

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

2016
Annual Report





About the Kenaitze Indian Tribe

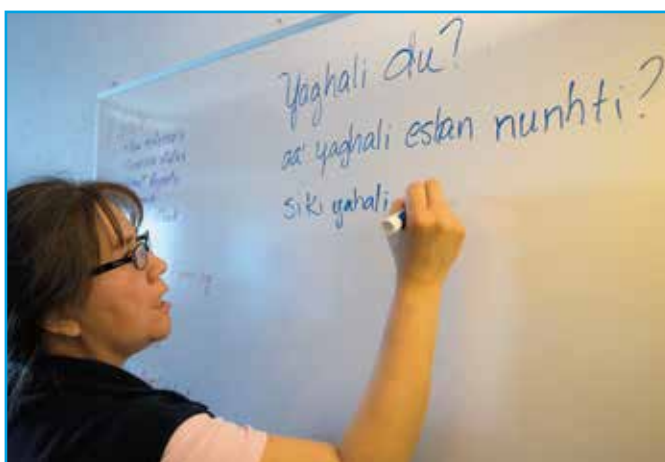
The Kenaitze Indian Tribe was federally recognized as a sovereign, independent nation in 1971 under the Indian Reorganization Act as amended for Alaska. Today, we have more than 1,600 tribal members who live across the Kenai Peninsula and beyond. We employ about 300 full-time and part-time employees.

The tribe delivers a variety of programs and services that promote the wellness of our people and the community. In 2014, we opened the 52,000-square-foot Dena'ina Wellness Center, a fully integrated healthcare facility offering a wide range of services beneath one roof.

In 2016, we opened a new 6,500-square-foot Tyotkas Elder Center within walking distance of the Dena'ina Wellness Center and our Tribal Court. We offer a Head Start program at our Early Childhood Center, and also operate a youth program, social and family services program, and education and career development program.

At our Annual General Council Meeting every October, we elect members to the Executive Council to serve staggered terms. The seven-member Council governs the tribe in accordance with our constitution, bylaws, ordinances and resolutions. It appoints a Chief Judge to oversee Tribal Court and uphold tribal laws, as well as an Executive Director to manage day-to-day operations.

Our funding comes from federal,



state and private grants, as well as third-party revenue generated by our healthcare programs.

It's been thousands of years since our people, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina, first inhabited the Kenai Peninsula. We call this area *Yaghanen*, the good land. After many challenges throughout the years, today we are proud to say *Naqantughedul* – the tide is coming in. We say the tide is coming in because it's an exciting time for the tribe and those we serve as we continue to work toward our mission: To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.



At far left, Fiocla Wilson, the tribe's eldest Elder, celebrates her 100th birthday in June.

Above, youngsters eat Western food while learning how to prepare traditional food. Dena'ina language is taught in a university. Salmon hangs in a tribal smoke house.

The Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina will indeed thrive forever.

From the Executive Director

Idahdi! Hello, friend!

We continue to make progress as we work hard to achieve the tribe's Mission: To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.

Our 300 employees work hard every day to make progress toward our vision statements that help us achieve our Mission.

This year, we have organized our annual report to you in a manner that reflects their progress and how it connects to the tribe's Mission.

This report also reflects our Dene' Philosophy of Care.

For our people to thrive, we need wellness. Not just health – *wellness*. That is why our Dene' Philosophy of Care incorporates and integrates all of the services we provide.

The philosophy of care that we started developing several years ago features a holistic approach to serving our families. We believe in

physical, behavioral, spiritual, educational, and social wellness.

Nearly all of our services are now co-located to our central campus in Old Town Kenai, where it is even easier for us to put you at the center of care. Those we serve can access housing, social services, elder services, dental, primary medical care, behavioral health and substance use treatment, physical therapy, exercise, traditional healing, diabetes prevention and intervention, nutrition, and tribal court – all within walking distance of each other.

We call those we serve *un'ina*, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina word for "those who come to us, or invited guests."



Jaylene Peterson-Nyren

One of our greatest accomplishments this year was launching a three-day training program we will use for every one of our employees to help improve communication and relationship skills to better serve you.

The program uses story just as our *ts'itsatna* – our ancestors – used story to build bonds and to share knowledge.

As we move forward to a new year, I look forward to getting to know you better as we continue our progress toward assuring that Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.

Chiqinik!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jaylene'.

– Jaylene Peterson-Nyren
Executive Director

From the Chairperson

Hello,

This has been another busy year for your Council. There have been even more government-to-government consultations from both the state and federal governments. We have to show up to these meetings to be sure we influence the decisions that affect our people.

We have added an extra day to our monthly meetings and appreciate it when tribal members attend. We continue to hold quarterly tribal meetings, too. This year we heard what tribal members have to say about substance use, the tribal fishery and education.

These are important topics and we are working hard on all three.

Our wellness center has enhanced adult substance use treatments and added a youth treatment program. We got a higher allocation for our tribal fishery and made improvements to the site. We are also looking at what we can do to enhance our tribal education system.

We learned a lot from the Maori people during our trip to see their school system. They have been teaching their kids their native language and culture. Their kids have been more successful and have better graduation rates now. We



Rosalie A. Tepp

want to see the same thing happen for our kids.

We are going to have a lot of challenges ahead and a lot of opportunities too. Whenever we come to a wall, we will look until we see the pinhole where the light is coming through.

This hard working Council is committed to getting the job done.

Thank you for letting us serve you.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rosalie Tepp'.

– Rosalie A. Tepp
Council Chairperson



At top, Lt. Gov. Byron Mallott and his wife, Toni, were among the many local, state and federal officials the tribe hosted this past year. Above, the Executive Council listens to psychologist Darryl Tonemah talk about trauma during a quarterly tribal meeting. At right, DNA expert Dr. Ripan Malhi talks to tribal members about his ongoing research on salmon use by early Dena'ina.



Meet the Executive Council

Seven council members, elected at the Annual General Council Meeting each October, govern the tribe in accordance with the tribe's constitution, bylaws, ordinances and resolutions.

Meeting dates and times are posted to the tribe's website on a regular basis.



Rosalie A. Tepp
Chairperson



Audre Gifford
Vice-Chairperson



Liisia Blizzard
Secretary

Committees and Commissions

Art and Interior Committee

Established to procure art and displays for the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

Jennifer Showalter Yeoman, Chair
Mary Lou Bottorff
Liisia Blizzard
Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren
Bunny Swan

make recommendations to the tribal membership for adoption.

Liisia Blizzard, Chair
James Segura Sr.
Rita Smagge
Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren
Elsie Maillelle
Clinton Lageson
Wayne Wilson

Elders Committee

Established to provide oversight for Tyotkas Elder Services.

Bernadine Atchison, Chair
Phyllis Bookey
Rita Smagge
Mary Lou Bottorff
Betty Porter
Sharon Isaak

Finance Committee

Established to provide advice and recommendations regarding financial matters of the tribe.

Clinton Lageson, Chair
Audre Gifford
James Segura Sr.
Sharon Isaak
Ben Baldwin
Kenneth Oder

Education Committee

Established to provide oversight for the vision, objective and strategic plan for the education program.

Bernadine Atchison, Chair
Rosalie A. Tepp
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Sondra Shaginoff-Stuart
Ben Baldwin
Ashley Segura

Enrollment Committee

Established to provide oversight for enrollment procedures as defined in the tribe's constitution and Enrollment Ordinance No. 98-01.

Liisia Blizzard, Chair
Katheryn Rodgers
Rene Edelman-Azzara
Bernice Crandall
Linda Ross
Alexandra "Sasha" Lindgren
Elsie Maillelle

Court Code Committee

Established to review and consider revisions to the Tribal Court Code.

