



THE

Mukluk Telegraph

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE CUSTOMER-OWNERS OF THE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

JANUARY – MARCH 2010

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NEW YEAR, NEW LOOK

You may have noticed some changes to the *Mukluk Telegraph* — new colors, brighter newsprint, easier-to-read text and general stylistic improvements all around.

We hope you like the changes we've made, especially since we made them with you in mind. Getting your Alaska Native health news should be an easy, informative and rewarding experience. If you have any questions or comments, please call (907) 729-1899 or write to us at marketing@anthc.org.

Happy New Year from ANTHC and the Mukluk Telegraph staff!

ANTHC to receive three million in appropriations

BY FIONA BROSNAN

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium will receive \$3 million in appropriations from the Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010. Two million dollars is allotted for ANTHC's Dental Health Aide Therapy (DHAT) training program; one million will go toward ANTHC facilities and equipment.

"This funding will help us continue to build upon the successes of the Alaska Dental Health Aide Therapist program and grow a sustainable program," said Dr. Mary Williard, Clinical Site Director for the DHAT program. "This is money well-spent for the government. You can already see that this program is producing really high-quality providers and improving dental care in rural Alaska."

The DHAT program had been previously funded by grants scheduled to run out at the end of 2011, and they did not cover all costs. The new funds will help build a sustainable program and set up the necessary infrastructure for the program to continue to grow, develop and meet the dental needs of rural Alaska.

"I was pleased to work closely with other senators to explain Alaska's diverse needs

and glad they supported the millions of dollars worth of essential Alaska projects and initiatives contained in this bill," Sen. Mark Begich said in a press release.

"I have long supported the efforts and leadership of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium for spearheading the establishment of the DHAT program," said Sen. Lisa Murkowski. "This funding will allow ANTHC to keep the program running. DHATs provide critically needed care that will keep smiles bright for generations. It is a program that is training young Alaska Native professionals and providing meaningful jobs in rural communities."

"I am so pleased that my colleagues in Congress were able to recognize the importance of supporting dental health care in Alaska," said Congressman Don Young. "I have long been a supporter of the DHAT program because I know it's the most effective way to get dental care to rural Alaskans. I look forward to working with ANTHC in the future to ensure continued success of the program." ■

Fiona Brosnan is Public Relations Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

STD program launches sexual health Web site

ANTHC's new www.iknowmine.org educates youth on healthy decisions about sex

BY MUKLUK TELEGRAPH STAFF

On Dec. 4, 2009, during the same week as World AIDS Day, ANTHC launched its new Web site aimed at educating youth about sexual health: www.iknowmine.org.

The Web site gives teenagers and adolescents the tools necessary to make healthy decisions when it comes to sex. At www.iknowmine.org, youth can order condoms as well as

chlamydia and gonorrhea home testing kits; ask anonymous sexual health questions to Anchorage-based providers; find information on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV, unplanned pregnancy and related issues; locate HIV/STD testing locations throughout Alaska; request testing appointments; watch videos and read stories about STDs/HIV and

SEE "WEB SITE," PAGE 5 ►

Barrow dentist wins national award

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED OCT. 5, 2009; REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE RASMUSON FOUNDATION

Today Dr. Amanda Gaynor Ashley, Director of the Barrow Dental Clinic at Arctic Slope Native Association's Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital is en route to Washington, DC, preparing to accept a prestigious national award later in the week. She is one of 10 individuals selected by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation this year to be honored with its Community Health Leader (CHL) award. Dr. Ashley is only the second Alaskan to receive the award.

What exactly made her stand out among the 532 nominees?

The CHL panelists recognized that Dr. Ashley serves at the helm of a dental clinic that's forging new ground. In the last eight years, she has taken traditional Western oral health models and modified them in terms of sensitivity for Alaska Native cultures. The result has been dramatically improved oral health in the North Slope Borough, 89,000 square miles inside the Arctic Circle where the sun doesn't rise for close to three months each winter.

Dr. Ashley arrived in Barrow in 1999 and became dental director in 2001. In eight years, she's invigorated and re-designed programs in three target areas: community outreach to dental patients — both children and adults; recruitment of staff dentists, dental assistants (the latter through a partnership with the neighboring tribal college); and the establishment of auxiliary clinics in five villages outside of Barrow, where the main clinic has operated since 1964.

