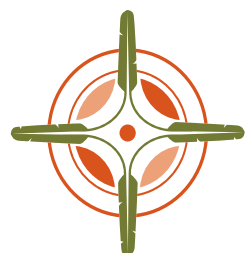


ALASKA NATIVE JUSTICE CENTER

FY20 IMPACT REPORT



— Alaska Native —
JUSTICE CENTER
Voices for Justice

I am a
VOICE
— FOR —
JUSTICE



2020 YEAR IN REVIEW



Alex Cleghorn, Senior Policy and Legal Director; Tammy Ashley, Senior Director of Operations.

ANJC: Growing. Stronger.

Four years after becoming a subsidiary of CITC, ANJC has never been stronger, thanks to expanded services, new statewide collaborations, and increased staff.

In 2020, despite a pandemic, ANJC staff not only kept programs up and running, but expanded existing programs and started new ones.

Legal Support

This year, ANJC's legal team grew to nine staff members, including a tribal court facilitator who can provide training and technical assistance to Alaska Tribes. The organization is now equipped to provide training, technical assistance, and best practices to the Tribal court system, statewide.

This new assistance joins ANJC's existing services to Tribes involved in ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) cases, which include legal guidance and legal representation.

As the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated remote service delivery, the ANJC legal team's experience in offering virtual support, pre-pandemic, paid off. "We've continued to have lawyers appearing in court and for trial remotely," said Alex Cleghorn, ANJC Legal and Policy Director.

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IMPACTS

ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS

In 2020, **31%** of our participants were assisted with emergent needs, including housing, food, or clothing.

381 Individuals received services for domestic violence, sexual assault human trafficking, dating violence, and stalking.

Advocacy provided an additional **479** consultations with referrals and resources in the community.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

In 2020, the Restorative Justice team served **151** participants with direct services and provided an additional **382** consultations with referrals and resources in the community.

64% of our participants were employed after starting our program.

Achieved a **65%** reduction in recidivism among formerly incarcerated individuals who participated in the program.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY & EDUCATION

ANJC brings partners together to advocate important issues and affect real change in the systems that adversely affect the people we serve. In 2020:

We provided education to 30 tribal ICWA workers and presented at 4 regional and statewide tribal justice trainings.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

In 2020, the Tribal ICWA Representation Program served **39** tribal cases involving children.

12 tribes were represented in Child in Need of Aid (CINA) cases held in Anchorage.

In 2020, ANJC served **83** participants with legal advice and/or legal representation through our Family Law Program.

90% of protective orders taken to trial were granted.

SUCCESS STORY - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

ANTONIO ARROYO

Coming up with a strategy for success

Losing Angel was the final blow.

“That was the worst,” Antonio Arroyo described. “I had five people close to me die in six months, and Angel was the last. Only 26 years old. Cancer. That one hit me the hardest.”

Reeling from loss, Antonio turned to drugs.

This wasn’t the path his life was supposed to take. Antonio had a strong family. His parents had always emphasized focus on school, respecting his Elders, and honoring his Alaska Native and Puerto Rican cultures.

But Angel’s death sent him down a dark path. Jail. Drugs. Addiction. A clear message from his father: As long as Antonio continued to use drugs, he wasn’t welcome to live at home.

So Antonio did the only thing he hadn’t tried yet. He got help.

Heading Down a New Path

Jail was rock bottom. Antonio saw where his life was headed.

“I told myself, I’m going to help myself,” he said.

He started attending AA meetings while still incarcerated. He requested a transfer to the



Antonio Arroyo was headed down a dark path -- until he sought help at ANJC.

Cordova House while on furlough so he could start working before his release and put away some money to support himself once he had completed his sentence.

“Something in me was working, and that gave me the strength to move forward,” Antonio shared.

A Helping Hand

But there were bumps in the road. At one point, Antonio stopped attending AA and NA for a few weeks. Then he bumped into Benny Briggs, an Adult Reentry Case Manager for ANJC who had been working with Antonio through the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) program at Cordova House.

