

ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

# 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**ASNA**  
ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

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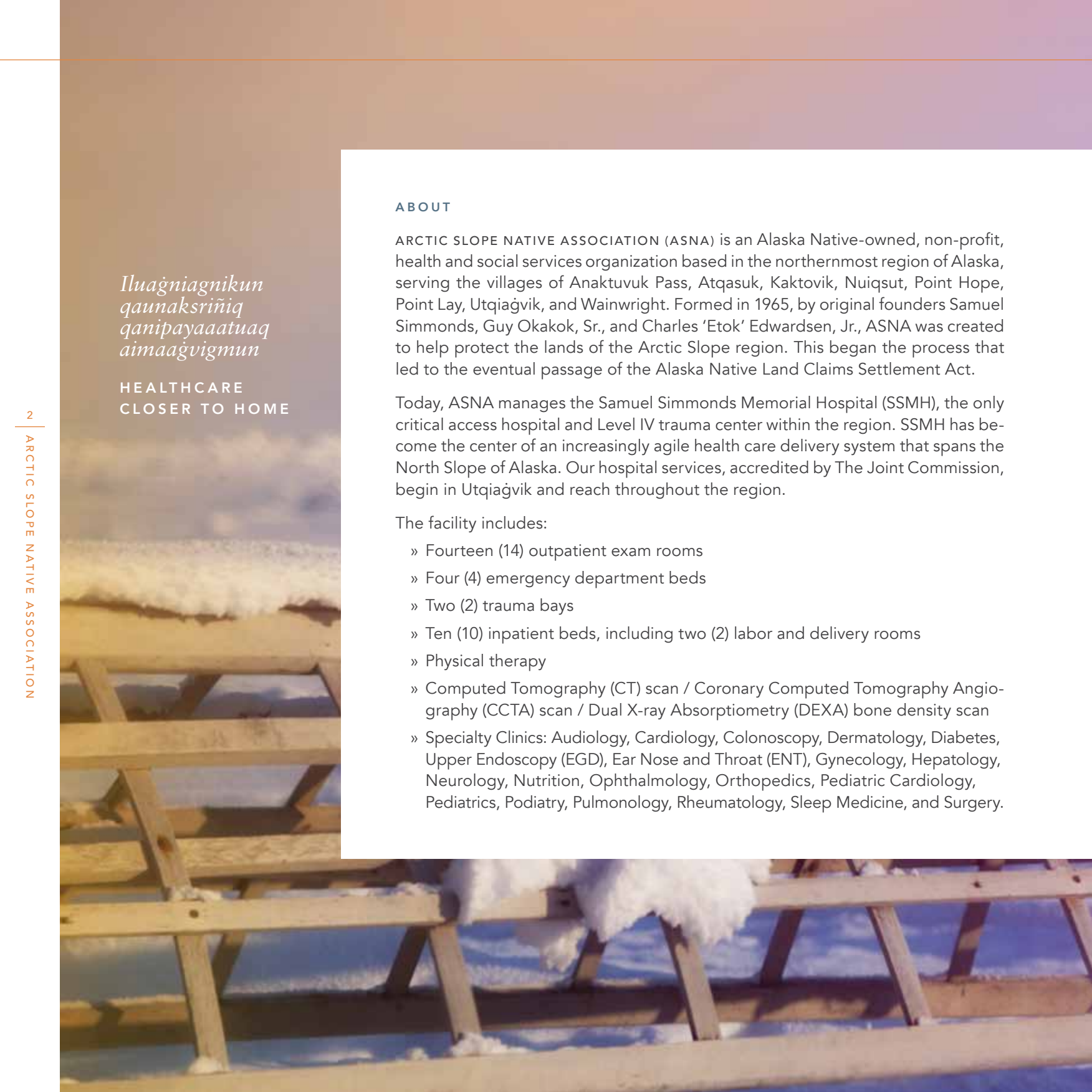
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*Iluagñiagnikun  
qaunaksriñiq  
qanipayaaatuaq  
aimaagvigmun*

HEALTHCARE  
CLOSER TO HOME

## ABOUT

ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION (ASNA) is an Alaska Native-owned, non-profit, health and social services organization based in the northernmost region of Alaska, serving the villages of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Formed in 1965, by original founders Samuel Simmonds, Guy Okakok, Sr., and Charles 'Etok' Edwardsen, Jr., ASNA was created to help protect the lands of the Arctic Slope region. This began the process that led to the eventual passage of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

Today, ASNA manages the Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH), the only critical access hospital and Level IV trauma center within the region. SSMH has become the center of an increasingly agile health care delivery system that spans the North Slope of Alaska. Our hospital services, accredited by The Joint Commission, begin in Utqiagvik and reach throughout the region.

