

# HEALTHY PEOPLE, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ACROSS ALASKA



ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



OUR VISION:

Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

OUR MISSION:

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

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## ANTHC at a GLANCE

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 Alaska. In partnership with the more than 150,000 Alaska Native and American Indian people that we serve and the Tribal health organizations of the Alaska Tribal Health System, ANTHC provides world-class health services, which include comprehensive specialty medical services at the Alaska Native Medical Center, wellness programs, disease research and prevention, rural provider training and rural water and sanitation systems construction.

ANTHC is the largest, most comprehensive Tribal health organization in the United States, and Alaska's second-largest health employer with more than 2,400 employees offering an array of health services to people across the largest state in the U.S.

Tribal self-governance allows ANTHC to provide culturally appropriate health services and to serve our people in pursuit of our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.

## 2015 FACTS

Founded: **1997**

Service population:  
**150,000** Alaska Native and  
American Indian people  
living in Alaska

ANTHC staff: **2,437**

Total ANMC outpatient  
visits: **125,815**

Total ANMC inpatient  
admissions: **7,526**

Patients from outside  
Anchorage: **58%**

Babies born: **1,641**

Specialty care clinics  
available for telehealth  
consultation: **33**

Health prevention and  
education programs: **31**

Number of construction  
projects: **58**

New and updated Alaska  
Native Epidemiology Center  
reports: **30**

## LETTER from the CHAIRMAN & PRESIDENT



**Andy Teuber**

*ANTHC Chairman & President*  
Kodiak Area Native Association

Greetings,

Our hard work is leading to results. We are working diligently to achieve our vision that 150,000 Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world. This year, we made significant improvements in access to needed health services, rural water and sanitation, prevention efforts and training for health aides across our state. Our progress can be credited

to our Board of Directors' vision and the efforts of more than 2,400 employees, over 40 percent of whom are Alaska Native or American Indian.

A top priority for the Board continues to be improving access to health services through additional staff, improving our referral system and expanding our facilities to meet the needs of our people, including our new Ambulatory Surgery Center with four operating rooms for day surgeries, expanding our cardiology, critical care, and neurosurgery units, and the completion of additional labor and delivery rooms. This work continues into the next year as we renovate campus space for internal medicine, infusion, oncology, podiatry, pulmonology and orthopedics.

We expanded our telehealth program through availability at more specialty clinics, resulting in more than 20,000 additional specialty care visits, a 16 percent increase from the previous year.

We work diligently to assure our quality of care meets the highest standards. This year, the Joint Commission and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services commended our high-quality health delivery during their surveys of ANMC. In addition, ANMC obtained certification as a Comprehensive Pediatric Emergency Center, the highest recognition of its kind. We are the first and only hospital in Alaska with this recognition. We also recently recruited and hired a board-

certified palliative care physician, filling a previously unmet need in our system and improving the quality of life of our terminally ill family members.

The health of our communities improved this year through more than 58 active water and sewer construction projects in 45 villages across Alaska. This year, our energy projects saved \$750,000 for rural villages and the Consortium was responsive to emergent needs of our communities, including the Alatna water treatment plant fire and the Hughes wastewater drain field failure.

The Alaska Tribal Health System is dependent on the success of our regional and local Tribal health organizations. This year, the Consortium's Board of Directors distributed \$14 million to regional Tribal health organizations and unaffiliated Tribes from last year's Contract Support Costs settlement to assist with expanding and improving services in the regions.

Recent downward trends in Alaska's economy have created challenges for many of our programs. Federal funding continues to decrease, and capital funding from the State appears unlikely. In this new economic reality, increased collaboration, efficiency, and innovation are essential to our strategy moving forward.

Successful efforts in 2015 have set the stage for additional improvements in the coming years. We look forward to bringing these advancements to the Consortium and improving access to the services we provide in partnership with our people.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Teuber', written in a cursive style.

Andy Teuber  
Chairman & President

# BOARD of DIRECTORS

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**Lincoln A. Bean, Sr.**  
*ANTHC Vice Chair*  
SouthEast Alaska Regional  
Health Consortium



