OUR TRADITION OF HEALTH

20 Years of Tribal Self-Governance and Leadership
OUR VISION: Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

Our vision is not only an ambitious statement — but the guiding principle in all that the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium does. The inspiration for that vision, and the foundation for achieving it, is based in the strength of our Alaska Native people and our cultures.

By providing whole-person health services in medical care, preventative wellness programs, rural community infrastructure development and statewide solutions, we are able to preserve and perpetuate our Alaska Native culture and traditions.

To achieve the vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world, ANTHC works with patients, customers, Tribal health partners in the Alaska Tribal Health System, employees, government and nonprofit partners and others that share common objectives.

Throughout the year, find more stories from ANTHC online at anthc.org/news.

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ABOUT THE ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium is a nonprofit Tribal health organization designed to meet the unique health needs of Alaska Native and American Indian people living in our state. ANTHC serves more than 158,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people in partnership with Tribal health organizations of the Alaska Tribal Health System.

In pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world, ANTHC provides world-class health services. Our services include comprehensive specialty medical services at the Alaska Native Medical Center, community wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training, and rural water and sanitation systems construction across Alaska.

ANTHC is the largest, most comprehensive Tribal health organization in the United States, and Alaska’s second-largest health employer, with more than 2,800 employees offering an array of health services to people throughout the nation’s largest state. Tribal self-governance allows ANTHC to provide culturally appropriate, high-quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.

OUR TRADITION OF HEALTH: 20 years of Tribal self-governance and leadership

Tribal self-governance has been decades in the making, but it reached an important milestone in the fall of 1997. Congressional passage of Public Law 105-83 recognized the work of Tribal health organizations across Alaska to collaborate on statewide Tribal health services under the newly created Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. This innovative idea would set Alaska Native people on the path to becoming the healthiest people in the world.

The first ANTHC Board of Directors met in December 1997 and throughout the next 20 years, the ANTHC board marked new achievements in Tribal self-governance. This annual report celebrates ANTHC’s history and the improvements to Alaska Native health care that have been accomplished through our Tribal leadership and ownership by our people.

ANTHC leadership on elevating our health system

“Our Tribal members deserve the best care. Since the Consortium was created, Tribal leadership has worked together to improve our statewide programs and services to elevate the health care and status of all Alaska Native people.”

– Evelyn Beeter, Unaffiliated Tribes, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium

ANTHC leadership on access to care

“The history of the Consortium is rooted in our desire to make sure our people have access to the care they need. Tribal leadership has enabled us to expand the necessary care and services at ANMC.”

– Robert Henrichs, Chugachmiut, Native Village of Eyak

ANTHC Board of Directors signs first contract with Alaska Area Indian Health Service in 1998.

Over the last 20 years, the ANTHC board marked new achievements in Tribal self-governance and improvements to Alaska Native health care.

Our ANTHC Board and Tribal leadership makes it possible to design programs and services that serve the Alaska Native health needs identified by our people. ANTHC’s Tribal leadership has worked to make meaningful changes to the way services are delivered, create new programs to address the emergent health needs of our people and develop priorities focused on positive health outcomes. This annual report marks achievements from fiscal year 2017 (Oct. 1, 2016 – Sept. 30, 2017) and reflects our milestones from our 20 years of operations.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT

Greetings,

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. On November 14, 1997, Public Law 105-83 was enacted, section 325 of which established the authority for the Consortium. Tribal health in Alaska was forever transformed on June 1, 1998, with the signing of an agreement between ANTHC and the Indian Health Service which transferred management and control of Tribal health services from the federal government to the Tribes. For the first time Alaska Native people had direct control over their own health care.

Our 2017 Annual Report shares many of the milestones we have celebrated and many of the challenges we have overcome, but I want to particularly note two of the key elements that have led to ANTHC’s success in these last 20 years—our Directors and employees. We have enjoyed a strong, unified and committed Board of Directors who have worked diligently to ensure that Alaska Native people receive the highest quality health care possible. The vision and leadership provided by the Board of Directors would mean nothing, however, without ANTHC’s employees. We have more than 2,800 caring, knowledgeable and committed employees on this campus and serving statewide.

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Our work in improving health care services for Alaska Native people will never be finished, but on this important anniversary I am pleased to pause and convey my gratitude to our past and current Directors and employees. I am very proud of the contributions the Consortium has made in improving the health and well-being of Alaska Native people over the past 20 years and I am excited to see what more we can do together in the next 20 years.

Respectfully,

Andy Teuber
Chairman & President

ANTHC Chairman & President

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Respectfully,
ANTHC is managed and operated by its people, who are represented by 15 Alaska Native leaders from around the state. The ANTHC Board of Directors works together on behalf of the Alaska Native people we serve and collaboratively guides strategy for the Consortium to achieve ANTHC’s vision.

Alaska has 229 federally recognized Tribes across 586,412 square miles, all served by the Alaska Tribal Health System and represented on ANTHC’s board through our Tribal health organization partners.
Throughout our history, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and its Board leadership have worked to make a difference in the health of Alaska Native people. These are some of the key milestones in pursuit of our vision.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>ANTC begins training village-based Dental Health Aide Therapists.</td>
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<td>Community Health Services expands to include training program for 60 new Behavioral Health Aides.</td>
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<td>Contract with IHS transfers statewide services to ANTHC, including Environmental Health and Engineering.</td>
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<td>Kivalina water and sewer pilot project launches, an innovative solution for in-home service in the age of climate change.</td>
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Achieving our vision: Tribal health leadership

The work to positively impact Alaska Native health is the work of generations. The ANTHC Board of Directors helped set the path for our past and current successes, and will continue to set strategy to address our future challenges in pursuit of the vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.
ALASKA NATIVE MEDICAL CENTER: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

The Alaska Native Medical Center operates a state-of-the-art, 167-bed hospital that provides specialty medical services to Alaska Native and American Indian people. ANMC was Alaska’s first Level II Trauma Center, and has received Magnet® recognition for nursing excellence since 2003, and shared the American Hospital Association’s Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award with the Alaska Tribal Health System.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations have established a Joint Operating Board to ensure a unified operation of health services provided by the Medical Center.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017**

**ANMC**:

- **20 YEARS OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

**ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT**

**Building Better Health: Critical Care Unit expansion project begins**

The ANMC Hospital’s 20-year-old 24-bed CCU has been making needed improvements and expansions. The latest expansion project on ANMC’s Critical Care Unit (CCU) is expected to be complete in early 2018.