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ANJC LEADERSHIP

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LEADERSHIP

Gloria O’Neill, President/CEO

Tammy Ashley, Senior Director of Operations

Alex Cleghorn, Senior Legal and Policy Director

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & REENTRY

Mentors Make the Difference

ANJC launches a new mentoring program for Alaska Native youth, in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska “Anikatiga.”

Justin Hatton still remembers the former youth program manager who helped him get his high school diploma. In fact, he still talks to her to this day, “Shirley Tuzroyluke is like a surrogate mother to me,” said Justin, who is now the Restorative Justice Program Manager at ANJC. “I had a troubled past when I was teenager. But having an Alaska Native mentor like her certainly impacted my life as an Alaska Native adolescent.

ANJC is helping ensure that more young Native kids can find strong Alaska Native mentors through a new partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska (BBBS). *Anikatiga* (Iñupiaq for “my brother or sister”) is a new ANJC youth development program that aims to improve academic outcomes and increase resiliency among Alaska Native students by connecting BBBS “littles” and their families to case management, social service referrals, cultural connection, mentoring, and more.

Doing What We Do Best

“BBBS provides the littles and matches them to mentors who can provide a healthy relationship. ANJC focuses on youth and their families to help them become healthier, too,” explained Justin.



Justin Hatton, Restorative Justice Program Manager

By partnering together, both ANJC and BBBS can do what they each do best. BBBS creates one-to-one mentoring relationships that empower young people to achieve their full potential.

Meanwhile, ANJC leverages its partnerships with CITC and other organizations to help families meet household needs, access recovery services, support education goals, and more.

A major goal of *Anikatiga* is to decrease risk factors that contribute to the disproportionately high numbers of Alaska Native youth represented in Alaska’s juvenile justice system. Creating a strong network of family and mentors surrounding a young person is a good start.

“One of our goals is to help the entire family,” said Tammy Ashley, Senior Director of Operations. “When we provide case management to our youth, we offer that service to their family. By offering case management, referrals, and resources we empower the entire family to become resilient and successful.”

Success at School

“We’re optimistic we can make a change for our littles, especially in the school setting,” added Justin.

Alaska Native students graduate high school at a lower rate than students of other ethnicities, a statistic that is influenced early on by academic under performance and poor school engagement. Research has shown that barriers to educational attainment influence the likelihood that a student may be involved in the juvenile justice system.

“If we can get to them now, when they’re still students, we can help prevent a lot of hardships,” said Justin.



Growing our future leaders! Youth learn about legal and judicial careers through the Color of Justice program.

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND REENTRY CONTINUED

Through *Anikatiga*, ANJC will provide academic tutoring and support to teachers to ensure Alaska Native students get the education they deserve, said Justin. The program hopes to improve academic outcomes among Alaska Native students in Alaska's four largest school districts, with an emphasis on increasing a feeling of connectedness to school and decreasing absences.

Culturally Connected

In addition to supporting success in school, *Anikatiga* emphasizes connection to Alaska Native culture. ANJC is planning the program's first annual event, a camp or retreat that will take place this fall and will incorporate Alaska Native cultural activities.

More important than gatherings, workshops, and organized meet-ups, though, is the presence of an Alaska Native mentor in the life of a little.

Anikatiga serves Alaska Native youth ages 6 – 19 in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, Juneau, and Fairbanks. Currently, the program is working with six youth. But with plans to pair 113 Alaska Native youth with mentoring and a goal to offer at least 30 opportunities for cultural connection, ANJC sees an urgent need for more Alaska Native adults willing to become "big."

"Right now, there just aren't that many Alaska Native 'big,' so that's where we step in as case managers, providing another mentor role and helping young people feel connected to their culture," Justin said.



In addition to youth services and restorative justice services, ANJC provides legal and other support to families going through divorce.

"From my own experience, having an Alaska Native mentor made all the difference. We face so many challenges as young Native people, that support from someone who believes in you and understands you can be really powerful."

ANJC is helping to streamline training for Alaska Native people who wish to become mentors through BBBS. The organization will also provide cultural resources for all bigs and has plans to host three or four youth at a time for in-person, "socially distanced" cultural workshops, which are currently being held virtually.