Dr. Ashley says she knew immediately upon her plane breaking through the clouds

that she was landing in a special place. She had arrived in Barrow for a dental internship through the Indian Health Service and was immediately touched by the warmth of the people she encountered. In a field where public health dentists are rare and those willing to commit to remote outposts even more unusual, she stayed on well beyond the three-year mark when most Indian Health Service dentists leave for more lucrative jobs. Ten years later, she calls Barrow her home.

After two years as a staff dentist, she was selected in her mid-twenties to head up the entire clinic. A self-professed organizer, she immediately put a strategic plan into place to tackle the problems she'd witnessed firsthand. With dogged determination over the next eight years, she built a system that addressed urgent dental care needs and formulated a preventative care program, which is thoughtful, compassionate and culturally appropriate.

For much of this work, Dr. Ashley was stepping into the abyss — going where very few have gone before in terms of shaping their dental practice to serve an indigenous culture. She had precious few peers or mentors to turn to when plans went amiss. She simply re-evaluated and tried a new method. The results have been dazzling.

Dr. Ashley has long recognized the importance of building support for oral health care from within the community itself, rather than constantly bringing in professionals from Outside. She identified a staffing shortage in 2003 as an opportunity to build from within and created a program to train dental assistants through the Ilisagvik College — a rarity at tribal colleges. Students

SEE "DENTIST," PAGE 6 ►

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

This Issue's Question:

What is your health goal for 2010?

"I stay on a pretty rigid diet; I've already lost about 40 pounds."

– Bill Johnson, Angoon



"I hope I'll have my knee taken care of so I can fish and pick berries."

– Annie Gumlickpuk, New Stuyahok



"I need to start walking more."

– Helen Hopson, Barrow



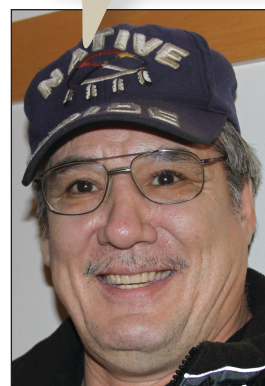
"To eat healthier and drink a lot more water."

– John Kavairlook, Marshall



"To stay above ground!"

– Dale Hony, Ruby



THE MUKLUK TELEGRAPH

The Mukluk Telegraph is the official newspaper of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

The paper is published quarterly and distributed to customer-owners, employees and partners of ANTHC statewide.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Have a suggestion or a compliment for the Mukluk Telegraph?

We would love to hear from you. E-mail the ANTHC Marketing Department at marketing@anthc.org.

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The Mukluk Telegraph is available online at www.anthc.org/abt/news.

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Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation welcomes new director

BY MUKLUK TELEGRAPH STAFF



Carrie Irwin Brown, the new Director of ANTHC's Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation

PHOTO BY EMILY WILDER

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is pleased to welcome Carrie Brown as the new Director of the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation.

Brown was born at Ft. Wainwright, Alaska and raised in Nenana, Alaska. Her cultural background is Koyukon Athabascan, Inupiaq Eskimo and Irish. She is a tribal member of the Native Village of Nenana and a shareholder of Doyon, Limited.

Brown comes to ANTHC with a great deal of experience with other Alaska Native, health care and non-profit organizations. From 2005 until August 2009, Brown served as Executive Director of the

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Alaska Native Arts Foundation, a charitable organization promoting and marketing Alaska Native art and artists.

Previously, she served as Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer of the First Alaskans Institute. She has also worked for Alaska Village Initiatives, Providence Alaska Health Systems, and AFHCAN. She serves on the boards of the Foraker Group and Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, and in 2001, was recognized among the "Top 40 Under 40" by the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce.

First on Brown's list is "getting on top of the Raven's Ball [HANF's

black-tie charity event, scheduled for April 2 at the Hotel Captain Cook], because that's going to come up very quickly," she said. "I also want to learn more about the cancer care initiative — there are five priorities here [cancer care improvement, wellness and prevention, healthy village environments, a scholarship fund and elder care support], but that one seems to be rising to the top."

Ultimately, Brown's goal as the Director of HANF is "to raise the level of awareness about the foundation and how we as Alaska Natives can contribute toward our own wellness," she said. "I think the foundation is a great avenue for that." ■

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium hosts annual shareholder meeting

Consortium offers year in review; listens and responds to customer-owner concerns

BY EMILY WILDER

On Dec. 4, 2009, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Board of Directors hosted the organization's annual meeting with tribes, tribal organizations and beneficiaries. At the meeting, leaders gave an overview of ANTHC's successes during the last fiscal year, and attendees asked questions and expressed their concerns about health care for Alaska Natives.

