

# 2022 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT

## The numbers tell the story:

*Alaska Native people face significant challenges in the justice system.*

Native women are more likely to be victims of violent crime. Native children are more likely to be displaced. Native adults are more likely to be reincarcerated—caught in a cycle that won't let them get ahead. **Behind every statistic is a person, a family, and a community.**

We can do better.

The Alaska Native Justice Center (ANJC) is dedicated to helping Native people navigate the justice system. We support survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

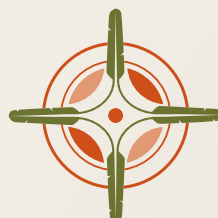
We partner with Tribes to improve child welfare and local justice systems across Alaska. **We teach, connect, and assist. We break down barriers.** We help Alaska Native people get an equal chance in the justice system.

In 2022, ANJC made a difference. Not only did we continue to deliver and grow direct services

to people seeking justice-related support, but we helped influence Alaska's justice system on a broader scale through advocacy efforts that represent the needs of Our People.

We hope you'll take a moment to look through these pages and celebrate our impact in 2022. **Our success happens in partnership with you**—our supporters, donors, and stakeholders—and our impact is your impact. We are grateful for your commitment to ANJC.

Together, we share a vision for fair and equitable treatment of Alaska Native people in the justice system. Together, we are a voice for justice.



—Alaska Native—  
**JUSTICE CENTER**  
*Voices for Justice*





# SIX WAYS ANJC IMPACTED THE LIVES OF ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE IN 2022

## 1 SURVIVOR SERVICES

Alaska Native women are **3.8 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than non-Native women.**<sup>1</sup> ANJC staff is specially trained to meet the needs of Alaska Native survivors. Here, women and others who have experienced sexual assault find culturally sensitive, emotionally supportive services.

**Domestic violence victimizes Alaska Native people at 7.2 times the rate of White Alaskans in rural Alaska.**<sup>2</sup> ANJC assists individuals with filing protective orders against violent partners.

In 2021, **90%** of the protective orders we filed were granted.

## 3 EMPOWERMENT



ANJC empowers individuals to know their legal rights through pro se clinics and consultations. **In 2022, ANJC provided 53 consultations to individuals facing legal proceedings.**

Alaska Native Elders can be targeted by family members and others as victims of coercion and fraud. ANJC's Elder services aim to help Elders protect themselves from victimization.

**When Alaska Native people have a voice in legal proceedings, they can advocate for their own rights.\***

## 2 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

For many incarcerated people, the day they leave prison starts a countdown to the day they return: **62% of those released from prison return to custody within three years.**<sup>3</sup> ANJC provides the resources and support people need to stay out of prison.

Alaska Native people are disproportionately represented in Alaska's prison system and have **higher rates of re-arrest than offenders of any other ethnicity.**<sup>4</sup> In addition to providing a network of support that helps people stay out of prison, ANJC provides culturally-informed support groups and therapy for Alaska Native and other Native people.

Every year, the agency helps about **500 individuals** successfully reenter society.



## 4 TRIBAL JUSTICE



Alaska Native children make up on 19 percent of Alaska's youth population—yet **over 50 percent of the children in out-of-home care are Alaska Native.** ANJC provides legal representation to Alaska Tribes involved in state Child in Need of Aid Cases. When we're involved, kids are reunified with their families at a higher rate than average.

When a Tribal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) worker appears in court to intervene in Child in Need of Aid cases, they're not appointed an attorney. ANJC can represent Alaska Tribes and offer technical assistance to caseworkers appearing in court—helping to ensure that Alaska's children are protected under ICWA.



## 5 SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

When Alaska Native people interact with the justice system, they face barriers: **Generations of cultural bias can make individuals feel intimidated by police and distrustful of systems.** The Alaska Native Justice Center brings partners together to advocate for fair and equitable treatment of Native people within the justice system.

**Representation matters: When Alaska Native people see themselves in positions of power within the justice system, they're more likely to trust that they'll be taken seriously.**

ANJC's **Color of Justice** programs encourage young Alaska Native students to consider careers in the justice and legal systems.