ANMC leadership on removing travel barriers to care

“Supporting ANMC patients traveling to Anchorage with our patient housing has created new ways in which we are caring for our patients — quality health care combined with a comfortable place for healing is how we will continue to advance the Consortium’s vision.”

— Chris Mercurel, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association

**ANMC speech-language pathologists introduce new testing procedure**

ANMC speech-language pathologists are now offering fiber-optic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing, which has become a globally recognized gold standard for evaluating patients with difficulty or abnormal swallowing and assessing esophageal function. ANMC speech-language pathologists introduce new testing procedure.

**Initiatives to improve the patient experience at ANMC**

The high quality of the care we provide at ANMC is something that distinguishes the Tribal management of our hospital, and it is an area that we are constantly striving to improve. In the past two years, ANMC Customer Experience has increased its efforts to improve experiences for patients and families. The ANMC Customer Experience team has worked closely with patient care teams to identify areas for improvement, and has implemented initiatives to enhance the experience of patients traveling to ANMC.

**Building a home away from home**

The latest expansion project on ANMC’s Critical Care Unit (CCU) will be updated and refreshed and six new rooms will be added. The expansion is expected to be complete in early 2018.

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Additional highlights of our growth at ANMC

- Creating new clinic space in the Healthy Communities Building
- New flex bed unit to serve pre- and post-operative patients
- Orthopedics Clinic expansion
- Endoscopy/Day Surgery Clinic remodel increased day surgery beds to a total of 5
- Cardiology & Neurosurgery Clinics expansion added 6 new exam rooms and 1 new echocardiogram treatment room
- Labor & Delivery Unit expansion
- OB Triage & Support expansion added 6 new rooms
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit remodel increases beds to 12

The ANTHC Board of Directors is continuously exploring future growth opportunities that mark progress in pursuit of our vision, including new lodging options for ANMC patients, clinic expansion and new sources of revenue to fund necessary health services.
Anchorage has been home to the Alaska Native Medical Center since it first opened in 1953 at its downtown location managed by the Indian Health Service. A new era of Tribal health care began on Jan. 1, 1999, when management of ANMC was returned to the people it serves. Here are a few milestones from our Tribal management.

1999-PRESENT

Building better health through campus growth
ANTHC leadership recognized the need to expand clinic spaces to meet the needs of our people. In 2002, an operating room was added at ANMC to decrease the wait time for surgeries. In 2003, the Dermatology Clinic was expanded. The expansion of the Cardiology Clinic followed in 2006, and in 2007, ANMC began offering sleep studies. ANMC has stayed on the cutting edge of technology through each phase of growth, and in 2014 opened Alaska’s first hybrid operating room, which allowed for dynamic response to surgical needs. In 2015, 2016, and 2017, respectively, ANMC opened the Ambulatory Surgery Center, expanded outpatient clinics in a new campus location at the Healthy Communities Building, and opened Patient Housing at ANMC.

ANMC's Level II Trauma Center designation
ANMC was Alaska’s first Level II Trauma Center, the highest trauma care designation available in the state. Today, ANMC continues to hold this designation that recognizes the high level of trauma care available for Alaska Native people and all Alaskans when they need it most. Increases in level of hospital services provided
The level of specialty care services at ANMC has continuously expanded since 1999. That year, the first expansion was creating pediatric intensive care services. The necessary work to expand in-patient care, pathology, and nursing specialties were added in 2001 to address employee retention and to support our people. In 2002, ANMC contracted with the Indian Health Service as a facility for diabetes education and treatment in 2010, ANMC was designated by the Indian Health Service as a facility for diabetes education and treatment, meeting the growing needs of our people. Today, ANMC continues to expand the level of specialty health services by increasing the number of specialty providers available for field clinics working with our regional Tribal health partners.

2002-PRESENT

Magnet designation means the top level of nursing at ANMC
Magnet® designation, the highest recognition for nursing excellence and certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, recognizes the high-quality patient care and superior nursing processes that ANMC nurses display every day. ANMC nurses first obtained Magnet recognition in 2003 and subsequently received redesignation in 2009 and 2014. ANMC was the 71st hospital to receive Magnet recognition, as well as the first Alaska facility, and the first Tribal facility to receive Magnet Status. To this day, ANMC remains the only Magnet-recognized hospital in Alaska and in Tribal health.

2012

American Hospital Association Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award
In 2012, ANTHC received the American Hospital Association’s Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award for our work to improve the health of Alaska Native and American Indian people. AHA noted that it selected ANTHC for the award because of its work to improve the health of Alaska Native and American Indian people through actions that go beyond traditional hospital care. ANTHC’s work to improve and expand the range of health care needs of our people, and its commitment to the people and communities we serve, and its efforts to raise awareness of health care as an individual’s health — from ensuring homes have clean water to improving employee health to helping seniors receive appropriate care — recognized the achievement of the quality and impact of our Consortium’s work, as well as the importance of our relationships and partnerships around Alaska and beyond.

