

2021 IMPACT REPORT



——Alaska Native—— JUSTICE CENTER Voices for Justice



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



Growth in a Year of Challenge

Last year, the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) served 7,950 individuals through its programs an 87 percent increase since 2016. In a year when a pandemic often made it difficult for people to connect, ANJC found innovative ways to bring its services to more people than ever.

With staff now working both on-site and remotely, ANJC has reimagined how it delivers services, making it easier and safer for youth, Elders, Tribes, victims and survivors of violence, and people recently released from prison to find the assistance they need.

Meanwhile, funding from COVID assistance sources allowed ANJC to provide its services to a more diverse community of people.

Helping the Most Vulnerable

ANJC launched two major initiatives over the past year, focusing on human trafficking and Elder services.

"There's very little data, compared to the Lower 48, on human trafficking in Alaska, especially in our rural communities," said Tammy Ashley, ANJC senior director of operations. ANJC aims to change that through a landscape analysis it has undertaken, in partnership with Stellar Group, that will illuminate the needs and gaps in services for victims of trafficking statewide.

Armed with this data, ANJC is offering training to communities throughout the state, helping providers in rural areas develop skills to work with victims.

Through a partnership with Southcentral Foundation, ANJC also grew its Elder program this year. ANJC's staff now includes a lawyer and a paralegal who help Elders navigate the legal system, ensure the protection of Elders' rights, and offer access to emergency funding, among other services.

Amplifying the Voices of Alaska Tribes

"This year, we've seen that in the cases we're

involved in, children are more likely to reunify with their families," said Alex Cleghorn, ANJC's senior director of legal and policy.

It's proof of what ANJC's Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Representation team believed: "Having lawyers involved in ICWA cases isn't just theoretically helping Tribes and the state meet the promise of ICWA; it's actually showing in the outcomes."



Alex Cleghorn, Senior Legal and Policy Director

Over the past year, ANJC provided representation in Alaska State Court ICWA matters in over 100 cases—ensuring that Tribal ICWA workers from across Alaska have legal support and that Tribes' voices are heard in court cases.

Representation isn't just about appearing in court in support of Tribes though. It's also about ensuring that Alaska Native people are represented at all levels of the justice system—as lawyers, paralegals, judges.

STATISTICS & IMPACTS



ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS

In 2021, we provided 10,092 referrals to our participants, a **93**% increase over the previous year.

463 served individuals, a **12**% increase over the previous year.

Advocacy staff provided **419** consultation on services to individuals looking for services.

60% of our 463 participants were provided with 189 supportive services (shelter, food, transportation, clothing, safety needs, etc) from 2020.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Served 17 Tribes and added 78 new cases involving the ICWA.

84 Elders and survivors of crime assisted with their cases and provided over 200 consultations.

Supported victims and survivors of DVSA in **42** cases, offered 71 consultations, and helped 19 victims and survivors of DV/SA obtain protective orders.

29 ICWA trainings provided in 2021.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & POLICY ADVOCACY

Supported Congressional efforts to: 1) reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA); 2) implement a village safety pilot project to expand criminal justice response at the Tribal level.

Supported efforts to ensure that **\$30** million in American Rescue Plan funding include Alaska (and many other PL 280 state Tribes).

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Adult Reentry:

In 2021, Adult Reentry Case Managers provided 1166 consultations to individuals in the community, a **76**% increase from 2020.

136 individuals with adult reentry services, a **27**% increase from 2020.

Increased supportive services by 72% by providing 293 supportive service needs.

ANJC achieved a **70**% reduction in recidivism among the 309 formerly incarcerated individuals who participated in ANJC programming over the last three years, from 2019-2021.

Youth Reentry:

In 2021, Youth Reentry served **61** individuals with youth reentry services, an **80**% increase from 2020.

consultations on services to young 262 individuals looking for youth reentry services, a 76% increase from 2020.

We increased our supportive services by **71**% by providing 53 supportive service needs.