## 6 ADVOCATING FOR OUR PEOPLE

ANJC's legal team provided expertise for discussions that ultimately led to the reauthorization of the **Violence Against Women Act**, which includes a special provision addressing Alaska-specific issues—including incorporating the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act definition of "village" as lands where Tribes have public safety jurisdiction.

The Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2022 also reaffirmed that **Alaska Tribes have concurrent jurisdiction with the state over Native people who commit violent crimes within Native communities.**

"Supporting the Tribes who want to implement the Reauthorization Act represents a good portion of the work we'll be doing, going forward into 2023 and beyond," said ANJC Senior Legal and Policy Director Alex Cleghorn.



## ANJC PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT: TONI'S STORY

Two years ago, I was digging my way out of a grave, begging God to just please take me so I didn't have to suffer. And now, today, I can sit here and say I'm proud. **I'm very proud of myself for how far I've come,** for how far I am in my recovery, for how far I am in my faith, and just how much I've grown as a person.

I'm not the same Toni I was before. I can proudly say that I'm never going to be that Toni again. There's nowhere to go but up.

**The Alaska Native Justice Center saved my life.** They gave me the tools and the resources I needed to get on my feet and to learn to live a life that doesn't include crime, it doesn't include addiction, and it doesn't include self-harm. **It showed me how to love myself again.** It's the best feeling in the world to live clean and sober.

Listen to Toni tell her story.







## RECENT IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES:

### Grant-funded Efforts Against Abuse

The advocacy team secured a **Department of Justice grant** that enables ANJC to provide sexual assault response, prevention, and outreach services to teens and adults through community partnerships. An additional **Indian Health Service Domestic Violence Prevention grant** will support ANJC's efforts to reduce the victimization of Alaska Native/American Indian people in Anchorage.

### Moral Reconciliation Therapy

23 people graduated from the Moral Reconciliation Therapy program, which aims to change how individuals make decisions by increasing moral reasoning. Under a new initiative to increase community involvement in lowering recidivism rates, each graduate was sponsored by a local business.

"The support from local businesses shows that the community cares and understands what a big deal it is for our participants to complete the MRT program as part of their growth and reintegration process," said Restorative Justice Program Manager Eva Manzano.

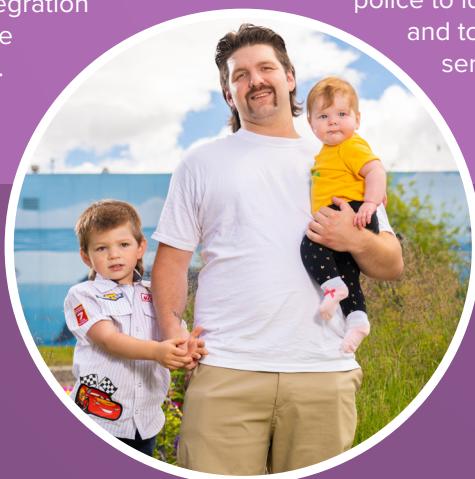
### Advocacy for Unhoused Women

By placing an advocate at Anchorage's Downtown Hope Center, ANJC delivered case management to unhoused single women who might not otherwise have access to supportive services.

"It's often very difficult for the women at the Hope Center to come into ANJC's offices," explained Advocacy Program Manager Fabienne Smith. "Being present at the shelter through this partnership to address needs and provide cultural activities really allows us to meet people where they're at."

### Human Trafficking Task Force

ANJC brought together partners including the Anchorage Police Department, the FBI, Alaska State Troopers, Covenant House, and Alaska Institute for Justice to form a Human Trafficking Task Force aimed at better training police to identify victims and survivors and to strengthen referrals among service providers.



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**STATISTIC SOURCES:** <sup>1</sup> Municipality of Anchorage data (2018);  
<sup>2</sup> AJJC. (July 2015). AK DV/SA Case Processing Project Descriptive Analysis of DV/SA Incidents  
Closed by the Alaska State Troopers: 2008 – 2011.  
<sup>3</sup> Alaska Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC). (10/28/2021) Annual Report 2021 p. 31;  
<sup>4</sup> Alaska Judicial Council. (November 2011). Criminal Recidivism in Alaska, pp 53-54.; <sup>1</sup> Muncic