ANTHC leadership on expanding our health services
“Our board is enhancing access to behavioral health care to address ways that we can truly heal. Long-term plans for behavioral health will help our people and our partners make it a complete part of our overall health care.”
— Charlene Nollner, Copper River Native Association

Increases in level of hospital services provided
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Babies Born, Then and Now

- In 1998, 1,147
- In 2017, 1,651

Alaska Native Life Expectancy
The life expectancy of Alaska Native people has increased from age 69.8 in 2009 to age 70.7 in 2013.
Suspected cases of tuberculosis are reported by community health aides to their regional hospital. The regional hospital needs to decide the best course of treatment and would be able to with specialist consultation, but should the patients be sent to Anchorage for further testing?

Thanks to ANTHC’s advances in telehealth, an infectious disease doctor at the Alaska Native Medical Center is able to quickly consult with the patients and their providers in their home villages via live video teleconferencing. The patients receive their treatment in a timely manner, costly and time-consuming air travel is unnecessary, and further infection exposure to others is avoided.

A version of this story has played out tens of thousands of times across the Tribal health system since ANTHC recognized the need for alternative access options in our health system. In 1999, a new statewide telehealth project called the Alaska Federal Health Care Access Network (AFHCAN) was initiated by the Consortium with the Alaska Federal Health Care Partnership. This project provided the first 235 AFHCAN mobile cart clinical workstations to share digital data for health diagnosis and treatment, and provided an early glimpse into the future of medicine in Alaska.

Today, ANTHC’s AFHCAN telehealth services continue to allow health care professionals to work together in the Tribal health system to provide quality care and increased access for Alaska Native people across the state. Through telehealth video conferencing and consultation, people can remain in their home communities and have access to the highest quality health care providers and specialists in regional or urban centers not usually available in rural areas. Telehealth has improved health care for Alaska Native people and rural Alaskans around the state. Through its Tribal management, ANTHC has stayed on the leading edge of providing care alternatives and enhancing the level of care across our Alaska Tribal Health System with telehealth.

ANTHC leadership on rural care solutions

“Making sure our community health aides are able to connect to our hospitals and doctors is why we have telehealth today. Our people, especially our Elders, are able to get quality care without traveling.”

– Andrew Jimmie, Tanana Chiefs Conference

TRADITION OF INNOVATION

Telehealth provides critical access to health care across the Tribal health system 1999-PRESENT

Telemedicine virtual visits are just one way in which we are working together to enhance the level of care for our people. Additionally, the telehealth network has supported continuing medical education and distance learning to keep providers up to date on the latest care procedures without having to travel long distances to see the latest care teaching sessions. ANTHC has also worked with others on the telehealth network to ensure that all providers are able to access patient records when they travel for field clinics at our partner Tribal health organizations. ANTHC’s telehealth capabilities have been exported to other Indian Health Service health care facilities and global locations with similar logistical challenges to health care access.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017

ANTHC offers preventative health services and programs to elevate the health status of Alaska Native communities. We partner with statewide Tribal health organizations to offer wellness programs for chronic diseases such as diabetes and liver disease, while encouraging healthy choices through education and services in tobacco prevention, injury prevention, and traditional food and nutrition. Additional statewide support comes from providing services in health research and data, and health training and education.

ANTHC celebrates 10 years of tobacco-free campus
November 2016 marked the 10-year anniversary of a tobacco-free Alaska Native Health Campus. The campus has been 100 percent tobacco free since 2006 and recognized this achievement with a celebration at the ANHC hospital and Anchorage Native Primary Care Center in conjunction with the American Cancer Society’s Great American Smokeout.

ANTHC Diabetes Program honored by American Diabetes Association
Alaska
ANTHC received the 2017 Golden Rose Award, an honor from the American Diabetes Association, Alaska for an individual or organization that has made a significant impact in the field of diabetes. ANTHC’s Diabetes Program was highlighted as examples of high-quality care for prevention and improving the health of people with diabetes. Diabetes Program staff work in partnership with the Alaska Tribal Health System and clinical staff to serve as a premier resource for diabetes care, prevention and surveillance.

Alaskan children join in physical activity with PLAAY Day at ANTHC
Across Alaska, children participated in PLAAY Day at ANTHC as it was broadcast online and was the state’s first simultaneous student physical activity event. Schools and youth organizations participated in a synchronized exercise routine at ANTHC’s office in Anchorage while rural communities joined remotely through videoconferencing. ANTHC also partnered in the statewide Play Every Day campaign encouraging youth to engage in daily physical activity.

ANTHC Wellness and Prevention programs promote nutrition education
ANTHC’s Health Promotion Program provided nutrition education services to Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) participants. ANTHC’s FDPIR provides a monthly supply of nutritional food to more than 700 people in 18 rural Alaska communities. Promoting healthy eating habits, encouraging the use of more fruits and vegetables and sharing new recipes, the Wellness and Prevention department hosted nutrition education events in nine FDPIR communities: Buckland, Craig, Haynes, Holbrook-Kalskag, Kiana, Klawock, Kwikilis, and Metlakatla.

Tribal partners benefit from conferences for wellness and prevention
ANTHC hosts many workshops and conferences for our tribal partners to share knowledge in areas including maternal child health, diabetes and environmental management. This year, ANTHC hosted a global audience with the World Indigenous Peoples’ Conference on Viral Hepatitis, regional Alaska Native Food and Medicine symposium and the Prevent, Treat, Educate conference on reducing viral infections in Alaska.

Healthy People and Prevention: Community Health Services

ANTHC leadership on collaborating on health challenges
“Together, our work continues to make an important difference in Alaska Native health priorities, such as reducing tobacco use for the health of our people.”

