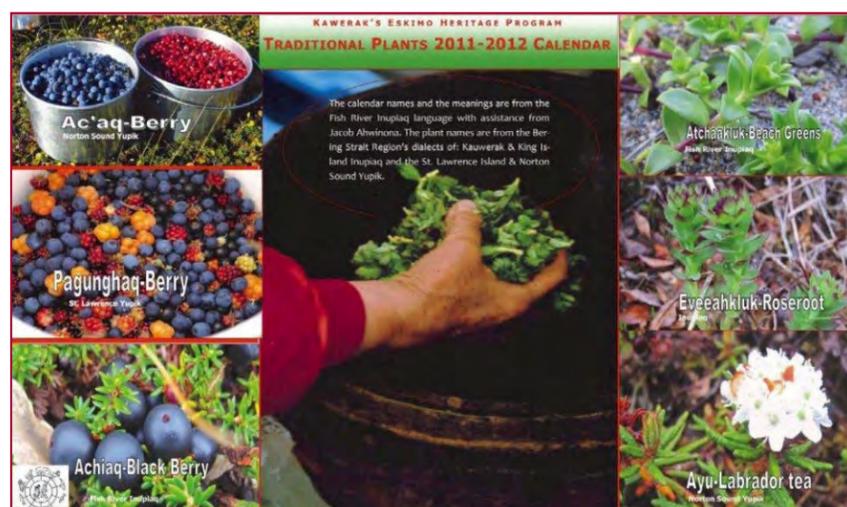
**New Healthy Lifestyle's weight loss competition**

Join the CAMP department and start the new 10 in 10 weigh loss competition that focuses on a healthy weight loss goal of 10lbs in 10 weeks. Meetings every Thursday at 5:30pm.




**For more information, please contact:**  
 Jessilyn Dunkelberger, Prevention Program Coordinator  
 CAMP Department  
 Telephone: (907)443-4589

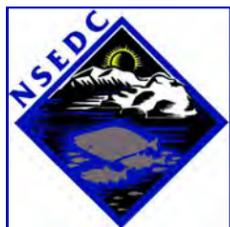
**Kawerak's Eskimo Heritage Program** is proud to announce the publication of the **2011-2012 Traditional Plant Calendar**. We hope this calendar will bring awareness about all the local plants and roots and their traditional uses as food and their local Inupiaq or Yupik names. The calendars are \$15.00, you can send a payment to the Eskimo Heritage Program at PO Box 948, Nome, Ak 99762 or stop by their office at 504 Seppala Drive.



## Small Business Development Expands within the Bering Strait Region

by Alice Bioff, Business Development Specialist

Thanks to Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's (NSEDC) Small Business Initiative program, economic develop-



ment within the Bering Strait Region has again been ignited! Within the next year an additional five new businesses within the region will be established and one existing business will expand thanks to much needed start-up capital and enhancement funding provided by NSEDC.

Those recently awarded NSEDC funding are:

**Triple Creek Fabrication & Repair, Owner: Brian Marvin, Nome**

"TCFR Shop will create products using metal, wood or plastic. I plan to repair machines such as: vehicles, snow machines, four wheelers, boats and outboard motors and other machinery in the region. I will also be able to teach students interested in learning fabrication and repair of equipment."

**Little Tikes Childcare, Owners: Krystal Wongittlin and Brian Hensley, Nome**

"Little Tikes Childcare will offer affordable, educational, high quality and reliable childcare. Little Tikes Childcare objective will be to offer services to meet the demand for reliable child-

care services within the community. The short term goal is to establish a high quality, educational, affordable and reliable daycare service. The long term goal is to be a sustainable, profitable, Native owned business that will create economic stimulation within the community."

**Little Store, Owner: Etta Ahkinga, Diomede**  
"The Little Store provides groceries and products. The Little Store has assumed the role of fuel store for the residents of Diomede, which will sell fuel oil and gasoline."

**Iññaġuktuna, Owner: Marie Tozier, Nome**

"Iññaġuktuna's objective is a monthly newspaper publication serving fifteen communities of the Seward Peninsula. While its headquarters will be in Nome, the spirit of the publication is to serve as a cultural gathering place of the people of the region."

**The Coffey Shop, Owner: Morris Coffey, Stebbins**

The Coffey Shop will serve fast food such as hamburgers, French fries, egg rolls, pizza, slush puppy, candy, pop, and general merchandise. General merchandise would include a bakery section. The Coffey Shop will include a pool table for additional entertainment.

**AK Body, Owner: Crystal Tobuk, Nome**

AK Body will be an independent personal training business based in Nome, Alaska that will provide clients with the education and tools they need to reach their personal fitness goals

in a manner that is fun and engaging, and push comfort levels to help achieve amazing results. AK Body's objective is to provide the community of Nome with a personal training service that will include monthly fitness evaluations, progressive hands on "one-on-one" workouts, and customized exercise program for homework, motivation, accountability, and coaching tips to achieve and maintain individual fitness goals. AK Body would directly benefit the community of Nome by providing tools, inspiration and awareness to reduce many of the prevalent health concerns among Alaskan women though safe, structured and consistent exercise regime.

Kawerak, Inc. understands the importance of supporting our small business entrepreneurs by offering technical assistance in small business development. Services include, but are not limited to: Business Plan Development, Financing, Marketing, and Tuition Assistance. We also have the E-Commerce Center which is located on the first floor of the Ublugiaq Kawerak building.

*Small Business Technical Assistance is offered through Kawerak's Community Planning & Development Department. Please call the Kawerak Business Planning Specialist at 907-443-4390 or 1-877-219-2599 for assistance with your small business needs and CONGRATULATIONS to all the 2010 NSEDC SBI awardees!*

## Rural Outreach Program for Entrepreneurs

The Alaska Small Business Development Center (AK SBDC) announced that its Rural Outreach Program for Entrepreneurs Program (ROPE) will be providing free and confidential, one on one business counseling and small business workshops in Nome this year!

The AK SBDC has provided free business counseling, low cost workshops and computer labs to startups and existing small businesses throughout the state for over 22 years. It is funded, in part, through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration and hosted through the University of Alaska Anchorage. Its ROPE Program is funded, in part, by the Alaska Department of Labor and Work Force Development Program.

In 2009, the AK SBDC and its partner programs, including ROPE, assisted over 1,707 Alaskan businesses, which resulted in 50 new businesses and 8,503 jobs retained or created. Our Alaskan clients were awarded a total of \$186,057,932 in contracting dollars and received \$7,013,750 in loans and investments.

Jason Dinneen, the State Director for the AK SBDC stated, "We look forward to introducing these direct services to the Nome area, to offer a new level of entrepreneurial encouragement and support, designed to energize entrepreneurship and strengthen local businesses. We will use the successes and insights learned from ROPE's prior work in Southeast's sixteen villages to bring a

successful program and critical business development services to the Bering Straits Region."

To strengthen its outreach in rural Alaska, the AK SBDC recently hired Deborah Kvasnikoff

to serve as its ROPE Director. Deborah has a degree from the University of Alaska, College of Rural Alaska, in Rural Development and Small Business Management. She has over ten years of experience working with rural Alaska tribes and communities in developing programs to serve the needs of their members. Deborah is recognized as a leader in many circles. She received national recognition for her professional endeavors in welfare reform, including the first *Tribal Temporary Assistance to Needy Families* in the State of Alaska, and self-developed Mentor programs.

Deborah has been collaborating with area leaders and partners to create a work group for the Bethel and surrounding communities. The *Community Partners Work Group* is comprised of members across diverse organizations with the express purpose to: help strengthen the program, create an entrepreneurial friendly culture, identify resources, further the mission to support existing business, and encourage new business creation.

Deborah stated, "I want to hear from Elders, leaders, policy makers, and local business own-



ers to help identify the potential training needs and to assist in the development of workshop topics." Although, Deborah will initially bring her own workshops to the area, including: *Business Planning, Loan Proposal Development, Quickbooks and Government Contracting Opportunities*, it's through a community effort that more workshops will be offered. As Deborah said, "I believe we not only honor our ancestors by working together, but together - we can make a difference. I am excited to be working with Alice Bioff Kawerak's Business Planning Specialist." Through the help of ROPE's Community Partners Work Group and other community leaders who step forward to work together, a significant portion of the entrepreneurial or small business training will be conducted in Nome with a long term vision to serve various local communities within the Bering Straits Region. Jason's vision is to further develop the *Community Partners Work Group* and said, "The idea of a future common goal for economic growth through business creation, innovation, and development presents a tremendous opportunity to find solutions today, for Alaskans."

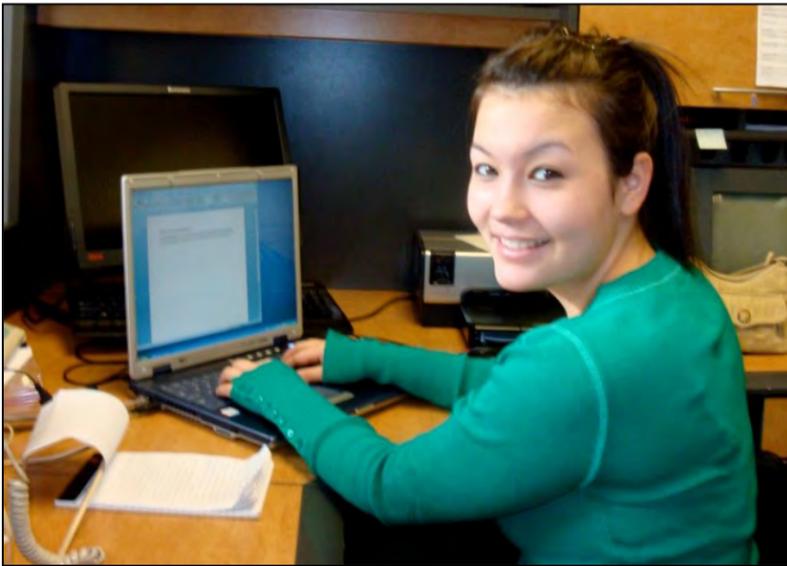
# Kawerak's Winter Youth Program

By Luisa Machuca, Youth Employment Director

The Kawerak Youth Employment Program received a Federal ARRA grant to employ youth between the ages of 14-24 in part-time positions throughout the Bering Strait Region from January through June 2010. A cumulative of 59 youth participated and gained valuable work experience.