The facility includes:

- » Fourteen (14) outpatient exam rooms
- » Four (4) emergency department beds
- » Two (2) trauma bays
- » Ten (10) inpatient beds, including two (2) labor and delivery rooms
- » Physical therapy
- » Computed Tomography (CT) scan / Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA) scan / Dual X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) bone density scan
- » Specialty Clinics: Audiology, Cardiology, Colonoscopy, Dermatology, Diabetes, Upper Endoscopy (EGD), Ear Nose and Throat (ENT), Gynecology, Hepatology, Neurology, Nutrition, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, and Surgery.



## MISSION

Our mission is to promote the health and well-being of the people of the Arctic Slope.

## VISION

The people of the Arctic Slope are healthy and content.

## OUR VALUES

ASNA and all SSMH operations are guided by the values of the Iñupiat people of the Arctic Slope:

*Nagliktuutiqaḡniq* — Compassion

*Paaḡlaktautaiññiq* — Resolution of Conflict

*Piqpakkutiqaḡniq sulī qiksiksrautiqaḡniq utuqqanaanun allanullu* — Love and Respect for our Elders and One Another

*Paammaaḡiḡñiq* — Cooperation

*Quvianḡuniq* — Humor

*Aviktuaqatigiḡñiq* — Sharing

*Iḡiḡiḡñiq* — Family and Kinship

*Iñupiuraallaniq* — Knowledge of Language

*Anjuniallaniq* — Hunting Traditions

*Qiksiksrautiqaḡniq Iñuuniagvigmun* — Respect for Nature

*Qiñuiññiq* — Humility

*Ukpiqqutiqaḡniq* — Spirituality

## LEADERSHIP

### FROM LEADERSHIP

*Bernice Aviuk Kaigelak, Board Chair &  
Martha Qaggun Monnin, President & CEO*

PAĠLAGIVSI!! It is a privilege to serve the healthcare needs for the people of the Arctic Slope. This year's annual report theme is *Iluagñiañnikun qaumaksriñiq qanipayaaqtuaq aimaagvigmun*, translated to "Healthcare Closer to Home." Our theme reflects our efforts to expand healthcare services at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH) and bring those services to the village communities served by the Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA).

We continue to see people struggle with traveling to Anchorage for specialty medical care, especially elders and families with young children. To make accessible care easier for our patients, ASNA recruited additional specialty doctors with advanced training in cardiology, OB/GYN, and ear, nose, and throat (ENT). You will see these specialists at SSMH and you will also see them working in your home communities to care for those you love.

We are delighted to work with doctors who want to meet you in your home communities and provide care in the North Slope Borough village clinics. The opportunity to receive specialized healthcare in the villages is very important for the health and well-being of our people. Increasing medical services near you means less barriers for receiving the care you need.

ASNA measures our investment in delivering healthcare closer to home by counting the number of doctor visits to the villages each year. In 2022, SSMH medical staff completed 140 doctor visits to the villages; this is the largest number of visits recorded. SSMH dental staff have also increased the frequency and length of time in the villages to serve more patients. Quyanaq to all the communities for coming together to support our growth.



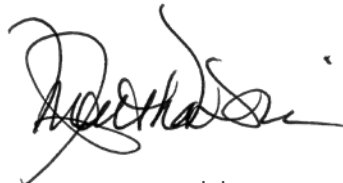
We also furthered our commitment to helping young people prepare for future careers in healthcare. The ASNA Board of Directors doubled the number of scholarships available through the Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Award Program. These scholarships help pay education expenses for tribal members interested in pursuing the health field. Also, we have expanded our partnership with Iḷisaḡvik College, and partnered with Alaska Pacific University, allowing students to complete their nursing degree requirements here on-slope. Our vision is to have tribal members deliver healthcare for our people here at home.