Audre Gifford, Chair
Clinton Lageson
Bernice Crandall

Election Board

Established to regulate the conduct of all tribal elections, including those initiated by petition, and the resolution of election disputes.

Phyllis Bookey, Chair
Katheryn Rodgers
Bernice Crandall
Linda Ross
Kynde Bishop

Constitution Review Committee

Established to review and consider revisions to the constitution and

Traditional Healing Committee

Established to provide oversight and planning for traditional healing.

Audre Gifford, Chair
Mary Lou Bottorff
Bobbie Oskolkoff
Linda Ross
Jon Ross
Clinton Lageson



Clinton Lageson
Treasurer



Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Council Member



Bernadine Atchison
Council Member



Wayne Wilson
Council Member

Alexandra “Sasha” Lindgren
Elsie Maillelle

Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Commission

Established to provide oversight for the tribe’s traditional hunting, fishing and gathering activities.

James Segura, Chair
Rosalie A. Tepp
Clare Swan
Liisia Blizzard
Kaarlo Wik
Wayne Wilson
Bernadine Atchison
Elsie Maillelle

Land Committee

Established to research all lands presently owned by the tribe and recommend policies that will assist the tribe in meeting its vision, objectives and strategic plan.

Wayne Wilson, Chair
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Liisia Blizzard
Kaarlo Wik
Bernadine Atchison

Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity

Established to promote the de-

velopment of affordable housing opportunities by providing new construction, rental assistance, home modernization and weatherization services, and other housing services to eligible Alaska Native/American Indian people.

James Segura Sr., Chair
Rosalie A. Tepp
Rita Smagge
Audre Gifford
Clinton Lageson
Kaarlo Wik
Nick Sacaloff

Health Committee

Established to review and make recommendations regarding primary care, behavioral health and dental programs. The Health Committee meets the statute requirements for the state of Alaska Community Mental Health Center grant.

Jennifer Showalter Yeoman, Chair
Bernadine Atchison
Audre Gifford
Jon Ross
Russelle Wilson
Diana Zirul
Rita Smagge
Clare Swan
Sandi Semeken

Kenaitze Early Childhood Center/ Head Start Policy Council

Established to work in partnership with management, governing bodies, parents and volunteers to facilitate compliance with the Head Start Performance Standards; to assist in accomplishing the program mission; and to serve as an advocate between the program and community.

Teresa Smith
Charmaine Lundy
Sasha Fallon
Laurie Johnson
Diane Bernard
Beatrice Sagoonick
Anya Kratsas
Steffani Coxwell
Art Barbaza
Holley O’Brien
Sonja Barbaza
JoAnn Pierce
Randy Dodge
Tara Cazares
Josephine Smart
Jacqueline Franke
Fred Perez
Andrea Takak
Jessica Newton
Denáya DeVold
Deb Shuey
Bernadine Atchison
Liisia Blizzard

Dene' Philosophy of Care

We value an approach to health care that places the customer at the center. Our Dene' Philosophy of Care focuses on physical, spiritual, emotional and social health, taking a holistic approach. To support this philosophy, we offer a centrally located campus in Old Town Kenai, where many of our services are within walking distance of each other. This makes it convenient for our members and those we serve to access our programs. Among these services are housing, social services, Elder services, dental, primary medical care, behavioral health, substance use treatment, physical therapy, exercise, traditional healing, diabetes prevention and intervention, nutrition, and Tribal Court.

Dena'ina Wellness Center

The Dena'ina Wellness Center is a fully integrated medical facility offering a holistic approach to care. Our *un'ina* – “those who come to us” – receive access to medical, dental, behavioral health, chemical dependency, wellness, physical therapy, pharmacy support, optometry and traditional healing – all beneath one roof. The building also features a gym, classroom space and wellness kitchen. Alaska Native and American Indian people have access to all services, while programs that receive state funding – primarily behavioral health – are open to the entire community.

Tribal Fishery

For thousands of years, we have relied on fish from *Tikahtnu* – Cook Inlet – to feed our families. Today, we operate an educational fishery through a permit issued by the State of Alaska. The fishery opens each year with a celebration on May 1. Tribal members wishing to gather food can schedule times to fish the net, and many fish are given to Elders and others who can no longer fish for themselves. We also share the permit with members of the Salamatof Tribe. The fishery gives us more than just subsistence and food security. It preserves the culture and traditions established by early Dena'ina people, bringing us together and creating a sense of unity. It represents our resiliency.



The Dena'ina Wellness Center

Early Childhood Center

Ch'anikna – love for children – is one of the tribe's most important traditional values. At our Early Childhood Center, we embrace this value every day. Our experienced and caring staff emphasizes family support and involvement, healthy lifestyle habits and traditional Dena'ina culture. The center's no-fee services are open to Native and non-Native children, regardless of household income, including the Head Start, after-school and summer programs. Children have access to dental and health screenings, nutrition services and many daily activities. We also offer programs for children with special needs.

Yaghanen Youth Program

Yaghanen – a safe place or good land – is where youth come to develop life skills, learn culture, make

friends and stay on track academically. We are a prevention and early intervention program open to pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade students, offering many fun and educational activities. Students who attend Yaghanen can participate in dance, drum and traditional sports, among other opportunities. We teach archery, healthy eating habits and highlight the risks of using drugs and alcohol. We also offer study hall and tutoring during the school year, camps during summer and many activities during winter.

Tribal Government Affairs

Our Tribal Government Affairs team assists tribal members with enrollment, records, the tribal fishery, and more. We also work closely with local, state and federal government agencies, representing the best interests of our people. Tribal Gov-

ernment Affairs also supports the Executive Council and the tribe's 14 committees and commissions.

K'Beq' Interpretive Site

Kenaitze ancestors, recognizing the abundance of fish and natural resources across *Yaghanen* – “the good land” – settled along the banks of its rivers. One of these areas was *Sqilantnu*, located in present-day Cooper Landing, where we partner with the Chugach National Forest to operate the K'Beq' Interpretive Site. K'Beq' explains Dena'ina customs and traditions through informational displays on a boardwalk wrapping through the trees.

Housing Assistance Program

Our Housing Assistance Program offers a variety of services, including emergency housing, sanding and snowplowing, student housing, transitional housing, and more. We also manage rental units in Kenai and Nikiski that are available to qualified individuals.

Environmental Program

Our Environmental Protection Program embodies the traditional Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina values of stewardship and education. We host youth science camps every summer. Throughout the year, we partner with many organizations on events and projects supporting environmental protection.

Na'ini Family and Social Services

In Na'ini Family and Social Services, we serve some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Our social services include child care, a food cache, energy assistance, sexual assault and domestic violence support, burial assistance, and emergency help. Our family services include child protection, adult protection, foster care, preservation and support through the Indian Child Welfare Act.

visits, abuse and neglect prevention, advocacy, exercise, field trips, and crafts. In March 2016, we opened the new Tytokas building in Old Town Kenai. Spanning 6,500-square-feet, it includes a gathering area, large stone fireplace, commercial-grade kitchen and office space.

Education and Career Development

Our Education and Career Development Program assists Alaska Native and American Indian people

as they pursue higher education and career advancement, offering scholarships, job training and placement, and more.

Tribal Court

Established in 1986, our Tribal Court ensures the fair administration of justice while honoring our customs, history and traditions.

The court serves

both tribal members and non-members. Hearings are conducted in a culturally appropriate manner with a panel of judges, including at least one tribal Elder, or through a collaborative circle process. The court hears a wide range of cases, including child protection and custody, domestic violence, tribal adoption, voluntary relinquishment and involuntary termination of parent rights, and conservatorship and guardianship. We opened a new Tribal Courthouse in 2015.