To find out more about becoming a big and mentoring a young person, you can start by filling out an online enrollment form at Big Brothers Big Sisters Alaska.



Pillars of Justice



Social Justice Advocacy

Bringing partners together to advocate for fair and equitable treatment of Alaska Native people within the justice system



Restorative Justice

Providing those returning to society after incarceration with the tools they need to successfully rebuild their lives



Advocacy for Victims

Standing up for the rights of Alaska Native people and providing the tools they need to advocate for themselves



Education

Equipping individuals with knowledge about the criminal justice system

Mentoring Youth

Even as ANJC staff transitioned to working from home and collaborating virtually, ANJC youth advocates began holding monthly virtual groups and offering case management at McLaughlin Youth Center.

ANJC also rolled out a new youth partnership with Big Brothers, Big Sisters Alaska (BBBS). Through the *Anikatiga* program, ANJC connects BBBS “littles” and their families to case management, social service referrals, cultural connection, mentoring, and more.

Meanwhile, ANJC hosted the annual Color of Justice program, which engages youth interested in legal and judicial careers and was held virtually this year, with 17 youth participating.

Strong Partners

ANJC’s programs all saw an increase in supportive services—that is, additional support provided

by ANJC that allows individuals to focus on their recovery or reentry. This was due in great part to a dedicated staff. This year, ANJC saw a 92 percent staff retention rate and achieved a 77 percent Native hire rate.

As ANJC grows its staff and its participant base, the organization is also focused on growing statewide partnerships. ANJC has joined forces with a total of 70 community and state partners to bring justice, advocacy, and services to communities across Alaska.

“As an organization, we’re being recognized in ways we haven’t been before,” Tammy elaborated. “We’re growing with all the work we’ve done, and that really comes down to our employees. We’re only as strong as our staff, and we put in a lot of work to make sure we’re providing our staff with the resources and tools they need to be successful at their work.”

After overcoming addiction and incarceration with the help of ANJC, Dan Bushey became a mentor to others facing the same struggles.



SUCCESS STORY - RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

In 2020, ANJC assisted 92 people as they completed MRT, which supports individuals who are seeking sobriety or rejoining society after incarceration. The program emphasizes conscious decision-making as a tool that leads to enhanced moral reasoning.

Antonio had been relying on himself for a long time. But Benny and MRT showed him that sometimes, you need to let others help you, too. When he transitioned out of Cordova House, he stuck with MRT, coming to ANJC to continue his work with Benny.

“Benny had told me, he’s been to jail, too. He knows what it’s like. He’s not someone who doesn’t understand my struggle,” Antonio said.

A Change for the Better

In the meantime, Antonio was determined to get back on the right path. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, he landed a job at Burger King. “Staying busy was part of my success plan to stay out of trouble and stay off drugs,” he said.

MRT taught Antonio to pay attention to how he spends his time. This conscientiousness showed in

his work ethic, and soon his superiors at Burger King offered him a raise. Not long after, Antonio was promoted to shift manager.

“Life today is great for me,” he said. Now almost one year sober, Antonio is back in school, working toward his degree in automotive mechanics.

Maybe the biggest change, though, shows through how Antonio dealt with the news that both his aunt and grandfather died this year.

“Being sober, I was able to handle that a lot better,” he said. “I knew the best way to honor their memory was to stay out of trouble. They would have wanted me to succeed.”



Benjamin Briggs, Adult Reentry Case Manager

What's Next for ANJC?

- **Service expansion:** Starting a new program for Elders who are victims of violent crime, ANJC is poised to work with partners to launch this service in 2021.
- **Increased advocacy:** Additional partnerships with Tribal and advocacy organizations focusing on Human Trafficking statewide
- **Broadened client base:** The Legal and Restorative Justice Programs will begin providing support with the variance process for people with certain kinds of criminal convictions.
- **Youth-focused programs:** Youth Development through mentoring and advocacy support for youth through partnerships with Division of Juvenile Justice and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & ELDER SERVICES



ANJC offers a broad spectrum of services that now includes Elder protection and support for victims of human trafficking.