Luisa Machuca, Youth Employment Director is pleased with the outcomes of the Winter Youth Program: *"I think these opportunities have really made a difference in their lives, because these younger students received work experience for first time that introduced them to what a job is all about. Older youth got opportunities to actually go to work and some students also had incentives to work on their GED and also get employment experience."*

Pictured below are Dylanne Nassuk and Henry Kakaruk, who successfully completed the Winter Youth Program.



# Kawerak Summer Intern Program

Thirteen college students were selected to participate in the Kawerak 2010 Summer Intern Program for 12 weeks. The interns were placed in various departments at Kawerak such as: Headstart, Human Resources, Fisheries, General Counsel, & Administration; other businesses include: the Native Village of Savoonga, City of Teller, Teller Wellness Program, Native Village of Unalakleet, Nome Boys & Girls Club, Nome Eskimo Community Lunch Program, Village of Solomon, Chinik Eskimo Community and the Native Village of Golovin. For more information about the recently expanded services through the Youth Employment Program call:

**Luisa Muchaca, Youth Employment director at toll free at 1(800) 450-4341 or in Nome call 443-4361 or Panganga Pungowiyi, Employment Works Coordinator at 443-4275 or Many Johnson, Program Assistant at 443-4275.**



**University of Alaska Anchorage** students attend a meet and greet dinner with fellow students and Kawerak Higher Education Scholarship Specialist Brian James in Anchorage. Several of the students hadn't met with one another and it was a great chance to meet with other UAA students from the Bering Strait region. Pictured from clockwise, starting with Matthew Schubert, Quenna Szafran, Ana Swanson, Brian James, Chandre Szafran, Marjorie Johnson, Willow Liddy and Jenny Dill. To inquire about Kawerak's Higher Education Scholarship Program call Dawn Miller, Intake Coordinator at 443-4358 or Brian James at 443-4351 or toll-free at 1(800)450-4341.

# Earn University Credit & Learn about Our Traditional Knowledge of Seals & Walrus!

Kawerak Social Science announces a new 1 credit UAF college course, "Documenting Traditional Knowledge," that is being offered as part of its Ice Seal and Walrus research project. The course will be offered in Nome, Savoonga, Diomedede, Elim, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Stebbins, and St. Michael. The class will happen over a 10 day period in each community and will meet evenings and weekends to accommodate school and work schedules. UAF fees will be covered by Kawerak, Inc.

and the course will be free for all participants. The class is open to high school students 16 and over and to adults who wish to earn a college credit and to learn more about social science. Participants will learn to document traditional knowledge of ice seals and walrus through interviews and mapping, and will also learn to analyze and present the results. The dates are still being determined, but if you are interested, please contact Lily Ray, lray@kawerak.org or 907-443-4262.



Photo courtesy of Native Village of Diomedede and the Eskimo Heritage Program Archives.

## Win a Pocket Video Camcorder with your best Essay for all H.S. Students!

The Social Science Program at Kawerak, Inc., is excited to announce an essay contest for all high school students in this region. This contest is part of our new Ice Seal and Walrus project. High school students are invited to submit 500 word essays on either of the two topics

listed below. Students are encouraged to interview family members or Elders to gather traditional knowledge on the topics for their essays. Photos or drawings to accompany essays are encouraged. The first place in each category will win an 8GB Vado HD Pocket Video Camcorder,

and second place in each category will win a 4GB Vado HD Pocket Video Camcorder. The best entries will be published in a booklet. For more information about the essay contest contact Lily Ray, (907)443-4262.

### Topic 1: Ice Seal and Walrus Hunting Safety

Potential Topics:

- ◇ Weather Observation
- ◇ Sea Ice safety
- ◇ Currents
- ◇ Trip Preparation
- ◇ Ice Seal and Walrus behavior
- ◇ Teamwork
- ◇ What to do in different kinds of emergencies
- ◇ Anything else related to the safe hunting of ice seals and walrus



### Topic 2: Ice Seal and Walrus Preservation, Preparation, and Use

Potential Topics:

- ◇ Traditional methods of preservation or preparation
- ◇ Traditions to show respect to the walrus or seal after harvest
- ◇ Traditions for sharing walrus and ice seals
- ◇ Recipes involving ice seals or walrus
- ◇ Special occasions when you eat traditional foods made from ice seal or walrus
- ◇ Why preparing and eating traditional foods made with ice seal or walrus is important to you, your family, or community
- ◇ Anything else related to preservation, preparation and use of ice seals & walrus

**All entries must be received by April 1, 2011.** To Enter: submit essays to Lily Ray, Kawerak Social Science by email or mail. Entries must include your name, community of residence, school name, grade level, address, and phone number. Mailing address: Lily Ray, Kawerak, Inc. | PO Box 948 | Nome, AK 99762 | or electronically at lray@kawerak.org. For more information contact Lily Ray at lray@kawerak.org or (907)443-4262

## Public Safety; Did you know there are Four different types of Public Safety in the Bering Strait Region?

The Alaska State Troopers Nome Post are very appreciative of the support from Kawerak in administering the Village Public Safety Officer program in the Norton Sound Region. Program Director Appolloni works tirelessly to recruit and retain quality applicants as well as assisting communities with the VPSO program and many other Public Safety issues. The VPSO's serve their communities with pride and concern for every mem-

ber. Each VPSO works closely with their oversight Trooper and in partnership helps to increase safety in all of our communities. We also thank the communities for their support of the VPSO's and Alaska State Troopers. Currently the Alaska State Troopers have one Sergeant and 7 Troopers; five based in Nome and two in Unalakleet.

Currently there are 7 villages with one or more City employed Village Police Officers

and 8 villages with a vacant VPO position.

The City of Nome has a Chief of Police, 2 Sergeants and 5 police officers.

Kawerak administers the VPSO program with 10 VPSOs employed and seven vacancies. Below is a list by village for the VPSO/VPO contacts. For more information about Kawerak's VPSO Program contact: Gina Appolloni at 443-4252 or via email at gappolloni@kawerak.org.

City	VPSO/Kawerak	Village Police Officer/City
Brevig Mission	VPSO Winfred Olanna, Jr. VPSO Christopher Vortuba	vacant
Diomedede	vacant	vacant
Elim	vacant	VPO Ross Saccheus (on call)
Gambell	VPSO Jonathan Shivel	VPO Dwayne Apitki, VPO Robert Apitiki, VPO Bobby Ungwiluk, VPO Elmer Campbell
Golovin	VPSO Carlos Navarro	vacant
Koyuk	vacant	vacant
St. Michael	VPSO Joe Katchatag III	VPO Daniel Teeluk (on call)
Savoonga	vacant	VPO Michael Wongitillin
Shaktoolik	VPSO Lucas Stotts	vacant
Shishmaref	VPSO Curtis Nayokpuk VPSO Barret Eningowuk	VPO Travis Eningalook, Thomas Olanna
Stebbins	vacant	VPO Serge Ustaszewski, VPO Leonard Raymond, Jr. VPO Evern St. Claire, VPO Travis Snowball
Teller	vacant	vacant
Unalakleet	VPSO Tim Pehle	VPO Henry Ivanoff, Jr. VPO George Turner, VPO David Slwooko
Wales	vacant	vacant
White Mountain	Sgt. Dan Harrelson	vacant

### VPSO Staff attend Training in Anchorage



Pictured From left to right VPSO Katchatag, Linn Jr., Pehle, Shivel, Stotts, Sgt. Harrelson, Votruba, Nayokpuk and Navarro.

VPSO Regional training was held in Anchorage, Oct. 24-28. Kawerak sponsored the event along with the following agencies: Kodiak Area Native Association, Northwest Arctic Borough, and Copper River Native Association. There were 25 VPSOs that attended the training. Topics included: *Native American Training, Juvenile Justice, Drug & Alcohol Interdiction, Domestic Violence, Critical Incident Stress Management, and Suicide: Intervention and Prevention.*

Kawerak's Child Advocacy Center is pleased to announce the expansion of staff with the recent award of nearly \$1.06 million in new grants. The additional funding will add a LEGAL ADVOCATE & 3 EDUCATORS TO THE CAC. The 3 Educator positions are new and will provide outreach and follow-up support services.



#### CURRENT CAC EMPLOYEES

- Lance Cannon, Child & Family Advocate, 443-4376, lcannon@kawerak.org
- Jessica Nederhood, Educator, 443-6229, jnederhood@kawerak.org
- Katie Hannon-Lewis, Educator, 443-6231, khannon@kawerak.org
- Christine A. Piscoya, Legal Advocate, cpiscoya@kawerak.org
- Dee Perry, Director, 443-4379 dperry@kawerak.org



# HORIZONS

NEWS AND NOTES FROM NORTHWEST CAMPUS, PART OF THE COLLEGE OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS

## Nome nursing program finally a reality!

Now you can become a nurse without moving out of the Bering Strait region!

After more than three years of hard work, the Bering Strait Health Consortium has succeeded in adding Nome to the list of University of Alaska Anchorage School of Nursing outreach sites.

The first day of class for Nome's first nursing cohort of four students was Monday, January 10.

The students are scheduled to complete the two-year associate degree program to become registered nurses in December 2012—just in time to join the expanded nursing staff at the new Norton Sound Regional Hospital building.

UAA's School of Nursing eyed Nome as an outreach site at least as long ago as 2005. Developing the program was postponed, however, because no potential students were identified and training facilities appeared limited. UAA personnel

determined that it might be best to wait until Nome's new hospital was completed.

In fall 2007, Northwest Campus and NSHC approached the nursing school to see if the Nome program could kick off sooner—so that new nurses could be prepared *before* the opening of the new hospital.

Since then, members of the Bering Strait Health Consortium worked together to:

■ **Find at least four students who could complete all the program prerequisites in time to start the program in spring 2011.** The consortium hosted several informational meetings for the region, ran newspaper ads, and went on the radio to spread the word. Interested students contacted NWC and started working with advisors to register into all needed courses. UAA set four students as both a minimum and maximum number for Nome.

■ **Provide funding to cover not**



Nome's first UAA nursing cohort, in the nursing lab at Northwest Campus. From left: Amber Bradley, Jackie Ivanoff, instructor Bridgett Watkins, Sarah Weaver, Jessica Mute.

