APIA aims to promote health and well-being of our community members of all ages by providing a gathering place to learn the art, culture and traditions of the Unangax̂ people in order to revitalize and perpetuate our values, customs and language.

The Cultural Heritage Department hosted the 9th Annual Urban Unangax̂ Culture Camp during the week of June 19th. The Unangam Ulaa was filled with 73 children ages 10 and under; 53 youth ages 11-17; and 64 adults, for a total of 190 registered camp participants.

The week long event wouldn’t have been possible without the support of the department staff at APIA, Culture Camp Elder mentors, Camp Instructors, apprentices, and volunteers, with contributions from: First National Bank of Alaska, Aleutian Spray Fisheries, GCI, APICDA, Key Bank Alaska, The Aleut Foundation, The Aleut Corporation, Eastern Aleutian Tribes, Aleut Community of St. Paul Island, Tanadgusix Corporation, the Aleutian Housing Authority, Arctic Roadrunner, Alaska Pacific University, Alaska Office of Boating Safety, Anchorage Parks and Recreation, and many more.

Highlight from the Culture Camp this year is the building of the two-hatched kayak, uluḷtaḵ. The uluḷtaḵ was dedicated in memory of Sergie Sovoroff from Nikolski. Mr. Sovoroff was a Master Builder of Unangax̂ Baidarkas. The blessing and launch of the uluḷtaḵ took place at Goose Lake, where participants were able to witness the launch and learn about boating safety from the Alaska Office of Boating Safety.

Revitalizing the Unangam Tunuu (Aleut Language) with games was also a big hit at the camp! Kids learned the colors of the rainbow in Unangam Tunuu with a game developed by Where Are Your Keys called “Rainbow Tag.” They also played a version of Go, Go, Stop in Unangax̂. This game helped learn the singular and plural forms of Unangam Tunuu.

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Aang! As summer is winding down and we are heading into fall, my hope is that your season was bountiful and profitable. I wanted to share some highlights from our recent Board meeting.

**Regional Broadband Service**
The A-Team has worked together to support the importance of Broadband/Fiber Optics throughout the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region. We are doing our best to advocate this as a priority to the Alaska state and federal delegation. We are in no way trying to speak for the communities or Tribes, but rather just bring attention to the need. At the May 19 A-Team meeting, after a presentation on broadband/fiber optics, the group decided to post an RFP to contract for a feasibility study; information gathering; and funding strategy. This contractor will of course be contacting each Tribe and community entities as information from each community will be vital to completing the feasibility study. We have shared the need for better broadband/fiber optics throughout the region to our state and federal delegation and also wrote a letter to the FCC. On August 3, Dan Duame from Aleutian Housing Authority and I represented the A-Team on the Quintillion flight to Unalaska/Dutch Harbor to tour the fiber optic laying vessel. We reviewed the proposals submitted per the RFP, and at the A-Team meeting on Monday, August 29, Meridian Management was selected to do the feasibility study. It is exciting to think of the possibilities for the regional communities and the region as a whole once this project moves forward.

**Elder Services Summit Follow-up**
Since the Tribal Eldercare Services Summit we hosted on February 17-19, we have continued discussing the issues brought forth with the Elder Discussion Group. We have worked with this group and individual communities on further development and implementation of community plans that were proposed at the Elder Summit.

**Substance Abuse Summit Follow-up**
Over the past several years, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA) and Eastern Aleutian Tribes (EAT) have come together to address long-standing substance abuse concerns throughout the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Region. This endeavor began September 2014 at the Regional Substance Abuse Summit. During the Summit the need for more intensive services such as residential treatment was emphasized. Residential services currently do not exist in the region and are not financially sustainable. A follow-up gathering to the Summit was held in April 2015 to assess progress made on the goals established at the Substance Abuse Summit. During this gathering, Dr. Cody Chipp with APIA, proposed an Employment Based Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program. The Eastern Aleutian Tribes, in partnership with APIA, received a grant to conduct a feasibility study of the innovative treatment model. The feasibility study was conducted in the communities of Unalaska and King Cove. Multiple key partners were interviewed including tribal members, city governments, tribal corporations, and seafood processors. Results from the study showed overwhelming support. Given the strong support of the program in Unalaska and King Cove, the program planning phase is moving forward.
forward by EAT and APIA. The proposed Treatment Model would allow participants to live, work, and receive treatment services in the region. With the development still in progress, we welcome your input. Please feel free to contact our Health Director, Charles Fagerstrom.

