

Kenaitze Indian Tribe

2017
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 health care facility. In 2016, we opened the 6,500-square-foot Tyotkas Elder Center within walking

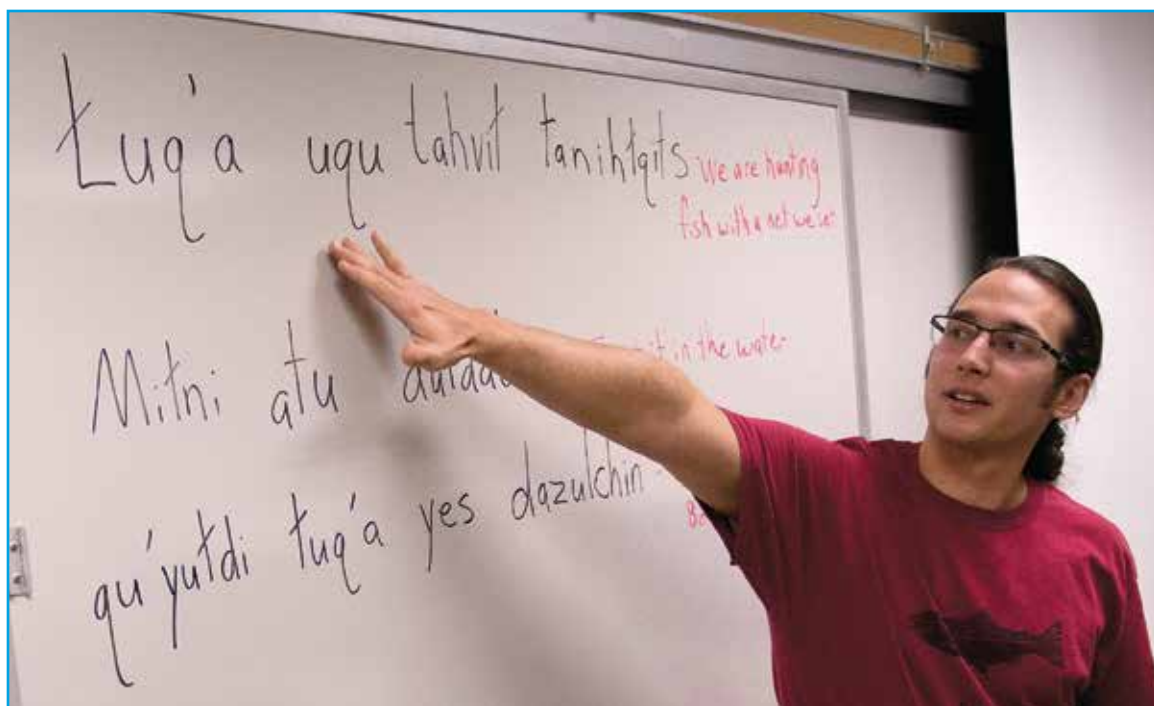
distance of the Dena'ina Wellness Center and our Tribal Court. We also operate an Early Childhood Center, the Yaghanen Youth Program, Environmental Protection Program, social services, family services and education and career development programs.

At our Annual General Membership Meeting in October, we elect members to the Tribal Council to serve staggered terms. The seven-member Tribal Council governs the tribe in accordance with our constitution, by-laws, ordinances and resolutions. It also appoints a Chief Judge to oversee Tribal Court and uphold tribal laws and 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 health care 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. Today we are proud to say Naqantughed-ut – the tide is coming in. We say the tide is coming in because it's an exciting time for the tribe and our people as we continue to work toward our mission: To assure Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.



Above, Joel Isaak presents a Dena'ina language project to a class at Kenai Peninsula College.



At left, participants at the Dena'ina Wellness Center's popular monthly Alaska Native foods potluck fill their plates with delicacies from across the state.

At right, Emilee Wilson competes for Kenaitze in the one-foot high kick event at the tribe's Native Youth Olympics Invitational held at Mountain View Elementary School in conjunction with the Peninsula Winter Games.



From the Chairperson

Aa' yaghali! (Yes, It is good!) This has been a busy year for the Tribal Council to ensure the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina thrive forever.

The Tribal Council has been working to ensure all tribal members are heard at quarterly meetings, committee meetings and regular council meetings. Quarterly meeting topics have included a proposed change to our Constitution, updates to the educational fishery, and information regarding our Early Childhood Center.

Education continues to be a huge focus across the tribe. We have operated a Head Start program since 1998, graduating approximately 775 students. Studies show that students who complete Head Start are more likely to graduate high school and pursue higher education. Our Early Childhood Center also has provided a summer camp the past nine years. The camp includes a large focus on education and is administered by caring people. This fall, in a testament to the good work of our staff, the Alaska Head Start Association recognized the tribe with two Awards of Excellence. Early this year, we received an Early Head Start grant that will help us work toward establishing services for pregnant mothers and infants/toddlers.

Our Yahanen program continues to provide cultural education to youth in the forms of Native Youth Olympics, traditional Dena'ina dancing, and camps to teach fishing, gathering, hunting and archaeology.

The tribe also created an

internship program, which works with five Kenaitze/Salamatof youth participants. Program leaders hope to identify more youth at our annual meeting who are interested.

Youth have the opportunity to participate in various tribal departments for up to 10 weeks to help them figure out what they "want to be when they grow up." This also teaches skills that often are assumed people know, like being places on time, what to wear for work, and how to be polite to people who may be upset.

I am very proud of these efforts, as I see it as a way for our youth to make a difference in their own lives and across our tribe! There are several scholarships available to our youth, including an income-based Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarship that offers up to \$3,500 to those pursuing a health-related degree. The Tribal Council assisted in setting up an additional scholarship that also funds up to \$3,500 for Kenaitze tribal members seeking degrees in the health field. This program will assist members in locating other scholarships, too, such as the Cook Inlet Region Incorporated scholarship.

After completing school, whether it be high school or higher education, the tribe offers a huge employment opportunity for our whole community! We currently employ more than 300 people in which we strive to have as many Kenaitze members/citizens



Jennifer Showalter Yeoman

employed as we can. Currently, about 11 percent of the Kenai Peninsula is Alaska Native. For those interested in working with the tribe, we are excited to have worked out some of the kinks of the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO). This ensures that any tribal member interested in

employment receives extra support and preference and has ample opportunity to succeed. It is the hope of the Tribal Council for our youth to get the education they want and need to be our future providers and leaders.