Board Chair and President Andy Teuber and CEO Don Kashevaroff highlighted some of ANTHC's 2009 achievements: an expanded Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative, the securing of \$114 million for future sanitation projects, ANMC's Joint Commission accreditation and re-designation of Magnet status for nursing, and more. Kashevaroff noted that for the first time in three years, ANTHC made money: Revenues totaled \$346 million.

Carrie Brown introduced herself as the new Director of the Healthy

Alaska Natives Foundation. She outlined HANF's current initiatives (cancer care, wellness and prevention, elder care, a scholarship fund and healthy village environments) and discussed the plan to get there: donations and direct appeals; events; a broad fundraising approach; and separate campaigns for each initiative. Brown told the audience how they could help: by donating, volunteering and being vocal and visible supporters.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to customer-owners and their concerns. One person, for example, asked about preventionists working with Community Health Aides in the villages. Dr. Jim Berner, Interim Director of the Division of Community Health Services, responded that we recognize a lot of health problems have established prevention practices. Berner explained how deaths in unintentional injuries are lower



Winona Wallace of Saxman, Alaska, asks a question at the 2009 ANTHC shareholder meeting.

PHOTO BY BRANDY DIXON

than before, but still higher here than in the Lower 48. He cited the STD Program's new sexual health Web site, www.iknowmine.org, as another prevention tool. Berner concluded there isn't enough prevention, but that we are aware

of the issue. It will take more funding and partnerships with the regions, he said, "because that's where it needs to happen."

Other customer-owners asked
SEE "ANNUAL MEETING," PAGE 6 ►

MYTH

Alaska Native and American Indian people get free health care.

FACT

The Alaska Native Health System only receives half of the funds needed for a basic level of prepaid health care.

The Truth.

The U.S. government promised prepaid basic health services to Alaska Native and American Indian people in exchange for land and resources. That land continues to provide immeasurable value to the American people.

Help Us.

You can make a difference. Your Denali KidCare, Medicaid, Medicare, disability and private insurance help us to provide world-class care. Call 729-2460 or talk to a representative the next time you're at ANMC to see if you are eligible.



MISSION

Providing the highest quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System

VISION

Alaska Natives are the healthiest people in the world

VALUES

Achieving excellence
Native self-determination
Treat with respect and integrity
Health and wellness
Compassion

FIVE MINUTES WITH ...

ANMC's Dr. Gregory Marino

Dr. Gregory Marino is a Hematologist and Oncologist with the Alaska Native Medical Center.

INTERVIEW BY FIONA BROSNAN FOR THE MUKLUK TELEGRAPH

Mukluk Telegraph: *Where are you from originally?*

Dr. Marino: I grew up in Glastonbury, Connecticut and gradually worked my way west. I attended the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, went to medical school in Chicago and went on to do my residency and fellowship training in San Diego, California. I started here (at the Alaska Native Medical Center) in 2000.

MT: *Why did you become a physician?*

MARINO:

A near-fatal accident when I was in high school that resulted in a summer in the hospital was my life's defining experience. Many individuals with tremendous skill and compassion took care of me, and ever since I have tried to be for others struggling with injury and illness, what those special people long ago were for me.



MT: *What kind of work do you do at the Alaska Native Medical Center?*

MARINO: I am board-certified in the specialties of hematology and medical oncology. Although I have a few patients with blood disorders that I follow and take care of, the overwhelming majority of my patients have cancer, so the lion's share of my work is with people and families dealing with cancer.

MT: *Why do you work for ANMC?*

MARINO: It is immensely satisfying to be able to provide some help and comfort to those making their way along the journey through illness. Often I feel quite tired at the end of the day but it provides great joy to help my patients live longer and better lives.

MT: *What's your favorite part of the job?*

MARINO: The patients here are wonderful — gracious, funny and interesting and I have very deep respect and affection for them. To be invited into my patients' lives is not only a great joy, but a tremendous and humbling honor. ANMC, its people, the patients and my place in this truly wonderful health care system have been precious gifts to me. I am happy and grateful to be here.