**New VPSO Position**

Due to the ongoing fiscal crisis in the state, the VPSO program has lost 37 funded positions in the last few years. With this in mind, while realizing the Department of Public Safety VPSO Program Commander, Captain Merrill, would not approve a position in a community that already had active law enforcement in place, we wrote our FY17 grant proposal to include a position in Adak. Adak is the only community in our region that does not have law enforcement/public safety in place. They have requested a VPSO and are large enough in the state’s eyes to warrant one. This new position was approved as part of our FY2017 grant. We are working to fill this position.

**ICWA Final Rule**

The long-awaited Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Final Rule was overwhelmingly approved and passed by the U.S. Department of the Interior on June 8, 2016. The final rule will ensure that all U.S. Courts, regardless of the child, worker, judge or state involved, will practice "active efforts" to maintain or reunite the child with his or her Alaska Native/American Indian family. It will also safeguard intervention early in court proceedings which will truly maximize the chances of placing the child with extended family or other preferred placements. We were very active in this process by providing key testimony, hosting valuable listening sessions, and actively engaging in child welfare reform conversations with federal representatives. In addition, APIA actively participated in the State of Alaska strategic planning process both in Anchorage and Juneau to help transition the ICWA rule outcomes into the state child welfare system. APIA will continue to advocate for these measures locally, regionally and statewide in an effort to collaborate with the State of Alaska Office of Children's Services (OCS) as it switches to the final rule expectations. I thank Ozzy Escarate and his staff for their role in this achievement.

**Atka Tragedy**

The community of Atka suffered a major incident Tuesday June 14, which required response not only by APIA's emergency, public safety, and medical personnel, but the community as a whole. Those involved were employees of Atka Pride Seafoods, owned by the Atka Tribal Council and Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA). APICDA worked with APIA to send behavioral health staff to the community. Larry Cotter and the APICDA staff handled this situation with upmost respect and sensitivity. We are working to ensure Atka and our other clinics are prepared for this and any other such future emergency and/or crisis. In this effort, we are working with the community of Atka to revise and update their community-wide emergency response plan and to assure all the necessary Emergency Medical Supplies and equipment are available and stored appropriately. APIA will also participate with the community of Atka to critique the response of this accident to identify issues and develop plans for improvement. Our prayers and sympathies go out to the families of those who were lost and prayers of full recovery for those who were injured. God Bless.
Atka Clinic Replacement Update
Planning for Atka Clinic replacement project continues. While funding for the pre-design was secured and completed, we are working in partnership with the City of Atka on an aggressive funding strategy to fund the construction and design of the new clinic. The total cost of the 3,850 sq. ft. replacement Clinic is $2,734,926. More than 30 funding request letters have been sent to potential funders along with a funder’s packet detailing the need for the project. Four entities (Trident, Grant Aviation, Marine Pilots Association, Alaskan Observers) have all made financial commitments/donations towards the project. We are following up with all the funders to ensure we are responsive to questions about the project. We expect more commitments from funders as they navigate requests through their respective approval process. The city of Atka plans to meet with the USDA to explore grant and loan options. A website is being developed that will enable entities/individuals to donate via the web. We will also be exploring options to request Veterans Administration funds to support the project with our congressional delegation. A new clinic for Atka is long overdue. It is our priority to secure funding for this critical project.

Unalaska Clinic Replacement Update
APIA continues to work with the Qawalangin Tribe on a plan to replace the Unalaska Health Facility. When we met with the Qawalangin Tribe in May to provide an update of the status of the project, the Tribe was having to decide to proceed with a replacement facility for the Tribal population only or for the entire community. This is a result of the Iliuliuk Family & Health Services Clinic not supporting efforts to partner with APIA/ Qawalangin Tribe to construct a facility that would support the entire community. There are some new developments under consideration by the Tribe. Upon direction from the Qawalangin Tribe, APIA will proceed accordingly.

