

Promoting Wellness and Knowledge for Kodiak's Native People

Qik'rtarmiut Asiitmen

KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

UKSUAQ / FALL 2021



VPSO
· FIRE · POLICE · EMS

Meet KANA's most
experienced VPSO

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Bringing Food Security to Kodiak Schools

Food security is an essential part of healthy, resilient communities. KANA's Economic Development team has been working on a plan to bring local produce to Kodiak's schools.



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Recent Events

KANA WELLNESS CENTER REOPENS WITH FULL SCHEDULING



The KANA Wellness Center reopened its doors to regular patron use in August, after being closed for over a year due to COVID-19. The facility, open Monday-Friday from 5:30AM-8:00PM and Saturday-Sunday 8:00AM-2:00PM, also re-started weekly fitness classes led by KANA's Exercise Specialist, Alyssa Aguero.

"It's been a long wait," acknowledged Alyssa. "But it feels great to see people coming back into the gym to work on their health and fitness again."

Alyssa, a National Academy of Sports Medicine certified personal trainer, registered yoga teacher, group fitness instructor, and holistic health coach, teaches a variety of beginner-friendly fitness classes, which can be modified for all levels, including circuit, boot camp, and yoga.

"The circuit and boot camp-style classes are total body strength workouts and involve a variety of different gym equipment," explained Alyssa. "They are a great way to become familiar with the different exercise tools available here at the Wellness Center," she continued. "The yoga classes combine warming flows, balance challenges, core strengthening, and deep relaxing stretching."

According to Alyssa, "group fitness is a fun and motivating way to exercise with others." She encourages anyone interested to give it a try. Classes are offered throughout the week. For the most up to date class times, please check the KANA Wellness Center Facebook page. All patrons are required to sign a COVID-19 waiver and wear a mask at all times.

CULTURE KITS NOW AVAILABLE AT KODIAK PUBLIC LIBRARY

KANA Prevention and Kodiak Public Library released interactive Native culture discovery kits for teens earlier this September. The series of discovery kits include books and activities and promote hands-on learning. They are available at the Kodiak Public Library and are free to check out with your library card.

The project is a collaboration between Molly Miller, KANA Prevention Specialist, and Ani Thomas, Kodiak Public Library's Youth Librarian. The discovery kits were created to bring Indigenous culture to teens in a unique way. Each kit, named for its individual theme, was designed to introduce and cultivate thinking on Alutiiq and Native culture, tradition, and activism.

The first kit is named Luumaciq, which means "tradition" or "way of life" in Alutiiq. The kit is an opportunity for the user to learn more about Alutiiq culture as well as their own family connections. This kit was developed by Ani and Molly in collaboration with Alutiiq artist Hanna Sholl. Hanna's beautiful art illustrates the material pieces. The kit includes a variety of activities from coloring pages to a downtown scavenger hunt.

The second kit, Indigenous Activism, highlights the advocacy and resiliency of Indigenous people. Including material from many Alaska Native and Native American cultures, the kit highlights how Indigenous culture is contemporary and not just something of the past. The kit includes Indigenous-designed games and themed books, including *Chickaloonies*, a graphic novel by Dimi Macheras, a member of Alaska's Chickaloon Tribe, along with graphic artist Casey Silver. As a special bonus, the authors of *Chickaloonies* held a special interactive ZOOM storytelling experience for teens.

Be the first to hear about future cultural activities at KANA by following @KANAPrevention on Facebook.



KANA's 2021 Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Directors Election will be held virtually on Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. In addition to providing reports about KANA's operations over the last year, ballots will be tallied and results announced for the election of Directors for the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor, Native Village of Port Lions, Kaguyak Village, and Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak chapters.

If you have any questions about the 2021 Annual Meeting and Board of Directors Election, please go to <http://kodiakhealthcare.org/annual-meeting-2021/> for more information or call (907) 486-9800.

2018-2021

Incumbent Directors



Phyllis Amodo *Kaguyak Village*

“ You can't take life for granted. I want our children to do what they can to help others, and to never be discouraged by anyone.

Phyllis Amodo has been a member of KANA's Board of Directors for 15 years. She has also served as the Mayor of Akhiok, President of the Kaguyak Tribal Council, and as a Chairperson for Akhiok-Kaguyak Incorporated (AKI). She has served on the sisterhood for her church, the Akhiok Advisory School Board, and the Akhiok Sablefish Committee. Phyllis also currently works for the Alaskan Native Tribal Health Consortium as a Regional Liaison for Kodiak.