– Marie Carroll, Arctic Slope Native Association

Smoking Rates for Alaska Native Teens, Then and Now

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Smoking Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>61.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Healthy People and Prevention/Community Health Services

20 YEARS OF HEALTHY ALASKA NATIVE WAYS OF LIFE

以来，ANHC Community Health Services已经实施了众多预防性健康策略并扩展了项目，这些项目在土著部落管理下提供。以下是我们工作的几个社区健康亮点。

2001-PRESENT

2003-PRESENT

2007-PRESENT

2015-PRESENT

Certification and support for community-based health care providers

The Community Health Aide Program (CHAP) Certification Board was developed in 1998 and started certifying Community Health Aides and Practitioners that year. Dental Health Aide (DHA) standards were added in 2002; first DHAs certified in 2004. Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) standards were added in 2008; first BHAs certified in 2009. These programs bring primary health care closer to home for Alaska Native people in rural areas and improve health by providing regularly available preventative health services.

Developing research studies and protocols important to Alaska Native people

In 2001, ANTHC received a new four-year Native American Research Center for Health grant from the Indian Health Service and National Institutes of Health to develop our Office of Alaska Native Health Research. This grant helped create our current ANTHC Research department and initially funded seven specific research projects and provided training for Alaska Native researchers. Today, ANTHC Research and our Health Research Review Board committee regularly review dozens of Alaska Native research projects each year.

Healthy People and Prevention: Community Health Services

Setting globally recognized standards for hepatitis prevention

Halting the spread of hepatitis has been important to improving Alaska Native health since the infectious disease reached high rates among Alaska Native people in the 1960s and 70s. After years of work, the American College of Physicians presented ANTHC’s Brian McMahon, MD, FACP, with the Alvan R. Feinstein Memorial Award in April 2003. Dr. McMahon and his associates’ research led to the development of immunization practices for hepatitis B and hepatitis A in Alaska. The World Health Organization has adopted knowledge gained from the work on hepatitis B. In the United States, 14 states use the hepatitis A immunization practices. Today, ANTHC continues to provide leadership in the care, treatment and cure for hepatitis C.

Alaska Native Epidemiology Center informs Alaska Native health: 2007-Present

In 2007, ANTHC became home to the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center, one of 11 Tribal epi-centers nationwide focusing on using data to promote health and wellness. The EpiCenter monitors and reports on health data, provides technical assistance and training to Tribal health organizations and others, and develops initiatives. The EpiCenter has produced regional health status profiles and reports on the leading causes of death as well as cancer, injury and heart disease. From this information, ANTHC develops initiatives to improve Alaska Native health and shares them with our Tribal health partners such as information on maternal and child health and colorectal cancer screening.

Understanding the effects of climate change on our health

Responding to concerns about the effects of climate change on residents of rural villages, ANTHC established a Center for Climate and Health in 2009. The Center uses the data to promote health and works with local leaders to develop adaptive strategies. Through this program, ANTHC has become home to the globally-recognized Local Environmental Observer (LEO) Network. The LEO Network connects an online community of local residents and environmental scientists through the web and a mobile app, enabling real-time environmental changes in real time.

ANTHC leadership on continuing our tradition of health

Throughout the years, we’ve had Tribal leaders, like Sally Smith in Bristol Bay, guiding our health system for the benefit of our people. Our leaders today work on important health priorities such as research and oral health care.

– Robert J. Clark, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Colorectal Cancer Screening Rates, Then and Now

- 43% in 2017
- 396 CHA/Ps
- 48 DHATs
- 39 BHAs

31.5% in 1997
74.4% in 2017

Total Educational Certifications, Then and Now

- 483 in 2017
- 74.4%
- 31.5%
- 31.5%

483 in 2017
356 CHA/Ps
48 DHATs
39 BHAs

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Since 1998, the work of ANTHC Community Health Services has encompassed numerous preventative health strategies and expanded program offerings under Tribal management. Here are highlights of our work in community health.

20 YEARS OF TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP / / 2017 ALASKA NATIVE TRIBAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT
When Tribal health organizations across the state came together to form the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, one of the guiding beliefs was the idea that Alaska Native leadership would draw from our cultural traditions to build a health system to fulfill our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

From ANTHC’s beginning in 1997, Alaska Native traditional foods and nutrition have played a significant role in how we think about healthy Alaska Native people and preventative community health programs. Healthy eating and food security are important building blocks of health. ANTHC helps promote the knowledge and use of traditional foods and traditional ways that support Alaska Native health.

One of the earliest programs under ANTHC’s Community Health Services supported a health research study that examined the importance and safety of traditional marine mammal food sources for pregnant women. This particular study found that not only are marine mammals – such as seal, walrus and whale – safe food sources with low levels of environmental toxins for pregnant women, but these traditional foods also provide a significant source of vitamin D, which can help promote positive health for both mother and baby. With Tribal leadership, programs promoting the health benefits of traditional foods are part of the strategy for statewide Alaska Native health.

Since then, ANTHC has continued to create preventative health services that preserve and promote traditional foods knowledge that builds on our Alaska Native culture of health.

Our Diabetes and Cancer programs have published cookbooks that show how traditional foods can be incorporated into a healthy eating plan when confronting disease. ANTHC began providing administrative services for the first federal Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations communities in 2008 to help bring in foods for low-income families to supplement a traditional diet. The ANTHC Health Promotion “Store Outside Your Door” project used recipes and videos to promote the knowledge and use of traditional foods for new generations. Our Alaskan Plants as Food and Medicine Symposium has spurred new interest in traditional foods and regional programs across Alaska.