**Charlene Nollner**  
*ANTHC Secretary*  
Copper River Native  
Association



**Evelyn Beeter**  
*ANTHC Treasurer*  
Unaffiliated Tribes  
Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium



**Chris Merculief**  
Aleutian Pribilof Islands  
Association



**Marie Carroll**  
Arctic Slope Native Association



**Robert J. Clark**  
Bristol Bay Area Health  
Corporation



**Ben Atoruk**  
Maniilaq Association



**Robert Henrichs**  
Chugachmiut  
Native Village of Eyak



**Linda Clement**  
Metlakatla Indian Community



**Andrew Jimmie**  
Tanana Chiefs Conference



**Emily Hughes**  
Norton Sound Health  
Corporation



**Dr. Katherine Gottlieb**  
Southcentral Foundation



**Chief Gary Harrison**  
Unaffiliated Tribes  
Chickaloon Native Village



**Esai Twitchell**  
Yukon-Kuskokwim Health  
Corporation

# ANTHC HIGHLIGHTS: 1997-2014



1997

Indian Health Service opens new Alaska Native Medical Center  
ANTHC incorporates as a nonprofit organization



1998

Contract with IHS transfers statewide services to ANTHC and expands to include environmental health and engineering work



1999

ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation assume joint management of ANMC  
ANMC earns certification as a Level II Trauma Center, a distinction it still holds today  
AFHCAN telehealth project launches



2003

ANMC achieves prestigious Magnet® status for nursing excellence, an honor bestowed to only seven percent of U.S. hospitals, a designation it still holds today



2004

ANTHC opens its Consortium Office Building to expand health prevention services and health advocacy



2005

Community Health Services expands to include training program for 60 new Behavioral Health Aides



2009

ANMC receives full re-accreditation from the Joint Commission  
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds numerous water and sewer sanitation projects and health facilities upgrades across Alaska



2010

Vaccination program virtually eliminates hepatitis A infections around Alaska  
ANTHC's health advocacy works for successful passage of the Indian Health Care Improvement Reauthorization and Extension Act



2011

ANMC launches electronic health records system to improve patient care  
AFHCAN reaches 100,000 telehealth cases





2000

ANTHC completes an Alaska Native Health Campus site and facility plan outlining changes to accommodate growth



2001

ANTHC begins administering injury prevention projects with Tribes involving smoke detector installation, car seats and float coats.



2002

ANTHC begins training village-based Dental Health Aide Therapists  
The Alaska Rural Utility Collaborative is created to improve water quality and lower energy costs



2006

Alaska Native immunization rates reach more than 90 percent statewide  
ANTHC institutes tobacco-free campus policy



2007

ANTHC completes study that shows in-home water service reduces respiratory diseases and skin infections in children  
ANTHC launches Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation



2008

ANTHC publishes the first edition of "Traditional Food Guide for Alaska Native Cancer Survivors"



2012

Healthy Communities Building opens  
ANTHC and the Alaska Tribal Health System receive the American Hospital Association's Carolyn Boone Lewis Living the Vision Award for work that goes beyond traditional hospital care



2013

Senate Bill 88 passes, authorizing funding to help ANTHC build a 202-room housing facility  
Average colorectal cancer screening rate hits a new high of 58.5 percent, doubling the rate since 2000 for Alaska Native people



2014

ANMC hospital opens Alaska's first hybrid operating room  
ANTHC begins new drug treatments to cure hepatitis C



## SPECIALTY MEDICAL CARE at ANMC

The Alaska Native Medical Center operates a state-of-the-art, 150-bed hospital that provides comprehensive specialty medical services to Alaska Native and American Indian people. ANMC was Alaska's first Level II Trauma Center, 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.

*ANTHC and Southcentral Foundation jointly own and manage ANMC under the terms of Public Law 105-83. These parent organizations established a Joint Operating Board to ensure unified operation of health services provided by the medical center.*

### Highlights of our work this year

#### **Strategic Access department helps manage addition of 30,000 square feet of patient care space**

ANTHC is constantly working to increase and improve the care and services we provide. This year we remodeled and expanded several clinics and inpatient areas that added capacity to our hospital and helps ensure specialty clinic appointments are available when needed. Areas include: Maternal Child Health, Family Birthing Services, Cardiology, Neurosurgery and cosmetic improvements to all adult inpatient rooms.

#### **New Ambulatory Surgery Center opened to increase capacity for day surgeries**

This surgery center opened in a new location near ANMC and adds four new operating rooms and 17 additional recovery beds. ANMC performs 11,000 surgeries each year and the need is expected to grow with our service population.

#### **ANMC receives highest level of Pediatric Facility Recognition Program designation**

This recognition means that ANMC is validated as a facility providing the highest quality pediatric care in Alaska with pediatric-specific equipment, provider training and emergency preparedness. ANMC is the first and only hospital in Alaska with this recognition.