Throughout all this, we have a health care system that serves the health needs of our people. Our new Optometry Program, added this year, has been another great addition. We recognize that there are some areas we need to work on. I would like to encourage you to talk with your children and grandchildren about what they want to be when they grow up and help them find their dreams. Who knows, they might be our next doctor! There are many programs I did not mention, but we all have such an important role and all programs integrate well and hold each other up.

Have a wonderful day, and chiqinik – thank you – for taking time to share your ideas with us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer S. Yeoman".

Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Council Chairperson



Above, the Tribal Council hosts a meeting in the Council chamber with officials from Cook Inlet Region Incorporated to plan a strategy to ensure the tribe's interests are protected during the Sterling Highway Bypass route selection.



At left, the Council meets with the membership during a quarterly meeting at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

Meet the Executive Council

Seven Tribal Council members govern the tribe in accordance with the tribe's constitution, bylaws, ordinances and resolutions. Council members are elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting in October. The Tribal Council holds regular meetings open to the membership. Dates and times are regularly posted to the tribe's website.



Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Chairperson



Wayne Wilson
Vice-Chairperson



Liisia Blizzard
Secretary

Committees and Commissions

The tribe maintains several standing commissions and committees to help inform and guide decisions made by the Tribal Council. Commissions and committees are led by a chairperson and made up of members of Tribal Council as well as other members of the tribe. Tribal members are encouraged to apply for committee and commission positions throughout the year. Typically, committees and commissions meet once a month. Meetings are held in Kenai. For additional information, please contact the Tribal Government Office at 907-335-7200.

Finance Committee

Clinton Lageson, Chair
Diana Zirul
Wayne Wilson
Ben Baldwin
Sharon Isaak
Kenneth Oder

Constitution Committee

Liisia Blizzard, Chair
James Segura
Clinton Lageson
Wayne Wilson
Elsie Maillelle
Rita Smagge
Shaleenah Marion

Court Code Committee

Diana Zirul, Chair
Clinton Lageson
Bernadine Atchison
Liisia Blizzard
Bernice Crandall
Youth Seat (vacant)

Education Committee

Bernadine Atchison, Chair
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman, Co-Chair
Rita Smagge
Ben Baldwin
Nadia Walluk
Mary Ann Mills
Sondra Shaginoff Stuart

Elders Committee

Bernadine Atchison, Chair
Phyllis Bookey, Co-Chair
Betty Porter, Honorary Member
Mary Lou Bottorff
Rita Smagge
Sharon Isaak
Tom Stroman

Election Board

Phyllis Bookey, Chair
Sharon Isaak
Katheryn Rogers
Evelyn Boulette

TERO Commission

Bernadine Atchison, Chair
Clinton Lageson
Wayne Wilson
Susan Wells
Mary Ann Mills

Enrollment Committee

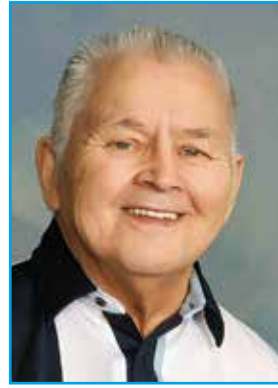
Liisia Blizzard, Chair
Katheryn Rogers, Co-Chair
Clinton Lageson
Bernice Crandall
Linda Ross
Elsie Maillelle



Clinton Lageson
Treasurer



Bernadine Atchison
Council Member



James O. Segura
Council Member



Diana Zirul
Council Member

Health Committee

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

Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Commission

James Segura, Chair
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Liisia Blizzard
Wayne Wilson
Clinton Lageson
Bernadine Atchison
Kaarlo Wik
Clare Swan
Elsie Maillelle

Land Committee

Clinton Lageson, Chair
Wayne Wilson, Alternate
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Diana Zirul
Kaarlo Wik
Paxton Oder
Elsie Maillelle

Traditional Healing Committee

Clinton Lageson, Chair
Bernadine Atchison
Bobbie Oskolkoff
Jon Ross
Linda Ross
Mary Lou Bottorff
Joel Isaak
Elsie Maillelle

Policy, Ordinances and Procedures Committee

Diana Zirul
Clinton Lageson
Wayne Wilson
Bernadine Atchison
Liisia Blizzard

Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity

James O. Segura, Chair
Rita Smagge, Vice-Chair
Clinton Lageson, Secretary/Treasurer
Rosalie Tepp
Jennifer Showalter Yeoman
Kaarlo Wik
Chris Monfor

Kenaitze Early Childhood Center/Head Start Policy Council

Justina Hamlin, Chair
Jessica Lageson, Vice-Chair
Melissa Larson, Secretary
Cherice Waterbury
Jacqueline Franke
Kathy Calloway
Holley O'Brien
Alexa McClure
Casey Matranga
Hannah Hand
Danielle Bailey
Britney Baier
Nicole Monroe
Liisia Blizzard, Tribal Council Liaison
Bernadine Atchison, Tribal Council Liaison

Dene' Philosophy of Care

We value an approach to service that places our un'ina, those who come to us, at the center. Our Dene' Philosophy of Care takes a whole-person approach toward wellness – addressing physical, spiritual, emotional and social health as contributing factors to overall well-being. To support this philosophy, and make access convenient for our un'ina, many of our services are provided on a centrally located campus in Old Town Kenai. This includes the Dena'ina Wellness Center, Tribal Court, Tyotkas Elder Center and our Na'ini building, which houses social services, family services and education and career development. Nearby, we also offer housing services and operate an Early Childhood Center and Yaghanen Youth Program.

Dena'ina Wellness Center

The Dena'ina Wellness Center is a fully integrated health care facility offering a holistic approach to care. 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 educational kitchen. Alaska Native and American Indian people gain access to all services, while programs that receive state funding – primarily behavioral health – are open to the entire community. The 52,000-square-foot facility opened in 2014 at an early Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina village site in Old Town Kenai.

Early Childhood Center

Ch'anikna – love for children – is one of the tribe's most important values. At our Early Childhood Center, we emphasize family support and involvement, healthy choices and traditional Dena'ina culture. The center's no-fee services, which includes Head Start, after-school and summer programs, are open to Native and non-Native children regardless of household income. We offer students dental and health screenings, nutrition services and many culturally appropriate activities.

Yaghanen Youth Programs

Yaghanen – “a safe place” – 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 students through 12th grade. Students 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. The program also offers study hall and tutoring during the school year and camps during summer.

