

# Chugachmiut



## Annual Report 2013

*Building on the inherent strength from our cultural values.*



This Annual Report is dedicated in memory to **Mr. James Kvasnikoff**, Vice-Chairman of the Chugachmiut Board of Directors (BOD). Mr. Kvasnikoff served on the BOD for many years beginning in 1987, with the most recent term beginning in January, 2006 to his untimely passing in April, 2014. His dedication, patience, humility, compassion, trustworthiness, kindness, humor and the personal sacrifices he made in order to serve this region will always be remembered.

## CONTENTS

Letter From the Executive Director	4
Health Services	5
Enterprise & Trust	6
Human Resources & Administration	7
Financial Report	8



## LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2013 was a year of great challenges and huge rewards. By the end of 2013, with steady guidance by the BOD, hard work and perseverance by Chugachmiut staff, and with the support of the people we serve, Chugachmiut repaired its bleak financial picture. While we had Indian Health Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and other grant funds to provide services, the organizational bottom line declined steadily over the years, especially the past several years. This deterioration did nothing to demonstrate to federal, state, and private funding agencies the stability needed to flourish.

Major accomplishments include but are not limited to repair and strengthening of the entire financial system to meet Generally Accepted Accounting Standards; the Information Technology system was restructured and

**MISSION** Chugachmiut is the tribal consortium created to promote self-determination to the seven Native communities of the Chugach Region. We provide health and social services, education and training, and technical assistance to the Chugach Native people in a way which is acceptable to Native cultural values and tradition in order to enhance the well-being of our people by continuing to strengthen the tribes and increase self-determination opportunities for community operated tribal programs.

badly outdated technology set into place at minimal cost; Behavioral Health services were restored and reinforced to meet state and federal standards of care; Substance Abuse Prevention services were implemented with highly qualified staff; divesting Chugachmiut of the Orca Building in Seward relieved us of massive maintenance costs, underutilization of space, and mounting energy inefficiency costs; and finally, renovations to the Chugachmiut building in Anchorage were initiated. Routine maintenance of the building had not been authorized over the past ten years, causing the building to become shabby and dilapidated. This neglect impacted the value of the property negatively, discouraging potential lessors and with the BOD's decision to list the building for sale, gave buyers the impression that the building will cost more than it is worth to own. Today, the building looks wonderful and is something we can all be proud to say belongs to the Chugach Region!

Chugachmiut has incredible staff and engaged leadership! We plan to forward with the knowledge that we have the full confidence of the BOD to correct and enhance services and the organization's systems. There are areas that need shoring up and policies that need to be developed, but this organization is resilient and is a strong resource for the Native People of the Chugach Region to help improve their health status and quality of life.

—Angela Vanderpool, Executive Director

- **In 2013** our Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) was recognized by the state for maintaining 100% certification of health aides. Since 2008 the program has maintained a certification rate of at least 90% and, since 2010, 100% for eligible and CHPs.
- The CHAP staff helped test the state's new electronic Community Health Aide Manual (eCHAM). Our CHAP Director served on the eCHAM workgroup and two of our CHAs have been designated super users to assist in training others.
- The division was instrumental in the creation of a central call center at the Alaska Native Medical Center to assist clients with scheduling issues.
- The Care Coordination position was instituted to assist beneficiaries in the patient journey through the tribal health system and to offer follow-up calls with patients who were medevac'd or being treated for chronic conditions.
- Dental staff visit each remote community at least



***The division was instrumental in the creation of a central call center at the Alaska Native Medical Center to assist clients with scheduling issues.***

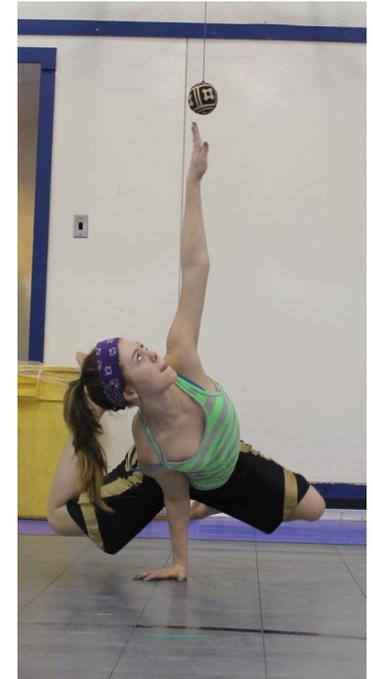


***The Polycom option is increasing in popularity with clients and helps reduce travel costs while keeping services intact.***

once per year, some receive two visits annually. The need for major dental work has been greatly reduced over the past two years as dental staff sees more patients for routine hygiene.