#### **ANMC now offers lifesaving MARS therapy in Critical Care Unit for patients with liver failure**

The ANMC Critical Care Unit purchased a Molecular Adsorbent Recirculating System (MARS), which removes toxins in patients with liver failure. The MARS treatment has reduced the average length of stay for these patients. ANMC is the fifteenth facility in the U.S. to offer this crucial treatment.

#### **ANTHC Pharmacy provides crucial service to patients needing help managing medications**

To help elderly patients and patients who need extra help managing their medications, the Pharmacy introduced a service called Mediset. Mediset is a custom service that delivers weekly pre-packaged medications, making it as easy as possible for our patients to take their medication properly.

*"Access to care means getting an appointment in a reasonable time. ANMC Emergency Department wait times continue to improve and are an ongoing priority for the Consortium." - Robert Henrichs, Chugachmiut, Native Village of Eyak*

*"ANMC continues to provide quality health services. Our quality is evaluated by the highest standards and has been commended by the Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services." - Marie Carroll, Arctic Slope Native Association*

## State-of-the-art, life saving care: New treatments and diagnostics leading to cure for 90 percent of hepatitis C patients

Alaska Native people with hepatitis C treated at ANMC have a new lease on life thanks to cutting edge treatment and diagnostics for the harmful virus.

ANMC is the first medical facility in Alaska to offer FibroScan diagnostics. Thanks to this device, patients with hepatitis C or other advanced liver diseases can be evaluated without a painful liver biopsy, which requires hospitalization, anesthesia and is associated with risks of diagnostic error or bleeding. FibroScan offers non-invasive, pain-free ultrasound imaging technology to measure scarring or fibrosis of the liver caused by liver disease. The procedure takes 10 minutes, can be performed in clinic, provides same-day results and offers savings in hospital time, costs and risks.

As a result of ANMC's investment in the new diagnostic device, clinicians in the ANTHC Liver Disease and Hepatitis Program are better able to evaluate patients and make recommendations for initiating life saving hepatitis C drug treatment to improve the health of our people.

Prior to 2013, treatment for hepatitis C was difficult. Available drugs had side effects that made patients quit treatment and for those that continued, the cure rate was low. New drugs help patients that were previously untreatable, with a high success rate of eliminating the virus. These medications are not only effective but are also very well tolerated, leading to a higher cure rate.

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**Clinicians are better able  
to evaluate patients and  
recommend initiating the  
life saving treatment.**

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Successful treatment of hepatitis C can reverse scarring and reduce the risk of liver disease and liver disease-related death. Most people are able to finish the treatment regimen and experience health and vitality in a way that helps advance our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world.







## HEALTHY HOMES and COMMUNITIES

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.

### Highlights of our work this year

#### **Making "house calls" leads to healthier people, wins national HUD award for ANTHC**

ANTHC was awarded the inaugural U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary's Award for Healthy Homes, for retrofitting homes with air quality improvements that have reduced the need for respiratory medical care for children. This pilot project took place in southwest Alaska and included more than 60 homes.

#### **Rural Energy Initiative innovations create energy savings for western Alaska**

This ANTHC program designed a first of its kind "wind-to-heat" heating system using wind turbine generated electricity for water and sewer utilities in Shaktoolik, Mekoryuk, Chevak and Gambell that is expected to save each community thousands of dollars each year in energy costs.

#### **Ouzinkie dam provides clean water and renewable energy with help from ANTHC**

The new dam was built with the City of Ouzinkie to deliver clean, reliable drinking water to the community, located north of Kodiak. The state-of-the-art project replaced a deteriorating wooden dam with a concrete structure built to withstand earthquakes and major floods while providing affordable hydroelectric power to residents.

#### **Environmental Health Consultation program receives nation's top air quality award**

The EPA recognized ANTHC's partnerships with Tribes to improve community health and reduce clinic visits by making improvements that reduced road dust, refuse burning and other outdoor air quality issues that were negatively impacting health.

#### **ANTHC partners with Venetie and Koyukuk to open new community health clinics**

Each building replaces smaller, outdated facilities and helps bring a higher level of health services and access for residents.

*"Climate change is becoming more apparent in Alaska. Providing energy efficient and sustainable water and sewer services are some of the most important services we can provide for the health of our people and the health of our land." - Chris Mercurief, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association*

*"Climate change is affecting Tribal members and communities across the state. The Consortium continues to look and advocate for sustainable solutions and encourages government agencies to take action before conditions become dire." - Chief Gary Harrison, Unaffiliated Tribes, Chickaloon Native Village*





## On the edge of climate change: Testing water system infrastructure one home at a time for the health of Kivalina residents

ANTHC's Healthy Homes and Communities work focuses on bringing health solutions to rural communities through access to clean water that supports health and well-being. Having in-home water and sewer makes hand washing and healthy hygiene practices easier, which have been shown to reduce illness. Infants in villages with limited water service have five times more hospitalization for respiratory infection and 11 times more hospitalization for pneumonia than the overall U.S. population.