Tyotkas Elder Center

Honor and respect for Elders, who provide abundant wisdom and guidance, is important to us. Our Elders program is administered at the Tyotkas Elder Center, meaning “Auntie's Place.” The program fosters an environment of quality, dignity and pride, encouraging a healthy lifestyle. We offer a daily lunch service, caregiver support, transportation, home visits, abuse and neglect prevention, advocacy, exercise, field trips, and more. To promote independent living, we also provide information and resources to family members who care for parents, grandparents or older relatives. One of our newest programs, the Senior Companion Program, encourages fellow Elders to form emotional bonds and long-lasting connections.

Educational Fishery

For thousands of years, Dena'ina people have relied on salmon from Cook Inlet – Tikahtnu – to feed their 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 for the year 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 the resiliency of our people.

Tribal Government Affairs

Our Tribal Government Affairs Department assists tribal members with enrollment, records, the tribal fishery, and more. We work closely with government agencies to ensure the best interests of our people are represented. Tribal Government Affairs also offers administrative support to the Tribal Council and the tribe's 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 those areas was Sqilantnu in present-day Cooper Landing, where we operate the K'Beq' Interpretive Site. K'Beq' offers a depiction of Dena'ina history, customs and traditions through informational displays. The site, which includes a gift shop, is open four days a week from June to September. We manage K'Beq' in partnership with the Chugach National Forest.

them to environmental conservation practices. Throughout the year, we partner with many organizations on events and projects supporting environmental protection.

Family and Social Services

At our Na'ini building in Old Town Kenai, we serve some of the most vulnerable members of the community. Our social services include child care, a food cache, energy assistance, burial assistance, and emergency help. Our family ser-

The program assists Alaska Native and American Indian people as they pursue higher education and career advancement, offering scholarships, job training and placement, internships, and more.

Tribal Court

Established in 1986, our Tribal Court ensures the efficient and fair administration of justice while honoring the tribe's customs, history, traditions and experiences. 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. The court also administers the Henu' Community Wellness Court and Yaghalich Tinitun Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court, both of which serve people facing legal trouble stemming from substance use.

Ts'ilq'u Circle

The Ts'ilq'u Circle, meaning "coming together as one," is a place where people come to have important or difficult discussions in a good way. Many participants are teenagers facing legal trouble who are referred from the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice or the state court system. The Circle gives them a chance to work with family, friends and community members on a plan to make amends for their offense. The Circle also is available to employees, families and other groups. It is administered at the Tribal Courthouse.



The Dena'ina Wellness Center anchors the tribe's Old Town campus.

Housing Assistance

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 Protection

Our Environmental Protection Program embodies the traditional Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina values of stewardship and education. We host youth science camps every summer, teaching campers traditional stewardship values and introducing

vices include sexual assault and domestic violence support, child protection, adult protection, foster care, preservation and Indian Child Welfare Act services. The program supports the tribe's traditional value of family – honoring and sustaining health and happiness of family as a first responsibility.

Education and Career Development

Our Education and Career Development program supports the traditional Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina value of education – passing down cultural knowledge and traditions and supporting formal education.

Our Values



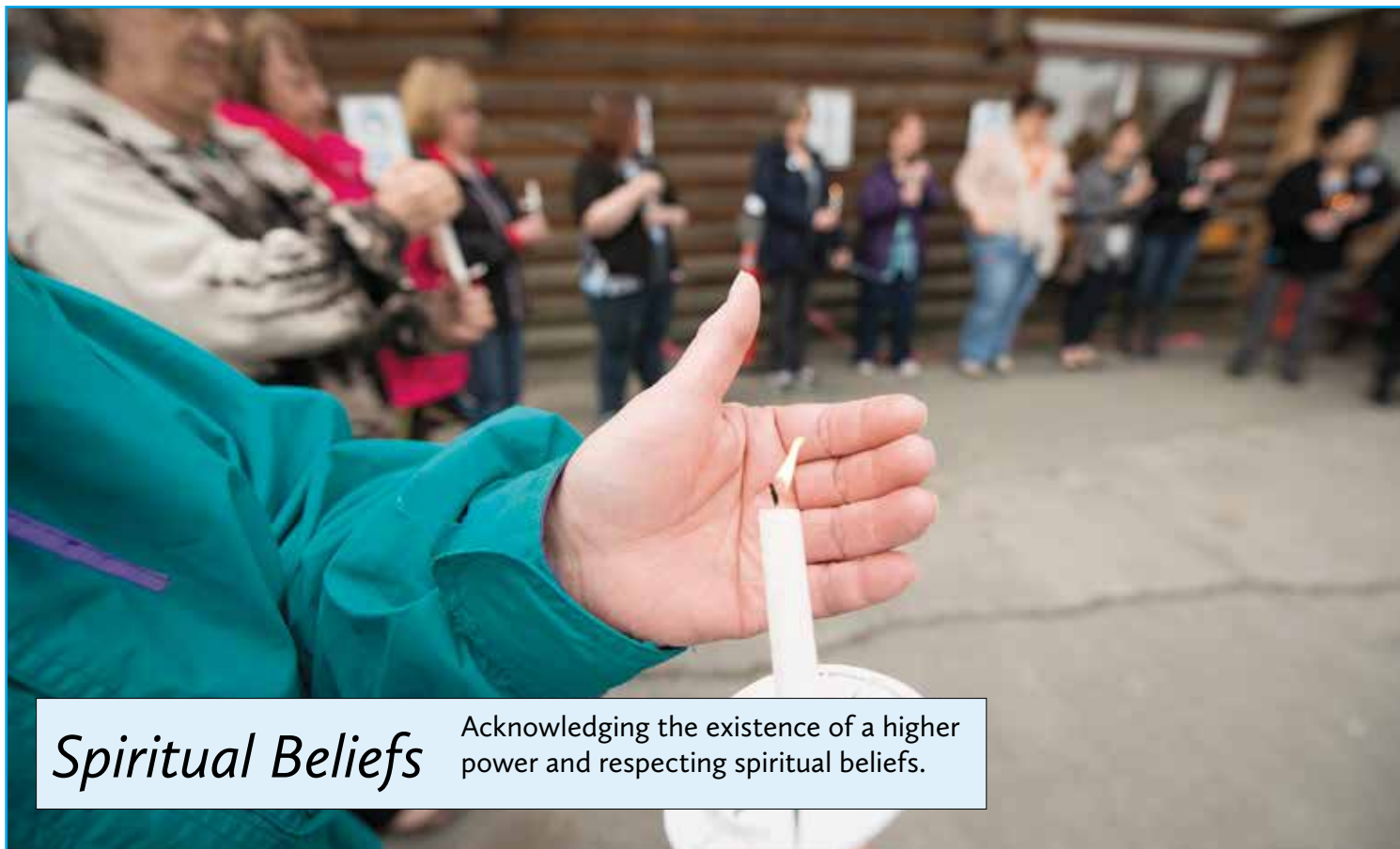
Stewardship

Respectful use of land, resources and all creations.