ASNA remains committed to serving our tribes. Long-term success is built upon supporting strong, healthy families to sustain strong, healthy communities. To support this, ASNA will continue to engage with family activities throughout the coming year. We look forward to bringing more programs and family resources to the Arctic Slope communities.

Quyanaqpak,



BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK  
*Chairperson*

MARTHA QAḠḠUN MONNIN  
*President & CEO*





ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION  
*Board of Directors*

*Board Chair*

BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK

*At-Large Seat*

*Vice Chair*

NANCY ROCK

*Native Village of Point Hope*

*Treasurer*

ESTHER EVIKANA

*Native Village of Barrow*

*Secretary*

NOREEN KALEAK

*Native Village of Kaktovik*

*Sergeant at Arms*

GWENDOLYN PIKOK

*Native Village of Point Lay*

*Members*

MOLLY AHKIVGAK

*Native Village of Atkasuk*

PETER "EARL" WILLIAMS

*Naqsrarmiut Tribal Council*

ISABEL NASHOOKPUK

*Wainwright Traditional Council*

VACANT

*Native Village of Nuiqsut*



SAMUEL SIMMONDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
*Governing Committee*

THE ASNA BOARD formed a hospital governing committee that oversees SSMH operations. The governing committee includes tribal council representatives, the ASNA President/CEO, the SSMH Hospital Administrator, the SSMH Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Staff, and the North Slope Borough (NSB) Director of Health & Social Services.

*Chairperson*

BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK  
*At-Large Seat*

*Vice Chair*

ISABEL NASHOOKPUK  
*Wainwright Traditional Council*

*Secretary*

NOREEN KALEAK  
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*Native Village of Atkasuk*

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*Native Village of Point Lay*

ESTHER EVIKANA  
*Native Village of Barrow*

VACANT  
*Native Village of Nuiqsut*

MARTHA MONNIN  
*ASNA President/CEO*

RICHARD HALL  
*SSMH Hospital Administrator*

DR. ALANNA SMALL  
*SSMH Chief Medical Officer and Chief of Staff*

MURIEL BROWER  
*NSB Director of Health & Social Services*



## HEALTHCARE CLOSER TO HOME



### DENTAL CLINIC

The SSMH Dental Clinic supports the Arctic Slope through community-based and patient-specific dental disease prevention, education, and clinical delivery of general dental treatment. Dental care can and should continue to be received by patients of all ages. In 2022, the clinic returned to being fully staffed with dental hygienist Jayna Wolgemuth, who is from Utqiagvik. We also upgraded equipment and hired orthodontist Dr. Rebecca Neslund to expand services in this dental specialty. In addition, prosthodontist Dr. William Hunter provided denture clinics in the villages for the first time.

Services include:

- » Dental examination, periodic and emergency
- » Preventive services, such as oral health and nutrition counseling, cleanings, sealants and more
- » Restorations and routine oral surgery, including wisdom teeth removal
- » Services for limited root canal therapy, crowns, bridges, braces and dentures are available in the hospital

The dental staff continue to provide routine oral health care, specialty clinics and overall access to care in the NSB village clinics. This helps patients avoid long trips, and allows them to receive treatment closer to home. The dental staff also works with local schools and community organizations to provide educational programs about oral health and preventive dentistry.

#### *New Service Highlight: Orthodontist Dr. Rebecca Neslund*

SSMH Dental began offering orthodontic services in 2022. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Rebecca Neslund, a Board-Certified Orthodontist, has joined SSMH Dental. She brings many years of experience providing quality care for patients. This eliminates the need for patients to travel off-slope to maintain their braces. Dr. Neslund started her career in Bethel, where her interest in orthodontics began. She directed the dental program in Kodiak and at Southcentral Foundation in Anchorage.

Dr. Neslund's expertise includes braces, clear aligners, and other treatments that improve teeth and jaw alignment. She also provides preventative care services to maintain healthy teeth and gums over time.





## EYE CLINIC

The SSMH Eye Clinic provides high-quality services and products at an affordable price and same-day service to all Arctic Slope residents.