Further, our Alaska Native people can enjoy traditional foods as part of their health care. At the Alaska Native Medical Center: you can find patients and visitors enjoying a variety of traditional foods from our Alaska Native cultures. People dining in the cafeteria can order fry bread, a number of meals with salmon and reindeer, halibut, cod, and our Patient Housing Cafe has a wide variety of new ways to enjoy traditional foods, such as beach asparagus and fiddlehead fern pizza! Our Elder Outreach Program hosts regular traditional foods potlucks for our Elders at Anchorage area care facilities.

Healthy eating is one of the building blocks for a healthy life. Tribal leadership at ANTHC has helped place traditional foods in a prominent place in our health care and services.

ANTHC leadership on serving our people

“Traditional foods for our Elders is a comforting part of their health, healing and care. Being able to provide them with our Native foods is part of the care in our region and the care from ANTHC.”

– Louie Commack, Maniilaq Association
Healthy homes and communities are the foundation for improving the health of Alaska Native people. ANTHC’s health services include planning, design, construction and operations support of public health infrastructure and utilities throughout Alaska. Through our work, ANTHC provides sustainable public health solutions to communities across our state and protects the health of our people.

**ABRC earns Harvard Honoring Nations’ highest honor**

The Harvard Honoring Nations, an award of The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development, a project of the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, presented the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC) its highest award. ARUC was one of three Top Honors recipients out of 87 applicants, recognized for the award, which identifies, celebrates and shares excellence in American Indian Tribal governance. ARUC is noted for Tribal partnerships empowering rural villages to sustainably provide safe water and sanitation that positively impact the health of our people.

**Eek water service eliminates honey buckets**

For the first time, the southwest Alaska community of Eek has residential water services. ANTHC, with community and funding partners, constructed a community water distribution and low-pressure sewer collection system. Developed over 12 years, this project eliminates honey buckets and brings clean, safe-running water to homes. Bringing a large and complex collaborative project to fruition required efforts of a large portion of ANTHC’s Environmental Health and Engineering employees, including a dedicated field work crew of local residents.

**Village of Newtok relocation efforts continue**

ANTHC became part of the relocation team for the southwest Alaska village of Newtok’s move to the new site of Mertarvik, nine miles downriver on Nelson Island. The multi-year plan is to preserve the sustainability and safety of the community due to more frequent storm erosion damage. ANTHC hopes this model can be recreated to help other rural villages experiencing similar environmental challenges. ANTHC will be building a basemap for the community of Mertarvik, conducting geophysical analysis of the new site, and beginning design for the water, sewer and solid waste infrastructures.

**Kotzebue’s wind-to-heat energy system**

Maniilaq Association and Kotzebue Electric Association recently completed an innovative energy project constructed in cooperation with ANTHC. The system went online in December and within months reduced the use of fuel oil by 3,000 gallons. The system utilizes excess wind turbine energy and directs it to an electric boiler in the hospital, providing heating at a discounted rate. It’s expected to cut the hospital’s heating oil consumption by 20 percent.

**Heat recovery project in Noorvik**

ANTHC completed a heat recovery energy project for the City of Noorvik’s water and wastewater system. Noorvik’s new heat recovery system captures waste heat from the generator cooling system at the local power plant and uses it to offset heating oil at the water plant. It’s estimated to cut 90 percent and annually save 7,000 gallons of fuel. Cost savings from the project will help reduce energy rates for residential billing. Additional rate savings are due to local Noorvik plant operators and the training on their system from ANTHC.

ANTHC leadership on healthy rural communities

“The Consortium is working on issues that impact all aspects of our health. Environmental health work in our rural communities is one way that ANTHC is supporting continued health and disease prevention for Alaska Native people now and into the future.”

– Easi Tivvitche, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & ENGINEERING: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2017**

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- Number of homes with first-time water service hookups in the last 20 years, estimated number of people impacted (as of Sept. 2017)
  - 2,180 homes
  - 6,126 people

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20 YEARS OF BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR PEOPLE

Since Oct. 1, 1998, Tribal self-governance at ANTHC has made healthy homes and communities a priority for improving the health of Alaska Native people. Beyond water and sanitation construction, ANTHC’s Tribal leadership has enabled our work to grow to include utility management, community-informed design, air quality assessment, alternative energy projects and other services that improve the health of our homes and the communities in which we live.

1998-PRESENT

- Bringing water and sanitation to rural homes
  - Since our inception, ANTHC’s Environmental Health and Engineering work has focused on bringing health solutions to rural communities through access to clean water that supports health and hygiene. Having in-home water and sanitation makes hand washing and healthy hygiene practices easier, which have been shown to reduce illness (see Sanitation and Disease Study on the opposite page).
  - Our work ranges from building water storage tanks for Tanacross in 1998 to building the Ouzinkie Dam in 2014; from small water utility maintenance projects to whole-community, multi-year water system design and construction.

- Building quality primary care clinics in our communities
  - Access to community-based primary health care begins with community clinics and hospitals. ANTHC’s Environmental Health and Engineering staff have constructed these health facilities for our Tribal health partners since 1998. These projects range from the Dillingham Kanakanak Hospital emergency room in 2000 to health clinics in Tetlin in 2003 and Koyukuk in 2015.

- ARUC establishes sustainability of rural utility systems
  - ANTHC, in partnership with Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation, developed a statewide program to sustain existing community water and sewer systems, the Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative (ARUC). Originally conceived in 2001 as a pilot project, the rural utility collaborative model sought to create economies of scale that would make water and sewer utility management more cost effective for customers in Yukon-Kuskokwim regional communities.
  - In 2007, ARUC expanded statewide under ANTHC and has developed community partnerships to reduce local utility employee turnover through training, better protect public health investments, and allow communities to direct limited funds to other essential services.