Youth Development:

In 2021, Youth Development provided 63 supportive service needs (shelter, food, clothing, transportation, education needs, and/or work needs etc)



96 individuals with youth development services, a 74% increase from 2020.

Youth advocates provided **292** consultations or referrals on services to young individuals and their family members looking for community services, a **90**% increase from 2020.

TRIBAL JUSTICE SUPPORT

Launched a Tribal Justice and an ICWA Collaboration with statewide partners to collectively identify and solve issues.

28 trainings provided at regional and statewide meetings, and launched a monthly webinar series, called Tribal Justice Foundations.

SUCCESS STORY - ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS

REAL PEOPLE, REAL JUSTICE: JAMIE ANJC provides support for victims of violence

I should just kill you.

Those were the words that followed Jamie as she left her home. She had taken her children to stay with her sister many times before, in an effort to give her husband space to cool off. But something was different this time.

Jamie gathered some belongings, then headed for the door with her daughter in her arms—and her husband pushed her. Her daughter's head struck the banister. Jamie knelt to check on her—but her husband grabbed Jamie by the neck and slammed her head into the ground. He bit her face, then growled those words.

I should just kill you.

But when Jamie called the Anchorage Police Department (APD) to report her husband's actions, everything went wrong.

"He lied and told them our son bit my face," she recalled. "My son was three at the time and had never bit me or ever exhibited violent behavior. I'll never forget how scared he was when he saw his dad doing that to me. I'll never forget his scream."

A Safe Place

When the APD officer didn't believe her story, Jamie was angry and frustrated.



Jamie finds a new beginning at ANJC.

"I didn't feel like my voice was being heard," she said.

While looking for help through another organization, Jamie was referred to the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC).

Since its inception in 1993, ANJC has provided advocacy on behalf of victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In 2015, ANJC added services for victims of dating violence and stalking, later expanding its scope further to include human trafficking survivors. Through an array of culturally sensitive services, ANJC supports women and other survivors of violence with legal assistance, case management, and referrals to services.

Most of all, ANJC offers a caring and experienced staff who know what it means to be believed.

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ANJC LEADERSHIP

LEADERSHIP

Gloria O'Neill, President/CEO Tammy Ashley, Senior Director of Operations Alex Cleghorn, Senior Legal and Policy Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail R. Schubert, Board Chair Gregory Razo, Vice Chair Ivan Encelewski, Secretary/Treasurer Natasha Singh, Director Gloria O'Neill, Director Nicole Borromeo, Director Shawna Larson, Director



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

YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ANJC's Native Law Fellow program, which launches this year, creates an opportunity for recent law school graduates to work in the field of Native law.

"The Native Law Fellow program is hopefully a way to encourage law students to come back to our Native communities," Alex said. "ANJC's law fellows will engage directly with our people and gain exposure to a variety of law."

Finally, CITC's new Court Kiosk, available to all ANJC participants, connected individuals who needed to appear in court with a virtual portal to Alaska's justice system—a crucial service during the pandemic.

Support and Safety

While ANJC has, since its inception, been a resource for adult victims of domestic and other violence, it wasn't until this year that the organization extended its advocacy outreach to youth.

"When we focus on one person, we help one person," Tammy pointed out. "But if we look at both parents and children—whether the youth are primary or secondary victims of violence-we have a larger effect."



Providing support to young victims of violence is part of ANJC's strategy to reduce the number of youth incarcerated in juvenile justice. Through advocacy, workshops on healthy relationships and teen dating violence, youth support groups, antitrafficking work, mentorship, and case management, ANJC hopes to set young people up for success and prevent them



Tammy Ashley Senior Director of Operations

from later needing reentry services.

For all individuals who access ANJC resources virtually, staff has provided technology that allows people to connect remotely. More significantly, they've built in safety measures that allow survivors to protect themselves.

"Because we don't know who else is in the room when a victim of violence is on the phone or the computer with ANJC," Tammy clarified, "it's important to give them a way to quickly get off the call or alert us that their situation is unsafe."

The newly redesigned ANJC website also features a "quick exit" button that allows individuals in unsafe environments to close their internet browser and protect their privacy.