Services include:

- » Comprehensive eye exams, which include screening and treatment for eye diseases such as cataracts, glaucoma, and diabetes-related eye problems
- » Refraction for glasses
- » Contact lens fitting, ordering and management
- » Eye disease evaluations and treatment or referrals to ophthalmology specialty clinic
- » Consultation, pre and post-surgical care for cataract and refractive surgery (LASIK)
- » Glasses ordering, repairs and adjustments (outside prescriptions welcome), including same-day service for new eyeglasses

The optometry clinic utilizes special testing instruments to help with patient education, diagnosis, treatment, and management of ocular diseases, such as glaucoma. These instruments allow our patients to be monitored at SSMH, instead of being referred off-slope.

An additional benefit at the clinic includes an in-house edger. The equipment, along with a maintained inventory of prescription lenses, allows same-day eyeglass service to the community. With the in-house edger, the clinic provided 185 patients with same-day eyeglass service. Without this technology, prescription eyeglasses must be completed off-slope and returned by mail.

Our department works diligently to confirm appointments and fill no-shows and cancellations to ensure that we can assist as many patients as we can during each clinic. The eye clinic works diligently to accommodate patient schedules with weekend appointments.





#### LABORATORY

The SSMH Laboratory is a full-service laboratory open seven days a week and provides diagnostic and phlebotomy services to our hospital, North Slope Borough Public Health, and other outlying facilities and villages. The analytical work performed at the SSMH Laboratory is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), known for their high standards of excellence in hospital laboratory accreditation. With our CAP accreditation, we can standardize testing and focus on continuity of quality patient care.

#### QUALITY

The Quality Department at SSMH is dedicated to providing excellent patient care with the highest quality outcomes. Quality works collaboratively with other departments to coordinate ongoing improvement and maintain hospital standards compliance. In FY 2022, their top three accomplishments were Joint Commission Survey preparation, the Safe Haven Hand Hygiene project, and creating quality measures for performance improvement. The department is also working on implementing multiple performance improvement projects to improve patient care.

SSMH is committed to preventing hospital-acquired conditions and has achieved zero hospital-acquired pressure ulcers and antibiotic-resistant staph infections in 2022.



## MEDICAL IMAGING

The SSMH Medical Imaging Department produces diagnostic studies ordered by SSMH Providers. Imaging staff are responsible for performing a variety of specialized tasks involved in the performance of CT (computerized tomography), radiographic, mammographic, and ultrasound exams utilizing radiation and ultrasound, while adhering to patient safety protocols.

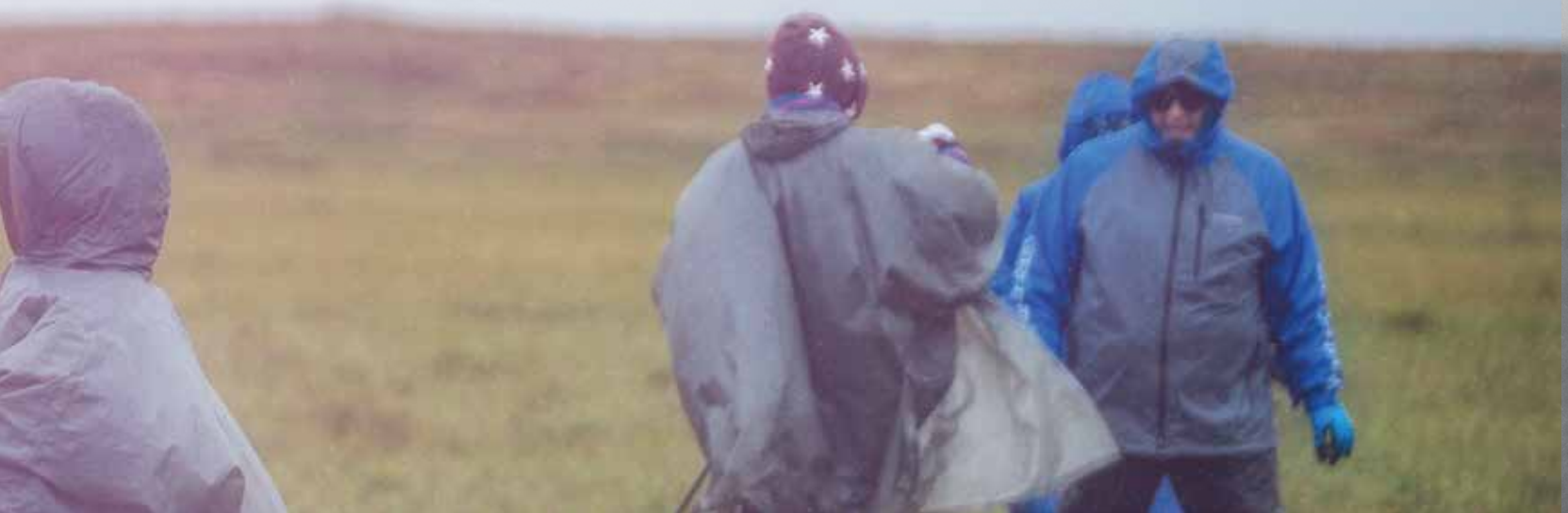
### *Expansion of X-Ray Services to Villages*