Education

Passing down cultural knowledge and traditions and supporting formal education.



Spiritual Beliefs

Acknowledging the existence of a higher power and respecting spiritual beliefs.



Family

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



Our Mission

To assure
Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina
thrive forever



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.

This year:

The tribe launched the Dena'ina Language and Culture Revitalization Project. The project incorporates Dena'ina language and activities across tribal programs. Project leaders hosted numerous events, including language lessons and culturally appropriate workshops.

The Alaska Head Start Association recognized the tribe with two 2017 Awards of Excellence. Charmaine Lundy, Alaska Native Education Coordinator at the Early Childhood Center, received the Human-

itarian Award. The Yaghanen Youth Program received the Cultural Awareness Award. The awards recognize individuals and organizations for making positive differences in the lives of students and families across Alaska.

The tribe earned a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant to support the development of a new tribal education facility and expand current Head Start services to include a new Early Head Start program. This program is designed for low-income families to enhance

access to quality services for children ages birth to three. Within the opportunity is programming to support pregnant mothers who are preparing for the birth of their child and who could benefit from parenting education and additional support and assistance. The grant includes \$1.4 million in project startup, to be used over 18 months, after which the tribe will receive about \$1 million annually through August 2021 for operational costs and technical assistance. The tribe is exploring potential locations for a new facility.

Nadia Walluk: Finding success through Daggeyi

When Nadia Walluk enrolled in the tribe's Daggeyi Internship Program, her grades were average and she hadn't done much to prepare for college.

Fast forward a year, and a lot has changed.

Walluk, a tribal member, has excelled in her Daggeyi internship offered through the tribe's Education and Career Development Program. In the Dena'ina language, Daggeyi means "hard work with others and cooperation." The internship is designed to prepare youth for higher education and good careers.

Walluk has gained experience in many fields throughout the internship, working for the Yaghanen Youth Program, Tribal Government Affairs, Social Services Program and Ts'ilq'u Circle.

She has found success in the classroom as well.

After joining Daggeyi, Walluk improved her grades to a 4.0 GPA and began completing college entrance exams. She plans to take college-prep courses her senior year as well.

With support from the internship program, Walluk also was accepted into and participated in two coveted camps. In June, she attended Anchorage Nurse Camp hosted by the Recruitment and Retention of Alaska Natives into Nursing, a part of the University of Alaska Anchorage's nursing school. The



Nadia Walluk

camp, which encourages students to pursue nursing careers, had 15 participants from across Alaska. Walluk also attended Sitka Fine Arts Camp, where she focused on playing flute and learning general arts.

And throughout it all, Walluk has been serving as an officer on the tribe's Youth Council.

"Nadia is a great example of what our Daggeyi Internship Program is trying to achieve, getting tribal youth to really grow and experience things that will allow them to be successful and thrive," said David Knight, Education and Career Development Program Administrator.

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 entered a historic government-to-government partnership with the Alaska Court System to create the Henu' Community Wellness Court, a joint-jurisdiction state-tribal therapeutic court. The court, based in Kenai, serves adults who face legal trouble stemming from substance use. It officially opened in June.

The tribe opened the Yaghlich Tinitun Juvenile Healing to Wellness Court. The court aims to reduce juvenile offenses and substance use across Yaghanen, the good land, by promoting healthy living and healthy choices. The program works closely with the Department of Juvenile Justice, combining mental health assistance, case management, drug and alcohol testing, a wilderness component, and more.

The Education and Career Development Program hosted a week-long youth employment workshop in partnership with Cook Inlet Tribal Council and the Alaska Job Center. Youth who participated received hands-on instruction with resume writing, team building, customer service, and more.

The Yaghanen Youth Program and Education and Career Development Program partnered to get two tribal summer camps accredited by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. Youth can now receive a half-credit toward high school graduation for attending and successfully completing Senior Fish Camp or Construction Academy.



Jarrett Wilson works to install trusses in a cabin he helped build during Yaghanen Youth Program's Construction Academy Camp.

Many special visitors toured tribal facilities and learned about the tribe's many programs and services, including:

- Leaders from Cook Inlet Region Incorporated
- Leaders from Southcentral Foundation
- Leaders from the Maniilaq Association
- Leaders of indigenous health care systems from New Zealand and Canada
- Performers from The Winter Bear Project
- Members of the Te`arama Tahitian Performance Ensemble from Seattle.
- An anthropologist from the University of Illinois

- Judges from the Minnesota Ninth Judicial District Court

The tribe worked closely with numerous agencies to advocate for a preferred route in the Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project. The project aims to reroute the Sterling Highway near Cooper Landing. The tribe's preferred route would protect the Kenai River and other cultural resources. A number of proposed routes have been considered, but a final decision has yet to be made.

The Del Dumi Drum group performed for the Qutekcak Native Tribe's opening of a new early childhood center in Seward.

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 participated in the 2017 Harvest Moon Local Food Festival, a weeklong event promoting locally grown and healthy foods. It hosted workshops, guest speakers and activities around the theme, "A community that cooks."

The tribe hosted the 2017 Dena'ina Plants as Food and Medicine Conference. The event, which drew attendees from across Alaska, included demonstrations, workshops and special presentations. It promoted traditional plant knowledge, ethical harvesting and more.

A new greenhouse was constructed on the tribe's campus in Old Town Kenai. The greenhouse will provide healthy food and educational opportunities to tribal members.

The Yaghanen Youth Program hosted the Native Youth Olympics as part of the Peninsula Winter Games. The event attracted competitors from across Alaska who participated in traditional competitions such as the seal hop, stick pull and one-foot high kick. The gathering promotes sportsmanship above all.