**only the students' tuition, supplies, book and travel costs, but also some living expenses** so that students could quit their jobs and focus on school. Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation awarded Kawerak a grant of \$99,396 to pay first-year expenses for students. The Consortium is now seeking funds for the second year of nursing school, and has so far received donations from Sitnasuak (\$5,000), Wells Fargo (\$2,000), Pioneer Igloo #1 (\$1,000), and the Pioneer Igloo women's auxiliary (\$1,000).

■ **Provide a local instructor for hands-on learning.** NSHC is contributing the time of employee Bridgett Watkins, R.N., as instructor. The Nome students join other School of Nursing outreach site students for videoconference class sessions with instructors teaching from Anchorage, but will spend most of their time learning hands-on skills directly from Watkins. UAA requires outreach sites to provide their own local instructor.

■ **Set up a nursing lab classroom**

**and purchase needed training equipment.** NWC is devoting one of its few classrooms for this purpose, and used grant funds to purchase over \$20,000 worth of high-tech training manikins and other equipment required for the lab. NSHC donated two hospital beds and will provide many supplies (like rubber gloves, I.V. tubing, sheets, etc.) for the lab.

While the Health Consortium was pulling together all the required program elements, students who hoped to be in the first nursing cohort were attending class and studying hard to complete the 33 credits of prerequisite courses.

Students applied to the program this summer, and finally, in mid-October, learned that they were accepted—making the Nome program officially a "go".

Health Consortium member organizations include: NSHC, Kawerak, NWC/UAF, Dept of Labor/Nome Job Center, NACTEC, Nome Eskimo Community, Interior AHEC (Area Health Education Consortium, based in Fairbanks).

### Wanted: Nursing students for 2013

The Bering Strait Health Consortium is seeking students to take nursing pre-requisite courses now so that they can be ready to apply for the nursing cohort that will start in Nome in 2013.

For information, please contact NWC advisor Kacey Miller at kacey.miller@alaska.edu or 1-800-478-2202, ext. 8416.

#### CNA training can help!

One way to get an edge when applying for nursing school is to work as a certified nurse aide. CNAs help care for patients in settings like long-term care facilities, such as Quyanna Care Center in Nome.

The Bering Strait Health Consortium CNA training course this year is set for May 9-June 16. It includes three weeks of class in Nome and two weeks in Fairbanks, where students get hands-on practice with patients at 80-bed Denali Center.

To apply for one of the 10 seats in the CNA class, call Lena Mathlaw at the Nome Job Center: 1-800-2626, ext. 9355.

High school students should apply through NACTEC; your principal can help.

Apply by March 28!

## Campus has new foundations, new layout, new look

Northwest Campus has a new look!

The corroding and deteriorating steel piling foundations of both the Nagozruk (main) Building and the Emily Ivanoff Brown Library were condemned several years ago and required replacement.

The \$3.5 million renovation project was funded by the state's allocation for critical deferred maintenance of university facilities.

In the process of moving these large buildings onto their new pilings over the past summer and fall, a number of other campus buildings were also moved to create a more compact configuration—and to make space for a hoped-for new library. Other changes include:

■ The Nagozruk Building now has a new front landing, a new ramp and a rear arctic entry;



The main building (left) and library (right) were moved onto new pilings and are now just steps apart across a new deck area (photo taken during renovation)

■ The Student Services office was enlarged, giving students more space in which to meet with advisors;

■ The flooring and ceiling were redone in part of the ceramics building, which now

stands closer to the main building;

■ The parking area is now on the east side of campus.

Renovation work began in May 2010 and extended to mid-December, pushing staff and faculty into temporary office spaces in various corners of campus throughout fall semester. Students also adapted, sometimes sharing classroom space with working staff.

To help NWC continue with community courses during the construction period, Nome Community Center generously allowed use of the XYZ Center for the attigi-parka sewing class and portraiture class. Nome-Beltz High School donated space for a screen-printing course.

Despite the chaos, the number of students enrolled at NWC for fall 2010 was up 28 percent over the prior fall semester.

# Language initiative underway at NWC

Northwest Campus has teamed up with local Native language speakers, Kawerak's Eskimo Heritage Program, and the Alaska Native Language Center at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to increase knowledge of local languages in this region.

As part of the effort, 1-credit conversational Inupiaq courses are being offered this semester in Unalakleet and in Wales.

A 1-credit course called Introduction to Inupiaq Eskimo is being offered by distance in coordination with the UAF Chuckchi Campus in Kotzebue.

And in January, 17 students gathered in Nome to take a 1-credit course called Introduction to Teaching Inupiaq/Yupik Language, taught by Sabine Seikmann of the Alaska Native Languages Department at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"I really enjoyed it," Lucy Kitchen, Wales school bilingual/bicultural teacher, said of the class. "I would like this to happen once a year. You know you're not the only one struggling to keep the language alive."

Northwest Campus asked Seikmann to teach the course to equip

more Native language speakers with the skills needed to teach language in their communities.

The Bering Strait School District funded travel and tuition for a number of bicultural/bilingual teachers from the region. The White Mountain and Golovin IRAs and NSEDC also funded some students' attendance.

Among those in the class were Winton Weyapuk Jr. and Willa Eckenweiler, who each taught a 1-credit conversational Inupiaq course in Wales and Unalakleet in 2009 and are teaching the class again this semester. NSEDC is funding tuition for their classes.

Seikmann used her own native language, German, to remind students how it feels to learn a language.

"It was very good," Kitchen said. "Sabine spoke German and used gestures, and we all understood her—and soon we were speaking German!"

During class, the students broke into groups to develop lessons to use in their own classrooms, often incorporating unison clapping, singing, and role playing.

Some of Seikmann's teaching tips included:



Francis Alvanna and Esther Bourdon, Nome elder advisors for the class, confer with Winton Weyapuk Jr. (standing, from Wales), Toby Anungazuk (Golovin, originally from Wales), and Bessie Sinnok (Shishmaref).

- Language teachers need to use a variety of teaching strategies, methods, and techniques;

- The focus must be on proficiencies, not deficiencies, of students;

- Teachers should start with fluency, rate of speech, flow of language, and a focus on meaning, then later move on to accuracy, correct grammar, word choice, and pronunciation;

- Opportunities must be provided for students to practice lan-

guage in context;

- Students must practice carrying out tasks interacting with other speakers;

- Instruction in Alaska Native language must be connected to context such as kinship.

Several students said that they enjoyed Seikmann's use of games to teach language.

"Ilisaatuni alianairuq," Kitchen said during a break in class. "Learning is fun!"



Christine Alowa (Savoonga), Zilma Joe (Gambell) and Miriam Toolie (Savoonga) present to the group while instructor Sabine Seikmann takes notes.

## NWC gets \$4 million to boost student success

An infusion of \$4 million over the next five years will fund a Northwest Campus campaign to expand regionally-relevant educational opportunities in the Bering Strait region, thanks to a Title III grant awarded in October.

Funds will be used to staff several new positions and expand services in area communities.

This is the third Title III grant NWC has received since 2001. Prior grants brought in roughly \$5 million to support instruction and student services in the areas of village-based entrepreneurship and workforce development.

The current grant project, *Expanding Regionally Relevant Educational Opportunities for Alaska Native Scholars*, will allow Northwest Campus to increase services to help students enter, persist, and successfully complete in higher

education.

Northwest Campus hopes to achieve this by:

- Improving students' ability to access the growing online presence of the University of Alaska;

- Developing regionally-relevant academic thresholds—entry-level courses that are of interest to people in our region and will also give them an experience of college that could lead them to pursue more education;

- Expanding student support services in regional communities;

- Expanding and extending the university's presence in the region's communities.

All grant activities will be developed in cooperation with employers and organizations in the region—a partnership model that underlies all Northwest Campus activities.

## Parents and high school seniors: Get your FAFSA PIN now

**What is FAFSA?** It is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. To receive student financial aid, you must fill out a FAFSA yearly.

**Why do you need a FAFSA PIN?** So you can electronically sign your FAFSA application. Using a PIN to sign your forms electronically is by far the fastest and most reliable way.

FAFSA on the Web allows you to complete and submit your financial aid application electronically.

Apply for your PIN online at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

Apply for your 2010-2011 FAFSA at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

If you need help or have questions about FAFSA or student financial aid, contact Kacey Miller at Northwest Campus: [kacey.miller@alaska.edu](mailto:kacey.miller@alaska.edu) or (907) 443-8416, toll free 1-800-478-2202.

## New positions to enhance NWC services

### I.T. specialist in Nome

The information technology specialist will help students troubleshoot computer problems so they can more readily participate in distance learning courses. The I.T. specialist will also develop a training curriculum to help students learn to use distance learning tools such as Elluminate Live and Blackboard.

### Regional hub managers in Shishmaref and Unalakleet

Northwest Campus will create regional hub centers in Unalakleet and Shishmaref to serve those communities and the villages surrounding them. These regional hubs will provide a full range of student services and support, including online computer access at the centers, outreach to sub-regional communities, community events, individual advising, high school student outreach and services, library services outreach, and collaboration and support with community liaisons.

Regional hub managers will be hired for Unalakleet and for Shishmaref. These hub managers will provide student services, develop student learning plans, and advise and encourage students to take courses that are part of occupational endorsements, certificates, associate degrees, and other course sequences.

## Vera Metcalf elected to the Executive Council of Inuit Circumpolar Conference



During the 2010 Inuit Circumpolar Conference held in Nuuk, Greenland in July representatives from Alaska, Canada, Russia and Greenland came together to discuss many political, environmental and social matters facing Northern communities. Part of the ICC General Assembly included electing Vera Metcalf to the ICC Executive Council. Below is a brief biography of Ms. Metcalf.

Vera Metcalf was born and raised in Savoonga (Sivungaq) on St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. She is currently the Director of the Eskimo Walrus Commission (EWC) at Kawerak, Inc. in Nome which represents 19 coastal Alaska communities promoting community involvement in research projects, documenting local traditional ecological knowledge and resource man-

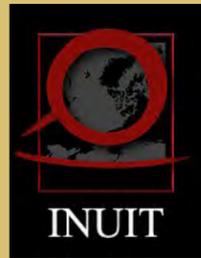
agement practices regarding the Pacific walrus.