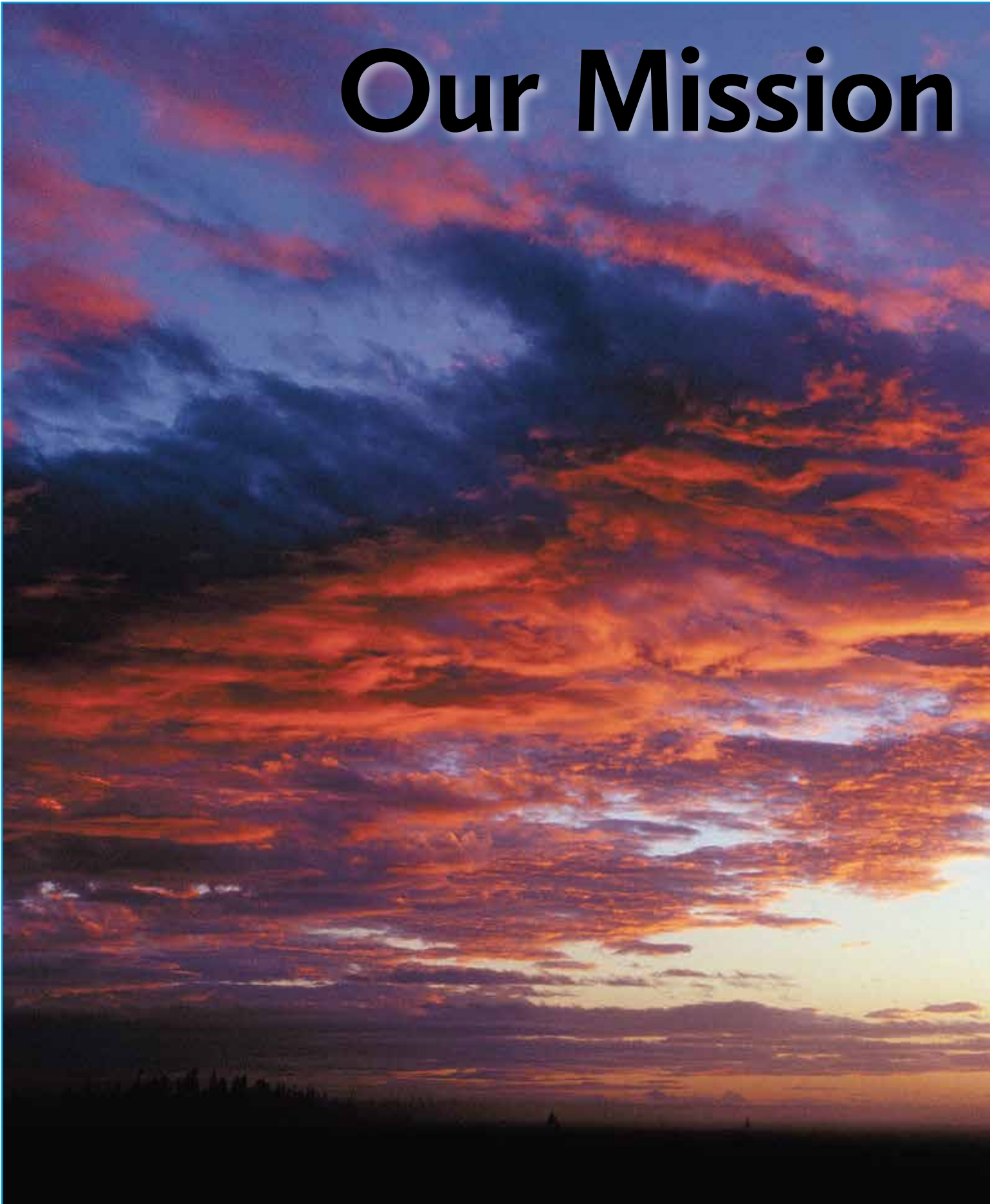


The new Tytokas Elder Center

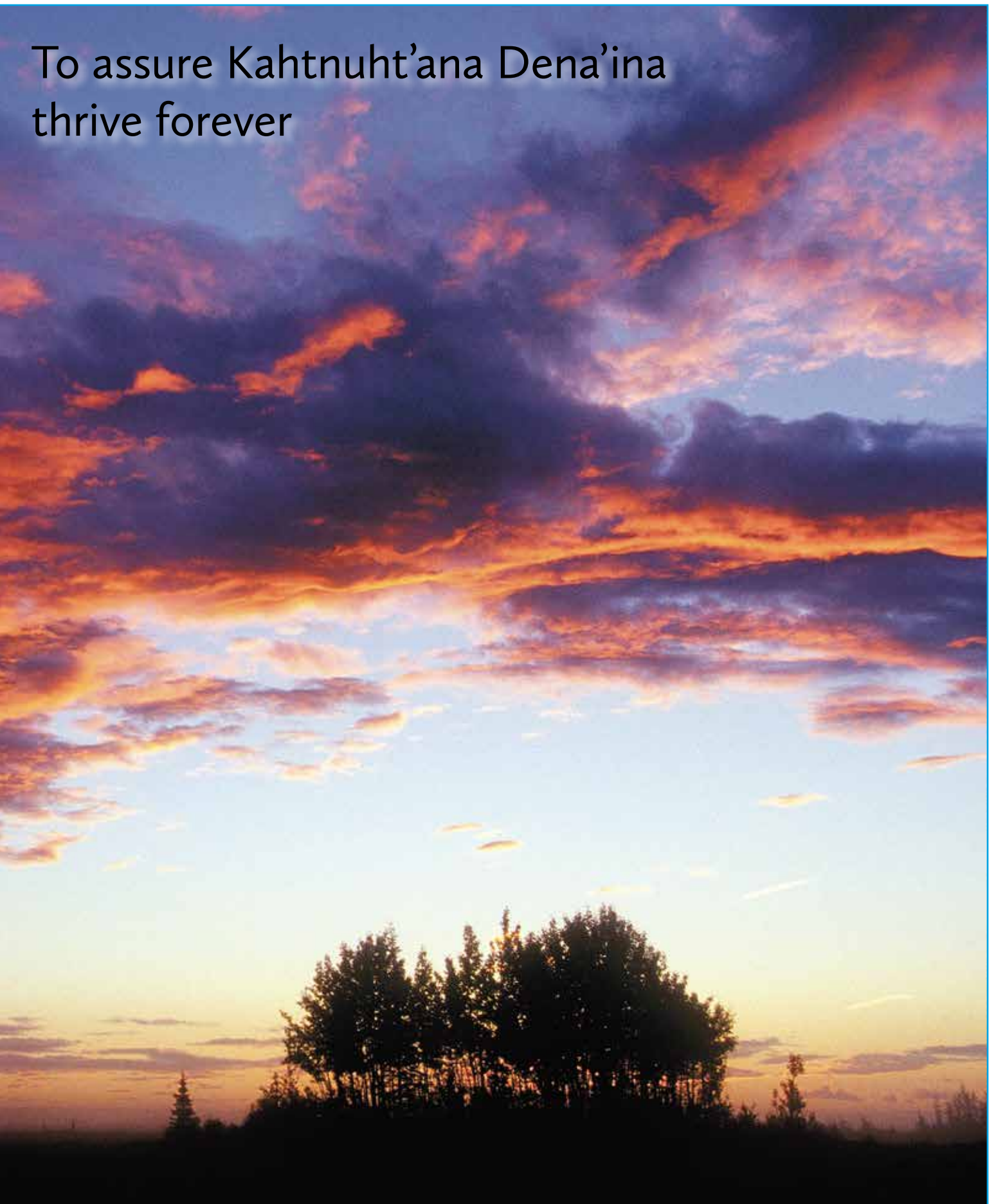
Tyotkas Elder Center

We serve more than 145 tribal Elders through our programs housed at the Tyotkas Elder Center. The program fosters an environment of quality, dignity and pride, encouraging healthy activities and choices. To promote independent living, we provide information and resources to family members who care for parents, grandparents or older relatives. Elders receive access to daily lunch, caregiver support, transportation, home