The tribe hosted monthly Native Foods Potlucks at the Dena'ina Wellness Center. These gatherings drew an average of about 50 people and sometimes as many as 100, featuring traditional food from across Alaska. Whale, seal, salmon, seaweed and berries were just a few of the items participants enjoyed. The potlucks connect the community through food and tradition.

In their words: Paul Lorenzo



Paul Lorenzo

Tribal member Paul Lorenzo, who works in the Maintenance Department and has served as a Tribal Court judge, has made significant health and lifestyle improvements over the past two years. He attributes a large part of his success to the support he's received at the Dena'ina Wellness Center.

"Two years ago, I was diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. I was overweight, did not eat a balanced diet and struggled with portion control. After tests revealed my numbers were off, I made an appointment at the Dena'ina Wellness Center and was put on medication for diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol, and began devising a plan for what I had to do.

Through my provider, encouragement and coaching from

a dietician, I was able to take control of the issues. Over the first year I lost 70 pounds. After my two-year check-up, my provider took me off my diabetes medication, which was Metformin.

If not for the program available at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, I would not be enjoying the quality of life that I am today."

– Paul Lorenzo, tribal member and employee

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 Behavioral Health Program hosted weekly peer support lunches called "Café 13." The gatherings, held in the Dena'ina Wellness Center, incorporate cooking, skill building and positive social interactions. The goal is to create a safe, fun and encouraging environment while reducing stigmas associated with mental illness.

The Behavioral Health Program hosted Spirit Lake Camp, a three-week program for adults recovering from drug and alcohol use. Participants enjoyed time with Elders and participated in culturally appropri-

ate activities, including drum-making, fishing and talking circles.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center and Human and Community Services Division piloted a project to improve transportation services for Elders traveling to Anchorage for medical appointments. The goal is to ensure Elders receive the care they need and can get to and from important appointments safely and without hassle.

The Primary Care Department implemented a new appointment-scheduling policy, offering modified open access. Under the

policy, un'ina can receive same-day appointments when provider availability allows, but can also schedule appointments in advance.

In partnership with Southcentral Foundation, the tribe hosted a health fair in March. The event focused on colorectal cancer prevention and awareness and many other topics. Attendees completed educational activities and received important health information.

The Na'ini Social Services Program hosted a special event where it provided free back-to-school supplies and backpacks to families in need, serving more than 100 children.

Gloria Wik: Pursuing wellness, one workout at a time

A glance at the scale is all it takes to remind Gloria Wik how far she's come.

Wik, 71, has lost about 40 pounds since she and a friend began using a personal trainer at the Dena'ina Wellness Center gym about two years ago. Wik and workout partner Diane Roach exercise together a couple times a week, every week, improving their strength, balance and cardiovascular health.

The commitment has paid off.

"We tell each other how bad we were when we first started and how far we've come," Wik said.

Wik, a tribal Elder, started coming to the gym after she participated in the tribe's diabetes prevention program. The program helped her make healthy diet changes, and when she began regularly working out, the progress only quickened.

Wik says her adult children are impressed with the progress she's made and that she can "kick their butt." She attributes her success to having a reliable workout partner as well as a supportive trainer in Michael Dotomain and other staff members.



Gloria Wik

"The program really kicked into gear when we started using Michael as a personal trainer," Wik said.

Wik feels as strong as ever and encourages tribal members to visit the gym and take advantage of the services and equipment available.

"Come and join the fun," she said.

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:

The tribe launched a new suicide prevention and awareness program. The Yinihugheltani Program – “one’s spirit” – supports youth between the ages of 10 and 24. The program emphasizes culture identity and connectivity. It hosted many events throughout the year, including hikes and salmon smoking classes. It also hosted The Winter Bear play and the area’s first “Out of the Darkness” walk to raise funds for suicide prevention.

The Family Services Program reunited numerous children with their families and provided many other families with support services to keep them together and help them grow stronger.

The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program served many people, providing crisis intervention, financial assistance, housing support, and more. The program also created safety plans for children in violent situations. The program also hosted a candlelight vigil at the Dena’ina Wellness Center in spring, recognizing those lost to and affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Wellness Department helped coordinate the Bridging the Gaps in Homeless Services event at the Dena’ina Wellness Center. The Department of Veterans Affairs and Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness were among participating organizations. The event addressed the issue of homelessness across the region.

Linda Ross: A healing journey

For Linda Ross, the journey toward healing began 30 years ago.

Ross was attending a women’s conference on Kodiak Island, where she lived at the time, when a Holocaust survivor from Texas stepped to the podium. Speaking to the audience, the woman began recounting her experiences as a victim of severe abuse.

“When I sat in that audience and heard her tell her story, it terrified me that somebody would openly talk about something like that. I almost felt like I should slink down in my chair and hide myself because, who would talk about it like that so openly?” Ross said. “It started me thinking, and I felt like now as a result of that, God put his thumb on me and said, ‘OK, now you can look at this issue. Now you can begin to look at it.’”

“And so I began a healing journey.”

Ross, a tribal Elder, was sexually abused as a child and harmed as an adult. But for the past three decades, since that conference,



Linda Ross

she has dedicated her time to working with both women and men who’ve been harmed. Many of them are Alaska Native.

Ross, who lives in the Kenai area, works closely with an organization

called Hearts Going Toward Wellness. The group hosts conferences aimed at helping victims heal. The group provides a safe place where struggle and pain can be shared and hope restored.

Ross, a mother of four and grandmother of 13, said for many years she hid from the pain inflicted upon her, trying to bury the emotions. But she understands how harmful abuse is, and that it impacts the life of survivors forever.

Her message is one of healing and hope, which she believes come through the cross of Christ.

“In the world in which we live, there is a lot of evil,” she said. “But you know what? There also is a lot of good.”

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 Behavioral Health Program broadened its adult outpatient substance use services and reopened its youth outpatient substance use services. Adult services now incorporate new evidence-based curriculum into assessments and treatment. Youth services include clinical support, wellness activities and family group time.

The tribe made improvements to the Purchased and Referred Care Program, hiring a manager to provide direct oversight, updating policies and procedures, and creating a workgroup to review all referrals made to non-tribal health care facilities.

The Behavioral Health Program maintained a three-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), which recognizes health care facilities for adhering to high standards of care. The tribe will pursue a new three-year accreditation in 2018.