ANJC Tackles Human Trafficking and Elder Abuse in 2021

ANJC turns its focus to Alaska's most vulnerable populations as it expands new services beyond Anchorage in 2021.

Starting in 2016, ANJC's Domestic Victims of Human Trafficking project has brought service providers together to respond to the needs of victims of human trafficking in the Anchorage community. Working with local and government agencies, ANJC helped identify the challenges and opportunities for creating systems to provide assistance to the growing number of trafficked individuals in Alaska.

Meanwhile, in 2019 ANJC expanded their services for victims of crime to address issues faced by Alaska Native Elders. In its early stages, this effort provided a case manager to individuals through the Southcentral Foundation Elders Program; through this partnership, ANJC is able to advocate for Elders who find themselves the victim of fraud, guardianship issues, abuse, and more.

In 2021, ANJC will expand both of these programs statewide.

Collaborating in the Fight Against Trafficking

"This is a prime time to address human trafficking in

Alaska because people in communities throughout the state are sharing more openly about sexual assault," said Marlene Mack, Senior Manager.

According to a Covenant House study done in 2017, Anchorage has the second highest prevalence of trafficking among ten cities studied. Social media has made it easier for traffickers to lure young people from rural areas to the city.

New funding opportunities will enable ANJC to extend anti-trafficking support into rural communities across the state in 2021. With the support of partners like the Alaska Federation of Natives, Bristol Bay Native Association, Bering Sea Women's Group, and Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, ANJC will work closely with Alaskan villages to create a community-led response to trafficking that addresses specific local needs. Through this effort, ANJC will provide training, education, and anti-trafficking tools to anyone seeking assistance.

"Our Anchorage-based anti-trafficking model has been very successful, but as we go into rural communities, it's more about following their lead and providing support," said Marlene. "We started working with Knik Tribe on this model in 2020, and in 2021 we will branch out to more rural areas and provide resources, and help them build their own anti-trafficking model, with their guidance, to address their specific needs. Collaborative partnerships like these are vital to the effort of fighting trafficking in Alaska."

Taking Care of Our Elders

"It took a little time for them to warm up, but once they did, they were eager for the help," described Colleen Ouzts, a paralegal with ANJC who is working closely with the



Marlene Mack, Senior Manager

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & ELDER SERVICES CONTINUED

Elders Program at Southcentral Foundation to assist older Alaska Native people with advocacy and legal services.

Locally, ANJC has helped Elders who have been the victims of fraud or violence or who have needed assistance getting out of state-assigned guardianships.



Colleen Ouzts, Paralegal

The most common issue Elders bring to Colleen is guardianship, whether they find themselves responsible for another family member or have been assigned a guardian themselves. Colleen also sees a great deal of legal paperwork that Elders need help interpreting.

“So often, they’re working on their phones, and the screen is so small—it can just be overwhelming,” said Colleen, who also appears in court to advocate for Elders involved in hearings. “I think my being there empowers them to be present and speak on their own behalf.”

A new grant, under which ANJC will partner with Alaska Legal Services, will support enhanced Elder services, including case management, paralegal services, and supportive services.

“Our people don’t come to us with a single need or issue,” commented ANJC Director Tammy Ashley. “As a team, with our partners like Alaska Legal Services, we’re able to respond to a variety of needs and fill in those gaps where our Elders are not getting the support they need.”

Under the grant, ANJC will also provide outreach, training, and advocacy for rural and tribal communities in other regions of the state.

MISSION & VISION

OUR MISSION

Justice for Alaska Native People

OUR VALUES

We are *Interdependent*

We are *Resilient*

We are *Accountable*

We are *Respectful*

We are *Humorous*



In 2020, ANJC further expanded its staff to broaden the reach of its programs, including expanding some services state-wide.

POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

ANJC's mission is only possible through our family of partners and supporters. We wish to acknowledge our FY2020 partners.