For residents of Kivalina in northwest Alaska, constructing a new water and wastewater system for the entire village is not an option. Due to effects of climate change, Kivalina intends to relocate to escape the ongoing vulnerability to flooding and erosion. In the meantime, there are deficiencies in sanitation that must be addressed in order to support the health needs of community residents.

ANTHC and the Cold Climate Housing Research Center are working with the community of Kivalina on a demonstration project for non-piped, in-home sanitation systems. The project retrofitted nine homes with low-cost sanitation improvements that can be moved with the community to a new location. Over the next year, the project will

monitor homeowner acceptance, health benefits and feasibility for other Northern coastal communities.

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**Kivalina residents will have access to water that makes the community healthier and more sustainable.**

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With this project, all water treatment and waste disposal happens in the home. Water is collected from rainwater catchment, melted ice or water hauled from the river and stored in a treatment tank. It is distributed by gravity to low-flow sink and toilet fixtures. Flushed wastewater is separated into liquid and solid components where the liquid is disposed of into a seepage pit and dried solids are disposed of in the landfill.

Modular construction of the system facilitates quick installation and reduces construction costs; the system is mobile and can be moved with the home if and when needed. Most importantly, Kivalina residents will have access to water that makes our communities healthier and more sustainable.



## HEALTHY PEOPLE and PREVENTION

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.

### Highlights of our work this year

#### **“Wellness Strategies for Health” initiative aims to reduce Alaska Native health disparities**

ANTHC is working with Tribal health partners to reduce the impacts of heart disease, diabetes and stroke through programs that increase access to healthy foods, increase physical activity, reduce tobacco use and enhance chronic disease management. The partner organizations are Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Ketchikan Indian Community, Maniilaq Association, SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium, and Tanana Chiefs Conference.

#### **ANTHC shares benefits of traditional food and nutrition that support Alaska Native health**

The ANTHC Cancer Program released a second edition of the Traditional Food Guide for Alaska Native People to help people learn more about healthy eating and the nutrition of Alaska Native traditional foods. Additional education on traditional Alaska plant knowledge was available at the Alaska Plants as Food and Medicine Symposium hosted by ANTHC.

#### **Encouraging healthy families through domestic and sexual violence prevention**

The Healthy Families Initiative Program has led local workshops in rural Alaska and produced educational resources that improve the overall health of our people. These resources give health care providers and communities the tools to address the care and prevention to promote healthy relationships.

#### **Elder program advocates for continued care of our Elders in long-term care facility planning**

The Elder program helps assess the long-term care needs of our Elders across Alaska and supports programs that enrich the health of Elders, such as monthly luncheons featuring traditional foods.

#### **Tobacco Prevention and Control Program continues to help tobacco users quit**

The program provides educational materials to hundreds of Alaska Native people across the state and support training for local tobacco treatment specialists. This year, ANTHC demonstrated its commitment to our tobacco-free campus by installing new signs that discourage tobacco use.

*“Elders inspire us to honor our past. Their wisdom connects us to our traditions and preserves them for the future. We continue to advocate for their health care needs, traditional practices and services for their comfort.” - Andrew Jimmie, Tanana Chiefs Conference*

*“Diabetes remains one of the most prevalent issues among Alaska Native and American Indian people; 2.8 times higher than other Americans. Fortunately, a two year renewal for the Special Diabetes Program for Indians was passed this year to continue our education and prevention efforts.” - Lincoln A. Bean, Sr., SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium*





## Healthy people, healthy care: Increasing resilience in the Tribal health system

Many rural providers on the front-line, especially Dental Health Aides, Behavioral Health Aides/Practitioners and Community Health Aides/Practitioners, receive the necessary technical education to fulfill their duties as a health care provider but lack preparation for their frequent role as the only Tribal health care provider in the community and the feelings of isolation that can bring.

To sustain the health of our Alaska Native people, ANTHC collaborates with our partners to recruit and retain the best providers. By improving the retention of front-line providers in rural Alaska, ANTHC is helping to support a Tribal health system in which our health care providers are as healthy and resilient as the people we serve.