As EWC Director, Vera is currently chair of the Pacific Walrus Conservation Fund and serves as the Special Advisor on Native Affairs on the Marine Mammal Commission. She also represents EWC on the Indigenous People's council for Marine Mammals, which was formed to "identify and address marine mammal issues of common concerns." Vera is currently on the steering committee of UAF's Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy and recently served as a Commissioner on US Arctic Research Commission. Vera is also a member of the Advisory Panel on the North Pacific Research Board, and a Steering Committee member on the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment & Policy.

## Photo Review: ICC 2010 in Nuuk, Greenland.



All pictures taken by Kawerak's courier and support clerk Dominique Thomas. Starting at the top left, clockwise; a Canadian dance group performs a song about their ancestors. Beautiful Greenlandic traditional attire adorned with beadwork. A Canadian dance group performs. Colorful Nuuk homes with the mountains in the background.



## The Bering Strait Region says Bye Bye to 21,415 pounds of trash!

Through the efforts of village EPA/IGAP environmental coordinators and Kawerak's Backhaul Program, the Bering Strait region has shipped out 7,000 lbs of electronic waste, 13,558 lbs of lead-acid batteries, 290 lbs of fluorescent lights, 76 lbs of household (alkaline) batteries and 491 lbs of white goods (such as refrigerators & washers) to recyclers in Anchorage. 12 of our 20 tribes have these environmental programs and several regional corporations are assisting with various environmental projects, including Norton Sound Health Corporation, Kawerak and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

Kawerak's new Regional Backhaul and Recycling Program (RBRP) is focused on helping tribes remove and recycle their hazardous materials. The program is kicking off the new year with plans for training,

education, creating a regional staging area, and managing the removal of solid waste items. The plan is to increase the number of pounds of recyclable waste shipped out in 2011. Recently, the RBRP sent out certificates of achievement for 2010 and wished to recognize the following communities: a) Elim –recycled the most lead-acid batteries b) St. Michael – recycled the most fluorescent lights and c) Diomedé – recycled the most electronic waste.

The backhaul efforts were approved by the Bering Strait Development Council which directed Kawerak's Community Planning and Development department to dedicate staff and funding for backhauling. Kawerak applied for



Pictured above left; women from Wales prepare household batteries to be shipped out. Opik Ahkinga, RurALCAP AmeriCorps RAVEN volunteer helps load boxes of electronic waste (e-waste) and bags of aluminum cans onto Bering Air in Diomedé

EPA funding to expand backhaul efforts in the region and obtained a RurAL CAP AmeriCorps RAVEN volunteer, Opik Ahkinga to help organize the program. It's truly been a collaborative effort involving many organizations and individuals. Local transportation service providers have signed agreements to assist in the project by providing free or reduced rates to ship items out, and recyclers in Anchorage have been very supportive

of the efforts in this region. Nome's own Bering Air is giving back to our communities by backhauling items for free from the villages to Nome while Everts Air Cargo has given the Backhaul Program an incredible reduced rate from Nome to Anchorage. For more information about the RBRP call Anahma Saito, Backhaul & Recycling Specialist at 443-4249 or via email: backhaul@kawerak.org.

# A NEW U.S. OCEAN AND COASTAL POLICY

This introduction to the new federal policy for managing U.S. oceans and coasts gives a brief overview of how it applies in Alaska and the Arctic. It is intended to help you determine how you can participate. As new information becomes available, every effort will be made to update this summary.

## Overview of the New National Ocean Policy

On July 19, 2010, President Obama established a national policy for the stewardship of our oceans by declaring that "it is the policy of the United States to ... protect, maintain, and restore the health and biological diversity of ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems and resources." To implement the policy, the President established a National Ocean Council that includes the heads of all ocean and coastal federal agencies. The National Ocean Council also is tasked with developing strategic action plans for priority issues, and leading the development of Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP).

CMSP is a public process to analyze and plan human activities and uses in ocean and coastal areas through time. The new national CMSP process calls for high level planning oversight by the National Ocean Council combined with regional planning and implementation.

## What the National Ocean Policy Means for Alaska and the Arctic

**Strategic Action Plan for the Arctic.** The en-

tire Arctic is an "area of special emphasis" for the federal government. As such, and recognizing the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the region, the National Ocean Council has been specifically tasked with developing a strategic action plan for the entire Arctic that addresses "better ways to conserve, protect, and sustainably manage the Arctic."

**CMSP in "Alaska/Arctic" Region.** In addition to the broad Arctic strategic plan, "Alaska/Arctic" is one of nine regions that will have a Regional Planning Body made up of federal, state, and tribal representatives. The Alaska/Arctic Regional Planning Body can choose to divide the region into subregions, with corollary subregional planning bodies. It is still unclear how the Arctic strategic planning and Alaska/Arctic regional planning processes will intersect.

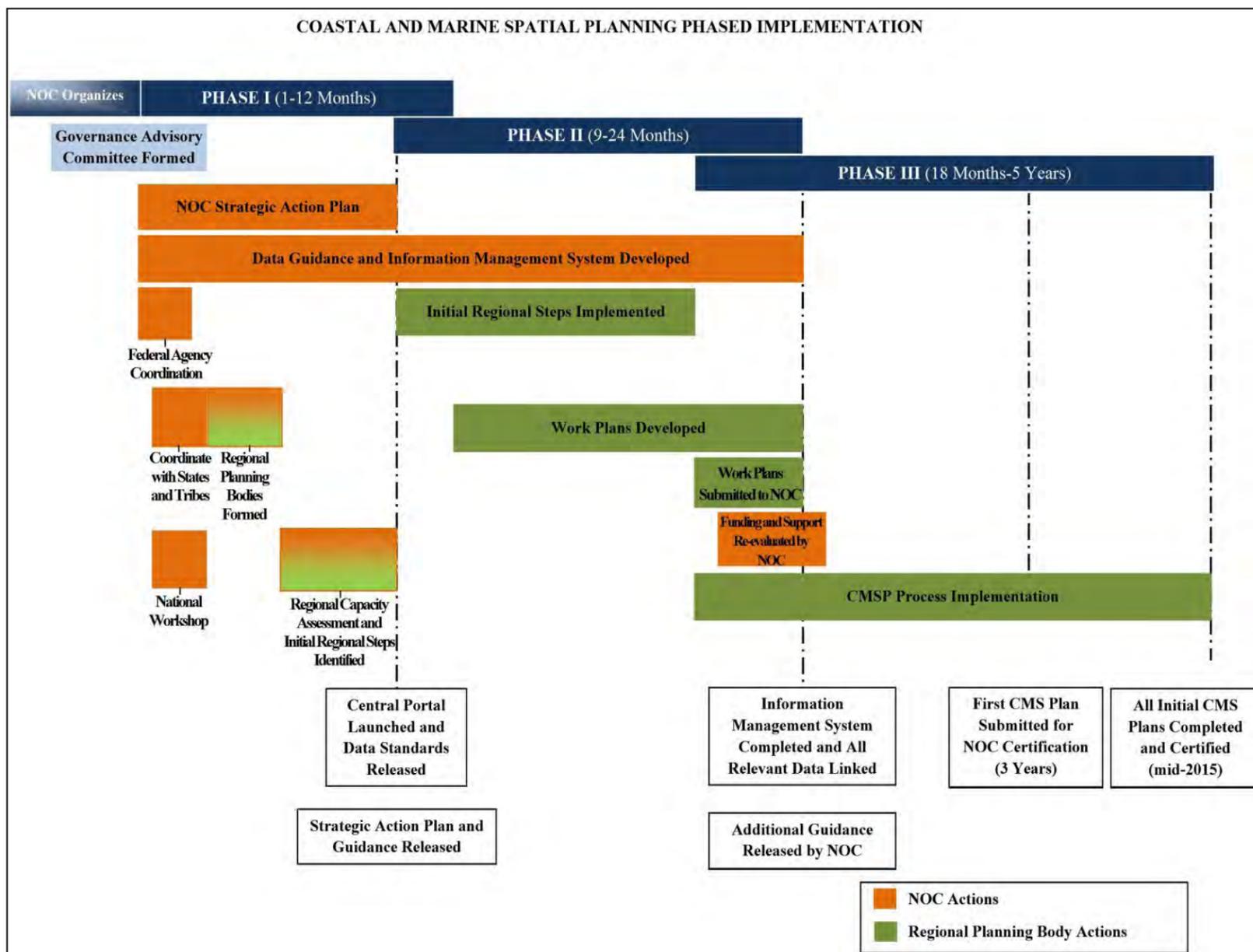
**National Information Management System.** As part of the planning process, the federal government is developing a new national information management system dedicated to coastal and marine scientific data and information. This management system will integrate data from federal and non-federal sources, and will include traditional knowledge.

## Opportunities for Participation

As the National Ocean Council and the Alaska Regional Planning Body are organized and begin developing management instruments,

several opportunities will arise for tribes, indigenous organizations, local communities, and stakeholders to participate. At the highest level, a Governance Coordinating Committee composed of state, local, and three tribal representatives from all over the U.S. will advise the National Ocean Council. At the regional level, Regional Planning Bodies will include tribal representatives. There also will be formal mechanisms for tribes and indigenous organizations, communities, and stakeholders to participate in the development of the associated plans and systems to support these processes – such as the strategic action plan for the Arctic, the national information management system, and the Alaska/Arctic CMSP plan. The precise timelines, structure, and form for public participation in these processes has not yet been determined.

**Initial Timeline.** Coastal and marine spatial plans are to be completed by mid-2015. The National Ocean Council is organizing now, including establishing a Governance Coordinating Committee. Once the national structure is in place, Phase 1 will begin. Phase 1 will include the development of the Arctic Strategic Plan (first 9 months), initial National Ocean Council coordination with states and tribes (first 3 months), and the establishment of the Alaska/Arctic Regional Planning Body (first 6 months). *Source:* Final Recommendations of the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force (July 2010).