2016 Urban Unangax̂ Culture Camp
Our 2016 Culture Camp took place June 19 – 25 at the Unangam Ulaa. This year’s camp was a great success. Millie was on travel to a mandatory ANA Language Grant training, so we hired Liza Mack as the Lead Coordinator of this year’s camp. Many thanks to Liza, the instructors and volunteer staff that make this unique camp possible. We built a life size kayak at this year’s camp and launched it at Goose Lake. We had our closing picnic in cooperation with the Aleut Corporation and Aleut Foundation as we have in the past few years. We donated to each regional Tribe $1500 for regional cultural activities/ camps. We realize some communities are not able to have a camp but certainly do some sort of cultural event, so we want to continue to support all tribes in these events.
The camp received positive media coverage from KTVA and the Aleutians East Borough. To see the coverage, please go to: http://tinyurl.com/h84dnbv

And: http://tinyurl.com/hnpb5m4

You may also visit our website to view camp photos and video footage.

A new form of Unangax art available this year was Antler Carving with Teresa Smith. Participants carved their own medallions and spears and made necklaces.

The traditional instruction of Bentwood Visor and Drum making is always a popular choice by our participants, many of whom are in dance groups and wear or use their work when performing.
Visit from CTAS Office of Victims of Crime Award Program Officer

APIA was awarded a Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) award through Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime. We will be conducting a survey to get input on how to enhance services for victims of crimes. Dr. Mike Livingston is the Program Coordinator for this award. Dr. Tara Ford is the award director. Bonnie Robertson is the OVC Program Manager. Also pictured is Stan Pryor & Jesucita Hernandez, with United Solutions providing technical support for this award.

Elder Teas in Unalaska

Elder Teas in Unalaska take place on a monthly basis. Please check with Delores Gregory for scheduling, input, and suggestions for Elder Teas.

St. George Health Events: The week of June 5, St. George had a full slate of events including a 3k walk, community potluck, health fair, model iqyax making, and drums alive.

APIA Health Department, Community Health Services (CHS) is pleased to announce our behavioral health team has grown! Please help us welcome:

Thelma Serrano,
Behavioral Health Clinician in Unalaska

Rosemary Savage,
Itinerate Behavioral Health Aide

Gabrielle Poon,
Pre-doctoral Psychology Intern
Post Elder Summit Planning continues. APIA Elder Coordinator continues to meet with communities to build upon the action plans that were initiated at the Tribal Eldercare Services Summit in February of 2016. A follow up session was held with the Qawalangin Tribe in Unalaska in May. Several action items were identified and a follow-up list was created to track the completion of items. Similar follow-up will occur in Atka, Nikolski and St. George.

Elder Program Becomes Certified for Telehealth Assessments. The APIA program is now certified through the State of Alaska to provide telehealth assessments for the Consumer Directed Personal Care Assistant Program (CDPCA). This service will be provided through each of the APIA community clinics. This will allow for a more expedited assessment process for PCA clients to begin receiving services. The assessments will utilize the VTC equipment within each clinic and connect with a State Nurse assessor to evaluate the Elder/client for needed services. Utilizing telehealth services was identified as a priority during the Unalaska Elder Summit follow-up meeting.

APIA offers Older Adults Mental Health First Aid Training. The APIA Elder Program is coordinating with the Alaska Training Cooperative to bring Older Adult Mental Health First Aid Trainings to the region. Dates have not yet been set up, though planning has begun with trainers at The Alaska Training Cooperative. This training will help educate and support Elders and community members in identifying Elders needing support and what steps to take.

APIA Communities Receive Fall Prevention Items. In partnership with ANTHC, the Elder program was able to purchase some requested fall and injury prevention items for Elders residing within several communities. This was funded as a special project through the ANTHC Injury/Fall Prevention Division and was specific for reducing falls for Elders within the region. Items such as: grab bars, ice cleats, car caddies, walking canes, lift belts and other items were purchased and mailed to the clinics for distribution to Elders.