Phyllis was born and raised in the city of Kodiak. In 1993 she moved to Akhiok, where her family is from. She is the daughter of Edward Phillips from Akhiok and Barbara Panamaroff of Kaguyak. Phyllis and her husband Rolin have five children, ranging from ages 11 to 29, and are also the proud grandparents of a two-year-old grandson.

Having moved back to Kodiak in 2020, Phyllis considers the entire Koniag region her home. “I represent not only the people of my community, but everyone throughout the island. I'm available for anyone with concerns or who just needs someone to talk to about anything.”

Phyllis thoroughly enjoys working with the other members of KANA's Board and is proud of what they've worked to accomplish together, noting the expansion of KANA services. “I feel we have accomplished quite a bit in a very short period of time,” said Phyllis. “We've added a facility on Near Island, which has provided us with much-needed space. The Mill Bay Health Center was a major accomplishment, serving not only our Beneficiaries but also military veterans and the public. And, most recently, the addition of COVID-19 facilities and services.”

While KANA's programs and services continue to make great strides, Phyllis realizes that there is more to do as the Board

continues to look for ways to improve the quality of service. “Our goal is to help continue to ensure KANA's prosperity, vision, mission, and values and that our strategic goals are met as we guide our current operation and future development of our health organization.”

She looks forward to continuing to represent Kaguyak Village as the Board continues to develop and implement the strategic plan for KANA. “We've had discussions about adding new child services. I'd like to see that happen in the near future.” Along with the other Board members, Phyllis also feels that one of their top priorities and challenges is to add additional services to KANA's Substance-Use Treatment programs. “I'd like to consider an option where counseling facilities are available within our communities so we can help our people around the island without having them leave their families. Many need the support they get when they're closer to home.”

Phyllis takes pride in giving back to her community through volunteering. She previously coached youth volleyball when she lived in Akhiok, and she looks forward to getting involved in the Kodiak city community. “Whether it be with sports here in Kodiak, involvement with our Elders, or something else, I am very passionate about giving back to my community.”

Family time is also something that Phyllis treasures. “Family is important to me. Anytime we get a chance, we spend quality time together, whether going for car rides, fishing, walking the trails — just about anything you can do together. She also uses family time to offer some life lessons: “You can't take life for granted,” advised Phyllis. “I want our children to learn to live in the moment, do what they can to help others, and to never be discouraged by anyone.”



Al Cratty, Jr. *Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor*

“ I value trust, honesty, and respect for our Elders. Trust and honesty are important early lessons in life and can go a long way...Having respect for your Elders is also important. Everything I’ve learned, I learned from my Elders. If it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t be here.

Al Cratty, Jr. has been a dedicated member of KANA’s Board of Directors representing the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor since 2003. He is the son of Alfred Cratty, Sr., a pilot in Kodiak for 40 years, and Emily Christiansen. Al is a commercial fisherman and runs a smokehouse out of Old Harbor with his family.

Al and his wife have three children and several grandchildren, whom he enjoys spending time with, teaching them important life lessons, traditional values, and about their tribal heritage. “I value trust, honesty, and respect for our Elders. Trust and honesty are important early lessons in life and can go a long way. Having respect for your Elders is also important. Everything I’ve learned, I learned from my Elders. If it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t be here.”

During the past 18 months, KANA’s Board of Directors has been instrumental in leading KANA through the many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. “KANA was the first to provide COVID-19 services to Kodiak Island. Our leadership and staff stepped up to the plate and responded quickly by setting up the COVID-19 testing center, the testing laboratory, and in administering the vaccine,” Al explained. “They also provided additional support for our villages at a time when it was difficult to bring in food and necessary supplies. KANA staff arranged regular supply drops to each village, which was truly amazing,” he recalled. “Our staff went above and beyond in a time of need— we thank all of our staff for their amazing efforts and continued support during COVID-19.”

Al also takes a lot of pride in KANA’s accomplishments, particularly in the village communities. “We overcame many challenges to bring healthcare to our smaller communities.

It’s been even more challenging while dealing with the issues brought on by COVID-19. We wanted to make sure each Village was receiving the necessary services in COVID testing and the vaccine. It’s been one of the highlights to see our clinics grow and provide better services while keeping our communities safe during these troubling times.”