**For more information contact: Kathryn Mengerink at (858) 822-5821 or by email at [rmengerink@eli.org](mailto:rmengerink@eli.org)  
Or contact: Vera Metcalf at (907) 443-4380 or via email at [vmetcalf@kawerak.org](mailto:vmetcalf@kawerak.org)**

## Kawerak Full Board of Directors Meeting held December 7 ~ 9, 2010 in Nome.

*Below are the Village Reports from each representative.*

### **Native Village of Elim, by Robert Keith**

NVE was awarded an EPA IGAP grant that started in November. Setting up the office space is underway with telephones and computers for the new program. Our staff has been working together with Kawerak IGAP staff on back haul program. On Road Maintenance we accomplished more to improve our Moses Point Road than any other year but we have gone over budget. We continue to work on the Tubutulik Watershed program and water testing. We have plans to measure water flow sometime in late spring 2011. We are trying to use the individual that is working for Golovin and White Mountain Watershed program to try to keep our prices down. A lot of small grants are implemented with collaboration with our school; most of these small grants are for youth and or young adult related grants. More can be done to better integrate these various programs and grants. On the Johnson O'Malley grant the IRA Council tries to follow congressional intent language, spent in a way that provides Native cultural exposure and keeps the youth busy (ie out of trouble). The school would-if it could-spend the JOM funds the way it would like. We accommodate their requests (as much as we can) by using other grant funds that are more appropriate. Our grant writer submitted an ICDBG grant to refurbish our old High School, which is targeted to be used for programs that involve youth and young adults. Economic development, teen center, carving, Native crafts and training are some of the ideas we could do with the building. The City owns the building and has acquired some small amounts of funds to do some renovation work, but much more needs to be done. It's old and designed for the lower 48. The Headstart Building in Elim has created a snow vortex, the road develops a large snow drift above the Headstart building during north winds. We will be having our annual meeting on January 29<sup>th</sup> with two seats up for election. This year the City held Thanksgiving potluck so the IRA will hold the Christmas potluck. The City tried to get Reindeer but was unable to; the IRA would like to get Reindeer and or reinbues/carideers.

### **Chinik Eskimo Community, by Irene Aukongak**

The School began a recycle collection of plastics, "Changing habits for a healthier tomorrow." Pick up is each Friday. Evening skin sewing began once again on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Skins and furs were ordered through the Kawerak Wellness Grant for the community. The community started ice fishing; some are taking advantage of the Tom Cod selling through the NSEDC. Two of our CEC Traditional Council members will be attending the BIA Providers Conference along with the Tribal Coordinator. The Johnson O'Malley funds were distributed evenly throughout the entire school body. It was split into three groups, preschool, elementary and high school. City is taking care of the Thanksgiving feast, and Chinik Eskimo Community has begun the Christmas Game Festivities. We're pleased to announce the building process of the 3 new homes; they're working on the foundations right now. For Veterans Day, the school provided a free lunch for all the Veterans. The children said the Pledge of Allegiance for them and did a short play.

### **King Island Native Community, by Frank Irelan**

KINC is preparing for upcoming Annual/Election for December 11, 2010. There are five (5) seats up this year. Four (4) Tribal IRA council members attended AFN this year. We had 2 representatives attended Bering Straits Regional Housing Authority - Indian Housing Plan (IHP) conference November 9-10, 2010. Currently advertising for a Transportation Specialist.

### **Mary's Igloo Traditional Council, by Albert Oquilluk**

Mary's Igloo is in its 6<sup>th</sup> year since being reorganized, and I think we are doing a good job. We currently have several grants we are utilizing. A libraries grant to hire a librarian and to purchase books, literature, movies, documentaries and internet access for Tribal Members. The Healthy Snacks program was awarded another \$7,500 for summer and after school snacks (wellness) and cultural camp. MITC received a First Nations grant for culture camp and supplies, camping equipment, and to hold meetings with kids. MITC gave a presentation at a meeting in Oregon this fall about what we are doing during Culture Camp and they really liked it. Lucy and Cora Ablowaluk (TC) traveled to the meeting. We also received a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation and a State Trails and Recreation grant for Culture Camp cabin and shelter; monies will go towards construction costs. Hopefully we will be taking youth for seasonal harvests. IGAP grant awarded \$114,000 for GAP position. I was hired as Coordinator and my home will be my office for about a month, hopefully move into an office beginning of 2011. We were asked by MINC to support and possibly help in reestablishing Mary's Igloo as a village again. A person from UAF will be helping MINC in research and conduct a feasibility study to move tribe members to Mary's Igloo. We will have a welding instructor come to Teller to instruct on how to use the welder we received from NSEDC. I believe Marlin Sookiyak will be the instructor. We also received \$7016 from NSEDC for a search snow machine, possibly using it for Culture camp activities during the winter and early spring. Sled building project with Joe Garnie is currently on hold. Sockeye salmon has become a stock of concern, seems like we don't have any sockeye salmon.

### **Native Village of Brevig Mission, by Gilbert Tocktoo**

Brevig Mission recently hired a VPSO about a month or two ago. Health Aide positions here still need to be filled, we have health aides coming in from other villages to cover for our health aides. The Tribe has completed 2 tribal adoptions. Tribal membership applications are still being received and accepted. The Tribe will also distribute 100 gallons of fuel oil to each household before the

end of the year, the fuel was received from Pt. Clarence, the Tribe did receive at least 100,000 + gallons, in which a portion of the fuel was sold to the store and AVEC since we did not have a large enough storage tank to store the fuel. There will be Thanksgiving Community Potluck that will be held at the gym. We continue to hold our regular Traditional meetings twice monthly, along with our joint meeting with the City, Corporation, and Elders Advisory Committee. Test fishery for halibut was done this fall, Loran station at Pt. Clarence was shut down this fall, and the tower was demolished. Campers & hunters miss the tower since we used it as a landmark. The Tribe also received equipment, appliances, materials and furniture during the closure of the Loran Station. Tumet also completed their road project and will return next spring to complete their work on the water drain. Snow fences were also completed north of the village and the snow fences really do work within our community; if needed we will expand the snow fence west side of our town. Men's & women's city league basketball tournament will be held after the Thanksgiving holiday with Teller and Shishmaref participating. BSRHA personnel were also here doing modernization work on boilers that need to be replaced or overhauled. Pt. Clarence Bay is still not frozen and usually remains open till middle part of December. With the 2010 year ending; the Tribe from the Native Village of Brevig Mission wishes everyone in the Bering Strait villages a happy and safe holiday and a prosperous New Year.

### **Native Village of Diomedé, Patrick Omiak, Sr.**

Thanksgiving went well. Good to have turkeys and ham considering we had no frozen orders since the summer. Our tribe is thankful to Kawerak Wellness funding. There has been some hunting for seals and walrus since last month. So far only one large ribbon seal caught. Thanks to that hunter, he fed a lot of families. There have been sightings of walrus, seals and bow head whales. Teachers are expected to leave for Christmas break on December 17<sup>th</sup> and return on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Good luck with travel this time of the year. We received word that Evergreen Helicopters will start taking passengers as soon as ice forms between Wales and Diomedé. Hard to be excited about it considering most would rather be home for the holidays. There are eight community members waiting to come home since last fall; they must be excited to return home also two high school students are also expected home for the holidays. Our weather has been a bit odd considering pretty warm for the months of November and December. Sunday evening slush ice arrived from the south, which is unusual for us to see. Thanks to our school they handed out turkeys to families that have their children enrolled in school. Since October 2010 sewing classes are held on Tues. and Thurs. 7:00pm-9:00pm. This funding came from Kawerak Wellness and NSEDC. Not much participants, hopefully after the holidays. Thanks to Christopher and Otto Soolook they covered our Eskimo dance drums with walrus stomach, this project was funded by Kawerak Wellness as well. Our tribe met on November 18, 2010 to discuss our overall priorities that will be submitted to our Legislators and Congress. Priority #1: Passenger Transportation Services that needs to be addressed. Diomedé's transportation services have been this way since our existence. Our concern is will no or limited transportation with passenger services remains the same the rest of our lives? We are facing the reality of true hardship. Our lives depend on transportation. With limited and no passenger services since July 15, 2009 we are cut off from the world. We have equal rights to all services that are provided in other communities throughout the United States. I will not ramble on the countless number of hardships faced with our transportation experiences, we would like for you all to experience this yourself. There are remedies to this issue that will work for Diomedé, allow congressional funding or state funding for Essential Air Services provided to Diomedé. We live in a very low base economy, we do not have match funding even if it is only \$187,000 yearly. The State reminds us to bear with it and all will follow, been too long and way too frustrating. Priority #2: Our current and ongoing solid waste. We are still dumping directly into the Bering Sea, honey buckets, trash, e-waste, etc. We are asking for funding to profice for water and sewer and a regulated septic system for our community. Diomedé is located directly in the heart of the Bering Sea, all sea mammals migrate through the Diomedé Islands. Help us put a stop to illegal dumping which will eliminate contaminating the Bering Sea. We are hurting so much sea life and we are also consuming it.

### **Native Village of Gambell, by Eddie Ungott**

Quite a bit has happened since our last board meeting. Unusually warm weather has played a role in our snow finally coming in not too long ago. We are waiting patiently for our ice for fall big game hunting. I went to AFN for the 1<sup>st</sup> time as an executive committee member and it was pretty exciting, except for the fact that I was almost robbed and roughed up a bit. 2 people from our organization attended the BIA Providers Conference and received good information from it. We were promised again for a timely audit from our auditor, only to be a little late again. So we are changing auditors. As in every village, alcohol seems to be an ongoing problem regardless of laws set and has been giving families lots of problems. If you travel outside of Nome, I would recommend you travel with a buddy or go in groups. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year. God bless you all and have a safe trip home.

### **Native Village of Koyuk, by Frank Kavairlook**

Four new houses are being built and the Annual meeting is set up for December. Also the burn box is under construction with IGAP

funds. Inventory on the trail staking poles was done. New job opening for Elder Meal Program has been posted. Bering Straits rented the IRA dump truck for 10 hours at \$125/hour.

### **Native Village of Savoonga, by Gregory Toolie**

In July the Department of Justice staff and personnel, from Washington, D.C. including Mr. James Balocki, director of the Army Corp. of Engineers and staff; listened to the tribe's and other entities' concerns. It was encouraging to see that he came all the way from D.C. to listen to our concerns. The outcome of that meeting was to grant a travel scholarship for one of the Tribal Council members to attend the Interdepartmental Tribal Justice, Safety and Wellness Session in Palm Springs, CA in December. The IRR Roads Project was started late, due to late arrival of the D-8 dozer. The existing roads were maintained. Purchase of the used water tank truck and the mini excavator from Brice, Inc. pulled through. Housing Improvement Program was funded to purchase and build 3 new homes for 2 elder couples. The work will begin next spring when the building materials arrive. BSRHA will be renovating some homes. RurAL CAP weatherized quite a few homes in July and August. NALEMP is still working on getting their funding from the Army Corp of Engineers to clean up the village site at North East Cape. With the help from ACAT, we are giving input to the Army Corp of Engineers. Our office is very excited about the Community Wellness Program that is provided through Kawerak. With the funding we will plan for projects for the kids to do and learn. This program is very meaningful since it involves our young people. It was a good summer though we lost our last oldest person in June. Commercial fishing has been going on. Campers have left to go to their camp grounds. No berries at all this summer.