ORGANIZATIONS

Actionable Data Consulting
Alaska Department of Law - State AG Office
Alaska Federation of Natives
Alaska Institute for Justice
Alaska Legal Services Corporation
Alaska Pribilof Islands Association
American Probation and Parole Association
Anchorage Correctional Complex
Anchorage Department of Labor
Anchorage District Attorney's Office
Anchorage Reentry Coalition
ANDVSA

AWAIC
Bering Sea Women's Group
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska
Bristol Bay Native Association
Circle Alaska Consulting
Cook Inlet Housing Authority
Cook Inlet Tribal Council
Cordova Center
Covenant House Alaska
Denali Credit Union
Department of Corrections
Department of Juvenile Justice
Doug Modig
Fairbanks Correctional Complex
Federal Prosecutors Office
GCI
Goldstream Group, Inc.
Goose Creek Correctional Complex
Hiland Mountain Correctional Complex
Identity
Kenai Reentry Coalition
Kenai Wildwood Correctional Complex
Kenaitze Indian Tribe
Knik Tribe

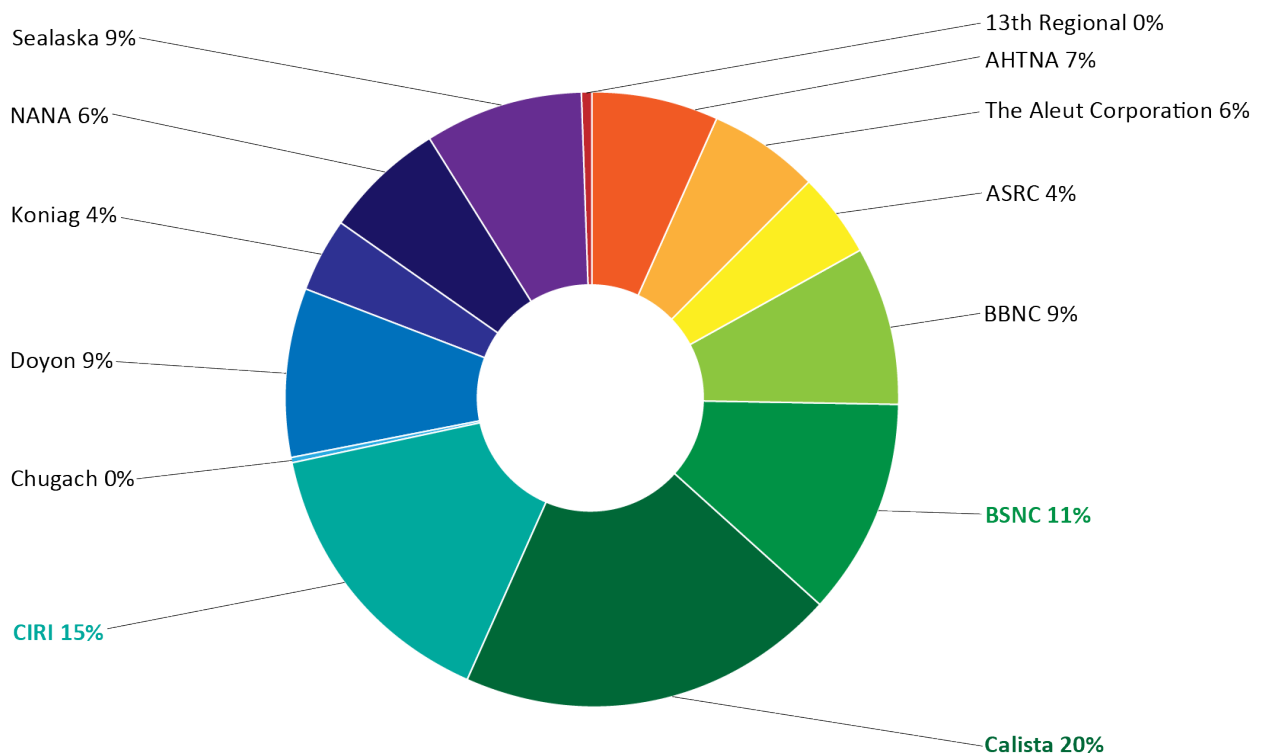
Lemon Creek Correctional Complex
Midtown Center
New Life Development
Partners Reentry Center
Peninsula Department of Labor
Priceless
Rasmuson Foundation
Southcentral Foundation - Elder Program
Southcentral Foundation - FWWI
Southeast Treatment Services LCCC, Sex Offender Management Program
Spring Creek Correctional Complex
STAR
The Bridge Reentry Fairbanks
The CIRI Foundation
Tlingit & Haida Reentry
University of Alaska Anchorage - Justice Information Center
University of Alaska, Anchorage - Department of Communication

STATISTICS & IMPACTS

SERVICE AREA

ANJC serves individuals state-wide, assisting participants from every ANCSA region.