A strategic initiative was developed with the simple idea that health and community workers will be more likely to continue serving Alaska Native communities if they are healthy and resilient themselves. ANTHC has developed a special e-learning curriculum for rural, front-line health providers across the state with input from our Alaska Native and American Indian providers and community stakeholders

to ensure it will be an effective tool in the unique world of Tribal health care.

The curriculum was pilot tested in collaboration with four of our Tribal health partners: Aleutian Pribilof Island Association, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Eastern Aleutian Tribes and Kodiak Area Native Association.

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**A Tribal health system  
in which our health  
care providers are as  
healthy and resilient as  
the people we serve.**

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Administered online over eight weeks, the Healthy Healers curriculum gives rural providers the tools to develop a supportive and sustainable community to prevent burnout and stress that lead to turnover. In the process of strengthening our statewide system and helping our providers maintain their own health while caring for others, we hope to strengthen the health of our Alaska Native people.



## HEALTH RESEARCH and DATA

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Health research and data staff study trends and develop solutions for priority health problems, and partners with Tribal health organizations and communities to improve the health of Alaska Native families. ANTHC's work includes research from the Alaska Native Epidemiology Center and clinical research in the U.S. Tribal health system.

Our research also includes studying factors that influence Alaska Native health, such as the importance of clean water access in reducing communicable disease and how the health of our environment impacts our physical health.

### Highlights of our work this year

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#### **ANTHC partners with Mayo Clinic for innovative cancer clinical trials program**

This initiative brings cooperative group cancer trials to the ANMC campus, which can lead to better ways to prevent, diagnose and treat cancer. Cancer is the leading cause of death of Alaska Native people and the research will inform care in a way not typically available to our people.

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#### **Rheumatology research in arthritis and lupus helps improve quality of care and earlier diagnosis**

ANTHC research helps our Tribal health partners with early identification and prevention of diseases. Research and data help inform the extent to which rheumatoid arthritis and other rheumatologic diseases, such as lupus, are impacting the health of our Alaska Native people.

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#### **Alaska Native Epidemiology Center promotes prevention with Alaska Native injury data**

Accurate data helps guide injury prevention advocacy, policymaking, strategic and program planning, and program evaluation for our Tribal partners. Injuries, both unintentional and intentional, are one of the leading causes of death for Alaska Native people.

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#### **Alaska Native Tumor Registry releases 45-year report on Alaska Native cancer incidence rates**

Cancer is the leading cause of death for Alaska Native people and appears in patterns different from other ethnic groups. Data collection and monitoring work done over a 45-year period helps us plan and implement prevention and early detection activities.

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#### **Colorectal cancer screenings increase, leading to healthier Alaska Native people**

Alaska Native people lead the state in colorectal cancer screening and screening rates for our people have doubled in the last 10 years. As a result of the increases in colorectal cancer screening, colorectal cancer has moved from being the leading cause of new cases of cancer among Alaska Native people to the second leading cause of new cases of cancer.

*"The importance of research is building on our continued knowledge. With our health research initiatives, we are constantly improving our knowledge on illnesses and treatment, bringing us one step closer to fulfilling our vision that Alaska Native people are the healthiest people in the world." - Robert J. Clark, Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation*

*"Unintentional injury remains the third leading cause of death for Alaska Native people. The Consortium continues to provide injury, fall, and suicide prevention trainings to reduce these causes of death." - Linda Clement, Metlakatla Indian Community*

## Understanding the health of our environment: LEO Network empowers communities to track climate change

Slowly developing sea ice. Trees growing where they did not previously. Changes in the berry harvest.

Just as we know when something is wrong with our body, Alaska Native people can notice subtle changes in the health of our environment. In 2009, ANTHC established the Center for Climate and Health to help describe the connections between climate change, environmental impacts and health effects. As part of this program, the Local Environmental Observer Network, or LEO Network, was developed in recognition of the value of local and traditional knowledge and the need for a tool to capture and share environmental observations.

Today, the LEO Network includes hundreds of participants across Alaska connected to technical experts and is bringing more into the fold from across the globe with the release of the “LEO Viewer.” This new mobile app allows viewers to experience what is happening in local environments through text, audio and images observations and technical consults posted by network members.

For Alaska Native people across the state, climate change affects how we live and thrive in our communities. Stronger seasonal storms create erosion that threatens transportation routes. Warmer temperatures make traditional food storage infeasible and impacts food security. Animals that we rely on for food are contracting diseases that could make us sick.

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**Just as we know when something is wrong with our body, Alaska Native people can notice subtle changes in the health of our environment.**

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Thanks to the LEO Network, we can see these threats in real time and understand the potential impacts to the health of our people and our communities. And the LEO Viewer app invites more people to engage in a vital part of our health.