### **Native Village of Shishmaref, by Donna Barr**

We hired Karen Olanna as the new tribal coordinator on November 3. Arlene Charles, accounting specialist, was here to train Karen on QuickBooks. We reviewed the SNT budget and had to do a budget revision to meet the funds for operations & maintenance. Right now we are in low funding. The IRA Council has been very busy with their monthly meetings. NSHC representatives were here to meet with the Health Council in October. Also, Fred Tocktoo and Jeanette Pomrenke with NPS held a public meeting concerning Serpentine Hot Springs on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. We received the \$7,500 from Kawerak for activities. Donna Barr, VBC Counselor, is starting sewing classes for ages 14-24 on November 27. Christmas is coming up, and we are starting to plan out the traditional activities. The NVS will be applying for BSRHA grant funds. A Japanese film crew from NTV came to discuss & review climate change issues. They will send the community a copy of the documentation. The Shishmaref Tannery is open seasonally. ICWA training was completed by Kawerak General Counsel. We are requesting Kawerak to provide training for the requirements that are needed to fill the North Slope qualifications, so the people from our region/communities can qualify for those jobs. We are requesting for a new computer for the Tribal Coordinator since we've been having problems with our current computer. We would very much appreciate it.

### **Village of Solomon by Rosemary Tootkaylok**

VoS recently updated their Local Economic Development Plan (last updated in 1998) which was facilitated by Kawerak Staff. Tribal membership attended as well as the Solomon Native Corporation board members. A follow up meeting is planned in January. The tribal office is moving to the Old Federal building in December and will be located on the first floor behind the Nome Native Arts Store. Franklin Okitkon, one of Solomon's treasured Elders was officially recognized for his service in the Alaska Territorial Guard. He was one of six local veterans who were honored earlier this fall in Nome. Mike Sloan, Fish Biologist for Kawerak applied for a water quality project grant to study and help revitalize the fish returns in the Solomon River. During our recent LEDP everyone indicated they wanted to have our rivers checked for water quality and to have them restored. Especially, since the Solomon River has been not producing fish and most likely there are contaminates in the river. This is a preliminary rehabilitation planning grant that will take the direction from the stakeholders (i.e. VOS and SNC members) to start the planning process. Pending award, it will start in June or July of 2011 with a kick off meeting and continued follow up meetings planned with stakeholders. The B & B is closed for the season. We have four adventurous doctors staying at the B & B during Iditarod 2011 and we are currently at the planning stages for the Iditarod winter opening. Last year was a trial run to see if it was even possible to get the building warm and functional and to provide transportation out there with our truck equipped with Mattracks and we are proud to say that both were successful.

### **Native Village of St. Michael, by Shirley Martin**

This village report is for September thru November 2010. The City began work to refurbish the old garage sitting on the old airport thru funding received from NSEDC as a welding shop. Unfortunately, the City shop burned down, an investigation for the cause of the fire is underway. Because of this, the Kawerak Head Start three year olds program had to move to the IRA, with the four year olds over to the BSSD School. Since the last report we have experienced turnover with the bookkeeper and janitor positions. The St. Michael IRA received funding from Kawerak Wellness Program for Elder/Youth projects to include soapstone carving, qaspuq making, maqi house building, beading and Eskimo dancing to begin in December. These activities will be planned and coordinated by Ursula Lockwood, the ANA Elder Coordinator. The IRA has also

*Continued on Page 13*

## Kawerak Village Reports *(continued from page 12)*

applied for the remaining Suicide Prevention money through NSEDC for a total of \$2,500. The Kawerak VPSO position has finally been filled by Joe Katchatag, originally of UNK. We had to re-schedule a joint ICWA training with WBB and Aisha, as we had too many Council members away on travel. The IRA AFN delegates were Thomas Cheemuk, Sr. and Milton Cheemuk. The Elder rep was Charles Lockwood and the youth was Morgan Lockwood. Apparently, Morgan had received statewide recognition and a plaque for her quick thinking and bravery for saving the lives of four young children, an award that I don't think the whole community was aware of. The 2011 IRA Annual meeting has been scheduled for January 15, 2011. There are four seats open this coming year. We will be sending out invitations for this, the meeting usually occurs in the afternoon from 1:00-5:00 P.M., with a potluck to follow. In years past, the IRA Council selected, among the residing Tribal members, recipients of community awards that are given similar to those during AFN; however, we are asking the community to make nominations this year. The high school boys' basketball team is sponsoring the 2010 Annual Turkey tournament. We have yet another new couple that has moved to SMK to manage and run our local AC store. Happy Holidays to one and all in the Bering Straits Region from everyone here in St. Michael! May God bless each of you and your loved ones!

### **Teller Traditional Council, by Wesley Okbaok**

TTC helped sponsor an Elders Lunch in September 2010. Ukithl-gaaq class was held Sept. 15-17 utilizing the Kawerak Youth Mentoring Funds and was taught by local Elders: Edna Oquilluk, Clara Topkok, and Agnes Noyakuk. 16 students attended the class. TTC held a 72 Mile Walking Challenge this summer with funds from NSHC CAMP Diabetes Prevention Grant. We had 26 participants and 13 of them finished the challenge. Water bottles, back packs and sweaters were ordered for participants who reached their goal. TTC is continuing to participate in Community joint Meetings. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Teller Cultural Festival was held September 24-25. We had 5 groups perform from: Teller, Brevig Mission, King Island, Golovin, and White Mountain. During the workshops and potluck on Saturday we had many guests from out of town participate. XYZ Elders also attended the Festival. TTC sponsored the following individuals to AFN; one Council Member, one Elder, one Youth, and shared the expense with MITC's on a chaperone to attend the 2010 AFN Convention. TTC held their annual Elections October 29, 2010. The results are: President, Wesley Okbaok; Vice President, Jenny Lee; Secretary, Dolly Kuzruk; Treasurer, Norman Menadelook Sr.; Members: Sig Wien Omiak, Tanya Ablowaluk and Stella Okbaok. TTC had one Council Member attend the BSRHA IHP Meeting held in Nome November 8-11, 2010. The Teller Search and Rescue held a meeting and re-organized on November 8, 2010. Albert Oquilluk is the current President. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Teller Fall Classic was held November 3-6. Mixed six volleyball games were played in Teller November 19-20. TTC will continue to support school events. TTC helped sponsor the community Thanksgiving Feast. TTC will be sending 2 council members and our tribal family service coordinator to attend the BIA Providers Conference in Anch held Nov. 29 - Dec.3, 2010.

### **Native Village of Wales, by Ellen Richard**

Wales Kingikmiut School staff, Anna Oxereok, TFC, the Suicide Prevention Committee and I held a "Halloween Carnival." 2 students and a chaperone attended AFN in Fairbanks this year. 6 NVW tribal council members attended the ATCHEM Conference in Anchorage. Next week on the 12/18<sup>th</sup> the Wales Kingikmiut School and Community Christmas Program will be held. Christmas game nights sponsored by different entities will begin Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> thru Jan. 1, 2011. May God Bless everyone during Christmas and New Year Holidays and safe travel home. Clinic Travel Clerk position is vacant as of now. Hopefully it will be filled soon. Still have to get a VPSO on board for Wales. Just recently heard the Health Aides are requesting takeover of the Toby Anungazuk Sr Health Clinic be reverted to NVW to get more support for our CHPP's. Our tribal membership increased by 4. Six tribal council members attended the BIA Providers Conference and they met with BIA staff to help make our multipurpose more energy efficient (i.e. winter shed, lights and boiler starting fixture).

### **Native Village of White Mountain, by Willa Ashenfelter**

We have a very small Eskimo Dance group which consists of three 7 year olds and one 8 year old with three adults and June "Sugar" Lincoln as the Eskimo Dance Instructor. We are trying to get this important tradition back into the village. The dance group was able to travel to Teller for the dance festival in September. They learned a lot during those two days. Thanks to Brian Muktoyuk, Vincent Pikogana, and Carl Topkok for teaching the drumming lessons in Teller. Mentoring activities has started with ulu making and parka making. Skin sewing will be held later. Thanks to Kawerak Wellness for these activities geared for Suicide Prevention to individuals 12-25 years of age. The Tribe submitted a grant proposal to HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant for the construction of a new store. Last year we missed by two points to be considered for funding. Also a proposal to NSEDC for the new water/sewer service to the new store was submitted. This new store has been a priority of the tribe for numerous years. It is hard finding grants to fund a new store. The tribe is hosting the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the gym for the community. The annual meeting for the NVWM is scheduled for Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Eric Morris, Wetlands Coordinator is coming along with the Golovin Bay Watershed. The Golovin Bay Watershed met in White Mountain earlier this month to draft/adopt by-laws with

Charles Parker. Irving Ashenfelter was promoted as the IGAP Coordinator and Jack Jay Adams is the newly hired IGAP Coordinator Assistant. Happy Holidays to everyone.

### **Stebbins Community Association, by Peter Martin, Sr.**

BSRHA finished the 4-plex apartments. No tenants as of yet until after our inspection. Biomass boiler in the box didn't quite make it to Stebbins. It is now wintering at the Nome Port, until this spring or early summer. Everyone is busy tomcoding, getting ready for Christmas and our Eskimo singers are now practicing for potlatch with Kotlik. This year we go to Kotlik first, then around March, the potlatch will be in Stebbins. We have at least two big projects this coming summer and planning is now underway.