APIA Meets with Senior and Disabilities Services Division. APIA and Tanana Chiefs Conference Elder Programs participated in the Universal Worker Meeting with the Director of the State of Alaska Senior and Disabilities Services Division (SDS), Duane Mayes. As work progresses on creating a new provider type of “Universal Worker”, SDS reached out to better understand what challenges we face in our region for receiving services. The Universal Worker concept will allow for a new provider type for Medicaid. Services allowed for this provider type may include respite care, chore services and PCA services encompassed into one. This will streamline and allow for easier access to services in our communities with a rate that is competitive for the area. It is expected that this concept will be finalized and ready for services by 2018.
Cultural Heritage

The Atka Summer Language Intensive was an incredible opportunity to learn and teach. This project, which is funded by APIA’s Administration for Native Americans (ANA) grant, with contributions from The Aleut Foundation, APIA’s Department of Education and Workforce Development and the Atka IRA, is helping to keep the Niigugim Tunuu dialect thriving. The project is designed to support language work throughout the region with initial efforts focused in St. Paul, Atka and Anchorage. Sally Swetzof, Crystal Dushkin and the Where Are Your Keys team worked on developing techniques to enhance the use of Niigugim Tunuu with the support of fluent speakers in Atka to teach our language hunters (youth hires) Bobbi Dushkin, Arnold Golodoff Jr., Nathaniel Williams and Timothy Zaochney.

They’ve also developed some games to learn the language which were offered at the Niigugim Tanasxaa Culture Camp.

To follow the Where Are Your Keys group and the latest news on the Atka Summer Language Intensive, go to their website at: http://whereareyourkeys.org/

6th Annual APIA Gala

The Aleutian and Pribilof Islands are so much more than a region of Alaska, and our Gala is so much more than a formal dinner. Our Gala is a night of celebrating and sharing our Unangax culture.

We invite you to join us Saturday, November 5, 2016, at the Hilton Anchorage Ballroom, at 6:00 p.m., as we recognize the strength of our future through The Spirit of the Elder.

Sponsorship, registration and auction donations are easily accepted and coordinated through our Gala website. Visit: https://apia.ejoinme.org/APIAgala2016. Your support of any kind will help our event to be a success and assure APIA is able to continue its work on behalf of our people in the Aleutian Pribilof Islands region and for all Alaskans. No gift is too big or too small.
Employment Opportunities & Staff Updates

- TCSP Caseworker—St. George
- TCSP Caseworker—Unalaska
- VPSO—Adak

Sierra Shelton is our new Tribal Child Support Financial Specialist in the Anchorage office. Before joining the Family & Community Development team, Sierra completed teller training, new accounts training, and customer service training with the Bank of the Pacific and finished a successful internship with the Bristol Bay Native Corporation. She is a graduate of Palmer High School, Clark College in Vancouver, WA, and Peninsula College in Port Angeles, WA. Please join us by welcoming Sierra to the team!

Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Program

We are still seeking more Alaska Native foster homes! Please consider becoming a foster parent and help keep our Native children safe in Native homes. For more information, visit: http://tinyurl.com/j3grdq3

Tribal Child Support Program (TCSP)

We are accepting applications for new clients. We are able to serve our tribal members and employees with child support collection services. Contact our Anchorage office at 907-276-2700, or our King Cove office at 907-497-4180 for more information or to obtain an application.

Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) - False Pass, AK

Ozzy Escarate, Director of DFCD and Jes- sie Rice, Exec-utive Assistant, visited False Pass in May to collaborate and assist with their Tribal Transportation Plan needs. We look forward to helping the tribal community obtain their goals with this project.

Village Public Safety Officers Update

The VPSOs have been working hard to keep our communities safe. They’ve recently received training on Medevac and “Education and Awareness of Mobile and Clandestine Methamphetamine/Drug Lab Identification, Visual Assessment, Response Actions and Worker Health and Safety.”