Culturally Informed Services

Although many ANJC services are available to anyone, regardless of heritage, the organization infuses Alaska Native culture into all its programs.

"We've found that indigenous people, regardless of where they're from, understand the need for that cultural component," said Tammy.

SUCCESS STORY - ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

"It's really important for people to find a safe place, which ANJC offers," said Marlene Mack, senior manager of ANJC's Advocacy programs.

Before Marlene worked for ANJC, she came to the organization seeking help as a victim of domestic violence herself.

"I didn't know what help I needed; I just knew I needed to get myself and my children a safe home," Marlene recalled. "But the ANJC advocate and family law attorney helped me determine my need and find assistance. For me, it's very personal. I know what it takes to walk through the doors. That's why our services are all survivor-based—if a service isn't the right fit, we'll edit it to meet the need."

Making Tough Decisions

For Jamie, those needs included filing a restraining order, starting divorce proceedings, and arranging shared custody of her children.

"Being so naive about the [legal] process, the ANJC team always made sure I was well informed every step of the way," she said.

She added that in a highly emotional situation, it was crucial to have someone on her side who could walk her through tough decisions. "I feel like there were a couple of times I wouldn't have made the best decision on my own, without the guidance of ANJC's legal team."

Working in collaboration with ANJC's advocates, the organization's legal team provides representation to qualifying individuals. ANJC lawyers may also accompany individuals to court, help them apply for other legal services, or assist with obtaining protective orders.

Thanks to support from ANJC, Jamie now lives in an apartment on her own and shares custody of her children. She graduated from the accounting program at Alaska Career College and works as a payroll administrator for her Native corporation, Bering Straits.

And, she still hears from the advocacy team at ANJC.

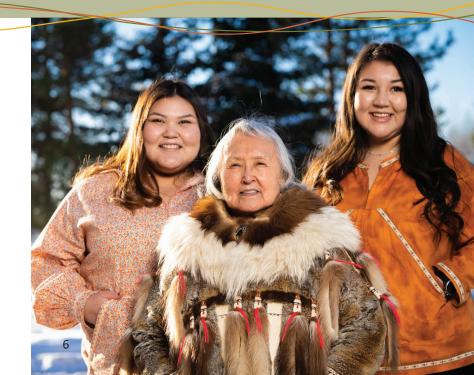
"I don't know how many times they've called to check on me, and what should have been a ten minute call will turn into an hour and half, just because we're catching up," Jamie said. "They listen to me. ANJC's advocacy team was a light at the end of a very dark time."

Help ANJC ensure that victims of domestic and other kinds of violence find a safe place and receive legal assistance by making a donation at **anjc.org.**

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





YEAR IN REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

"All our participants have enjoyed the cultural aspect—but for indigenous people, it feeds something in their soul that makes them think of home. It's an important part of their healing."

As she looks forward to ANJC's next year, Tammy anticipates more growth across the organization's 21 programs and services. Already a nationally recognized leader in Native justice, ANJC continues to act as a resource to other organizations across the country for providing trauma-informed, culturally appropriate programs to victims, survivors, youth, Elders, and others.

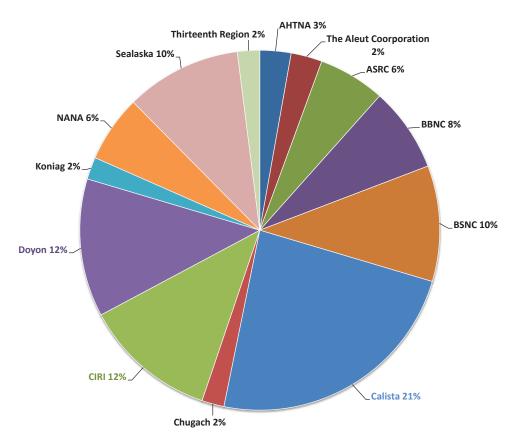
To support ANJC in its mission to achieve justice for Alaska Native people, please donate at **anjc.org.** Be a Voice for Justice: Give today.