Al is also very passionate about the many services that KANA provides, particularly those for Elders and children, with a continued focus on increasing Beneficiary services. “Eventually, we’re all becoming Elders, whether we like it or not,” Al noted. “I’d like to eventually see more specialty services, with additional services in optometry and dentistry.” He also would like to see additional services related to drug and alcohol usage. “We have got a really bad drug problem throughout the state of Alaska. It’s devastating. Everyone knows someone who is battling addiction or who has family members with alcohol problems.”

He is saddened by the loss of KANA’s President and CEO Andy Teuber. “I’d like to thank Andy Teuber from the bottom of my heart,” said Al. “He was a true leader who was on top of everything that was happening at KANA and truly the driving force behind our progress. He is definitely missed.”

Al is proud of KANA’s accomplishments during his time serving on the Board. He enjoys working together with the other Board members to make positive change and support continued growth within KANA, and he looks forward to serving another term. “My heart is where I live, and that’s in Old Harbor,” said Al. “That’s why I enjoy serving on KANA’s Board, as I try to look out for the best interests of my community as well as all of Kodiak’s communities.”



Yvonne Mullan *Native Village of Port Lions*

“ It’s extremely important for the younger generation to start getting involved for the right reasons. I’ve tried to demonstrate that by giving my time. My dad has always raised us to believe that if you have nothing else, give your time.

Yvonne Mullan grew up in the Native Village of Port Lions, where she lives the traditional way like the generations before her. She is the oldest daughter of Wayne Lukin and the granddaughter of Afonie and Zenida (Sheratine) Mullan. Yvonne and her husband Alvin have three children, and much like their parents before them, are raising them to follow the traditions of the Alutiiq culture: actively living off the land and sea and participating in traditional arts, language, and dance.

Yvonne currently serves as the Tribal Administrator for the Native Village of Port Lions and has been on KANA’s Board of Directors for the last three years.

As a KANA Board member, Yvonne is particularly proud of KANA’s response to COVID-19. “For the past year and a half, KANA’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been exceptional,” Yvonne said. “There has been a tremendous amount of effort by the staff and administration in preparing the communities in response to the public health emergency. All of us are really proud of how KANA stepped up to the plate and did really amazing things in a very short period of time. [It’s] a testament to the great staff that we have, and it’s important to all of us in providing quality healthcare in meeting our mission of Elevating the Quality of Life of the People We Serve.”

Yvonne is passionate about KANA’s Behavioral Health and Indian Child Welfare services and looks to improve upon them in the future. “Those programs and services are extremely important to me,” Yvonne said. “We currently do a great job,

but like anything else, I think there’s room for improvement. I would really like to see program expansion for families and children and mental health. I would also love to see program development for inpatient substance use treatment. It’s something that continues to be in the discussion stages and something that is on every Board member’s heart and mind all the time.”

Family and culture are of great importance to Yvonne. Quality time and teaching the traditional way of life to her children are at the core. “Family and our culture is extremely important,” explained Yvonne. “We live it, and we teach it to our kids and to the community. My husband and I actively participate in the local cultural activities. As a family we do a lot of camping, fishing, and hunting together. Our diet is a lot of subsistence, and we have taught our children to be stewards of the land, take care of it, that it will provide for you.”

After three years of serving on KANA’s Board of Directors, Yvonne looks forward to continuing her service to the Kodiak Region and to her community. “I really enjoy working with my fellow Board members,” Yvonne said. “I think it’s extremely important for the younger generation to start getting involved for the right reasons. I’ve tried to do that by giving my time. My dad has always raised us to believe that if you have nothing else, give your time. I think it’s important to give back to our communities. I’m proud to do the work that I do.”



Gary Watson, Sr. *Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak*

“ I advocate not only for KANA’s Beneficiaries and the members of Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak, but for all people of Kodiak. I want to listen to their problems, their ideas, their stories. They give you ideas as to what you could possibly do to help rectify a situation or help do something a little bit better.

Gary Watson was born and raised in Kodiak and spent time living in Port Lions, Chignik, and Anton Larsen Island. The great grandson of Anton Larsen, Gary grew up in Kodiak with his parents Elwood and Myrtle Watson, grandmother Laura Olsen, and great grandmother Olga Larsen. He has represented the Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak on KANA’s Board of Directors for the last 10 years. He has a strong passion for the people of Kodiak Island and their well-being. “I take much pride in representing our people throughout the archipelago,” he said. “The decisions that we make are based on the Board’s education, experiences, and our values. KANA’s Beneficiaries rely on us to make educated decisions.”