Tribal Council approved a new credentialing process for providers at the Dena'ina Wellness Center, ensuring they are qualified to deliver the highest level of care.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center implemented a new electronic health record system. The system, made by Cerner, is used at many tribal health care facilities across Alaska. The change allows providers at all facilities on the Cerner system to view medical files in real time,



Adelynn DeHoyos shows off a sea star found in the Homer marina during the Environmental Program's Science Camp.

giving them the information they need to offer quality care. This was a multiyear project.

Optometry services were officially added at the Dena'ina Wellness Center after years of planning. The program offers a wide range of eye care services.

More than 90 percent of un'ina – those who come to us – reported

they were satisfied with the care they received at the Dena'ina Wellness Center. More than 1,400 satisfaction surveys were completed.

The Dena'ina Wellness Center Laboratory earned Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) accreditation. This accreditation is awarded to organizations that apply the highest standards of quality in patient testing.

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.

This year:

The tribe continued to work with Dr. Ripan Malhi, an anthropology professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, on a DNA research project. The purpose of the project is to show what the Dena'ina genome looks like and provide further evidence that the Kahtnuht'ana Dena'ina have lived in the Kenai area for thousands of years.

The Educational Fishery provided salmon for many tribal members and tribal programs.

The tribe operated the K'Beq' Interpretive Site in Cooper Landing between June and September. The site includes boardwalks and informational displays depicting Dena'ina history and traditions. Hundreds of visitors toured the facility.

The tribe made significant upgrades to its Information Technology infrastructure, improving security and performance.

Tribal Council reinstated the Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) Ordinance for the purpose of

establishing a TERO Commission. The commission, in part, promotes the general welfare of tribal members and administers services that contribute to the development of the tribe.

The tribe hosted an indigenous research workshop sponsored by the First Alaskans Institute. The purpose of the workshop was to gain a shared understanding of current research needs held by tribal communities. The goal was to provide tools so communities can drive their own research.



Council Secretary Liisia Blizzard signs an agreement creating a joint jurisdiction court with the State of Alaska. Kenai Superior Court Judge Anna Moran, Kenaitze Indian Tribe Chief Judge Kim Sweet and Alaska Court System Deputy Director Doug Wooliver, right, wait to sign as Alaska Attorney General Jahna Lindemuth watches, second right.

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:

The tribe expanded and strengthened its transportation program, adding a full-time driver and three brand new vehicles to the fleet. Transportation services are now available to and from the Dena'ina Wellness Center, Tyotkas Elder Center, Na'ini building and the tribe's administration office, offering convenient access to un'ina, those who come to us.

The tribe hired an infection control specialist at the Dena'ina Wellness Center. The position works to ensure employees and un'ina, those

who come to us, are protected and safe.

The Tyotkas Elder Program began hosting themed lunches once a month. The events included decorations, door prizes and food prepared around unique themes. Overall enrollment in meal services increased over previous years. The program also saw increased enrollment in support services.

The Kenaitze/Salamatof Tribally Designated Housing Entity assisted nine Alaska Native or American Indian college students with student housing. The program also helped three families buy new homes, granting

\$10,000 toward each purchase.

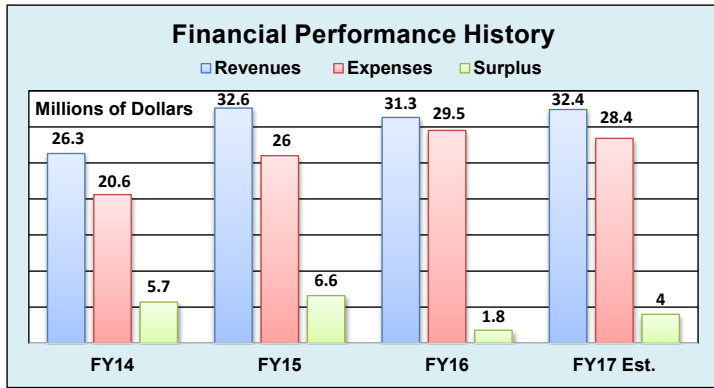
The Dena'ina Wellness Center hosted students from Kenai Central High School for a community job shadow event organized by the Kenai Chamber of Commerce. Students learned about the tribe's programs and services and the many different jobs available at the center.

In partnership with Salamatof Native Association, the tribe hosted an Easter Party for tribal families and children associated with tribal programs. The event included prize giveaways, lunch and Easter egg hunts.

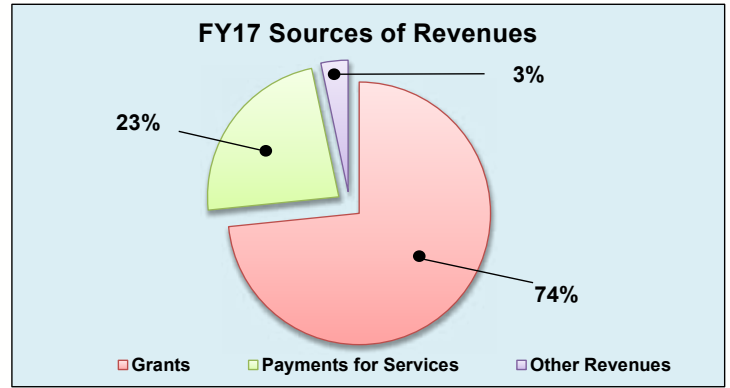


Children from the Early Childhood Center and their families join staff for a year-end picnic at the tribe's educational fishery site on Cook Inlet at the mouth of the Kenai River. Almost 10,000 salmon were caught at the site this year, up from the 7,424 salmon caught last year. See p. 23 for detailed fish counts.