ASNA worked closely with the North Slope Borough (NSB) Health Department to improve connectivity at the village clinics and provide access to medical imaging for the first time. The ASNA service area village clinics include: Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, and Wainwright. Previously, patients had to travel to Utqiagvik for x-ray services. The NSB Village Health Aides worked closely with SSMH Medical Imaging to receive training and conduct x-rays. This helps them diagnose illnesses quickly and accurately.

This improved connectivity also allows for faster data transmission between SSMH and the remote villages, making it easier for health aides to get the information they need in a timely manner. With this new technology, medical professionals can save time diagnosing illnesses, improving patient outcomes and save lives.

### *Cardiology Specialty Clinic: Implantable Loop Recorder*

An implantable loop recorder (ILR) detects abnormal heartbeats and diagnoses atrial fibrillation. It is now available at SSMH Medical Imaging. An ILR allows SSMH Providers to better treat patients and find the appropriate medication or treatment plan.





## PHARMACY

The SSMH Pharmacy operates to meet the general pharmaceutical needs of the Arctic Slope. This is done by providing access to pharmacotherapeutic options for various disease states. Services include inventory of village medications and prescription dispensing through the Pyxis dispensing system. Patients now have access to the RefillPro mobile application, which allows patients to submit prescription refills and authorizations from their smartphone.

### *Project Hope Partnership*

ASNA has partnered with the State of Alaska Project Hope Initiative to provide Narcan kits to community members, free of charge.

Narcan is a life-saving medication that blocks or reverses opioid effects. In most cases, the effect is immediate and allows the person to breathe again. This gives the person a chance to seek emergency medical assistance. By increasing access and awareness of Narcan in our communities, we can save lives.

In Utqiagvik, Narcan kits are available at the SSMH Pharmacy during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 6:00pm. Kits are also available at the North Slope Borough Wellness Center during normal business hours. If you have questions or want additional information, please call the SSMH Pharmacy at 907.852.9277.



## PHYSICAL THERAPY

The SSMH Physical Therapy (PT) Department, led by Director Nicole Smith, aims to provide culturally sensitive and comprehensive care to individuals in need of physical therapy. PT offers various types of therapy to patients; inpatient/swing bed, and village residents through visits and telehealth. The department also provides continuity visits for long term patients.

In FY 2022, Physical Therapy expanded its therapy services to Nuiqsut, Atqasuk, Kaktovik and Wainwright. PT staff provided quality physical therapy services to 1950 patients, with 97% showing improvement in self-reported disability. Physical therapy services are still available to COVID-19 patients while admitted, and virtual appointments are offered for home quarantines. The department has also successfully recruited a pelvic floor specialized PT and will begin to provide care to communities in the upcoming year.







## NURSING SERVICES

### *Alaska Pacific University (APU) Partnership*

Alaska Pacific University (APU) has recently partnered with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to expand its nursing degree program. This partnership provides APU students with the opportunity to receive lectures and training at SSMH. APU provides faculty, curriculum, and online lectures, while SSMH provides facilities such as a simulated lab on its west campus with clinical education staff. This is a significant step for APU as it works towards official tribal college status. It ensures that there are enough qualified nurses available for the future.