Our Mission



To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina
thrive forever

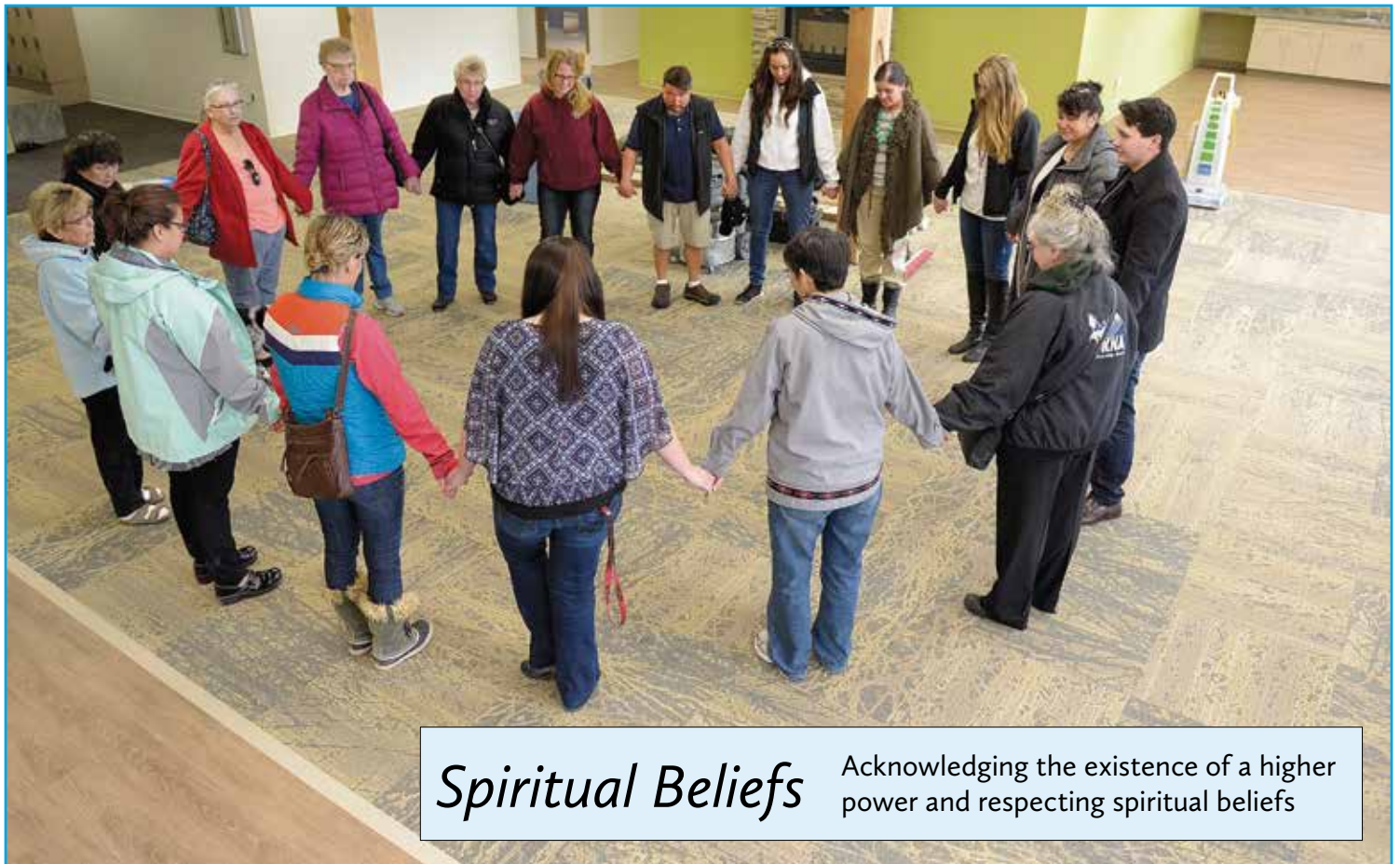


Our Values



Family

Honoring and sustaining health and happiness of family as a “first responsibility”



Spiritual Beliefs

Acknowledging the existence of a higher power and respecting spiritual beliefs



Stewardship Respectful use of land, resources
and all creations



Education Passing down cultural knowledge and traditions
and supporting formal education

We envision: By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by working toward a united effort with native organizations and other governments that affect our people.

This year:

The tribe hosted many elected officials and representatives from government agencies, offering tours of tribal buildings and providing information about programs and services. Visitors included Alaska Lt. Governor Byron Mallott, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield, Congressman Don Young, U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan, and representatives from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust.

The tribe worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to increase its Educational Fishery quota from 8,000 to 10,000 salmon. In July, the tribe was able to fish more nets than it did the previous year.

In partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Indian Education Program, the Yaghanen Youth Program hosted a youth construction academy camp at Spirit Lake. As part of the experience, campers work together to build a new cabin.

With support from the U. S. Forest Service, the K'beq' Interpretive Site received maintenance improvements – sanding the boardwalk, clearing trees and brush, and repainting the parking lot.

K'beq' staff participated in National Park Service Interpretive Program training.

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Cook Inlet Region Inc.,

the tribe ran a summer program aimed at keeping the Kenai and Russian rivers clean, including education on proper ways to dispose of fish carcasses.

The Jabila'ina Dance Group performed at a ceremony for the cutting of the Capitol Christmas Tree, which was delivered to Washington D.C. after being cut in Alaska.

The Yaghanen Youth Program partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game to host summer archeology and fish camps. Students from Cook Inlet Tribal Council attended these camps. The program also hosted a moose camp in fall.

Tribal Court promoted cooperation and collaboration between other tribal courts, state courts, the

Office of Children's Services, Division of Juvenile Justice and federal partners through judiciary meetings, joint projects and value-based practice.

The Na'ini Family and Social Services Department partnered with the LeeShore Center, Central Peninsula Community Hospital, local law enforcement and other agencies to support families in need.

The Dental Department coordinated with the Alaska Native Medical Center on referrals and patient treatment plans that required complex care.

Yaghanen Youth Program staff attended Cook Inlet Tribal Council's Tribal Youth Symposium to discuss education and cultural camp opportunities across the region.



Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren, right, talks about the Behavioral Health department's play therapy room with Trustees and staff from the M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust during a tour of the center. The Trust contributed funds to help purchase furniture, fixtures and equipment for the center.

We envision: By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by developing and implementing a tribal education system.



Members of a Kenaitze Executive Council delegation talk with students and staff at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Ruamata in New Zealand during a cultural exchange. The trip had four goals: To accelerate the planning and development of a tribal education system; to gather ideas, insights and information from the Maori that could be used to create a tribal education system and elevate the wellness of the tribe's people; to learn from the Maori so the tribe can resurrect, develop and maintain Dena'ina language and values; and to study how the Maori decolonized themselves through education and advocacy.

This year:

The Early Childhood Center served 64 preschool students, transitioning 42 into kindergarten. The center also served 36 students through its After School Program.

Tribal youth participated in internships across the tribe's programs through the Workforce Investment Act, gaining professional experience and exploring different career paths.

The Early Childhood Center integrated cultural curriculum into its programs, providing students with language lessons, dancing and singing opportunities, and infor-

mation about Dena'ina customs and values.

The Yaghanen Youth Program delivered cultural presentations to students at the Early Childhood Center and across the community.