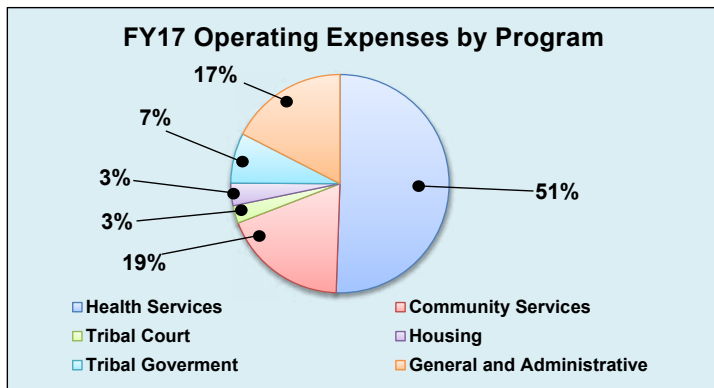
Tribal Finances



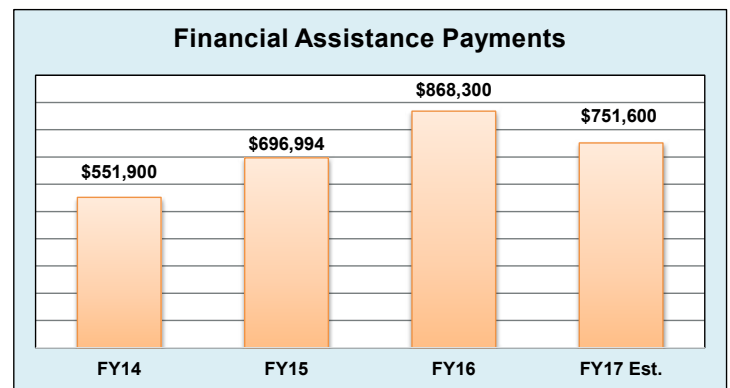
In FY17, the tribe earned \$32.4M in revenues, spent \$28.4M to provide programs and services, and saved \$4M that will be invested in future capital projects and tribal development activities.



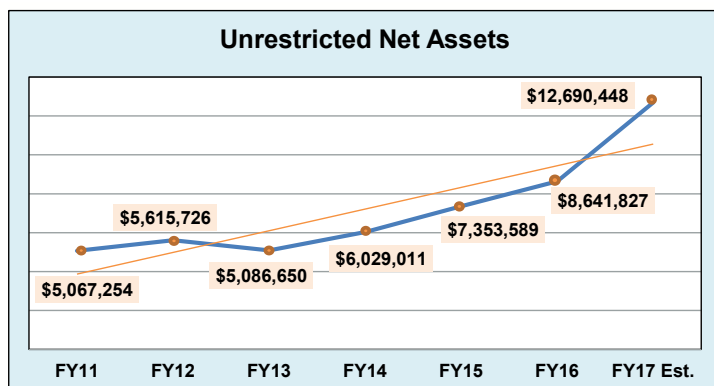
In FY17, about \$23.8M of total revenues came from federal, state and private grants. Reimbursements for health services paid by Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance generated about \$7.6M. The balance (\$1M) came from program user fees, donations, interest income, and contract support cost settlement funds.



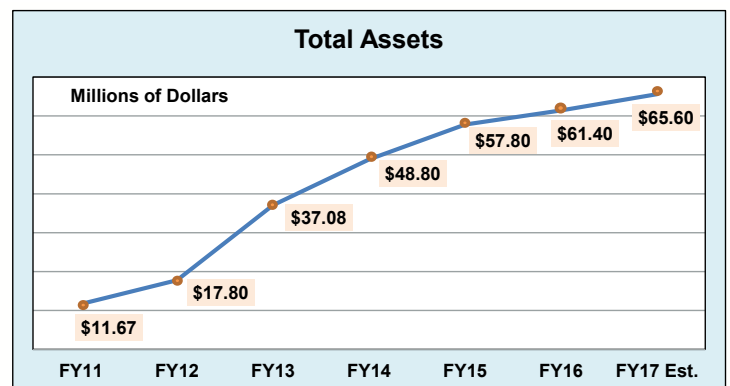
Of the \$28.4M the tribe spent to provide programs and services in FY17, about \$26.9M (95%) was spent on operational expenses with \$904,000 in debt service and \$567,000 in capital outlays. Of the \$26.9M in operational expenses, \$20.2M (75%) was spent on direct programs and services. The balance was spent on tribal government activities (\$2M) and administrative support of programs (\$4.7M).



In FY17, the tribe spent about \$751,000 on direct payments to customers or their designees to assist with housing, education, training, transportation and emergency needs. This amount reflects the decreased support in the State of Alaska Heating Assistance Program, which ended in FY17. The tribe was able to divert other resources to eligible applicants.



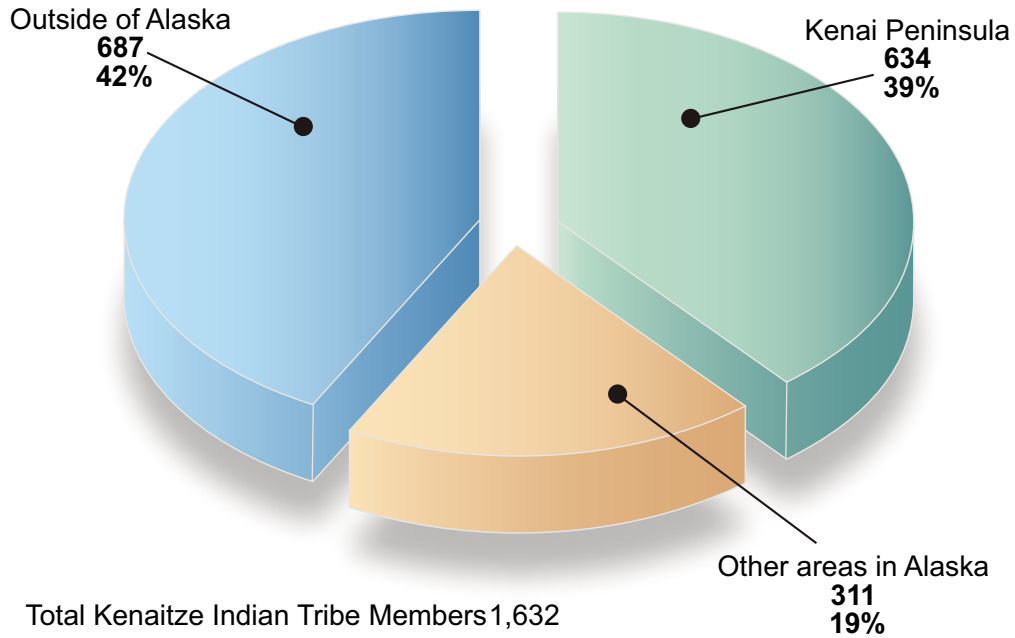
As of the end of FY17, the tribe has accumulated \$12.7M in unrestricted net assets (savings). This provides a reserve for working capital, equipment replacements, facility improvements and future investments.