Join us at [www.leonetnetwork.org](http://www.leonetnetwork.org) or download the LEO Viewer app in the iTunes App Store.







## HEALTH TECHNOLOGY and TELEHEALTH

ANTHC's health technology and telehealth services 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 and helps make patient care more efficient by reducing the wait time, travel time and expense of specialty care and follow-up visits.

### Highlights of our work this year

#### **Continued expansion of AFHCAN Telehealth improves access for Tribal health system**

Across the Tribal health system, there are 33 specialty clinics available for telehealth video conferencing and treatment following initial consultation with a provider, including special partnerships with Seattle Children's Hospital for Adolescent Medicine and the Mayo Clinic for breast cancer screening. More clinics will be coming online for video teleconferencing in the future.

#### **ANMC live with Health Information Exchange data sharing**

Providing quality care for our people is supported by the continuous use of clinical information from each hospital or clinic visit. As a member of the Alaska eHealth Network, ANMC can easily share critical health information between providers across the state, such as labs, radiology reports and other diagnostic data that support effective health treatment.

#### **ANMC reports high patient engagement with electronic health record**

Part of the Affordable Care Act includes evaluation of patient engagement in their care through use of health record information through a patient portal. This program is called Meaningful Use and also encourages greater care coordination with referring providers. During a recent reporting period, ANMC successfully met core measure goals for Meaningful Use.

#### **ANTHC completed upgrade of electronic health record system to improve service delivery**

The ANMC electronic health record system, Cerner, was upgraded to accommodate improvements in telehealth integration, diagnostic accuracy and greater service delivery for our people.

*"The complexity of our health system makes partnership necessary. Working with Tribes, Tribal Health Organizations and government agencies allows us to create synergies and efficiencies we would not otherwise experience." - Ben Atoruk, Maniilaq Association*

*"Substance abuse creates many health disparities for our people. Finding the solution to addiction will also provide a larger impact on other issues such as homelessness and domestic violence. We continue to find innovative ways to offer substance and mental health treatment." - Charlene Nollner, Copper River Native Association*



## HEALTH TRAINING and EDUCATION

The best health care providers provide the best quality care. ANTHC helps retain and recruit health care providers for the Alaska Tribal Health System through its commitment to health training and education. We support the statewide Community Health Aide Program, the nationally-recognized Dental Health Aide Therapist program and the statewide Behavioral Health Aide program. Additional scholarship programs, provider residency training and internships ensure the future growth of our health system.

### Highlights of our work this year

#### **IHS honors Dental Health Aide Therapist program for advancing dental health**

The DHAT program was recognized for its leadership in improving access to safe and culturally competent dental care and addressing significant oral health disparities across the Indian Health Service. The program is now serving other Tribal nations with two new DHAT students enrolled from Washington and Oregon. This is the first time the program has included students from outside of Alaska.

#### **Continuing education for health care providers ensures the continued excellence of care delivery**

ANTHC offers opportunities for nurses, physicians and other advanced practitioners to develop their skills and learn about the latest in medical innovations through programs such as the Annual Clinical Skills Fair and Clinical Practice Program for nurses and web-based training and seminars for all providers.

#### **Community Health Aides and Practitioners now have access to special training for cancer care**

Cancer care in rural Alaska requires special consideration. Continuing education for CHA/Ps means that our people continue to receive the best care and most up-to-date health treatment plans in their own communities.

#### **Behavioral Health Aide program distributes new Behavioral Health Aide Manual**

Behavioral Health Aides and Practitioners provide critical and ongoing behavioral health services in rural communities, often with limited onsite resources or support. The Behavioral Health Aide Manual guides them in their practice to ensure our people receive the best care possible.

#### **Tribal partners benefit from educational conferences for Tribal wellness and prevention programs**

Throughout the year, ANTHC hosts many workshops and conferences for our Tribal partners to share knowledge in areas including maternal child health, diabetes and environmental management.

*"Community Health Aides and Practitioners are vital in the Tribal Health System. The Consortium has supported improvements to the CHAP training program to create more CHAP providers and allow distance training in many regions." – Emily Hughes, Norton Sound Health Corporation*

*"Together, Alaska Native and American Indian people, we have implemented customer-driven health care to achieve physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness. This innovative transformation based on cultural values has created meaningful relationships between customer-owners and providers." – Dr. Katherine Gottlieb, Southcentral Foundation*



## HEALTH ADVOCACY

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ANTHC works with many partners, lawmakers and advocates to build a unified health system that provides the highest quality services. ANTHC staff provides trainings, resources and navigation services to Tribal health partners and individuals to support the health of Alaska Native people and the Alaska Tribal Health System.