The tribe hired a tutor to work with students in school as well as after school at the Yaghanen Youth Program.

The Dental Department offered exams and fluoride treatments to students at the Early Childhood Center, focusing on prevention and education.

The tribe provided opportunities for tribal members and employees to attend a Denaina language course offered at Kenai Peninsula College.

The Student Housing Program provided housing vouchers for nine students.

The Early Childhood Center maintained partnerships with the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and Frontier Community Services, as well as programs across the tribe, enhancing the services provided to students and families.

We envision: By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by living our traditional values and practices.

This year:

The tribe opened a new Tyotkas Elder Center. The grand opening celebration included a traditional blessing, drumming and dancing and remarks from tribal leaders. The 6,500-square-foot building is located in Old Town Kenai across from the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

Early Childhood Center students learned Dena'ina words and phrases as part of the curriculum.

The Yaghanen Youth Program hosted the Native Youth Olympics as part of the 2016 Peninsula Winter Games. The games, open to youth up to the age of 18, included traditional sports with an emphasis on sportsmanship.

The tribe hosted a dedication ceremony for Raven Circle outside the Dena'ina Wellness Center, drawing more than 100 people. Raven Circle, or "*Ggugguyni T'uh*, is a circular display with a fire pit in the center. It represents Dena'ina cosmology.

With assistance from the South-central Foundation, the tribe implemented a new training program – Core Concepts – that is designed to build and enhance relationships. All current and future employees will complete Core Concepts.

To honor those who have served, the tribe hosted a special Veterans Day breakfast at the Tyotkas Elder Center. Attendance nearly doubled over the previous year's event. In addition to food, the gathering included readings and remarks

Living traditional values: Raven Willoya-Williams

Sit down with Raven Willoya-Williams to discuss the past year of her life, and one word comes to mind.

Henu.

Henu is one of 16 Dena'ina words on the Kenaitze Indian Tribe Traditional Values Circle, translating to "a willingness to work, cooperation and helpfulness." Willoya-Williams, a tribal member and 2015 Kenai Alternative High School grad, embodies the value as well as anyone.

As an intern, Willoya-Williams spent the past 12 months gaining professional experience across a range of tribal programs.

She worked with the Ts'ilq'u Circle, a Tribal Court program geared toward helping people resolve difficult issues through a collaborative, respectful process. She worked with the Yaghanen Youth Program, serving in leadership roles at youth summer camps. And she worked with the Tyotkas Elder Program, learning from some of the most experienced members of the tribe.

"Raven has embraced every opportunity with a great attitude and work ethic," said David Knight, the tribe's Director of



Raven Willoya-Williams

Education and Career Development. "It's inspiring to see a young person be so open-minded and motivated."

In addition to working with tribal programs, Willoya-Williams also spent six weeks in Australia participating in an archeology internship. She also purchased her first car.

The 20-year-old said she has learned valuable life skills and become more responsible thanks to the tribe.

"It's really motivating and encouraging," Willoya-Williams said. "The support from everyone makes you feel like you can accomplish a lot."

from tribal leaders and a slideshow of tribal Elders who served in the Armed Forces.

The Wellness Department helped

facilitate the Harvest Moon Local Food Festival, which focuses on healthy eating. As part of the event, the Dena'ina Wellness Center hosted workshops and activities.

We envision:

By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by elevating the wellness of our people.

This year:

The tribe added local optometry to the services provided at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

The tribe also began offering orthodontic care at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

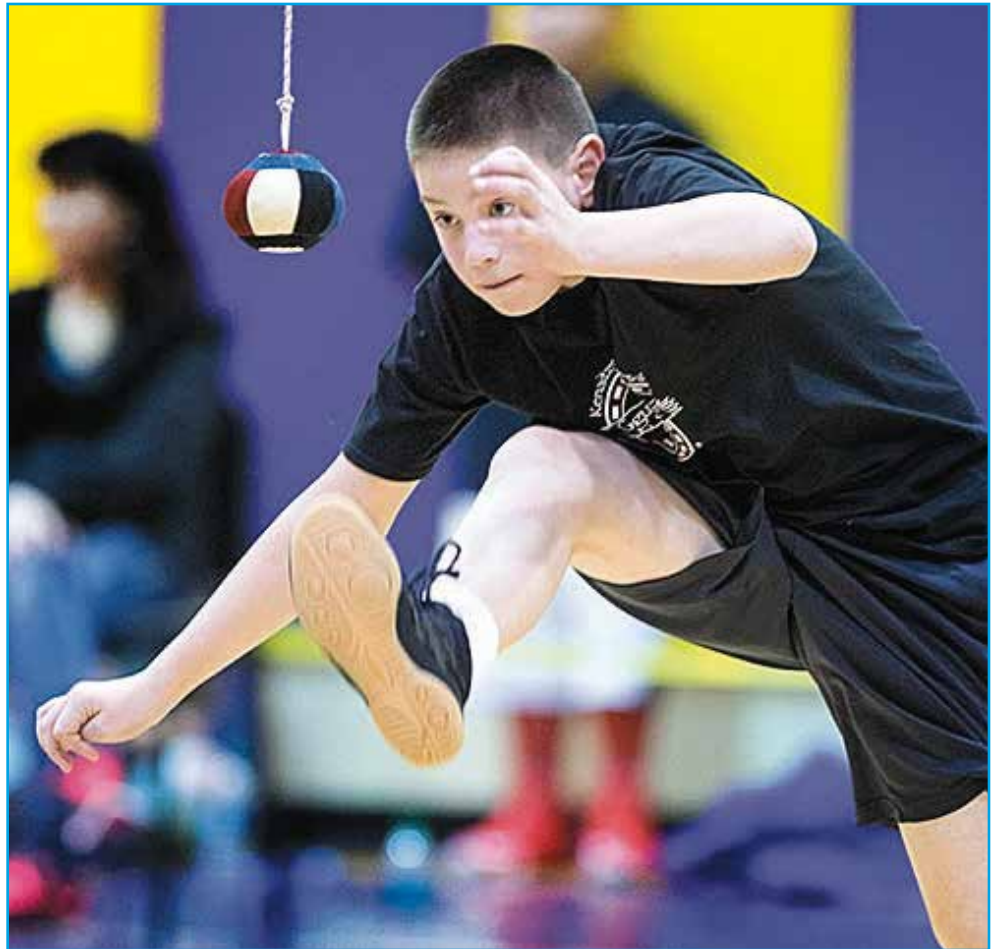
A collaboration between the Tyotkas Elder Center and Early Childhood Center allowed students and Elders to eat lunch together and go on walks. The partnership helped bridge generational gaps and gave Elders a chance to pass down cultural knowledge.

The Tyotkas Elder Center launched the Senior Companion Program. The program pairs volunteers over the age of 55 with fellow Elders who have health limitations. Participants spend quality time together, forming a companionship as the volunteers help the recipients in a variety of ways.

The Early Childhood Center provided hearing, vision, dental and behavioral health screenings and referrals to students. It also helped families set goals and develop plans for success in the community.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center reduced wait times for walk-in un'ina, reduced overall visit times, increased the number of un'ina seen by providers, and increased un'ina satisfaction.

The tribe launched a new youth substance use program. The program includes behavioral health,



Joe Whittom competes in the one-foot high kick, an event that demands strength, flexibility and focus, during Yaghanen Youth Program's Native Youth Olympics invitational in January.

cultural and wellness activities, and talking circles. The tribe also enhanced its adult substance use program. Both programs focus on family, stewardship, spirituality and education.

The Youth Services Department served 43 un'ina through its nine-week summer program.

The Wellness Department hosted many events and activities promoting a healthy lifestyle, including "Better Choices, Better Health" workshops, harvesting field trips and more.