### *Specialty Clinic*

In 2022, the SSMH Specialty Clinic expanded services in Utqiagvik to bring patients care without leaving off-slope. The following specialty clinics were offered at SSMH in 2022: Audiology, Cardiology, Colonoscopy, Dermatology, Diabetes, Esophagogastroduodenoscopy (EGD), ENT (Ear Nose and Throat), Gynecology, Hepatology, Neurology, Nutrition, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatrics, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, and Surgery.

### *Specialty Clinic Village Expansion*

New specialty services are offered in ASNA service area communities. As part of our commitment to providing care closer to home, village patients do not always need to travel to Utqiagvik to receive care. Village clinics include Cardiology, Chronic Pain Management, COVID-19 Vaccine, Dental, Dental Hygienist, Denture, Dermatology, Diabetes, Endocrinology, ENT (Ear Nose and Throat), Family Medicine, Monoclonal Antibody Infusions, OBGYN (Obstetrics), Pediatrics, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Sleep Medicine, and Women's Health.

By the numbers:

- » 43 clinics with SSMH Specialty Providers
- » 31 clinics with ANMC Specialty Providers
- » 825 patients received care over 1,401 encounters



### *New Labor & Delivery Rooms Expansion: “Honoring Mothers and Fathers”*

ASNA launched a fundraising initiative called, “Honoring Mothers and Fathers,” to fund the expansion of labor and delivery rooms at SSMH. For May and June, the Midnight Sun Coffee Shop donated proceeds towards this initiative. SSMH is currently equipped with two inpatient labor & delivery rooms. The project will allow medical providers to care for high-risk patients in Utqiagvik and eliminate baby deliveries off-slope.

### *Village Health*

As the only critical-access hospital in the Arctic Slope region, SSMH provides medical oversight and preceptorship training for the North Slope Borough-Community Health Aide Program (CHAP). Community Health Aides are often the only primary care providers serving vital roles in our residents' health and well-being. In 2022, SSMH Nursing provided COVID-19 vaccines and supported providers with 111 trips to villages. SSMH medical providers began travelling to our service area communities to meet CHAP staff and understand their challenges.

### *Respiratory Care*

Respiratory Care ensures 24-hour, 7 day a week respiratory therapy coverage in the hospital. They also support the Cardiology, Pulmonology, and Sleep Medicine clinics by performing specialized procedures and giving clinical support to the specialists. This includes monitoring patient progress, administering medications, performing diagnostic tests, and providing education for patients and their families. Respiratory Care also administers emergency medical care when needed. The services provided are essential for the proper diagnosis and treatment of respiratory disorders. Their expertise ensures patients receive the best care in a timely manner.

## SCREENING FOR LIFE

The SSMH Screening for Life (SFL) Program handles Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funds for breast and cervical cancer screenings and Indian Health Service funds for diabetes treatment and prevention. The program also covers non-grant covered colorectal screenings. The aim is to reduce breast, cervical, lung and colorectal cancers among Arctic Slope residents. This is done by providing access to life-saving, early detection screening services like pap smears, mammograms, and colonoscopies. They also provide diabetes education and prevention services. Through a competitive application process, the CDC awarded ASNA and the SFL Program grant funding through the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The five-year grant is currently underway and will support breast and cervical screening services for low-income women who are uninsured or underinsured.

SFL offers year-round breast and cervical cancer screenings and colorectal cancer screenings through scheduled colonoscopy clinics and FIT testing to the residents of Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, Utqiagvik and Wainwright.

SFL has been working on integrating the Low-Dose Computerized Tomography (LDCT) scan into its lung cancer screening program to provide outreach, patient navigation, and case management services.

In addition to lung cancer screenings, SFL is in the early stages of implementing an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening and Liver Cancer Screening Program. AAA screening is an abdominal ultrasound test used to diagnose abdominal aortic aneurysms. Liver screening is completed through blood testing and ultrasound to diagnose liver conditions, including liver cancer.