False Pass VPSO, Christopher Stewart, graduated from the Alaska Law En- forcement Training Academy (ALET). He’s the recipient of the Defensive Tactics award and was voted class leader by his peers!
APIA Facilities Improvements

*St. George Clinic:* APIA was awarded $1,000,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to renovate and upgrade the St. George Clinic. This project will redesign the flow, expand the ER space, and increase the overall space and effectiveness of the clinic. We are currently coordinating efforts with the Aleutian Housing Authority. The project will be completed by April 2019.

*Atka Clinic Replacement:* In mid-May 2016, more than 30 funding requests were sent to potential funders along with a funders packet detailing the need for the project. Four entities (Trident, Grant Aviation, Marine Pilots Association, Alaskan Observers) have all made financial commitments/donations towards the project, totaling $7,000. This represents a small percentage of the total need of $2.7 million. However, as we spread awareness of the importance of this project, we expect more interest and commitments. We are currently following up telephonically with all the funding letters sent in May and will send a follow-up letter this fall. We will also be exploring options to request Veterans Administration funds to support the project with our congressional delegation.

*Unalaska Clinic Replacement:* APIA continues to work with the Qawalangin Tribe on a plan to replace the Unalaska Health Facility. APIA staff met with the Qawalangin Tribe in May to provide an update of the status of the project. The Qawalangin Tribe will be meeting in September to discuss and formally provide direction on a facility to service the entire community or the Tribal population only. Upon direction from the Qawalangin Tribe, APIA will proceed accordingly.

**Atka Buried Drum Remediation Project**

The Department of Defense contracted APIA to clean up a buried drum site in Atka. The APIA contractor, Bethel Environmental, organized a kickoff meeting which was held at APIA and attended by the contractors, state and federal agencies, and APIA. At the meeting we agreed to prepare a soil removal action/confirmation sampling plan draft by May 13, 2016 and complete the final soil removal action/confirmation sampling plan by July 14, 2016.

### Schedule for Other Reports

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soil Removal Action/Confirmation Sampling Plan—Draft</td>
<td>5.13.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Removal Action/Confirmation Sampling Plan -Final</td>
<td>6.14.16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil Removal Action</td>
<td>8.16.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal Action Report-Draft</td>
<td>3.31.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Removal Action Report-Final</td>
<td>6.16.17</td>
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We finalized the soil removal action/confirmation sampling plan ahead of schedule by a few days on July 8, 2016. Some equipment and the housing were double booked and Bethel has been working with the City, AHA, and Ahtna (another environmental contractor working in Atka this summer) to solidify a schedule. Due to the housing shortage this summer, the project is scheduled for completion next summer.
**Health Department**

**Monitoring for Leakage of Radioactive Material from Amchitka Island**

Radioactive materials remain in the subsurface cavities of the three test sites on Amchitka Island. Groundwater flow and transport modeling studies previously conducted for the three test sites on Amchitka Island indicate that breakthrough of radionuclides from the three test cavities could begin at the seafloor within 10 years of release from the cavity. However, the distribution of first-arrival times extends from 10 years to 2,200 years and beyond. In addition, the hydrologic model indicated that the shortest arrival times could occur at the Longshot test site. Monitoring results are needed to provide another layer of information, beyond modeling results, to assure that site conditions remain protective of human health and the environment. The monitoring results will be used to assess whether leakage from the detonation cavities is indicated or not.

In 2011, a sampling event conducted addressed the safety of seafood consumption by paying particular attention to available diet information and considering the species included in the diet and portions consumed. The diet information was used as the basis for the collection of samples and subsequent data interpretation including risk estimates. The risk estimates for the 2011 sampling event indicated that life-long consumption of subsistence seafood from Amchitka and Adak Islands yields a potential risk of below $10^{-5}$, which is considered safe by the Alaska Department of Conservation (ADEC).

The collection of environmental samples and seawater samples for tritium are the primary objectives of the 2016 sampling effort. Low detection limits should provide data to delineate background activity concentrations of the radionuclides of interest included for analyses as part of the 2016 plan. Data from the 2016 sampling event will be used to assess if leakage from blast cavities can be detected, and provide baseline activity concentrations that will support quantitative statistical trending analysis with previous and future sampling results. Sampling conducted in 2016 and beyond will include the objective of assessing the statistical trends of activity concentrations in biota and ocean water.

**Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Grant**

SWAMC completed the Department of Energy’s grant application in April and was selected alongside seven other successful applicants - six of which are other Alaska organizations. We were successful in our application for the Department of Energy’s Inter-Tribal Technical Assistance Energy Providers Network grant. The project is expected to start in October. This grant will provide a new funding source for SWAMC to continue working with our member tribes on energy issues. It will be a slight shift from the AEA Regional Energy Planning, focusing more on building capacity in the southwest region in order to advance communities' energy efficiency, heat, and power supply projects. Partnered with SWAMC for this project is our long-time energy planning partner, Information Insights, and the native non-profits for each region: the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Bristol Bay Native Association and Kodiak Area Native Association.
It is with great joy that the Department of Education and Workforce Development (DEWD) introduces you to our three Summer 2016 interns! We, in generous partnership with The Aleut Foundation and the First Alaskans Institute, were able to host three Unangan college interns in our department for the summer! Each intern spent a week with First Alaskans gaining a valuable orientation to the history and current climate of Alaska Native education and business. The three then joined APIA on June 13th for their first day! DEWD spent time in partnership with each intern planning their summer work as well as introducing them to our organization and history.

Also in the first week, the interns had a memorable experience meeting and spending time with our President/CEO, Dimitri Philemonof.

Who are they?

**Anna Beers** (Unga): Anna is a rising senior at the Brigham Young University—Idaho and is currently majoring in Marriage and Family Studies. She is passionate about helping to support youth in schools and in the juvenile justice system. Anna’s home town is Auburn, Washington.

**Haliehana Stepetin** (Akutan): Haliehana recently graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with a Bachelor Degree in International Studies and minors in Russian and Anthropology. She has been accepted to the University of Washington for a Master of Arts in Cultural Studies starting this fall. Haliehana is a Navy veteran and interestingly enough, she was the last person born on Akutan!

**Jacob Mark Stepetin** (Akutan): Jacob is a rising junior at Stanford University in California. He is currently studying Engineering, Atmosphere and Energy. Jacob loves music and playing the guitar, as well as hunting and fishing. His overall life goal is helping to combat global climate change.

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**Fred Meyer Rewards**

Support APIA when you shop at Fred Meyers! Link your FM Rewards Card to help APIA earn donations from Freddy’s! (You still keep your reward points, fuel points & rebates)

https://www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4

Select: Link your rewards Card Now
Sign into your account
Enter Code: 91319 (or search Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.)

Thank you for your support!

**Amazon Smile**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support APIA every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at http://smile.amazon.com/ch/92-0073013, you’ll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to APIA. Go to the link above or search “Aleutian Pribilof Islands” on AmazonSmile and help support our programs!

Thank you for your support!
We hit the ground running at the beginning of our short eight week stay at APIA by participating in Urban Unangax Culture Camp. We started projects such as headdresses and drums and even put some elbow grease into the making of the uluxtax. Anna, who has never been to Alaska and did not know much about her Unangan roots, became fully immersed in all things Unangan. We were able to contribute to Culture Camp by facilitating a workshop: “Weaving Traditional Values into Western Education,” which we also featured at the Sand Point Culture Camp and the Title VII Indian Education Summer Enrichment Program.

Our first project was to create a think tank space for the department from the ground up. We drafted a proposal with a schematic and budget which will hopefully be one of our legacies at APIA!

Jacob Mark worked closely with Bruce Wright on energy engineering projects for Nikolski and with Mike Livingston on a digital story illustrating the Culture Camp uluxtax build. Working with Bruce, he developed a strategy to revive the wind turbine project in Nikolski which has faced a myriad of difficulties in the twelve years that it has been in the works. For Jacob Mark, this has provided valuable experience in the field that he hopes to enter after college.

Haliehana helped in drafting the Aleut Workforce Development Plan and has been making her goal of integrating culture into education a reality with her projects.