The Safe Home Program, which renovates and repairs houses, served 15 families.

The Sanding and Snowplowing Program served 22 families.

The Communications Department increased the number of health articles and information it published in tribal publications.

The Tyotkas Elder Center partnered with the Kenai Senior Center on the first-ever Fall Festival, a community event offering hayrides, food, crafts, music and more.

We envision: By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by striving for excellence in all our programs.

This year:

The Alaska Tribal Health Quality Collaborative recognized the tribe for outstanding achievement on Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures. Areas where the tribe excelled included diabetes, breastfeeding rates, dental access, and controlling high blood pressure.

A system upgrade improved electronic record-keeping in the Dental Department, making it more efficient and improving patient communication and care.

The tribe developed a new compliance program for the Dena'ina Wellness Center. The program ensures the tribe's medical programs meet state and federal funding requirements.

More than 80 percent of *un'ina* – those who come to us – reported in surveys they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the care they received at the Dena'ina Wellness Center. More than 500 surveys were submitted.

Significant progress occurred in a project to implement a new electronic health record system at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

The Behavioral Health Program maintained its accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF).

Behavioral Health began offering Child Psychiatry, providing evaluation and medication management.



Andrew Ellestad and Jeff Swan hang tobacco free signs that feature Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina values on the tribe's Old Town campus in August.

Tribal Court received honorable mention from Alaska Chief Justice Craig Stowers at the 33rd Annual Alaska Tribal Court Development Conference.

The tribe redesigned its new-hire orientation to include a dedicated e-learning classroom.

Improvements were made to the Educational Fishery site, including the installation of a wheelchair-friendly viewing platform and a new setup for fish processing.

The Alaska Chapter of the Public

Relations Society of America recognized the tribe with three awards at its annual awards banquet – first place in the social media and external publication categories, and second place in the writing category.

The tribe was invited to the Tribal Eldercare Service Summit to discuss the success of the Tyotkas Elder Program.

The Office of Head Start recognized the tribe's Early Childhood Center as an organization that continually submits a “high quality grant application.”

We envision:

By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by continuing to demonstrate resiliency.

This year:

Fiocla Wilson, the tribe's eldest member, celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by loved ones.

The Na'ini Family and Social Services Department saw an increase in the number of domestic violence victims who sought services. To meet that need, the team provided office visits, after hours emergency services, field services, home visits, financial support, transportation, education, and more.

The tribe served 28 families through its Emergency Housing Program.

Ninash Q'a, a transitional home helping those in crisis, served six families.

The tribe helped Elders apply for and maintain Medicaid and Medicare benefits.

The tribe participated in World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, supporting victims of Elder abuse and encouraging prevention efforts.

The tribe hosted a special camp for youth facing adversity, giving them a chance to experience the Educational Fishery and spend time at Spirit Lake.

To improve access for those in wheelchairs, automatic handicap access doors were installed at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

The tribe launched a completely redesigned, comprehensive mobile-friendly website.

Demonstrating resiliency: Three generations

Mary Lou Bottorff sat still.

She didn't take a phone call. She didn't open a day planner. She didn't look at a clock. For nearly an hour, in a quiet room on a fall afternoon, she sat in a chair and didn't move.

For Bottorff, 76, that doesn't often happen.

"I'm the Energizer Bunny," she said. "I just jump up and start going."

It's what she knows.

It's also how she continues to persevere – for herself, and for her family.

Bottorff's son, Philip Harmon, 57, suffered a massive stroke in May 2016. Although he survived, he faces a difficult recovery and will be at an assisted living facility for the foreseeable future. Before the stroke, Harmon was the licensed personal care assistant for his daughter and Bottorff's granddaughter, Nicole Harmon, 31. Nicole Harmon has brain damage and physical limitations stemming from a car accident 13 years ago and a nocturnal seizure five years ago – both of which nearly killed her.

Now Bottorff is doing all she can to care for them both.

She begins a typical day by preparing breakfast, washing dishes, feeding the dog and helping her granddaughter prepare for physical therapy. Then she drives to town, eats lunch at the Tyotkas Elder Center, runs errands and attends appointments of her



Philip Harmon, Nicole Harmon and Mary Lou Bottorff

own. After that, she visits her son, picks up his laundry, washes the laundry and returns it to the assisted living facility. If there's time, she fillets, smokes and cans salmon, or does whatever else needs to be done around the house.

"This woman does not stop," said Nicole Harmon.

Bottorff admits it's a difficult situation, but believes her son will recover from the stroke. She jokes that she might live another 40 years, but no matter what, will continue to be resilient.

"We just keep on going," Bottorff said. "Whatever life throws at us we'll grab and hang onto it."

We envision:

By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by using our talents and resources to ensure we are able to take care of ourselves and share with others.

This year:

To ensure best practices are utilized, the Dental Department created a peer review work group that meets monthly.

The Behavioral Health Department partnered with local agencies to host a two-week peer support training, "The Natural Path," for un'ina interested in learning how to provide peer support as a service.

In Youth Services, staff completed training in Forensic Interviewing of Child and Adolescent Victims and Witnesses in Indian Country at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, S.C. Best practices are now incorporated into the program.

Four new volunteers completed training and were sworn into the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program, which supports foster children going through the court system. Currently, the CASA program has seven volunteers serving 18 children.

The CASA program raised more than \$4,500 through three fundraisers – a garage sale, chili feed and the annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk, which drew 71 participants.

Kenaitze Tribal Court judges and employees provided training to other tribes and state partners.

The Housing Department completed a renovation on a four-plex the tribe owns and rents to families.

Taking care of ourselves: Christa Huf

Not many people can say they got a puppy and the keys to their first home – on the same day. Tribal member Christa Huf can.

Huf and her canine companion Titan, a Pit Bull-Chihuahua mix, moved into their new home in December 2015 after Huf participated in a Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity assistance program.

The program, which is open to Alaska Native and American Indian people, offers up to \$10,000 toward mortgage payments for qualified home-buyers.

The program served four people over the past year.

"It was really nice to have them help," Huf said. "They gave me good advice on where to look, on my Realtors, and the whole process."

Sonja Barbaza, a tribal housing representative who helps manage the program, said she enjoys helping people through the process. And it's rewarding, she

added, because the program supports the tribe's mission, vision and values.

"It's just a huge joy to be able to help hard-working, deserving people accomplish such a big life step," Barbaza said. "I couldn't be happier for Christa or any of the other program participants."

Huf said the kitchen is one of



Christa Huf and Titan

her favorite areas of the house, which was built in 2013 and has two bedrooms and one bathroom. She soon hopes to flatten, re-seed and fence in the backyard – something both she and Titan will enjoy.

For now, however, she is simply grateful to live in a place she can call her own.

"I love the house," she said.

The tribe attended and spoke at the National CASA Conference in Washington D.C.

The tribe made significant upgrades to Information Technology infrastructure.

We envision:

By 2025, the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have enhanced and strengthened the prosperity, health and culture of their people and tribe by empowering our sovereignty.



Chief Judge Kim Sweet and Health and Human Services Acting Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Wakefield listen as Executive Director Jaylene Peterson-Nyren talks during an extensive tour of Kenaitze facilities in August. At right is HHS Regional Director Susan Johnson.

This year:

The tribe operated the K'beq' Interpretive Site during summer, educating visitors on Dena'ina history and traditions.

Tribal Court requested and accepted transfers of jurisdiction from state and tribal courts.

Tribal Court participated in strategic planning with the State of Alaska to transform child welfare outcomes for Alaska Native children.

The Tribal Government Affairs Department created a new tribal enrollment program that, in the future, will allow the tribe to create family trees,

update tribal identification cards and provide historical information.