MT: *What do you enjoy doing outside of work?*

MARINO: Outside of the hospital I enjoy all sorts of outdoor activities and am an avid hunter and fisherman. When I can, I take my patients and their families up on their invitations to visit them in their homes and villages to experience a little piece of their lives. In particular, I cherish the opportunity to participate in subsistence activities with them. ■

Fiona Brosnan is Public Relations Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Dental Health Aides complete training, go to work in rural communities

BY FIONA BROSAN AND EMILY WILDER

On Dec. 11, 2009, at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the second Dental Health Aide Therapist (DHAT) class to be trained in Alaska received their certificates indicating successful completion of the program. The six graduates will go on to their preceptorships with sponsoring Tribal Health Organizations prior to their DHAT certification.

The graduates are Bernadette Charles from Mountain Village whose preceptorship is with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corp. (YKHC) in Bethel; Tambre Guido from Anchorage whose preceptorship is with YKHC in Bethel; Ben Steward from Seward whose preceptorship is with Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks; Ooyuan Nagaruk from Elim whose preceptorship is with Tanana Chiefs Conference in Fairbanks; Tatiana Barraclough from Atka whose preceptorship is with SouthCentral Foundation and will work for Aleutian Pribilof's Island Association; and Marian Petla from New Stuyahok whose preceptorship is with Bristol Bay Native Corporation in Dillingham.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and the federal Community Health Aide Program Certification Board created Alaska's DHAT program, which boosts the number of dental



The latest six Dental Health Aide Therapists to complete the DENTEX training program, clockwise from top center: Benjamin Steward, Seward; Tambre Guido, Anchorage; Bernadette Charles, Mountain Village; Tatiana Barraclough, Atka; Marian Petla, New Stuyahok; and Ooyuan Nagaruk, Elim.

PHOTO BY FIONA BROSAN

providers in rural Alaska and the level of dental services available to Alaska Native people. Candidates with strong ties to rural communities are selected for the DHAT program. They are trained to clean and fill teeth, perform simple extractions, and a range of preventative services. DHATs must meet the rigorous standards set by the Community Health Aide Program Certification Board. Alaska's DHATs are trained in the DENTEX program, a partnership between the University of Washington and ANTHC. Students study for a year in Anchorage

followed by a second year in Bethel.

Congratulations to the graduates, and many thanks for your contribution to improving access to health care for Alaska Natives throughout the state. ■

Fiona Brosnan is Public Relations Manager and Emily Wilder is Communications Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Remember HANF when you pick, click, give

Tell a friend ... in January, when Alaskans start filing for their Permanent Fund Dividends online, it will be easier to make donations to the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation with the PFD Charitable Contributions Program, or "Pick. Click. Give."



Just select "ANTHC Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation" from the list of charitable organizations provided and make a donation directly from your PFD!

For more information, please visit www.pickclickgive.org. You can go to the Pick.Click.Give. blog (www.pickclickgive.org/blog) for a description of the process. There's a short Power Point demonstration, too, which is available at www.pickclickgive.org.

Help spread the word — tell your relatives and friends to Pick. Click. Give. ■

"WEB SITE," FROM PAGE 1 ►

unplanned pregnancy; and participate in polls, surveys and a blog. Youth can also interact with www.iknowmine.org on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter.

ANTHC's STD Program, a department within the Division of Community Health Services, spearheaded the site due to the high rates at which Alaska Native people experience STDs. Alaska Native females have rates of chlamydia almost 10 times higher than the overall U.S. population and in 2008, gonorrhea rates rose 53 percent in Alaska Native males and 19 percent in Alaska Native females. Although HIV cases have historically been low in the Alaska Native population, rates continue to increase in both urban and rural

and male and female populations. In 2008, the highest case rates were among young adults aged 15-24 years.

The Web site has already garnered significant attention, both from the media and the public. On its first day, www.iknowmine.org received 1,200 hits. A front-page story in the Anchorage Daily News (<http://community.adn.com/adn/node/145750>) covered the topic as it relates to rural Alaska, and several other local and national media outlets have spread the news as well.

You can help lower STD rates and unplanned pregnancies in your community by encouraging the youth you know to visit www.iknowmine.org. ■



“DENTIST,” FROM PAGE 2 ▶

complete a two-week course for college credit and become certified to assist in the dental clinic or any other department at the hospital. This workforce development program has graduated six classes.

For students, especially those who have not graduated from high school or received a certificate before, graduation is a proud moment. The clinic employs six full-time dental assistants and eight part-time assistants. These assistants are seen as future health leaders in the community — participating in health outreach programs around the North Slope.