SERVING ALASKA'S COMMUNITIES

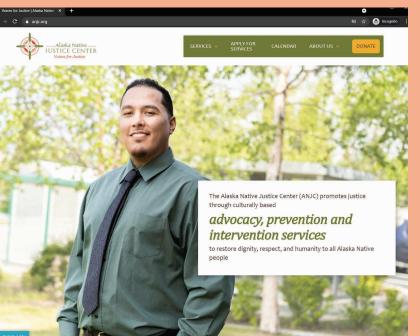
ANJC serves individuals state-wide, assisting participants from every ANCSA region.

In FY21, **250** participants of the total **1,028** participants served identified their ANCSA affiliation or Tribe.

173 participants marked as unknown or none.



YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR JUSTICE



ANJC relaunches website

On May 5, 2021, the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) celebrated its 28th year of providing advocacy, prevention, and intervention services for Alaska Native people and others. The organization marked a second milestone that same week, launching a completely redesigned website aimed at making its programs and services more accessible to Alaskans with justice-related needs.

"In the first weeks after our soft launch, we immediately started getting new web-based applications for our advocacy programs—all of it organic," said ANJC Senior Director of Operations Tammy Ashley. "The amount of traffic we've already seen is mind-blowing. It tells us that there are many people looking for justice support."

Now, individuals seeking justice service can go to anjc.org to easily access an array of justice-related programs, from advocacy for victims of domestic violence, to services for Elders and youth, to representation for Tribes involved in Indian Child Welfare Act cases. ANJC also offers adult and youth reentry services, as well as youth development programming. Thanks to funding from the Rasmuson Foundation, the website redesign was a two-year collaboration with Clutch Media.

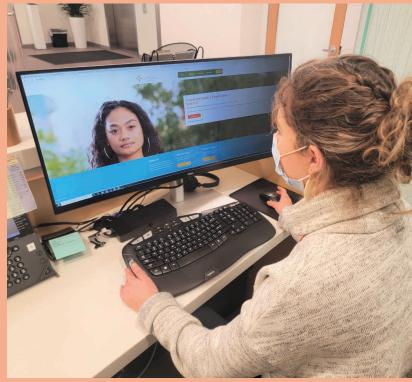
The new website emphasizes easy connection to ANJC services and confidentiality. There is a "quick exit" button on every page of the website that allows visitors to quickly navigate away from anjc.org in order to maintain their privacy.

The website also features a calendar of ANJC events, social media feeds, social justice updates, and a web-based application for services.

Another priority Tammy had for the redesign was to be culturally relevant, yet user-friendly. The site features candid photos of Alaska Native people and others in the community who might seek ANJC's services.

In other words, ANJC is here for all Alaskans—and it's easier than ever to connect to ANJC programs.

Visit the newly redesigned ANJC website today at **anjc.org**.



SUCCESS STORY - TRIBAL ICWA REPRESENTATION PROGRAM

NOME ESKIMO COMMUNITY

Lola Toba is the Director of Family Services for Nome Eskimo Community. She works in the Tribal family services facility in Anchorage.

Tell us about the work you do on behalf of the Tribe as it relates to Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) cases?

Lola: Nome Eskimo Community is one of 229 Tribes in the state of Alaska. As such, we have the authority under ICWA to intervene and become a legal party on cases involving our Tribe's children and families. When an agency of Child Protective Services removes—or is intending to remove—a child from our community, we become involved with the investigation. By intervening, we become a legal party. We advocate what is in the child's best interest, ensuring family contact or other positive outcomes benefiting the children and the family.

How has the Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) helped improve Nome's Tribal community?

Lola: Before partnering with ANJC, we did our best to protect our families ourselves. But we are nonattorney Tribal representatives. One of our cases in particular became litigious and we explored options for legal assistance. That's when we learned about ANJC's program to assist Tribes.

An attorney at ANJC reviewed our case and provided legal representation for us. He took the lead with the public defenders that were on the case. He was very knowledgeable of the Child In Need of Aid rules as well as court processes and procedures. He really encouraged us to assert our authority when things go sideways. Now when we speak, the court listens to what the Tribe is saying and requesting.