Anna had the opportunity to experience her career interests firsthand by assisting in the Health Department in the Healthy Relationships seminar.

Together, Anna and Haliehana have created an AANG (Aleuts Achieving, Nurturing, and Growing) Appreciation Day with the ETR Division to spread awareness of ETR services in the region. They planned an AANG Appreciation Day for Sand Point and Akutan, which will be carried out in September. They have also been working on integrating culture into the Head Start curriculum by creating a digital story from the Qaqamiigux cookbook. The digital story will be included in the curriculum at the four different Head Start locations in the region and will also be made available to the public.

Anna and Haliehana were fortunate to attend the Sand Point Culture Camp in July and present their workshop. They both made drums, beaded and sewed, picked berries and put many hours into an uluxtax and iqyax with Marc Daniels and Jiordi Rosales. Anna’s great grandmother is from Unga, making her trip to Sand Point especially exciting. Anna also received paperwork to enroll in the Unga Tribe, which is an amazing opportunity and step towards rediscovering her roots.

During our experience at APIA, we integrated our own goals and career pursuits into the projects we have undertaken. We are extremely grateful to APIA for flexing our work to fit our own personal interest areas.
At each Head Start location and at our central Head Start office in Anchorage, graduation is one of the most fun times of the year. In Sand Point, Head Start graduation took place on May 20th, and about 50 people came to celebrate Head Start students! Seven students were promoted to Kindergarten and nine will be returning for the upcoming school year. In King Cove, graduation took place on May 14th, and the Head Start dads had a Father Involvement BBQ that they put on after the graduation. This event raised up to $2,000.00 for In-Kind donations! They had four students promoted to Kindergarten and four students will be returning for the upcoming school year. In St. Paul, graduation took place on May 14th with all four of the students going on to kindergarten. In Unalaska, graduation took place on May 14th with three students promoted to kindergarten and six students returning for the upcoming school year.

Have your heard? There are a few new great opportunities to work with Head Start! Working with Head Start is a fantastic way to start and improve one’s career and skills. Each week, all four of the Head Start locations connect as communities and meet over the phone. During these meetings, Head Start staff and sometimes visiting trainers carve out time to discuss and resolve issues and to obtain new material and training! The central Head Start office has a whole calendar of new weekly trainings for Head Start staff to participate in, so working with Head Start is a great way to develop professionally.

In Sand Point, we are looking for a great Bus Driver (Regular/Full Time); in Unalaska, the Head Start Lead Teacher position is open. In St. Paul we are seeking an On-Call Teacher Aide/Cook. Additionally, the program is seeking an On-Call Teacher Aide and an On-Call Bus Driver. Please visit www.apiai.org and apply online today!

Update! Head Start and the Health Department have partnered and are making great progress on the grant award: Notah Begay III, Promising Practices, Seeds of Native Health Grant: “Qaqamiigux Storybook.” So far, the storybook structure is in place and will feature six stories on traditional foods, nutrient highlights and graphics, family recipes, fun activities to try and historical photos related to traditional food, all based on the “Qaqamiigux” text. The curricula will intentionally focus on activities related to traditional foods, and the storybook will meet Head Start learning domains and guidelines. Digital Stories will be crafted as an enhancement to the Qaqamiigux text and “Qaqamiigux Storybook” through a secondary grant that has been received for technical assistance. Focus Groups will be held to modify and edit materials which will ensure that messages are communicated well and the current goals of the grant are achieved. Stay tuned! Current and future contributors include Sue Unger, Moses Dirks, Sharon Kay, Julia Sargent, Leilani Hamik, Beverly Mierzejek and our great summer interns: Haliehana Stepetin, Anna Beers and Jacob Stepetin.
ETR continues to stay busy administering their programs and connecting with new and current clients! If you have received energy assistance from our ETR program previously, you may already be aware that households served last season may see a reduction in overall heating assistance benefits this coming winter 2016. This is partly due to the State of Alaska facing an unprecedented budget shortfall due to the lower prices of oil. This season, APIA will process applications in the following priority order: elders or disabled, households with children under six years of age, account holders/tribal members with no vendor account credits and then all other households. We will also make minor changes to the application process to obtain verification from vendors on account credits this season. While we recognize that this funding cut may impact your monthly budget, we hope that by giving sufficient notice of the change that households will be able to develop a plan to lessen the burden to their monthly budget, and additionally prepare for winter heating bills and how they’ll be paid for. The Employment, Training, and Related Services Division has resources, referrals and additional programs such as General Assistance, which may assist eligible families, within income, to pay for basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, and utilities. We also can offer assistance to help your family develop a budget or an expense spending plan to assist in the planning process with APIA’s forecasted funding changes. If you are interested in knowing more about energy assistance this season, please give ETR a call at (800) 478-2742.