Students are also given professional development opportunities, such as attending conferences in the Lower 48. Three former dental assistants are pursuing careers in dentistry while others took their job skills and moved to other areas of the hospital. Her program graduates are now working to support

numerous areas of the health care system in Alaska.

Through all this, she accomplished what no other dentist at the Samuel Simmons Memorial Hospital had achieved since the hospital was founded 45 years ago: delivering modern dental care to 68 percent of the population of Barrow and five outlying villages — Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay and Wainwright — in 2008.

The Community Health Leaders program supports and sustains the capacity of individuals who demonstrate creativity, innovation, and commitment to improving health outcomes at the community level. Each CHL award totals \$125,000, comprised of \$105,000 to support a defined project at the organization with which the leader is affiliated, and \$20,000 directly to the leader for personal development.

Dr. Ashley already knows how she'd like to direct the funds:



From left to right: Don Kashevaroff, ANTHC; Dr. Douglas Eby, Southcentral Foundation; Dr. Amanda Gaynor Ashley, Samuel Simmons Memorial Hospital (Barrow, Alaska); Dr. Joel Neimeyer, Denali Commission; and Dr. Tom Nighswander, ANTHC.
PHOTO COURTESY OF RASMUSON FOUNDATION

“We’re looking to expand the prevention programs and the outreach programs, especially directed at the kids,” she says.

“Whatever I do with it I’d like to make sure it’s a sustainable thing, not a one-time improvement.” ■

ANTHC annual report available online



The 2009 ANTHC annual report is available online. Visit www.anthc.org/annualreport to learn more about the Consortium’s activities, finances, stories and successes from the 2009 fiscal year.

“ANNUAL MEETING,” FROM PAGE 3 ▶

questions about health education, ANTHC’s “green” efforts, communication about follow-up care plans, data on Alaska Natives’ health status and more. Some comments were addressed at the meeting; others were written on comment cards to be responded to in the mail.

Everyone who asked a question was promised a timely response. If you haven’t yet received a response to a question asked at the annual meeting, please contact (907) 729-1915 or mrruhle@anthc.org. Your feedback is an important part of helping Alaska Natives become the healthiest people in the world. ■

Emily Wilder is Communications Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.



Division of Environmental Health and Engineering: Highlights from 2009

BY DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND ENGINEERING STAFF

Goodnews Bay

Until recently most of the conveniences we often take for granted hadn't found their way to Goodnews Bay. Human waste could only be removed from homes via five-gallon buckets. Running water was limited to a central community washeteria. Homes remained unplumbed.

This fall DEHE completed the construction of water and sewer services in Goodnews Bay. For the first time, the children of Goodnews Bay can get a glass of water right from the kitchen sink. Residents have in-home plumbing, fresh running water, flush toilets and hot showers. It's a historic moment for the homes of Goodnews Bay and for the health of an entire community.

Akiak

Communities like Akiak face unique environmental challenges. A lack of sanitation facilities and environmental contaminants like human waste can threaten the health of a community. The thawing of unstable permafrost renders traditional water and sanitation systems obsolete. Installation of customized water and septic systems takes unique expertise.

Akiak has been working with DEHE, and now every home in the community service area has access to a running water and sewer system. The entire system is constructed with arctic pipe and a circulating, heat-added water plant that ensures the system won't freeze even in the coldest conditions.

Kwigillingok

Kwigillingok residents practice a traditional subsistence lifestyle in this sub-arctic, roadless region, and they depend on a boardwalk as a vital artery of transportation throughout the community.

When the old boardwalk was failing fast, on its way to becoming a hazard for the entire community, DEHE stepped in. Engineers

facilitated additional right of way permitting, Department of Transportation funding and a fast-track design that's poised to have Kwigillingok's new boardwalk operational within a year. ■

The information above is from DEHE's new Project Showcase Brochure. To obtain a copy, contact Kerry Wilson at kwilson@anthc.org or (907) 729-4097.