The tribe opened a new Tyotkas Elder Center. The grand opening celebration included a traditional blessing, drumming and dancing and remarks from tribal leaders. The 6,500-square-foot building is located in Old Town Kenai across from the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

The Educational Fishery provided salmon for the Elders program and Na'ini Social Services program, feeding families in need and supplying food for winter.

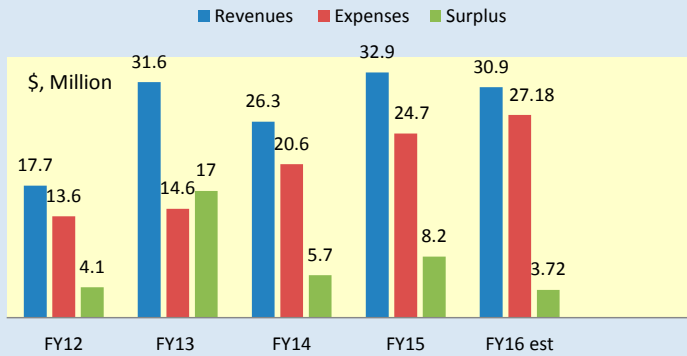
The tribe acquired two additional

buildings in Old Town Kenai, expanding its campus. One building houses the safety and security team and Environmental Protection Program. The other houses Na'ini Family and Social Services, and Education and Career Development.

The tribe entered a partnership with Dr. Ripan Malhi, an anthropology professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, on a multi-year research project focusing on DNA. The goal of the project is to make a connection between Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina people and salmon and to show what the Dena'ina genome looks like.

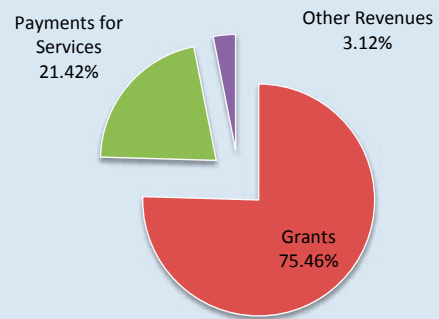
Tribal Finances

Financial Performance History



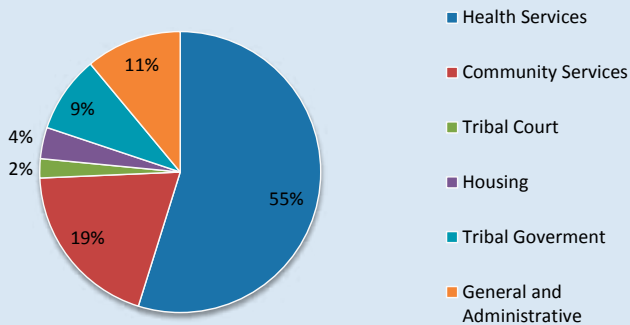
In FY16, the tribe earned \$30.9M in revenues, spent \$27.18M to provide programs and services, and saved \$3.72M that will be invested in future capital projects and tribal development activities.

FY16 Sources of Revenue



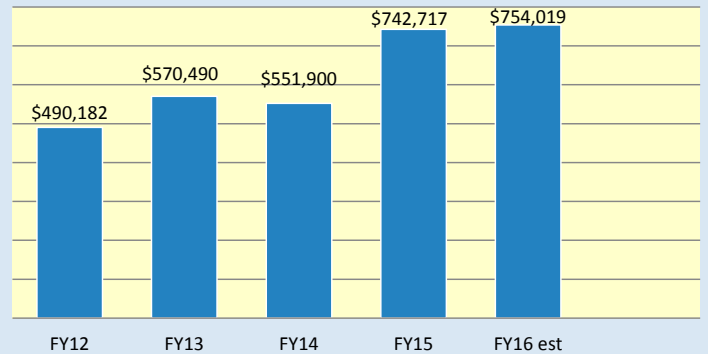
In FY16, about \$23.32M of total operating revenues were from federal, state, and private grants. Reimbursements for health services paid by Medicaid, Medicare, and private insurance generated about \$6.62M. The balance (\$960k) came from program user fees, donations, interest income, and contract support cost settlement funds.

FY16 Operating Expenses by Program



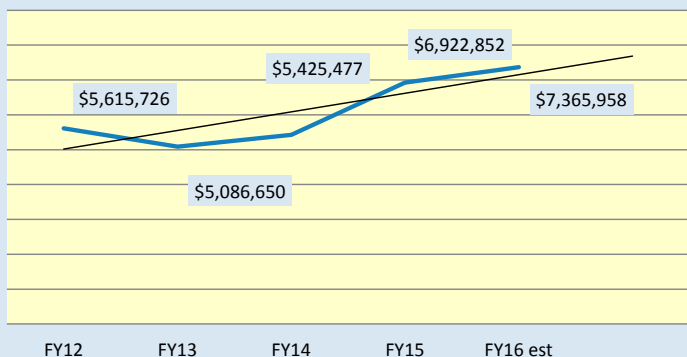
In FY16, about \$21.78M (80%) of total operating expenses was spent on direct programs and services. The balance was expended on tribal government activities (\$2.4M) and administrative support of programs (\$3M).

Financial Assistance Payments



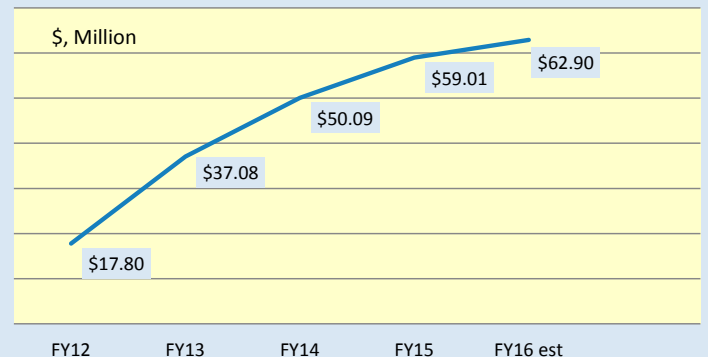
In FY16, the tribe spent about \$754k on direct payments to customers or their designees to assist with housing, education, training, transportation, and emergency needs.

Unrestricted Net Assets



As of the end of FY16, the tribe has accumulated \$7.4M in unrestricted net assets (savings), which provides a reserve for working capital, equipment replacements, facility improvements and future investments.

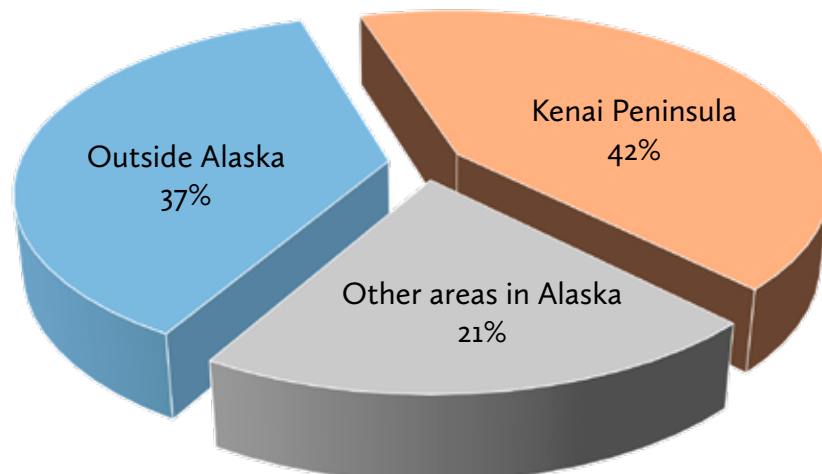
Total Assets



Over the past five years, the tribe's assets (cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and capital assets) have increased substantially. Investments in capital assets (the Dena'ina Wellness Center, Toyon Villa Apartments, Na'ini Social Services building, and Tytokas Elder Center construction project) are largely responsible for the overall asset growth.