The Aleuts Achieving Nurturing Growing (AANG) Program is fortunate to serve many clients from all throughout the region. The AANG Program supports clients who experience a physical, mental, cognitive or developmental disability. That support includes many things, but often applies to: career counseling, career evaluation and exploration and assistance documenting the condition. Our one-on-one coaching from our talented staff includes goal setting, financial assistance, physical or technical aids needed to obtain employment and much more. Here’s what one of our clients has to say about the AANG Program:

“I was an alcoholic, staying here and there, and then I got into the AANG program. They helped with counseling and housing, and helped place me into a job through this vocational rehabilitation program. I really had a hard time finding a job due to all my recklessness while I drinking—such as receiving assault charges and a lot of misdemeanors. Now I have a full time job with Alaska Mental Health Consumer Web as a Peer Mentor; I feel like I am giving back to the community. I am so proud of myself and thankful for all of the programs at APIA which helped me become successful.”

If you’re interested in the AANG program, contact the ETR administrative office at (800) 478-2742. An application and brochure can be mailed or you can visit our Anchorage or APIA regional site office!

THANK YOU to the community of King Cove for hosting the APIA ETR team earlier in the summer! We had a great visit with several community members and got great feedback for our programs, especially from youth! We always look forward to our visits to the region, and are currently in the process of scheduling a fun event in Sand Point.
THE 6TH ANNUAL APIA GALA

Join us to celebrate The Spirit of the Elder and their contributions at this year’s Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Gala on November 5. With your support, we’ll preserve their memories and continue to strengthen the cultural heritage of the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region.

Please join us as a sponsor of the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Gala. To commit your sponsorship, simply visit our website: apiai.ejoinme.org/APIAgala2016

Qagaasakuq
Qagaalakuq
Qagaasakung
Thank you.
The 6th Annual APIA Gala Donation Form

Celebrate the Spirit of the Elder

DONATION FORM

Proceeds from the APIA Gala support invaluable Unangax cultural preservation and continuation, by making elder and youth connections, underwriting programming like Culture Camp, and providing stable revenue in a time of federal, state and grant uncertainty. Your support ensures APIA is able to continue its work on behalf of our people in the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands region and all Alaskans. Donations may be tax deductible.

You may also pledge your donation online at: https://apiai.epinme.org/donate

Name or Business Contact: ________________________________
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Value of item(s): _______________ Expected delivery date: _______________
Would like us to pick up your donation(s)? (If applicable mark with X) Yes ______ No, I will deliver it ______
☐ I (we) wish to have our gift remain anonymous.
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Thank you to our 2016 Urban Unangaⱡ Culture Camp Contributors!

Qaⱡaasakuⱡ! Qaⱡaalakuⱡ! Qaⱡaasakung! THANK YOU!
OUR MISSION

- To promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangan/Unanagas\(^1\) by advocacy, training, technical assistance, and economic enhancement;
- To assist in meeting health, safety, and well-being of each Unanga\(^2\) community;
- To promote, strengthen, and ensure the unity of the Unangan/Unangas; and
- To strengthen and preserve the Unanga\(^{\ast}\) cultural heritage.

\(^1\)Unangan [Eastern dialect], Unangas [Atka Dialect] - Aleuts, plural form; \(^2\)Unanga\(^{\ast}\) - Aleut, singular form

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