Gary also values open communication and the connections he is able to build through listening to people. “I advocate not only for KANA’s Beneficiaries and the members of Sun’aq Tribe of Kodiak but for all people of Kodiak,” Gary said. “It’s really about listening to the people, and often, [they] just need someone who will listen. I want to listen to their problems, their ideas, their stories. They give you ideas as to what you could possibly do to help rectify a situation or help do something a little bit better, or different. If it makes sense to do whatever they’re saying, whether it’s another service or program, then I’ll take that concern and try to make it into reality. That is a big passion of mine. Listening and then making it happen.”

Reflecting back over the past 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gary has developed a new sense of appreciation for making things happen. He is proud of how KANA has responded during the pandemic, including how quickly decisions were made and how swiftly solutions were developed. He is impressed by KANA’s ability to quickly turn plans into reality. “So many things quickly became a reality during the

outbreak of COVID-19,” he said. “All these new services—the testing site, the laboratory, the vaccine—have cropped up because of COVID-19. That’s a lot of planning in a very short period of time to make all that stuff happen.”

Gary recognizes that KANA’s staff was a large part of KANA’s success in handling the challenges of COVID-19. “There was a lot of extra pressure, and we [the Board] were concerned about staff burnout, especially among medical staff,” he said. “Not only did they work to provide KANA’s current services, but they responded and ensured services added due to COVID-19 were also supported.” He has been more than impressed by the overall response of KANA’s personnel. “In reality, things couldn’t happen unless you have the staff. I’m amazed by how well the entire staff responded while we were working to get extra support personnel. I take off my hat off to each and every one of them.”

Gary also insists that much of the credit for KANA’s response to the pandemic goes to its President and CEO, Andy Teuber. “I think we would have been behind the curve if it wasn’t for Andy being at the table during that time. He was on the forefront, he made it reality. I think people would be amazed at what Andy accomplished and how he made it happen.”

There’s been much growth in the organization during Gary’s years of service, and he’s proud to be part of it. “I’m very humbled,” Gary said. “I have seen many changes over the last 10 years, from the expansion of facilities and services to the services provided at each of our villages, and it all starts with how well we [KANA’s Board] come together at the table. Regardless of the differences that we carry to the table, we’re able to develop a plan and work together to make it happen. That has been a very key part of our success: being able to take a concern and make that concern into a reality.”

KANA MARKETPLACE

Since the time of purchase, the building located downtown at 111 W. Rezanof Drive, generally referred to as the old AC/KRAFT store, has served as KANA’s warehouse and as the home of a United States Postal Service office. In late August, we began a construction project to largely demolish the existing structure and rebuild a new facility. The project seeks to support local economic development opportunities through the support of small business and microenterprise entrepreneurs and workforce training.