In FY20, **423** participants of the total **1,840** participants served identified their ANCSA affiliation or Tribe.



DONORS

ORGANIZATIONS

AHTNA Inc.
Alaska Art & Frame
Alaska Association Of Criminal
Defense Lawyers
Alaska Career College
Alaska Community Foundation
Alaska Department of Corrections
Alaska Lasik & Cataract Center
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Smashburger
Snow City Cafe
Solara Skin & Laser
Southcentral Foundation
Southside Tattoo
Space Needle
Starbucks
Tanana Chiefs Conference
The CIRI Foundation
Wild Scoops

INDIVIDUALS

Chet Adkins
Josh Ahsoak
Charles Akers
Jeanette Alas
Mary Allen
Susan Anderson & Kevin Tripp
Christopher Ash
Tammy & Charles Ashley
Deborah Atuk
Deirdre Baker
Leah Blake
Benjamin Briggs
Amanda Brooks
Brittany Brown
Diane & Roger Buls
Charles & Karen Bunch
Foster Burgess
John Burr
Brennan Cain
Karen Caindec
Misty Campbell
Russell Carlson
Marit Carlson-Van Dort
Christine Carter
Alex Cleghorn
Maria Coleman
Christopher Cooke
LeeAnn Cooper Garrick
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Elizabeth Davidson
Bathsheba Demuth
Barbara Donatelli
Erin Dougherty Lynch
Ron Duncan
Kimbree Ekamrak
Ivan Encelewski
Richard "Greg" Encelewski
John & Heather Estabrook
Michael Farahjood
Joshua Franks
Amy & Craig Fredeen
Bryce Fredrick
Laurel Foster
John Fullenwider
Darrel Gardner & Tina Adair
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Carol Gore
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Mac Hunter-Lyons
Kelly Hurd & Michael Hondel
Crystal Jackson
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Charlene Juliussen
Diane Kaplan
Thomas Kaplan
Michael Kauzmann
Lloyd Miller & Heather Kendall-
Miller
Kristin Kinagak-Friday
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Mark & Leslie Kroloff
Maggie Laufenberg
Georgianna Lincoln
Jahna Lindemuth
Ayla Loper
Sarah Lukin
Nina Lundstrom
Marlene Mack
Anthony & Mandy Mallott
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Garret McCormack
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Luava Patkotak
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Gavin Phipps
Melissa Phipps
Rochelle Phipps
Jonathan Pistotnik
Alicia Porter
Maya Ramaswamy
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Maliko Ubl
Dabney Van Liere
Michelle Wade
Matt Wilkins & April Kyle
Erin Willahan
Cristy Willer
Kate Wolgemuth
Christopher Wooley
Kim & Christopher Zello



Through your partnership, ANJC assists more than 1,840 Alaskans each year. Together, we achieve our mission of creating a more just Alaska for all. To learn more, or to access ANJC services, visit www.citci.org/anjc or call 907-793-3550.

Thank you for your continued support!

Your generous support provides legal assistance for Alaska Native and non-native people alike. **Because of you**, parents are able to maintain custody of their own children; people fleeing domestic violence situations find safety; and those who have been incarcerated find the support they need to become valued members of society. **Because of you**, Alaska Native people find justice.

Ways to donate:

- Visit www.citci.org/anjc
- Donating by mail? Send checks to:
Alaska Native Justice Center
3600 San Jeronimo Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99508
- For the latest ANJC news and information, follow **Alaska Native Justice Center** on Facebook.