### *6th Annual 'Girls Night Out'*

In honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, SSMH Medical Imaging and ASNA Screening for Life hosted a 'Girls Night Out'. This was to involve the community in the fight against breast cancer.

On Saturday, October 29, there was a fun event to promote breast cancer awareness in the SSMH Lobby. Women could get mammograms, participate in a pink-themed fashion show, and receive massages from Arctic Chiropractic.

During October 24-29, participants who received their annual mammogram screenings at SSMH were entered into a prize raffle. This was open to all women due for mammograms, including village residents.

#### By the Numbers:

- » Two hundred seventy (270) cervical cancer screenings were performed. Fourteen (14) of those had abnormal results. One person was diagnosed with cervical cancer.
- » Two hundred six (206) Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) tests were performed. Twenty (20) of those tests were positive, which initiated treatment to prevent cervical cancer. HPV is a common sexually transmitted infection that increases risk for cervical cancer.
- » Four hundred sixty-four (464) mammograms were performed. Out of these, forty-eight (48) women required additional diagnostic services. Three (3) patients were diagnosed with breast cancer.
- » One hundred forty-seven (147) low dose CT screenings were performed through Screening for Life Outreach. One (1) patient was diagnosed with lung cancer.



## SOCIAL SERVICES

THE ASNA SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT administers programs for residents throughout the Arctic Slope. These programs include job placement, higher education scholarships, adult vocational training, family preservation, Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) assistance, preventative behavioral health services, tribal child/elder care, and medical and burial assistance.

In 2022, Social Services expanded its reach across the region by adding additional staffing and holding various events and activities throughout the year. They held summer camps with diabetes prevention, a slope-wide snowman contest, a cultural photo contest, suicide prevention workshops, and popular weekly family fun nights.



### ASNA SOCIAL SERVICES STAFF EARN BHA I CERTIFICATION

Two Social Services staff have completed the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium-Behavioral Health Aide/Practitioner I (BHA/P) Program. Augustine Kignak, ASNA Indian Child Welfare Act Program Manager, and Daniela Stoeska, former ASNA Family Preservation Manager, completed the BHA Level I practice area. This includes wellness promotion and prevention, crisis management, individual and group interventions, and more.

The BHA Program promotes behavioral health and wellness in Alaska Native individuals, families and communities through culturally relevant training and education.

BHAs provide critical and ongoing services in rural areas with limited on-site resources or support. Although they are not counselors, they can provide help and resources for issues such as suicide, grief, parenting, family reunification, and more. BHAs seek to achieve balance in the community by integrating cultural needs with specialized training focused on wellness promotion and prevention.





### ASNA HOSTS "WALK FOR HOPE & HEALING" TO KICKOFF HEALTHY WAYS PROJECT

ASNA partnered with local community organizations such as the NSB Health Department, Iḷisaḡvik College, and ASRC for the "Healthy Ways" project, funded by the State of Alaska Department of Health. The Healthy Ways Project offered family friendly activities and healing support circles for community members.

To kick off the event, ASNA hosted "Walk for Hope & Healing" on March 17th in Utqiaḡvik. Nearly 50 residents participated in the walk from the Wells Fargo Bank building downtown.

### WALK TO REMEMBER, WALK FOR HOPE PARTNERSHIP

ASNA hosted a community-wide Suicide Prevention Awareness Walk for Suicide Prevention Day in September 2022. Attendees took the walk for awareness and remembering families that have been affected by suicide in prayer.



### TRIBAL CHILD CARE PROGRAM

ASNA Social Services sponsors the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)-Tribal Child Care Program for children ages 13 and under whose parents are employed and/or actively taking classes. The child must be enrolled or eligible to enroll in a federally recognized tribe. Eligibility is also based on family size and income.

Through the CCDF Program, the number of children receiving services increased to 73 in 2022.

### FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

During 2022, the Family Preservation Program served 31 families. Some of the services included buying groceries for families in need, paying for hotels in child-welfare situations, paying for emergency utility assistance, purchasing winter clothing for families in need, and assisting families in obtaining birth certificates.

### INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Working in collaboration with different entities throughout the state, the ASNA Social Services Department began the Independent Living Program. This program focuses on youth near adulthood who need additional help and guidance. The program focuses on empowering youth to learn practical skills such as applying for jobs, filling out an application, self-advocacy, budgeting, setting up a bank account, and more. Currently this program is on a referral basis, meeting one-on-one with clients.