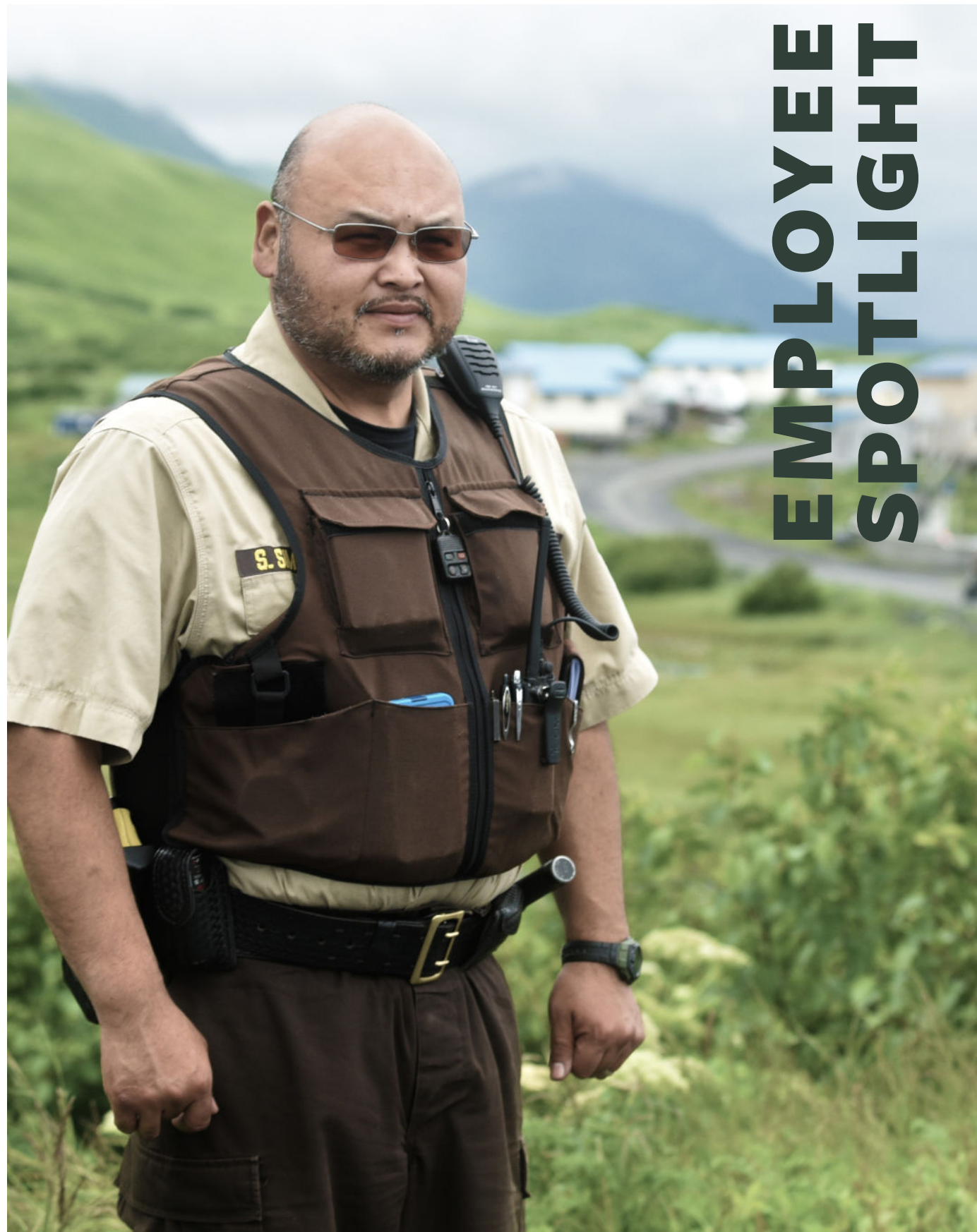
KODIAK MARKETPLACE DEVELOPMENT PLAN:

- The Kodiak Marketplace will expand local economic development opportunities as well as address space and programmatic needs affecting our community services and primary healthcare programs.
- KANA plans to largely demolish the existing 45,000 square foot structure and rebuild a new two-story, 63,000 square feet facility conducive to supporting the community’s and KANA’s service needs.
- The project is scheduled for a completion date in November 2022.
- The Kodiak Marketplace will provide mixed-use small business and retail space on the ground floor and meeting space and workforce and economic development services offices on the second floor.
- Until construction is complete, the post office has been temporarily relocated to 428 Marine Way, next to Key-Bank.
- KANA’s healthcare, community, and social services capacity will expand through a realignment of new and existing program space.
- The Marketplace will support food security activities,

such as warehousing and distribution for village elders, 6000 SF of community gathering, conference, and training rooms with an adjacent commercial kitchen, as well as 1500 SF of executive meeting space overlooking the downtown harbor. Business storefront and meeting space will comprise the majority of square footage, with a large open floor plan section to accommodate microenterprise markets, tradeshow, workshops, and workforce development opportunities.

- Retail, meeting, conference room training/gathering, and commercial kitchen space will all be available to the community.
- First-time storefront business and microenterprise entrepreneurs will have access to high-quality leasing space as well as small business development support all in the same building. The project is an investment in the Kodiak community through targeted small business supports, job growth, and local workforce training. The Marketplace development project will benefit Kodiak and outlying village communities, operating as a workforce and economic development hub to improve the viability of existing economies.



EMPLOYEE
SPOTLIGHT

Speridon Simeonoff II

Village Public Safety Officer



Village Public Safety Officers (VPSOs) carry a lot of responsibility. Consistent with their motto, *First Responders, Last Frontier*, they are often the first to respond to calls for help in many rural Alaska communities. VPSOs provide citizens with an immediate response to emergencies without delays caused by weather or distance. VPSOs work with other public safety professionals, such as the Alaska State Troopers and Investigators representing a broad range of Alaska state agencies. A VPSO can provide law enforcement services, emergency medical response, search and rescue operations, fire prevention and suppression, disaster preparedness and response, public safety education, probation services, and community policing.