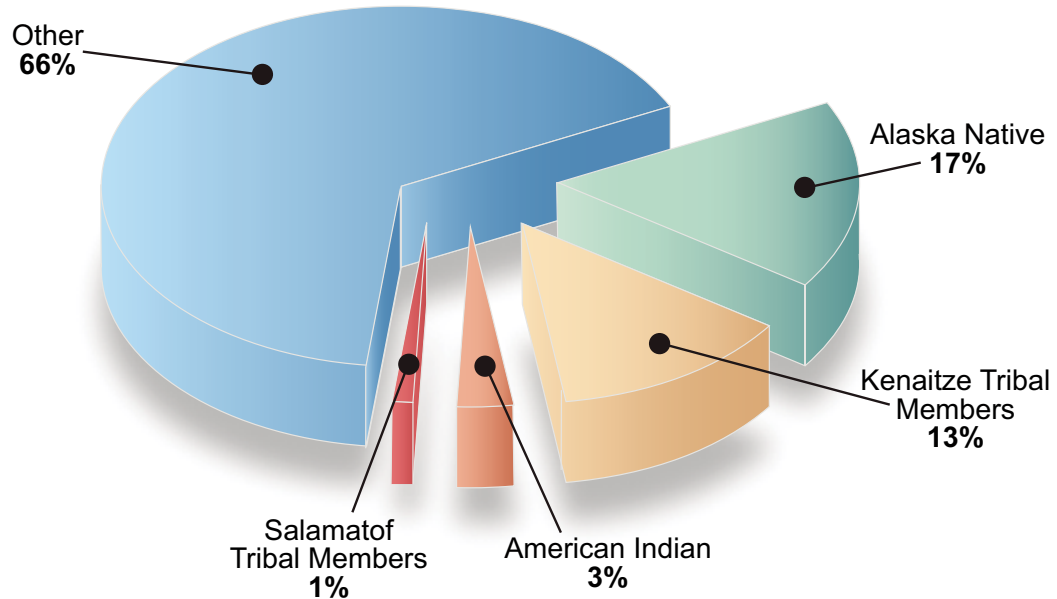
Over the past five years, the tribe's assets (cash, accounts receivable, prepaid expenses and capital assets) have increased substantially. Investments in capital assets (the Dena'ina Wellness Center, Toyon Villa Apartments, Na'ini Social Services building and Tyotkas Elder Center) are largely responsible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

Demographics

Enrollment Numbers



Staff Diversity



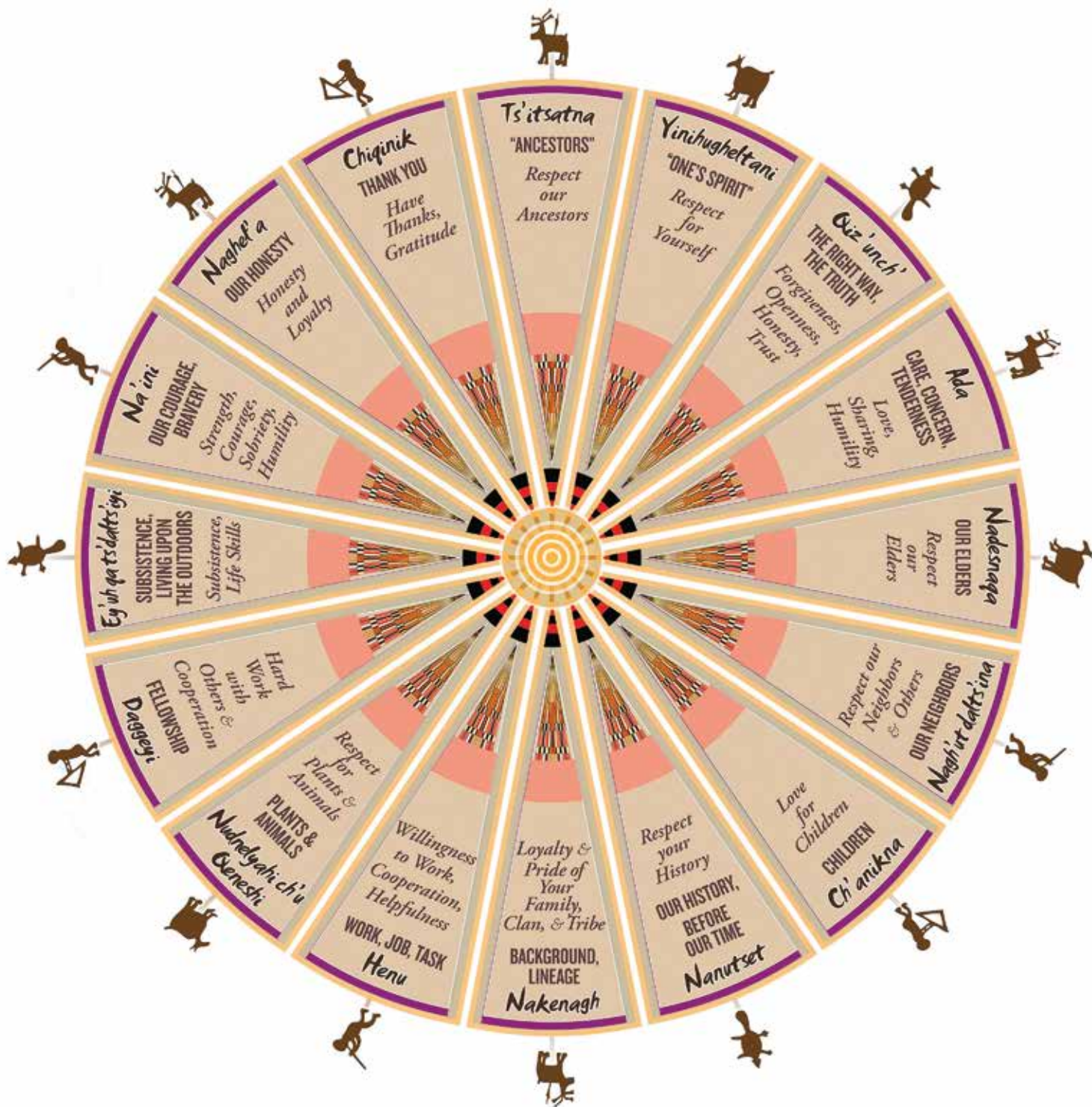
Tribal Fishery Numbers

	2017*	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Kings	22	10	20	2	19	14
Reds	9,372	6,709	8,109	6,109	4,837	3,445
Pinks	180	203	4	352	24	553
Silvers	90	502	63	261	566	140
Totals	9,664	7,424	8,196	6,724	5,446	4,152

*As of Sept. 11, 2017



Kenaitze Indian Tribe Traditional Values



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