We've been very, very lucky to have ANJC represent us on this very difficult case. Do you see yourself coming back to ANJC for future representation or assistance on cases?

Lola: Absolutely. We recently reached out to them for another challenging case. We advocate for Tribal entities in rural areas to consider reaching out to ANJC for help. We will most definitely request assistance from ANJC in the future.



Lola Toba, Director of Family Services for Nome Eskimo Community

Why it is important that Tribal voices are heard in these cases and Tribes are able to represent themselves?

Lola: The Indian Child Welfare Act was passed because many of our Tribal children were being adopted out to non-Native families. They grow up not knowing anything about who they are culturally or where they come from. They are lost to us. So we do our very best as non-attorney Tribal representatives to ensure that our children are placed with relatives whenever possible. We make sure that the family is afforded adequate contact or family connectedness.

During the life of a case, we make sure that our children are given the opportunity to participate in cultural and traditional activities, like Native dancing. When we can, we provide Alaska Native foods for our kids and our parents.

And we make sure that OCS does what they're supposed to do—under ICWA—in that they're required to provide active efforts to make sure that reunification is possible for our children and parents.

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 Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska **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 Peninsula Department of Labor Kenai Reentry Coalition

Kenai Wildwood Correctional Complex Kenaitze Indian Tribe Knik Tribe Lemon Creek Correctional Complex Midtown Center New Life Development Partners Reentry Center 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 University of Alaska Anchorage - Justice Information Center University of Alaska, Anchorage -Department of Communication

What's Next for ANJC?

Social Justice Advocacy:

 Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) – continue to engage with community partners to highlight this issue and encourage needed policy changes. ANJC services are available to families of crime victims

Tribal Justice:

- Training and Technical Assistance supporting Tribal justice systems and courts
- Providing training, technical assistance and state court ICWA representation

Advocacy:

- Human Trafficking statewide collaboration with partners, tribes and villages, focusing on direct services, prevention initiatives and awareness, education and outreach
- Extend service availability to rural areas through our Hybrid Service Delivery Model utilizing technology

Restorative Justice:

- Youth Development and Youth Reentry expanding our services outside of Anchorage
- Adult Reentry expanding and improving access to our services

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ORGANIZATIONS

49th State Brewing ak starfish co. Alaska Career College Alaska Community Foundation Alaska Sealife Center Aleut Corporation Alpine Azalea Amazon Smile Anchorage Yoga & Cycle Bering Straits Native Corporation Bosco's Spenard **Bradley House** Bristol Bay Native Corporation Calista Corporation Chugach Alaska Corporation Coming Attractions Theaters, Inc Cook Inlet Housing Authority Cook Inlet Region, Inc. Cook Inlet Tribal Council Darae's Salon & Spa Dolphin Hair Design Excalibur Alaska First Alaskans Institute GCI Gottstein Family Foundation Heritage Coffee Roasting Co. Ilisagvik College Koahnic Broadcast Corporation Koniag, Inc. Kroger MacArthur Foundation Mahay's Jet Boat Adventures Moose's Tooth Network for Good Ninilchik Natives Association, Inc. Ninilchik Traditional Council **Rasmuson Foundation** Ravn Alaska Red Robin Alaska Sealaska Corporation Southcentral Foundation Stoel Rives, LLC Summit Spice & Tea Co. Tanana Chiefs Conference The Benevity Community Impact Fund The CIRI Foundation University of Alaska Anchorage

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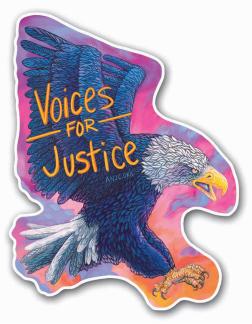
Carl Marrs



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 anjc.org or call 907-793-3550.

Thank you for your continued support!

Your generous support provides legal assistance for Alaska Native and nonnative 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 anjc.org
- 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.

Artwork by Amanda Rose Warren