2001-PRESENT

- Measuring the impact of our work with the Sanitation and Disease Study
  - In 2007, our Environmental Health Support Program, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, published a research study on the health benefits of providing sanitation facilities to Alaska Native homes, finding that children in communities where most homes have pressurized, in-home water service have far fewer acute respiratory infections and skin infections. In rural Alaska, infants from villages where few homes have water service are five times more likely to be hospitalized for Respiratory Syncytial Virus and 11 times more likely to be hospitalized for pneumonia compared to all United States infants. This published study dramatically demonstrates that providing adequate sanitation to Alaska Native homes and communities can have a profound impact on health outcomes, and has led to a continued focus on sanitation and disease prevention.

2007-PRESENT

- Designing alternative sanitation solutions in the most challenging locations
  - ANTHC and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center are working with the community of Kivalina, now facing relocation due to climate change challenges, on a demonstration project to provide technical assistance and design the feasibility of a non-piped, in-home sanitation system for this community. The Kivalina Portable Alternative Sanitation System (PASS) project retrofits nine homes in the community with low-cost, non-piped, in-home sanitation systems that can be moved with the community to a new location. The PASS project will provide information on alternative solutions where piped water systems are not feasible.

2015-PRESENT

- Alaska Communities with Water and Sewer Service
  - In 2016, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Alaska Indian Health Services (AIHS) released a report on the percentage of Alaska Native communities with water and sewer services. The report shows that 83.5% of Alaska Native communities had water service and 72.5% had sewer service in 2016, compared to 72.5% water service and 67.5% sewer service in 2004. This progress has been driven by Tribal governments’ leadership on healthy Alaska Native ways of life and a continued focus on the importance of water and sanitation infrastructure.

“Antennas are addressing the challenges in our health care with our traditional knowledge of health. Health challenges such as behavioral health, historical trauma and the opioid crisis affect the health of our communities as much as physical health.”

– Chief Gary Harrison, Unaffiliated Tribes, Chickaloon Native Village

ANTHC leadership on healthy Alaska Native ways of life
n average, energy needs comprise 30 to 60 percent of a community’s water system operating costs. When the Rural Energy Initiative launched in 2010, ANTHC’s Tribal leadership imagined a future in which water system projects could continue to improve and provide continued benefit through our Environmental Health and Engineering work that has been part of ANTHC’s history since the very beginning.

Since its start, the Rural Energy Initiative’s work has reduced village energy costs by 33 percent and saves $2.85 million across Alaska each year.

TRADITION OF HELPING COMMUNITIES

Rural Energy Initiative makes access to water sustainable for rural residents

2010-Present

Healthy Homes and Communities: Environmental Health and Engineering

Providing the health benefits of clean water and sanitary sewer systems for remote communities in cold climates makes for unique challenges, including extremely high energy usage and high energy costs. The goal of ANTHC’s Rural Energy Initiative is that basic sanitation be efficient, sustainable and affordable.

Rural Energy allows Environmental Health and Engineering projects to continue to provide regular access to water and sewage systems despite rising energy costs that threaten the cost sustainability of necessary public utility infrastructure.

Research shows that residents in communities with regular water service get fewer lower respiratory and skin infections and have lower infant mortality rates. Children who live with only limited access to water service are five times more likely to be hospitalized for lower respiratory infection and 11 times more likely to contract pneumonia, according to a 2007 study from ANTHC. Mortality rates have dropped by as much as 67 percent in rural communities where sanitation facilities were implemented.

When the Rural Energy Initiative launched in 2010, ANTHC’s Tribal leadership imagined a future in which water system projects could continue to improve and provide continued benefit for healthier communities.

The program works directly with rural communities to improve the sustainability and lower operating costs of rural sanitation systems and health care facilities across Alaska. Our work has been recognized with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “Green Champion Award” four times from 2011-2015.

Environmental Health and Engineering programs such as the Rural Energy Initiative allow ANTHC to partner with communities in new ways that continue to help advance and sustain their public utility systems. Energy project innovations that lower costs will preserve access to water and lead to healthier Alaskans.

ANTHC leadership on quality of care

“This 20-year milestone is a tribute to what active participation as customer-owners means for the care of our communities. As Alaska Native people, we all have a stake in the success of our health care.”

– Katherine Gottlieb, Southcentral Foundation

Higher energy costs can mean less money available for regular maintenance of water lines and systems, which can lead to frozen pipes or failed pumps that shut off the water supply. Rural Energy projects make it more cost-effective to operate a community water plant.

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ANTHC partners with North Slope Borough on tobacco prevention

Smoking negatively impacts our Native communities throughout Alaska, but also those in our people living in the North Slope region. Cancer is the leading cause of death in the North Slope, one of four designated areas in longest lasting To combat the repercussions of smoking, North Slope Borough partnered with ANTHC and the Alaska Quit Line to let our Native community know that resources to quit are available. Titled “I Never Thought It Could Happen to Me,” this video highlights how smoking not only affects tobacco users, but also those around them. The video appeared on local cable, radio and print ads, as well as digitally on Facebook and YouTube.

ANTHC hosts a free film screening of We Breathe Again

ANTHC hosted the Anchorage premiere of the documentary film “We Breathe Again,” which explores the intimate stories of five Alaska Native people who are each confronting the impacts of historical trauma in their lives and the connection to suicide. The free film screening and panel discussion featured film creator and University of Alaska Fairbanks Vice Chancellor Evon Peter, and film participants. Alaska Native people sustain their way of life through a social, cultural and spiritual balance, but the traumatic ramifications of colonization have left many scars that continue to be passed down from generation to generation, which can trace paths to higher rates of suicide. Rarely heard of 40 years ago, suicide among Alaska Native people is now a silent epidemic. $3 times higher than the national average. This powerful film is a way to explore this important health issue in our communities.