A VPSO is required to attend the 16-week Alaska Law Enforcement Training held at the Alaska Department of Public Safety Training Academy in Sitka and an additional two weeks of Rural Fire Protection Specialist and Emergency Trauma Technician training. Additional training and continuing education is arranged by the KANA VPSO Program throughout the VPSOs career. This can include Emergency Medical Technician certification and courses enhancing criminal investigation, interviewing, communication, and reporting skills.

Akhiok has one of the more experienced VPSOs within the Kodiak Region. For the past decade, the citizens of Akhiok have come to depend on a familiar face for its safety and security: lifelong citizen of their remote community, (VPSO) Corporal Speridon Simeonoff II.

“This is where I grew up,” Simeonoff said. “I was raised out here in the village. I’ve lived here my entire my entire life, except for a short time when I lived in Kodiak.”

Simeonoff became a VPSO in 2001 and spent those early years as a safety officer, policing a community where family members and many of his friends lived. “I was working here as a VPSO for three and a half years,” reflected Simeonoff. “It wasn’t really a hard job to do, but the stress of dealing with

family or friends after I’ve had to take them out of the community because of their actions burned me out. That’s when I left the village and went and worked in Kodiak.”

Simeonoff moved to Kodiak in 2004, but eventually he began to miss the village he grew up in. In 2010, he jumped at the opportunity to return to Akhiok when the VPSO position became available. He moved back to his village—this time a little wiser and more experienced. “I’ve learned that I don’t need to worry about what a friend or family member has done. That’s helped me a lot in keeping the stress of the job down. I’ve been here ever since.”

With almost 15 years’ experience as a VPSO, Simeonoff has a variety of responsibilities, including law enforcement, fire and safety, search and rescue, and general public safety. The veteran VPSO also acts as a village liaison, routinely checking in on the local residents, village Elders, and meeting travelers at the airport. “Not only do I monitor things like fire equipment, I also make the rounds in the village and touch base with people who may need assistance,” explained Simeonoff. “Sometimes it’s as simple as someone calling me to ask for a ride.”

When not on the job, Simeonoff enjoys spending time outdoors with his wife Cheryl and their three children, Speridon III, Virginia, and Serenity. “I enjoy fishing and hunting with my family,” said Simeonoff. “Last year, we rented the Fish and Wildlife cabin up in the head of Deadman’s Bay, and we stayed up there for the Fourth of July weekend and had a blast.”