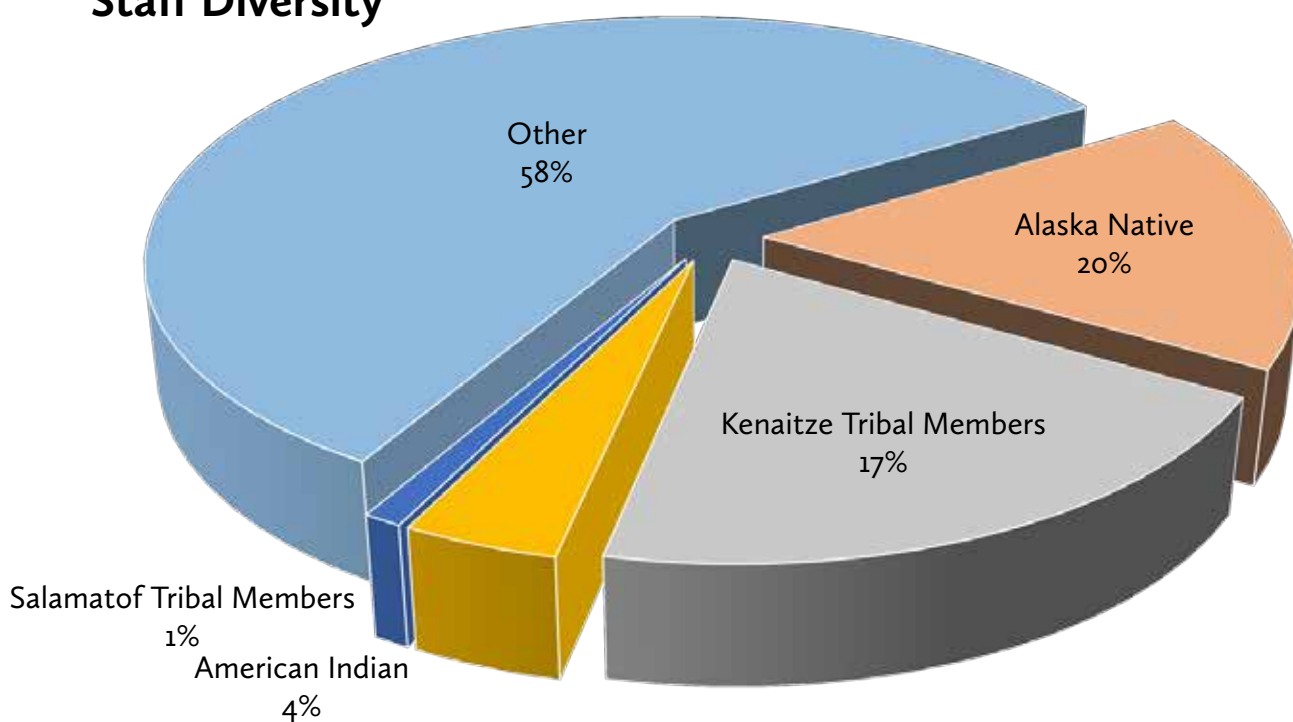
Demographics

Tribal Member Residency



The tribe's 1,634 enrolled members are distributed across the U.S.

Staff Diversity



The tribe had an average of more than 300 employees during FY2016. Nearly half were Alaska Native or American Indian.

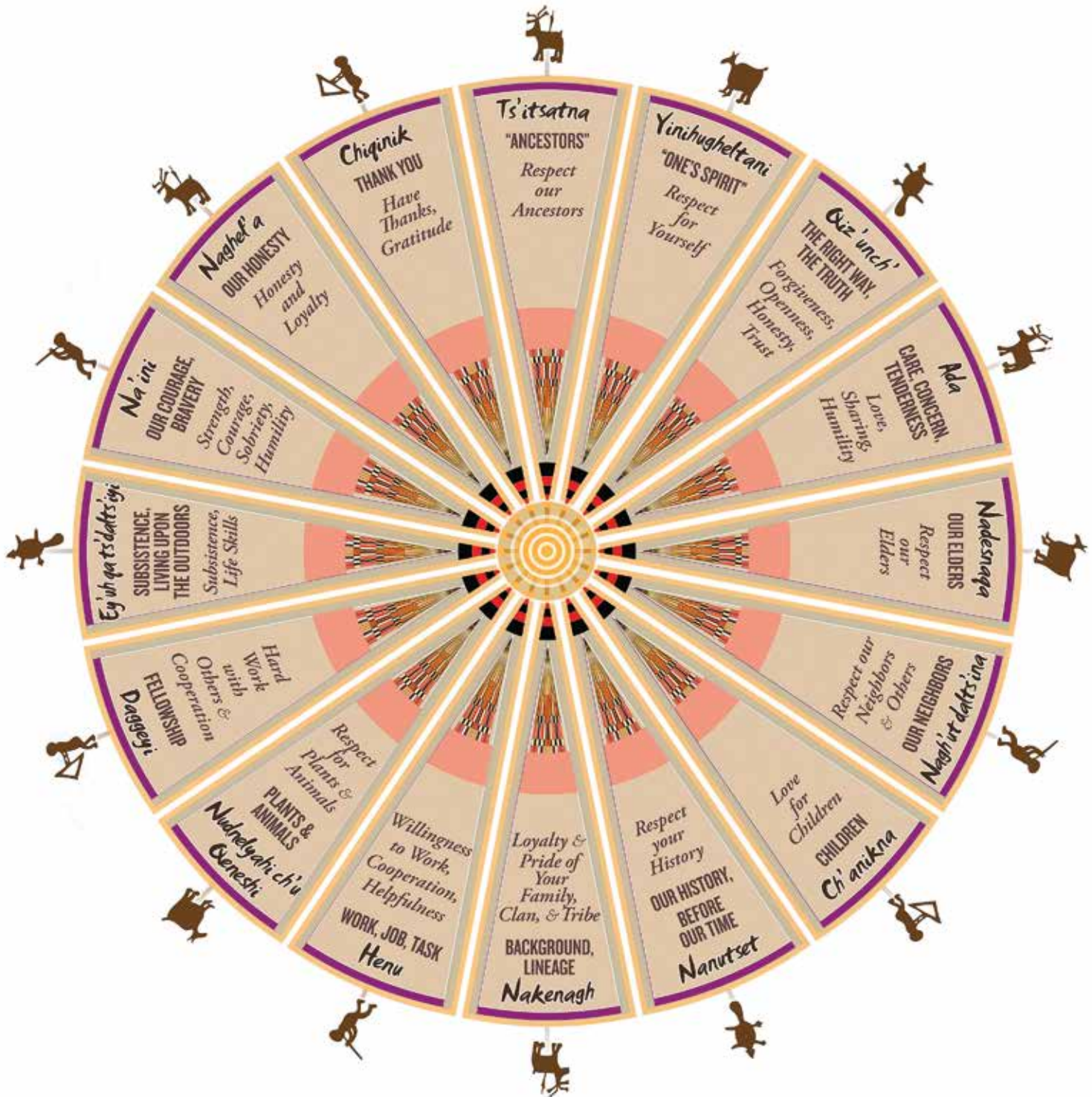
Tribal Fishery Numbers

	2016*	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Kings	10	20	2	19	14	47
Reds	6693	8109	6109	4837	3445	6873
Pinks	201	4	352	24	553	5
Silvers	220	63	261	566	140	439
Totals	7124	8196	6724	5446	4152	7364

* As of Aug. 31, 2016



Kenaitze Indian Tribe Traditional Values



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