### **Behavioral Health**

- The department continues to analyze services and needs to ensure our clients are receiving the best care possible.
- Therapists utilize Polycom teleconference equipment to conduct follow-up consultations with patients in remote villages. This option is increasing in popularity with clients and helps reduce travel costs while keeping services intact.
- The Women's Violence Intervention Program provides direct services and workshops in our communities while also concentrating on advocacy and education.
- Staff works with the schools and students in all communities to ensure services are available to youth.
- Nanwalek behavioral staff assisted the alcohol counselor and social services coordinator with organizing a sobriety gathering and dinner.
- Therapists worked with Port Graham council staff to provide meditation, relaxation exercises, positive self care and stress management skills.



- **The division** assists tribes in developing their own business and economic infrastructure and supports a number of functions for Chugachmiut.
- The division is currently assisting Port Graham with establishing biomass heating systems in community buildings that can produce heat from wood or other organic matter. This will greatly reduce the community's dependence on fuel companies for heat and energy.
- Also assisting Port Graham with business development through their subsidiary, Paluwik Enterprises, LLC. Our goal is general construction work and to apply for Small Business Administration Section 8(a) federal set-aside contracting eligibility status.
- The division began exploring the possibility of establishing a tribal telecommunications business, Katalla Information Services, for the region and will present a strategic plan to the board of directors in the coming year.
- Another Chugachmiut company, Nuchek Resources, LLC, was activated to seek business to support the Yukon Fire Crew and Chugachmiut Forest Crew. Associated forestry and forest work related to renewable energy work would also be sought.
- Continues to meet and work with Chugachmiut's tribes and other organizations in strategic and project planning and project management assistance for their respective communities.
- A major goal of this past year has been to consolidate Chugachmiut's real estate holdings. Chugachmiut's Seward building, also known as the Orca Building, was sold to the University of Alaska. In turn, Chugachmiut negotiated a beneficial rental agreement that kept our health services

***We are assisting Port Graham with establishing biomass heating systems that can produce heat from wood and organic matter.***



clinic in the building. University of Alaska's Mining and Petroleum Training Service rented the basement space of Chugachmiut's Anchorage office.

- With the success of the building sale and signing of a major tenant, the division was able to begin major upgrades to the Anchorage building. Renovation and upgrades included landscaping, updated parking lot light fixtures, rest room remodels, reconfiguration of walls in the basement area, and new carpeting and fresh paint in and outside of the building. These investments into the building are capital improvements that were necessary for taking care of deferred maintenance and to increase the value of the building for possible renters and buyers.
- The Yukon Fire Crew was busy all summer with three fires in Alaska and two in California — one at Yosemite National Park and one at Stanislaus National Forest. The California fires extended the season into September.
- The Forestry Program began using radio wave-length height imaging for tree height data to estimate biomass tonnage per acre on Native allotments in Nanwalek and Port Graham. The information will help support the biomass heat project for the area.
- The Fire Program landed a contract for hazardous fire fuels reduction with Windy Bay, LLC, under a contract with the US Fish and Wildlife Service Kenai Wildlife Refuge. The project lasted twelve weeks and

included both the Yukon Fire Crew and Chugachmiut Forest Crew.

- Emergency Medical Services provides training to our front-line medical and emergency response providers in the villages. Classes include most levels of CPR, emergency trauma and Emergency Medical Technician Training, bloodborne pathogen, automated external defibrillator and basic first aid training.
- State Village Protection Safety Officer Program (VPSO) is managed by the division. Currently there are two VPSOs stationed, one in Chenega and one in Tatitlek.
- Chugachmiut provides assistance to the tribes for Water Plant Operator Training Program by partially funding travel, tuition and travel logistics to tribal members who attend WPO required state certification classes.
- Realty services provides assistance for regional Native allotment and trust townsite Lot owners in land sales, surveys, access agreements, rights-of-way, timber and land trespass, probates and other duties related to land management. The Chugachmiut Region Native allotment files were recently updated and an internal database was created to ease access to information.