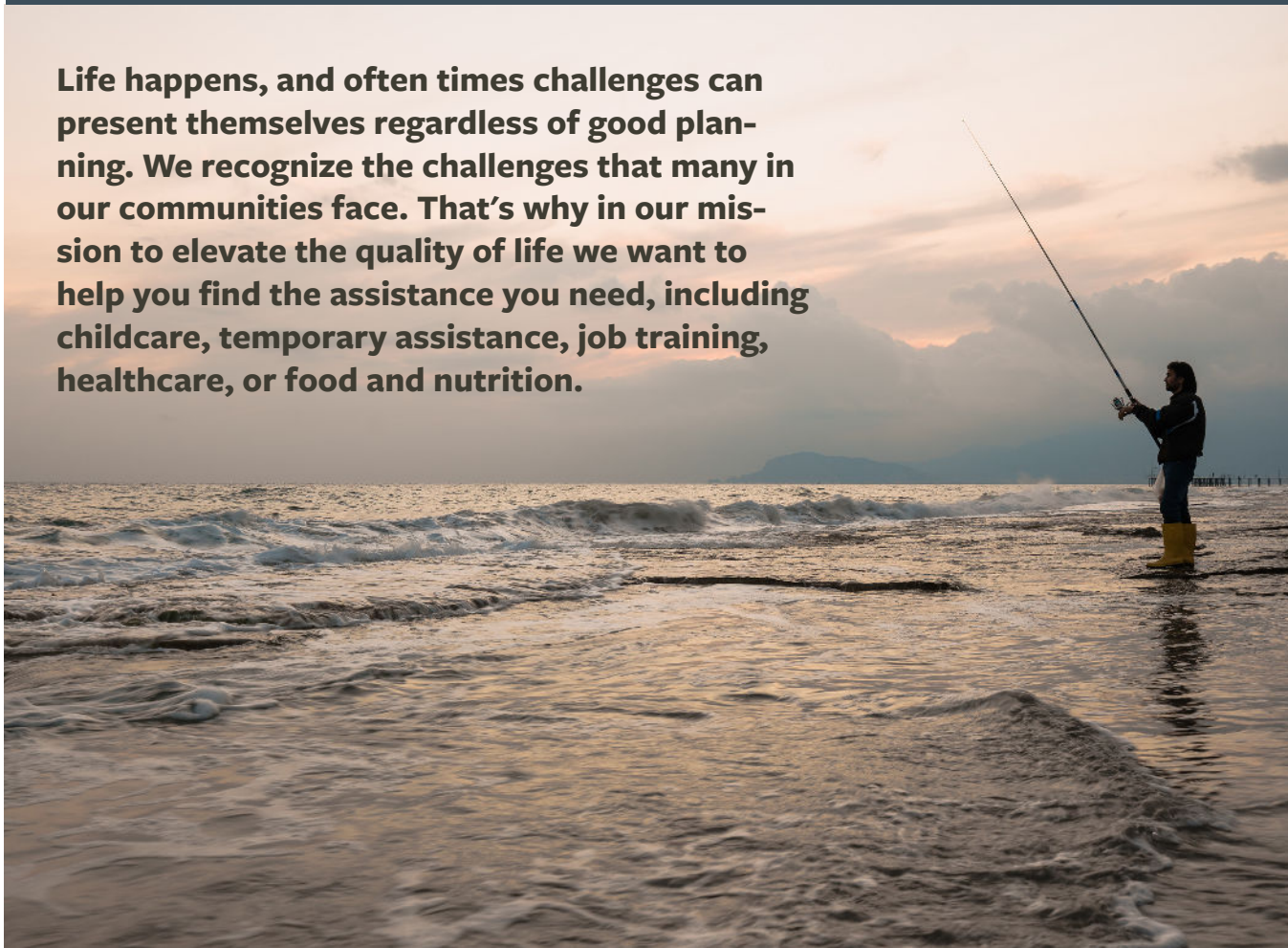
Simeonoff and his family also enjoy the peacefulness of the village and small town life, “Akhiok is natural, peaceful, and quiet,” reflected Simeonoff. “We’re pretty much one giant family. At the end of each day, all of the kids know that if one of the kids has to go home in the evening, they all go home. We’re one community, one family.”

Join our team!
kodiakhealthcare.org/careers

KANA offers a wide range of career opportunities for candidates wanting to develop their skills while contributing to our dedicated team. We’re looking for talented individuals with the enthusiasm and dedication to join us in our mission.

Programs designed with you in mind.

Life happens, and often times challenges can present themselves regardless of good planning. We recognize the challenges that many in our communities face. That's why in our mission to elevate the quality of life we want to help you find the assistance you need, including childcare, temporary assistance, job training, healthcare, or food and nutrition.



Patient Services

Patient Benefits Coordinators and Alternate Resources

Through a combination of funding from The Health and Resources Service Administration (HRSA) and The Medicare Improvement for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA), KANA is able to provide Patient Benefits Coordinators services to all patients.

KANA has dedicated staff that are able to identify and connect patients to supplemental and alternative health resources. These resources might include Medicaid, Medicare, and Tribally Sponsored Health Insurance Plan (T-SHIP) or VA Benefits. These additional resources

can offer supplemental coverage for things like medical-related travel, long-term care, or prescription costs. Regardless of these programs, all Beneficiaries are first and foremost served by the Indian Health Service, but alternative resources provide more options for care and additional resources to KANA.

KANA's alternative resources programs experience many changes, so you should check with a Patient benefit coordinator to see if you or a loved one might be eligible.

To be connected with a Patient Benefits Coordinator please, call KANA at 907-486-9800.

Support Services

To fulfill KANA'S mission to elevate the quality of life of the people we serve, the Employment and Training and Support Services (ETSS) program provides financial assistance for Alaska Native/American Indians living in the Koniag Region.

KANA's ETSS case managers can provide financial assistance to promote healthy families, enhanced self-sufficiency, and stable employment. The programs available within the KANA ETSS department include:

Support Services

Provides financial assistance to participate in the activities needed to complete the steps and goals of an individual's self-sufficiency plan.



General Assistance

Financial assistance provided for eligible Alaska Native/American Indian individuals or families for specified basic needs.