### **Nome Eskimo Community, by Cynthia Ahwinona**

Tribal Services winter activities are in full swing. Once again NEC made a significant contribution to the Nome Elementary Breakfast program. The After School Study Program is in place at both elementary and high school. We're involved in the Elementary Reading Program and have partnered with other organizations for the popular Family Fun Night for parents and children, and many after school educational, cultural and athletic activities are planned for the winter months. The weatherization program has shut-down for the winter. This summer, we completed weatherization and energy efficiency measures on fourteen local homes. We look forward to providing this service to the community for a 3<sup>rd</sup> year during 2011 summer construction season. Due to very low demand for buy-down assistance and higher demand for renovations services, we've modified our Indian Housing Plan to reduce buy-down to one per annual membership. We'll be putting more effort into seeking funds to grow the program and expand services to members. This is ever more critical due to on-going reductions to NAHASDA funding. This year, we'll research rental and energy assistance programs to determine how they work and the possibility of providing this service to membership. Our application for the Title IV-B funding is in the final review process and approval will increase our funding and provide us the opportunity to enhance services. Staff met with the State Title IV-E Manager to review prior funding levels and discuss avenues to increase our reimbursements from the State for staff time applied to providing services to children in foster care. Although we've already implemented measures to increase funding, the approval of Title IV-B could increase our reimbursements from the 20% to 60% level. Jerry Trigg recently left his position as Tribal Resources Specialist to return to Anchorage. We're extremely happy to announce the hiring of Mike Sloan to fill the position. Mike has extensive experience in environmental, natural resources and fisheries issues, and we look forward to working with him to move our program forward. Due to weather, our roads project has been rescheduled for spring 2011. In October, we terminated our agreement with the BIA Transportation Program and entered into an agreement with Federal Highways Administration beginning FY 2011. This fall, we submitted a Transportation Improvement Plan for 2011-13 that included N Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Steadman to N Street, and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue from K Street to N Street as possible projects. The Transportation Committee has discussed the possibility of constructing a boat ramp in the Belmont Point for subsistence hunters, and repairing and extending bike paths in the Nome area. Although we'll begin planning efforts for new projects, at this time, our priority will be to complete existing projects this summer. Last fall, Sitna-sauk Native Corporation requested our assistance to rehabilitate the Glacier Creek Road, from the Rock Creek Mine to the end of the road. Due to required standards and cost to construct, a project of this caliber will require additional State and Federal funding. With letters of support from NEC and the City of Nome, Sitna-sauk nominated this project for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and we're awaiting the results of their request. We held our annual meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Alfred Sahlin and Cynthia Ahwinona were elected to serve three-year term, Tiffany Martinson will serve a two-year term, and Mary Carter a one-year term. Election of officers and local board appointments will be conducted at our January 2011 meeting. Tribal Council members attended the 2010 AFN convention in Fairbanks, and in November, Alfred Sahlin, Cynthia Ahwinona and Denise Barengo attended the 2010 Annual NCIA Conference in Albuquerque. This was the first NCIA conference for NEC reps. Although the conference was quite lengthy, we had the opportunity to listen to the dialogue between federal and tribal representatives on issues impacting Tribes, and hear reports on the status of NCIA's and tribal advocacy to address the issues. In early 2011, we hope to complete the garage renovation and baseboard heating upgrade. In the spring, we'll start our roads project and complete an accounting software conversion. We'll conduct a review of and update our 2010-2014 5-year strategic plans and aggressively seek funds to grow our base and program funding. From the staff and Tribal Council of Nome Eskimo Community, have a wonderful Christmas.

### **Native Village of Unalakleet, by Janice Dickens**

Seated on the Tribal Council are President Kathy Johnson, Vice President Kermit Ivanoff, Secretary Janice Dickens, Treasurer Louisa Paniptchuk, Council Members Charles Degnan, Reuben Mixsooke and April Ivanoff. With the hiring of General Manager William "Middy" Johnson, we are optimistically looking to the future for alignment of staff and council to help bring the vision and mission statements of the NVU to realization. One NVU goal is to provide safe, decent, affordable housing using local hire to Tribal Members, and currently has two home renovations with completion date of October 31; insulated skirting on ten homes with com-

pletion date September 30; one replacement house and one BIA-HIP home Category B Renovation, both with completion dates of December 31. In the works is an ICDGB for the purchase of the 14-plex Apartment complex and renovating at the same time. Per slated funding renewal, much needed RurAL CAP weatherization may take place in 2011 or 2012. Also implementing a Home Modification program up to \$15,000 per house installing access ramps, safety handles, grab bars, specialty tubs, etc. for Elders and people with special needs. UNK was down to 2 CHA/Ps w/the loss of 5 health aides in the past 6 months. NVU approved giving 14-plex a priority to a 3rd Health Aide, though the waiting list was long, we hope to prevent further burnout and potential loss of other Health Aides. The vacant mid level position is puzzling, as NSHC knew of their departure. NVU is waiting for completion of the Study by JD for the NSHC Board to fully utilize and staff the sub-regional clinic and provide quality health care to UNK village & subregion. ANA Elders Facility has been an objective of NVU for well over 10 years and has experienced occasional setbacks but always remains an extremely high priority, especially with QCC's long waiting list and so many Elders with unmet needs. The rehired Grant Writer and ANA Program Manager is working on the staffing, management & sustainable operations of this facility. The Governor vetoed the Pre-Development Funds which we reapplied for. Possibility of working as a private agency or as a sub regional agency has been explored, but ideally, working w/NSHC on developing a management system under their outreach is desired. A long-term sustainability plan will need to be developed. We are engaged in the process and looking at not only for the sub region, but also as a demonstration project that could be applied across the region. Also begun are sub regional needs Assessment of Elders and our capacity to meet them. NVU is working with Dr. Jordan Lewis from BBNC, whose dissertation, *Successful Aging through the Eyes of Alaska Native Elders* demonstrates his sensibility and understanding of our culture and situation. The realization of this project would create jobs as well as keeping our Elders home. This project also addresses the need of an educated, well-trained work force and our focus on the education of our youth. This year saw hot lunches being served all summer for the first time thru the Elders Lunch program. With the NSEDC grant we purchased a huge TV monitor which may allow online video conferencing at the memorial hall. The feasibility study/remediation plan for the removal of the extra large eyesore of a fuel tank is still in the planning stages. NVU also received an Ingersoll Rand roller/compactor which is being rented to the Pro West paving crew. Other pieces of equipment are on order and the White Alice Remediation project is currently on hold due to the North River Bridge being deemed unusable. Other options are being considered and the road to and beyond the bridge will also need work to accommodate heavy equipment repeated use. After Haz Mat training, some tribal members were hired to clean-up hazardous materials located at the old Air Force site. We also started on aluminum can recycling project with NAC flying them out for free. Environmental Specialist (ES)-Position is vacant but will be filled soon. The previous ES was addressing meaningful engagement with agencies ordered by the President to consult with the tribes, especially issues affecting subsistence resources. The Kawerak Back Haul Project has many old batteries & other items sitting in a conex and is a worthwhile project. A semi-annual meeting was planned to discuss the 1/4 blood quantum requirement and lineal descendants; for eligibility to IHS care, and BIA Scholarship funding. This sensitive issue will need to be thoughtfully dealt with by the NVU Membership. The TFC deals mainly with ICWA cases, but is strengthening family ties by providing positive family-oriented activities. The growth of NVU has brought the need for a FT bookkeeper and that much closer to fully exercising self-governance. The Pulltabs/Bingo has flourished under our current manager and brings financial support to NVU/and the community. Thanks to all at PT/B players. NVU is proud to see Timothy Pehle, son of Anna & Allen Pehle, grandson of the late Fred Katchatag rise from VPO to VPSO. Please continue giving him encouragement support! NVU saw the repair of Elders' fish racks, while employing tribal youth. The Fish Weir was completed in time for the fish that arrived and will provide the statistics to help us co-manage our valuable fish resource while employing locals. The BLM Invasive Plant project was completed and will be back next year. Boats, motors, camping supplies and equipment were purchased while employing NVU members. An Energy grant helped us to replace windows & exterior doors, insulate the floor and skirting, and the replacement of the light fixtures-all drastically reducing fuel & electrical consumption and reducing operational costs. NVU's fish plant leased by NSSP enabled fishermen, crew members, and many fish plant workers from the village and sub region to be gainfully employed. JOM monies have been used to support students of UNK school activities and youth travel to Elders/Youth AFN. The SNT monies support the activities of the Tribal Council-thanks to Kawerak. Other projects underway are: the paving of the airport w/jet service resuming; paving/dust control of streets; the New Gymnasium; the High School Remodeling w/District Office siding replacement; new teacher housing, the Wind Farm project; the sewage lagoon upgrade; the UVEC building generator upgrade. Most importantly, the funded portion of the seawall/rock revetment project by the mouth of the river is complete and hopefully the unprotected portion will be funded before another flood occurs. The only fresh water line is located in the erosion zone and funding for a new water source will remain a high priority. Also a high priority is a new public safety building & infrastructure to the new hillside subdivision. With recognition of Steve Ivanoff's work and many others unrecognized work, will require continued planning by all the entities serving UNK. Many thanks to the companies for employing Tribal Members. Quyanna!

# H.R. announces Employee of the Month: February ~ Nov. 2010

## February 2010

### Karla Aukon, Head Start Cook

Several times in the past year, without hesitation (or being asked), she has stepped in to assist with children in the classroom and large gym. It is normal for Head Start teachers and staff to support each other, but is special when she volunteers to assist with UPLC children and staff. For the past few years you have gone from a teacher aide, janitor and up to Head Cook. The head start staff located in the villages rely on Karla's commitment to supply them with the necessary supplies. She has been a major role player in the collaboration between UPLC/Head Start. She is an outstanding advocate for working together, and sharing daily chores and duties. She has a strong work ethic and is a great role model, for not only all children, but other Kawerak staff.

## February 2010 (no March)

### Frances Ozenna, Diomed Tribal Coordinator

Frances organized the Annual IRA membership meeting at Diomed. She was up at 5:00am to bake pies and polar bear stew. She assisted Kawerak, NSHC, U.S Army Corps of Engineers and the AK. Dept of Transportation with travel logistics to attend the meeting. Frances managed to arrange an impromptu show of Eskimo dancing for the visitors. She called Diomed Tribal Membership to establish a quorum. She encouraged community members input. Frances has advocated strongly for transportation, medical and community planning needs.

## April 2010

### Ken Waterman, Transportation Planner

Ken went above and beyond his normal duties as the Transportation Committee lead for the Kawerak Regional Conference. He was at work at 6:30am to get the vans running before the shift started at 7:00am and when we finished between 10:30 pm and 12:30am to refuel for the morning. He was also the dispatcher, handling all the incoming calls from people needing rides to and from the conference. While taking the constant phone calls at peak times, and coordinating with the other drivers on the walkie-talkie; and also driving at the same time. While doing all of this Ken kept up a great attitude and made being on the transportation committee a pleasure!