A brand-new bathroom in Akiak
DEHE FILE PHOTO



Boardwalks are an important part of the community infrastructure in Kwigillingok.
DEHE FILE PHOTO

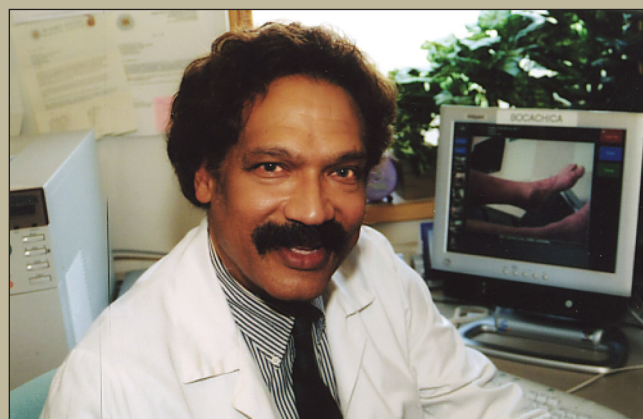


Goodnews Bay received water and sewer services for the first time this past year.
DEHE FILE PHOTO

ANMC DIRECTOR OF DERMATOLOGY RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS HONOR

BY MUKLUK TELEGRAPH STAFF

The Alaska Native Medical Center's Dr. John Bocachica was recently named one of the top 100 dermatologists in the country by the Consumer's Research Council of America, an independent research company based in Washington, DC,



Dr. Bocachica
FILE PHOTO

that evaluates professional services throughout the United States. Bocachica was presented with this distinction based on his competence, beside manner, and effective rapport with patients and colleagues.

Dr. Bocachica is a dermatologist and cutaneous surgeon with a special interest in cosmetic surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Dermatology and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology. Originally from Puerto Rico, he was raised in New York City and spent part of his teenage years in Spain.

Dr. Bocachica joined ANTHC in 2002 as its first certified dermatologist. He is responsible for developing dermatology as an outpatient clinical program in conjunction with pioneering the use of telehealth for skin care, or teledermatology, using a system created by AFHCAN, through which distant providers may consult with Dr. Bocachica on behalf of their patients. ■

Alaska Native Cancer Foundation donates \$20,000 to ANMC Oncology Clinic

BY EMILY WILDER

On Oct. 30, 2009, Margie Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer of CIRI and President of the Alaska Native Cancer Foundation, presented a check from the foundation for \$20,000 to the Alaska Native Medical Center Oncology Clinic.

The funds will go toward new chemotherapy chairs. “Our infusion chairs take a beating all day long,” said Dr. Greg Marino of the ANMC Oncology Clinic. “We need to replace about six of them, and the foundation is going to help with that.”

Cancer is the number one killer in Alaska, but it is even more serious for the Alaska Native population. Alaska Native cancer rates are the highest of any U.S. ethnic group — 34 percent higher than U.S. whites — and survival rates are 17 percent lower than for U.S. whites.

The Alaska Native Cancer Foundation is a fund to help Alaska Native families with costs associated with cancer treatment. It was “established by individuals who are concerned about improving cancer care treatment for Alaska Native people in the hospital here and throughout the state,” said Brown. “I’m just working in my capacity as an individual who’s concerned about this.”



Left to right: Dr. Greg Marino, ANMC Oncologist; Katherine Gottlieb, Southcentral Foundation CEO; Don Kashevaroff, ANTHC CEO; Chris Morrison, Oncology Clinic Nurse Manager; Margie Brown, President and CEO of CIRI and President of the Alaska Native Cancer Foundation; Dan Neumeister, ANMC Administrator; and Asta Keller, Co-Director of the Alaska Native Cancer Foundation.

PHOTO BY EMILY WILDER

Foundation members are volunteers, said Marino, so the majority of the funds they raise go directly toward patient care. “It makes me feel great,” Marino said, “because we have people who are not medical types who have recognized the impact of cancer on Alaska Native people and want to do something about it. ... It’s a way for families and patients to help fight back.” ■

Emily Wilder is Communications Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

MYTH

If I take my private insurance somewhere other than ANMC, I’m freeing up space for someone who needs it.

FACT

You help your community by bringing your insurance to ANMC.

Making Things Better.

ANMC provides world-class care — but government funding alone isn’t enough to stay the best. When you use your private insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, disability or Denali KidCare, you strengthen the Alaska Native health care system for everyone.

Yes You Can.

If you have private insurance or think you may be eligible for other coverage, call 729-4000 or talk to a representative the next time you’re at ANMC. We’ll make it as easy as possible and you’ll get the satisfaction of helping your community achieve better health.



ALASKA NATIVE
MEDICAL CENTER

563-ANMC (2662) | www.anmc.org