Emergency Assistance Grants

KANA's Emergency Assistance Grant offers financial assistance to alleviate the burden of unmet needs

and is designed to help Alaska Native/American Indian individuals secure and retain employment, attain education, make better use of available income, obtain and maintain adequate housing, and prevent the breakup of a family.

Child Care Assistance

KANA's Child Care Assistance Program provides financial assistance to eligible households that are seeking or attending work, training, or school. Child Care Assistance is available to households located in Kodiak or one of the outlying villages with Alaska Native/American Indian children.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

KANA's TANF program provides financial assistance and support services to eligible families to help with living expenses and other essential needs. TANF is available to parents or caretakers of Alaska Native/American Indian children residing in Kodiak or one of the outlying villages.

To learn more about any of our support service programs, contact one of our program managers by calling 907.486-9879 or emailing etss@kodiakhealthcare.org.



Bringing Food Security to Kodiak Schools

Food security is an essential part of healthy, resilient communities. Kodiak faces challenges to being food secure. As our communities know all too well, fresh produce is not always accessible at stores in Kodiak, especially during the winter months. Tyler Kornelis, Project Manager, and Hallie Brown, AmeriCorps VISTA Economic Development Specialist of KANA's Economic Development team, have been working to bolster food security in Kodiak while also supporting local businesses and expanding educational opportunities through a US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to School Planning grant.

Farm to School is a nationwide program that assists with activities that connect students with local farms and food. In Kodiak, the program provides the opportunity to serve high-quality, fresh, and local foods to much of the youth in Kodiak, including students who might not otherwise have regular access to high-quality fresh foods. Students also learn about growing and preparing food and are able to connect with the community. Farm to School can help support the local economy by providing a financial opportunity for local farms, growers, and distributors. This increases the likelihood that more of the community has access to locally grown, fresh food year-round, increasing the health and resiliency of the community.

“The focus of the Farm to School Planning grant was to prepare to integrate local produce into Kodiak Island Borough School District (KIBSD) meals and to support school garden programs in order to give students a better opportunity to develop healthy eating habits that last a lifetime,” explains Hallie Brown. The one-year grant was initially received for 2019-2020, but it was put on hold due to COVID-19 in April 2020. The project was restarted from July 2020-June 2021.

KANA's Economic Development team worked to find options for locally grown produce that could fit the

needs of the school meals program. Hydroponic greens emerged as the best option, as there is a growing number of hydroponics operations in Kodiak, and produce availability is not limited by Kodiak's typically short growing season. “The Farm to School project presents an opportunity to provide a market for the growing number of hydroponics businesses in both the city of Kodiak and in the villages,” Brown explained.

To engage students in gardening and nutrition education, the Economic Development team worked closely with Amanda Johnson, the STEAM and Agriculture teacher at Kodiak Middle School (KMS), to increase the capacity of the KMS gardens. This will allow the program to bring in more funds to ensure students continue to benefit from agriculture and gardening education. The team helped organize taste tests of various dishes made with hydroponic greens for classes at KMS and Kodiak High School. “The taste tests are a fun way to engage students with the food they grew in class or that has been grown locally,” Ms. Brown explained. “When students grow the food, they are much more likely to want to try it or like it.”

The Economic Development team is continuing to move the Farm to School program forward. “While we wrapped up the Planning grant in June, we are continuing to facilitate conversations between farms in Kodiak and KIBSD,” said Brown. “Recently, the KIBSD Food Service Coordinator verbally committed to purchasing hydroponic lettuce for Port Lions School and Ouzinkie School meals. We are optimistic this pilot project could be the start of wider-spread local agriculture purchases by KIBSD.” Additionally, the team will be working with stakeholders to consider applying for a Farm to School Implementation grant, which could support the growth and expansion of the Farm to School program to more of the schools in Kodiak.



Kodiak Area Native Association
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KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, November 6 • 10am
VIRTUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Kodiak Area Native Association will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021 for the purposes of electing four (4) Directors to the Board and to conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Call to Order of the Meeting: 10 a.m.

The following Tribal chapters will each elect one (1) Director at this year's meeting:

Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor
Native Village of Port Lions
Kaguyak Village
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak



Join us, Saturday, November 6, 2021 at 10:00 am for KANA's 55th Annual Membership Meeting. Details of the meeting are posted at:
<http://kodiakhealthcare.org/annual-meeting-2021/>