### Highlights of our work this year

#### **Support for Medicaid expansion helps ensure access to care for more of our people**

As an ally in health access, ANTHC hosted the press conference during which Gov. Bill Walker announced his plans for Medicaid expansion. During the first weeks of implementation, ANTHC enrolled hundreds of Tribal members to protect their health and create state budget savings.

#### **ANTHC advocates for continued access to care for rural veterans**

The Alaska Tribal Health System provides care not just for Alaska Native people, but is often the only source of care for rural Alaskans. ANTHC hosted officials from the federal Veterans Administration and encouraged continued health access for the unique needs of rural veterans.

#### **ANTHC joins task force to find community solutions for homelessness and emergency care**

ANTHC is frequently involved in community initiatives to find sustainable solutions that address root causes of health issues.

#### **ANTHC advocates for changes important to the health of our people**

From statewide smoke-free workplace laws to federal energy efficiency investments and Affordable Care Act provisions, ANTHC encourages action that protects the health of our people.

#### **ANTHC environmental health expertise informs international climate change delegates**

Several ANTHC programs were given a global stage during the international GLACIER climate change conference and President Obama's historic visit to Alaska. Staff members from the programs and projects presented to delegates of circumpolar nations on the health issues and innovations important to Alaska Native people.

*"One of the most honorable traits of Alaska Native culture is our unspoken sense of unity. Although we are a large state with many different Tribal entities, the work we do together as a community is what produces such positive change." - Esai Twitchell, Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation*

*"The Consortium remains financially strong despite the changing economy around us. We continue to use those resources strategically in expanding services, improving quality and collaborating with our Tribal partners." - Evelyn Beeter, Unaffiliated Tribes, Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium*





# HEALTHY ALASKA NATIVES FOUNDATION

The Consortium's charitable arm, the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation, works with donors and volunteers to raise awareness and funding for the unmet needs of our health care system. The Foundation inspires good health through support for unique wellness events, providing assistance for those in need and special purchases of equipment that improves medical care at the Alaska Native Medical Center.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation is making a difference.

## Some of the needs our donors helped us support

### Patient Care

Cancer care and palliative care supplies  
Cinema Vision system for the MRI machine at ANMC imaging to improve the patient experience  
Bone Marrow Transplant Registry Drive support

### Healthy Kids

Specialty "Kangaroo" chairs for ANMC Neonatal Intensive Care Unit  
Distraction cart and supplies for ANMC Pediatrics  
Radio Flyer wagons for transport of ANMC Pediatrics patients within the hospital

### Healthy Communities

Camp ARCTIC for kids with juvenile idiopathic arthritis  
Support of the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management  
Support for Injury Prevention awareness efforts

### Our Leadership: Foundation Oversight Committee

#### Charlene Nollner, Chair

*Copper River Native Association*

#### Marissa K. Flannery

*Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson, LLP*

#### Robert Henrichs

*Chugachmiut*

#### Roald Helgesen

*ANTHC CEO & Hospital Administrator*

#### Emily Hughes

*Norton Sound Health Corporation*

#### Andy Teuber

*ANTHC Chairman & President*

#### Esai Twitchell

*Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation*

Thank you to our 2015 committee members!

## Our Donors

The Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation offers sincere and abundant thanks to our donors, who make it all possible. Even though Alaska's communities are separated by hundreds of miles, when it comes to health, we're all connected.

### Founder's Circle

*(\$15,000 and above)*

Anchorage Valley & Radiation Therapy Centers of Alaska  
Gary Brownell  
GCI Connect MD  
Myra Munson  
Neeser Construction, Inc.  
The Rasmuson Foundation  
Richard Monkman  
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson, LLP

### Visionaries Circle

*(\$7,500 to \$14,999)*

Alaska Communications  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Chenega Corporation  
Harold Schneider, M.D.  
Key Bank Foundation  
Providence Health & Services Alaska  
Southcentral Foundation

### Legacy Circle

*(\$5,000 to \$7,499)*

ARAMARK  
Arctic Slope Native Association  
Association of American Indian Physicians  
Calista Corporation  
Cerner Corporation  
Crothall Healthcare, Inc.  
Doyon, Limited  
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew and JoAnn Schnellbaecher