## May 2010

### Luisa Machuca, Youth Employment Director

Luisa has accomplished a huge amount of work with little training in a very short period of time, which has a tremendous impact for all Bering Strait Region youth. Under her direction and with the help of the ARRA grant, a cumulative total of 59 youth between the ages of 14 -24 participated in the first ever Winter Youth Program and gained valuable work experience. She has doubled the number of workshop participants over the projected goal to the state agencies and exceeded the number of youth who completed at least one employment objective by 25% over our goal. Even though Luisa has never flown in a small commuter airplane before she made a concerted effort to travel to every community in the Bering Strait Region except for one!

## June 2010

### Malinda Besett, Head Start Director



Malinda is a role model for all our Head Start employees and parents. She is a caring mother to her daughter, Gra-cianna. Professionally, she has set goals for herself and her staff. To improve our children's education Malinda applied for and received funding to start an Early Head Start program in Brevig Mission, Elim and Nome. She sent staff to summer Intensive courses in Fairbanks, to work toward their CDA, AA or BA degrees. She is working towards a full day program for Head Start children and providing jobs to Teachers and Family Advocates in our region.

## July 2010

### Julie Raymond-Yakoubian, Social Science Program Director



Through private conversations, interviews, listening to people speak at public forums talking with the Natural Resources Committee Julie determined several research gaps needed attention. She applied to many sources and was successful in obtaining over \$1.5 million in research grants. These monies will be used in studies that will be helpful to our communities as they advocate for their rights and usage of natural resources, environment and development changes.

## August 2010

### Danielle Holt, Foster Care Recruiter/Caseworker I



Danielle takes initiative to get things done that are outside her job duties and responsibilities. Rather than letting the TFC training 2nd day sink, she helped the VP find presenters to fill in the empty hours of training. Danielle did this not because it was required, but because she has a great work ethic and because she believes in CFS as a team. Great effort was put forth by her and her co workers to ensure that the training would flow the best it could with all the speed bumps while being sick.

## September 2010

### Denise Michels, Transportation Director



KTP had two major projects this summer (Gambell and Unalakleet Community Streets Paving) that Denise managed—the two construction contractors and quality assurance contractors. Additionally, she obtained supplemental funding for both projects. Denise has ensured advocacy for IRR funding base. She has good working relationships with the Denali Commission, state and federal agencies which assists in obtaining additional roads funding. She ensures that our villages Long Range Transportation Plans are updated and that we coordinate with other agencies such as AK Native Tribal Health Consortium to ensure that we get the most bang for the buck with our roads program.

## October 2010

### Cynthia Cabrera, Transportation Secretary



Cynthia jumped right in, taking the role of Administrative Assistant, while doing her own job of Transportation Secretary. Summer and Fall are busy in Transportation and she is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. She does not mind putting in overtime when requested on short notice. Cynthia worked on travel during her lunch hour while assisting the General Counsel in making copies of important materials for KTP. You saved Transportation a lot of time and energy by taking on the role of Administrative Assistant by not having to hire a temp for 3 months during Blanche's absence. She is a dedicated worker and an asset to Kawerak.

## November 2010

### Eva Menadelook, EHP Specialist



Eva has assisted the Social Science Program with the Diomed Knowledge of Walrus Project by volunteering some of her time to help make the project successful. She is a great asset to the Eskimo Heritage Program and the Natural Resources Division. She is extremely knowledgeable about her job and always ready to help people find the information they need in the EHP archives. Eva is always willing and happy to share her knowledge about our region and people. Eva is dedicated to helping document the cultures and languages of our region.

# Congratulations!

...to the following employees and board members who were recognized for their outstanding contributions to the mission of Kawerak. Please join me in applauding and recognizing their performance for 2010!

*Loretta Bullard*  
Kawerak President

## 2010 MATTHEW IYA AWARD GINA APPOLLONI, VPSO DIRECTOR



This award is given to those employees who help make Kawerak a great place to work, who have a fun, positive attitude, a great work ethic and are supportive and appreciative of other employees. This employee recognition is in memory of Matthew Iya who was our Eskimo Walrus Commission Director at the time he passed away in 1992.

Gina is always in a good mood. If you're having a busy, hectic day, she'll tell you a joke or say something that will make you laugh and all of a sudden your day doesn't seem so crazy. She'll stop by the office or will call on the phone about a policy or something and have you cracking up. She is more than willing to help pitch in when there are projects going on, always has a smile and is a lot of fun to be around. If there were more people like Gina at Kawerak, I think many people would walk around with smiles all day long.

**Congratulations Gina!**

## EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR MALINDA BESETT, HEAD START DIRECTOR



During the month of December she was awarded 2 grants in the Head Start Program. The Early Head Start Program which will employ 9 new staff members

in Nome and villages. She was also awarded an expansion grant to move 4 sites to full day services. This will allow the children to go to school from 9:00am to 4:00pm and hire additional 10 staff members in the villages. She also applied for and was awarded a one-time supplemental finding from the feds for the purchase of a new bus for Nome. We were also able to do some upgrades to the fire systems in two of our sites. The Kawerak Head Start Program was the only program in the entire State of Alaska to get all of the funding we had asked for. This shows that Malinda goes above and beyond her job description to help out the children of this region. She cares for the children of this region and it shows in how hard she works, to get the children as good an education as she can.

**Congratulations Malinda!**

## BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR ROBERT KEITH, NATIVE VILLAGE OF ELIM

During the December Full Board meeting, the Kawerak Board selects the Board Member of the Year by secret ballot. We are pleased to announce that Robert Keith was selected as Board Member of the Year for 2010 (Robert was also selected as Board Member of the Year for 2009).



Board members commented that: "Robert exemplifies what it takes to be a leader in his community and tribe, and also regionally and nation-wide." One board member voted for Robert for "his good leadership all these years" and another noted "his willingness to lead, attend and act on behalf of all the villages as Chairman." In the board meeting evaluation forms, a board member commented that Robert "was a good Chairperson, he guided the meeting seemingly without any stress and is willing to listen to everyone." Thank you Robert for your leadership and congratulations on your recognition! Robert will receive a new Kawerak jacket and two Alaska Airlines round trip tickets.

We would also like to recognize the three board members who tied for second place in the selection of Board Member of the Year. Ellen Richard of Wales, Shirley Martin of St. Michael and Jacob Ahwinona, Elder Representative from Nome. It takes a lot of time and attention to be an effective Board member, and all of these individuals do an outstanding job on the Kawerak Board representing their constituency.

**Congratulations to Robert & our 2nd place honorable mentions!**

Kawerak, Inc.

# Kawerak is part of the 2011 PFD Program

*Kawerak, Inc.* is pleased to announce that we are part of the Pick.Click.Give. for 2011. The program was once again a success last year with approximately 9,500 Alaskans giving approximately \$925,000 to their favorite organizations. We are excited about the opportunity to participate this year.

We would like to thank the following individuals that donated to Kawerak with their 2010 PFD contribution. Kawerak received a total of \$725 from the following individuals, plus an anonymous donor and a matching contribution from the Rasmuson Foundation:

Melanie Bahnke	Sara Mae James
Loretta Bullard	Diane Kaplan
Cynthia Cabrera	Deborah Knight
Matthew Dixon	Pearl Mikulski
Brian James	Kara Mills



By giving through Pick.Click.Give, you can join others to become an important force in bettering our communities and our state. For those of you who already support *Kawerak, Inc.*, we appreciate your gifts and hope you will use this option to make an additional donation. Your donation will go towards Kawerak's vision of:

***Building on the inherent strength of our cultural values we shall assist our tribes and residents to create a positive future.***

**Our Strategic Goals:**

1. Strengthen culture, wellness and pride.
2. Diversify and enhance regional economies.
3. Enhance tribal and organization effectiveness.
4. Develop community infrastructure.
5. Protect, enhance and control our resources.

When you go on-line to sign up for your dividend, you will see an option to "Pick.Click.Give." Follow the instructions to make a new donation, or an additional gift. At the same time, please take the extra step you will see after you make your donation to provide your contact information to us. We want to acknowledge and recognize your generous support, and this is the only way we will know it's you making the gift. You can find more information about the program, including frequently asked questions at [www.PickClickGive.org](http://www.PickClickGive.org). Or you may call us at (907)443-5231. Thank you for your generous contribution to the Bering Strait area.

**Uqaaqtuaq News**

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Uqaaqtuaq News is a quarterly newsletter produced by Kawerak with contributions from UAF Northwest Campus, Norton Sound Health Corporation & other partner agencies. Articles and photos can be sent to [djames@kawerak.org](mailto:djames@kawerak.org) or call (907)443-4345.

"Uvlaakun sulii" translated in Inupiaq language means: *More tomorrow!* Quyanna!

**KAWERAK SERVICES DIRECTORY**

Administration	443-5231
Accounting	443-4334
Human Resources	443-4373
Information Technology	443-4357
Planning	443-4345
Beringia Museum of Culture & Science	443-4340
Transportation	443-4395
Tumet Industries, LLC	387-0630
<b>Community Services Division</b>	<b>443-4246</b>
Community Planning & Development	877-219-2599 or 443-4248
Regional Recycling & Backhaul Program	443-4249
Tribal Affairs	443-4257
Village Public Safety Officer Program	443-4252
<b>Education &amp; Employment Training Division</b>	<b>800-450-4341 or 443-4358</b>
Childcare Services	443-9073
Community Education	800-478-7574 or 443-4468
Employment & Training	443-4358
General Assistance	800-478-5230 or 443-4370
Higher Education Scholarships	443-4358
Village Based Training	443-4388
Vocational Rehabilitation	877-759-4362 or 443-4362
Youth Employment	443-4361
<b>Children &amp; Family Services Division</b>	<b>443-4247</b>
Child Advocacy Center	443-4379
Children & Family Services	800-478-5153 or 443-4261
Head Start & Early Head Start	800-443-9050 or 443-9062
Wellness Program	443-4393
<b>Natural Resources Division</b>	<b>443-4377</b>
Eskimo Heritage Program	443-4386
Eskimo Walrus Commission	877-277-4392 or 443-4380
Fisheries Program	443-4384
Land Management Services	800-443-4316 or 443-4323
Reindeer Herders Association	443-4378
Social Science Program	443-4273
Subsistence Resources	443-4265