New medical-legal partnership provides free counsel to ANMC patients

A new medical-legal partnership program aims to improve the health of our patients at the Alaska Native Medical Center by reducing hardships brought on by social or environmental factors, which can negatively impact wellness. Alaska Legal Services Corporation is our partner to provide the services, which improves ANMC’s ability to serve more of our people who need help with critical legal needs; those that negatively impact health. Health care providers often identify social determinants of health, now have the resources to begin to change them.

ANTHC leadership on Tribal self-governance

“Over the last 20 years, ANTHC has increased access to specialists that support SEARHC in Southeast and across Alaska. We are honored to provide improved health care for Alaska Native people around the state. The future health of our people relies on continued leadership and Tribal self-governance.” – Charles Clement, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium

History of Tribal health and ANMC on display in hospital

Thanks to a new visual history installation, visitors to the Alaska Native Medical Center can take a stroll through the history of our health care system in the ANMC hospital. A freeway-thrilling important exhibit in the Alaska Native Medical Center showcases the important role the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium now hangs in the north side, first-floor hospital hallway just before the sky bridge to Patient Housing at ANMC. The seven-panel installation includes historical photos of the progress of our people in the health care field. It begins in 1946 when the American Medical Association visits Alaska and ends in 2017 with the opening of the six-floor, 202-room patient housing facility.
TRADITION OF INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

Education and development for our Alaska Native workforce

1998 – Present

Statewide Partnerships

Since ANTHC’s inception, our Tribal leadership has continuously recognized that the next step in true ownership of our health care system is to prepare our young people for the health careers of the future.

ANTHC’s Tribal management has put the hiring and development of Alaska Native employees at the forefront to better serve our people and continues to offer new ways to enhance our workforce to prepare for the emerging health needs of Alaska Native people.

TRADITION OF INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

Early internship and scholarship programs provided training and educational assistance in critical ANTHC service areas. Our Environmental Health and Engineering internship program was a part of our work since the beginning, offering hands-on experience for future Alaska Native engineers. The program gave Alaska Native undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to work with Environmental Health and Engineering staff on current projects. Many of these interns have come back to ANTHC as full-time employees.

Alaska Native students have also worked in the Alaska Native Medical Center in internship positions. Students are able to learn directly from health care professionals and gain practical experience toward future career opportunities in the Alaska Tribal Health System. The Consortium offers thousands of dollars in scholarships and internships for Alaska Native students seeking to enter the health care field because we believe in investing in the future of our workforce and next generation of Tribal health leaders.

Other opportunities for Alaska Native people wanting to enter health care include the Indian Health Service Summer Externship Program and volunteer job shadow opportunities for students. The Community Health Aide/Practitioner Program trains people to provide primary care in their villages, as well as similar programs for dental health aides and behavioral health aides. These programs are expanding to provide care and careers closer to home, and opening pathways for other health care education and careers.

When Alaska Native employees begin working for ANTHC, we continue to grow their capabilities to better serve ANTHC patients and customers. Starting in 2005, ANTHC began formalizing education, development and training programs to build capacity for Alaska Native health professional development. This year, a partnership with Alaska Pacific University has opened new scholarship programs to encourage study in areas that meet the needs of our Alaska Tribal Health System.

While investing in workforce development takes time to see the returns, ANTHC is ensuring that the next generation of Tribal health leaders will be ready to continue to advance Alaska Native health.

ANTHC leadership on growing our health system

“Our Tribal leaders came together to build our health system in a way that best serves our people. Today, we are continuing that legacy with health programs that help fulfill our vision for Alaska Native health.”

– Jacob Ivanoff, Norton Sound Health Corporation

ANTHC’s Board of Directors has put the hiring and development of Alaska Native employees at the forefront to better serve our people and to prepare our workforce for the emerging health needs of Alaska Native people.

Tribal leadership in health education: ANTHC-APU partnership

In Dec. 2016, the ANTHC Board of Directors and Alaska Pacific University (APU) formed a strategic partnership, with the aspiration of Tribal University status for APU, growing innovative programs that are responsive to the workforce needs of Alaska, as well as growing Alaskan and Alaska Native professionals from within the state. This partnership is part of our Board’s priorities to meet the health training and education needs for the benefit of the Alaska Tribal Health System and to enhance the health of our people.

ANTHC leadership on growing our health system

“..."
Impacts for the Tribal health system

- New education opportunities: The Education and Development Center will open doors to education, new careers, and economic opportunity for more Alaska Native people by expanding learning opportunities across our Tribal Community Health Provider program.

- Quality care, close to home: Graduates of ANTHC’s health care education and training programs return to their communities with well-paying jobs and continued training for quality health care.

- Health care cost savings: Tribal health organizations realize cost avoidance savings by using multi-level trained health care providers and by reducing the need for patient trips to regional medical hubs and Anchorage.

Investing in our community health care providers

- Approximately 550 Community Health Aides and Practitioners provide primary care in more than 170 rural Alaska villages, seeing more than 250,000 patient visits annually.

- Today, 47 Dental Health Aides serve as the primary oral health professionals in more than 75 communities, providing quality, essential dental care aimed at reducing and preventing dental disease among nearly 40,000 Alaska Native people.

- 120 village-based Behavioral Health Aides serve as counselors, health educators, and advocates addressing some of the most challenging health issues in rural Alaska, including alcohol dependency and suicide.

TRIBAL LEADERSHIP ON HEALTH EDUCATION

ANTHC Education and Development Center

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium’s Board of Directors is committed to developing a rural health provider workforce prepared to serve the health needs of our people. ANTHC is making a new investment in the people who are our front line of health – the dedicated Community Health Aides and Practitioners, Dental Health Aides and Behavioral Health Aides who serve our communities.