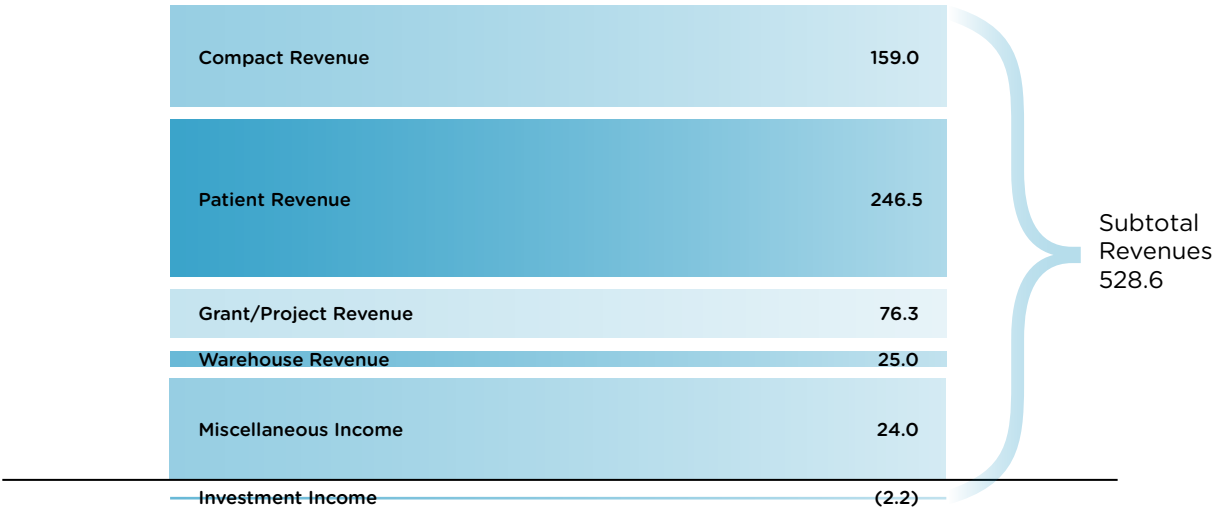
James Tiesinga, M.D.  
Nacole Heslep  
Old Harbor Native Corporation  
SouthEast Alaska Regional Health Consortium  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
VALIC  
Verizon Foundation  
Xtend Healthcare

### We also thank our very important partners:

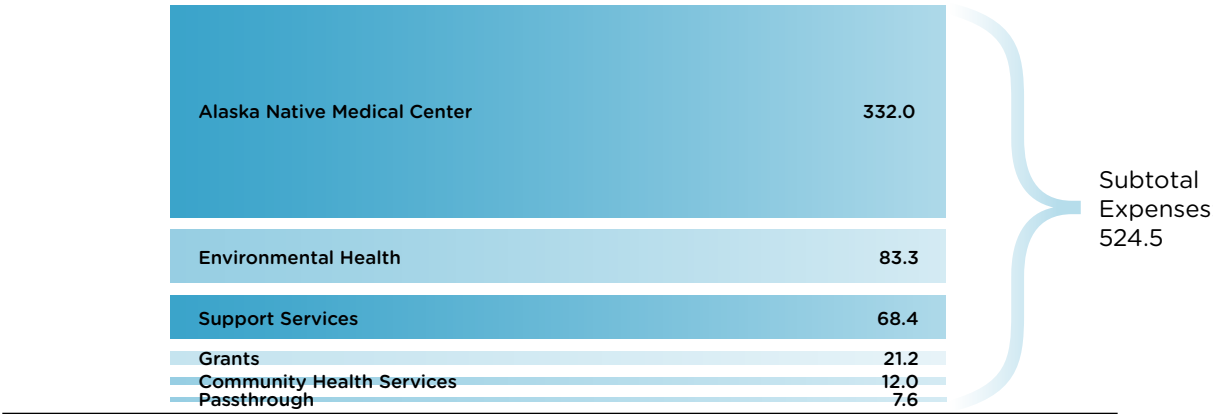
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Starlight Children's Foundation  
Susan G. Komen Foundation

For a full listing of donors and more information on the initiatives supported by the Foundation, please visit [www.inspiringgoodhealth.org](http://www.inspiringgoodhealth.org).

# 2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY



Fiscal Year 2015 Revenue (M)



Fiscal Year 2015 Expenses (M)



Special Distribution (M)

This financial summary is preliminary as of October 31, 2015, and is subject to a formal audit for the 2015 fiscal year.



LEARN MORE

about our work from 2015 and beyond at [www.anthc.org](http://www.anthc.org).



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**ALASKA NATIVE  
TRIBAL HEALTH  
CONSORTIUM**

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