- **Human Resources** installed new software systems to better integrate with payroll and time-keeping functions.
- The department provides technical assistance to tribes with human resources functions such as labor issues, retirement plans, audits and IRS questions.
- Heritage Preservation Program continued its on-going grant-funded programs to foster increasing fluency in the *Sugt'stun* language and provide an environment for teaching, learning and preserving the *Suqpiq* heritage in each community.
  - The first of three immersion camps was held this summer in Port Graham. Funded by the Administration for Native Americans and Port Graham Village Council, the camps are conducted entirely in the *Sugt'stun* language and feature a variety of cultural and educational activities designed to increase the number of speakers of the Native language of the region.
  - A National Science Foundation Grant is funding our project to complete a digital archive of Chugach cultural artifacts, currently spread throughout the world, using state-of-the-art

Augmented Reality technology. It will also create a temporary traveling exhibit to bring artifacts to our communities as well as others outside the region.

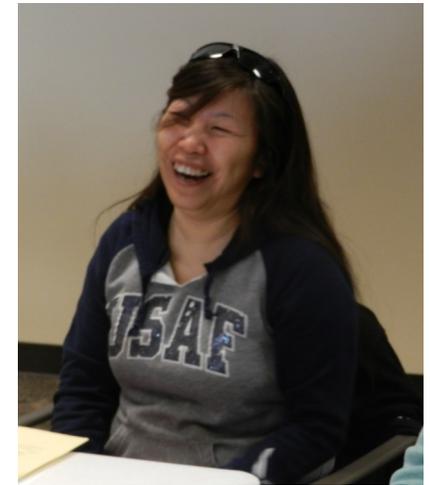
- Head Start program provides early childhood services for children and their families in Nanwalek, Port Graham and Seldovia. The Head Start model provides a platform to address the needs of each child with emphasis on academic readiness that will prepare them for a lifetime of learning. The program serves children in the following critical areas: education, health and nutrition, parent involvement, social services, disabilities, and mental health.
- Grants Administration has been a key collaborator with the Heritage Department in researching and



***Grants Administration has been a key collaborator with the Heritage Department in researching and obtaining ongoing funding for its multi-faceted projects.***

obtaining ongoing funding for its multi-faceted projects. The Grants department does this for all divisions and provides training and technical assistance to tribes in obtaining and managing their own grants.

- Information Technology was busy this year assessing Chugachmiut's needs and researching the best possible infrastructure solutions. The department collaborated with Human Resources and Finance staff to research, purchase and install a new software system. It has been instrumental in maintaining and updating servers, researching software solutions for various departments, working with vendors on implementation and maintenance, and handling all technical issues in our communities to ensure our health clinics are always prepared to provide necessary services to its residents.
- The Records and Information department maintains and secures all organizational files while continually working with program managers to ensure changing needs are met. Our state-of-the-art system efficiently files, retrieves and tracks all records to ensure Chugachmiut is always compliant with grant and compact funding requirements.



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

<b>Revenues</b>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Federal compacts and grants	\$ 11,090,334	\$ 11,124,206
State grants	530,048	648,228
Other grants and contracts	1,088,837	798,332
Net patient service revenue	284,493	299,767
Leased space income	69,938	180,627
Interest income	2,069	3,108
Other	749,616	1,224,586
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b><u>13,815,335</u></b>	<b><u>14,278,854</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program expenses		
Health restoration services	9,156,140	9,984,968
Tribal development and operations	2,162,839	1,701,650
Forestry and fire management	1,563,421	1,192,260
Education and training	679,413	1,454,436
Supporting Services		
general and administrative expenses, net of indirect cost recovery	(41,685)	825,888
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b><u>13,520,128</u></b>	<b><u>15,159,202</u></b>



Wood etching by Jim Miller of Port Graham

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Fran Norman, Chair**

Port Graham Village Council

**James Kvasnikoff, Vice Chair**

Nanwalek IRA Council

**Arne Hatch, Treasurer**

Qutekcaq Native Tribe

**Larry Evanoff, Secretary**

Chenega IRA Council

**Robert Henrichs, Director**

Native Village of Eyak

**David Totemoff, Director**

Tatitlek IRA Council

**James Ujioka, Director**

Valdez Native Tribe

## VISION

Building on the inherent strength from our cultural values, Chugachmiut shall work to help member tribes achieve their chosen destiny.

**Chugachmiut, Inc.**

**1840 Bragaw Street, Suite 110**

**Anchorage, Alaska 99508**

**907-562-4155**