Well trained rural providers will help increase access to care closer to home and reduce the health inequities Alaska Native people experience today. The new ANTHC Education and Development Center on the Alaska Native Health Campus will be a dedicated educational hub to support statewide rural provider training, along with nursing and medical continuing education programs.

The center will allow greater access for ongoing educational opportunities, including:

- Collaborative training for community, dental, and behavioral health aides
- Dedicated space for required clinical education for physicians and nurses
- Expanded health career training partnerships

Statewide Partnerships

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Statewide Partnerships
HEALTHY ALASKA NATIVES FOUNDATION

The Consortium’s charitable arm, the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation, works to raise awareness and funding for the unmet needs of our health care system. That’s why we support key initiatives that deliver sustainable, effective and culturally relevant health care, from providing improvements at medical facilities that serve Alaska Native people, to supporting wellness and prevention programs that impact Alaska Native populations, to advancing healthy village environments around Alaska. By facing the greatest health challenges head on, we can lead healthy lifestyles and avoid long-term health issues.

2017 funding highlights

**Patient Care**
- Activity spaces for patients with dementia/cognitive function
- Arctic Use cooling/warming machine for critical patients
- Quilted kit for injured nurse and on-site triage
- Clothing for Emergency Department patients
- Environmental air quality sensor for NICU machine
- Bodily fluid evacuation unit for ICU
- Cardiovascular post-cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) equipment
- Tranquilizer spray for medical personnel
- Chair glide system for patient wheelchair access
- Department for congenital heart failure patients

**Healthy Kids**
- Camp ARCTIC for children with congenital heart disease
- Art supplies for patients
- Envirosafe /VitaSafe education for employees
- Healthy Village Environmental Summit in Copper Center region
- Support for Healthy Homes Expo pilot event on ANMC campus
- Development of Substance Prevention PSA
- Annual Career orientation for CAMP training
- Dental Health Aide Therapy Program Distance Learning
- "Water is Life" community engagement project

**Healthy Communities**
- Provider iPads for tele-behavioral health service expansion
- Immunization Program materials
- Fire extinguishers for Village of Newtok residents
- Youth Environmental Summit in Copper Center region
- Support for Healthy Homes Expo pilot event on ANMC campus
- Development of Suicide Prevention PSA
- Annual Career orientation for CAMP training
- Dental Health Aide Therapy Program Distance Learning
- “Water is Life” community engagement project

Our donors in 2017

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation offers sincere and abundant thanks to the donors who make it all possible. Even though Alaska’s communities are separated by hundreds of miles, when it comes to health, we are all connected. Thank you for helping bring essential services to individuals and communities in need.

**Founder’s Circle ($25,000 and above)**
- ConocoPhillips Alaska • GCI • Kodiak Area Native Association • Nacole Heslep • Neeser Construction • QOL Medical, LLC • Robert Onders, MD and Heather Onders • Robert Wood Johnson Foundation • The John Martin Foundation • The Raven Foundation

**Visionaries Circle ($10,000 to $24,999)**
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium • Anchorage & Valley Radiation Therapy Centers of Alaska • Andy Teuber • Anonymous • Bristol Bay Native Corporation • Calista Corporation • Chugachmiut • Doyon, Ltd. • Gary and Mary Ann Arrand • Matthew Schenck-Bauer • Mary Jo Health Foundation • Providence Health & Services Alaska • Raymond T. Schenck & Family Foundation • Seattle Children’s Hospital • SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium • Wells Fargo Bank Alaska • Xenid Healthcare

**Legacy Giving ($5,000 to $9,999)**
- Aaron Schutt and Marissa K. Flannery • AbbVie, Inc. • Ahtna, Inc. • Alaska Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons • ARAMARK • Bill Herman and Phyllis Kay Branch • Cerner Corporation • Christopher Wolfe, MD • Ethiopian Health Inc. • Harold W. Schneider, Jr., MD • Hepatitis Foundation – Arizona • Marsha W. Schaad • Robert Henrichs • Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman, LLP • Tanana Chiefs Conference • The Hepatitis Foundation of New Zealand

The Foundation also thanks our very important partners: Ronald McDonald House Charities of Western WA and AK, Starlight Children’s Foundation, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

For a full listing of all of our generous donors, please visit inspiringgoodhealth.org.

2017 Foundation oversight committee

Charlene Nollner, Chair
Copper River Native Association

Charlene Nollner, Chair
Copper River Native Association

Robert Henrichs, Chair
ANTHC Director & President

Evan Twitchell
Calista Corporation

For a full listing of all of our generous donors, please visit inspiringgoodhealth.org.
Donors to the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation are making a difference in providing effective solutions for the health of Alaska Native people by choosing contributions to our initiatives that touch their hearts.

We serve Alaskans of all cultural backgrounds, but one of our main focuses is to help Alaska Native people who live in rural communities and are affected by health risks and conditions at higher rates than other groups.

TRADITION OF HEALTHY KIDS

Donors give ANMC babies a comfortable start to safe sleep

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### FINANCIAL SUMMARY

#### FY 2017 Revenues ($M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2017 Revenue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient Revenue</td>
<td>320.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHS Compact</td>
<td>151.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska Native Medical Center</td>
<td>604.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenues</td>
<td>631.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### FY 2017 Expenses ($M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>FY 2017 Expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>634.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Health</td>
<td>78.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td>84.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Health</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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#### Total Revenues 2013-2017 ($M)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>481.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>643.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>528.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>581.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>631.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*The financial summary is preliminary as of October 31, 2017 and is subject to a formal audit for the 2017 fiscal year.*

**OUR MISSION:**
Providing the highest quality health services in partnership with our people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.