#### HEALTHY FAMILY ADVOCATE HIRED IN KAKTOVIK

We are excited to highlight Annie Tikluk, ASNA's Healthy Family Advocate. She was hired in February 2022 to assist with a variety of social services tasks for individuals and families in Kaktovik. In her role, Annie plans and hosts healthy community events. She fosters positive behavioral health in the community, and helps refer to appropriate local and regional social services. She has earned her Behavioral Health Aide certificate.

Annie grew up in Aklavik, Northwest Territories. She is the proud mother of Mary & Eddie Rexford Jr., Phillip Sittichinli, \*Ellis, Georgianna, Melanie, Larry, John, and Priscilla Tikluk. Annie's companion is Sheldon Kiasik Brower. She volunteers as an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) for the Kaktovik Fire Department. Annie enjoys being out on the land, camping and subsistence hunting.





## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### SOCIAL SERVICES SUMMER CAMP & MINI HEALTH FAIRS

Social Services partnered with Screening for Life and Diabetes Prevention departments to host the ASNA Summer Camp & Mini Health Fairs in Wainwright and Kaktovik in the summer of 2022.

### DIABETES PREVENTION

In 2022, the SSMH Diabetes Prevention Program had 140 educational appointments for patients. They also worked closely with ASNA Social Services to co-sponsor the 10th annual Family Fun Day event on Saturday, August 27 at Ipalook Elementary School. The event drew nearly 200 community members and volunteers for five hours of fun and health education.



### IĻISAĖVIK LEADERSHIP CAMP TOUR

ASNA is a proud sponsor of the IĻisaĖvik College Leadership Camp. Martha Monnin, President/CEO spoke at the roundtable discussion on leadership and met with attendees. Quyanaqpak IĻisaĖvik College!

#### RECOGNITION OF ASRC 50TH ANNIVERSARY – FROM ASRC

Before the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA)

In 1867 Alaska was sold to the United States from Russia. After Alaska became a state and began to select lands on the Arctic Slope, the Iñupiat of the Arctic resisted. Under the leadership of Charles Edwardsen Jr., or “Etok,” Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) was formed to claim legal ownership of the land.

At the same time, other Native associations across Alaska were filing their own land claims. This momentum brought the various Native groups together and created the Alaska Federation of Natives, or AFN. The timing of the land claims couldn’t have been better, since it coincided with the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in 1968.

A pipeline would have to be constructed in order to get the crude to market. The pipeline, which would go from the North Slope to Valdez, traversing the entire state, would cross lands claimed by a number of Native groups. Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, placed a freeze on the land and said there could be no pipeline built, and the state couldn’t claim further land, until the land claims issue was resolved. The freeze forced both the state and the oil industry into action, and they, along with Alaska natives, began to pressure Congress for a settlement.

Arctic Slope Native Association fought for a regional settlement that would be based on the amount of land each group lost, rather than the population of each region. Although the Arctic Slope people represented only 5% of Alaska Natives, their land represented 16% of Alaska. Most of the proposed bills did not incorporate this perspective. But the one that was finally signed into law – the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 – did, at least in terms of land.



#### INFORMATION SERVICES

ASNA is pleased to recognize David Smith as the organization's Information Technology Manager. He began his ASNA employment as an Information Services Technician in 2018 and was later promoted to Systems Administrator in 2021. David earned his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Information Technology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2017 with Dean's List and Chancellor's List recognitions. He has been the local point of contact working with the North Slope Borough to improve connectivity at the village clinics. This is to enable transmission of medical images from updated X-ray machines. David has been recognized by several departments for his strong technical skills and excellent customer service focus. Outside of work, he serves the community as a member of the Ahmaogak whaling crew.





### AIMAAGVIK ASSISTED LIVING

Aimaagvik Assisted Living is a 12-bed facility that provides 24-hour care and assistance to elders who live there. The Aimaagvik staff assist with the elders' daily living activities, provide opportunities for onsite and offsite group and individual activities, coordinate health care for the elders and SSMH healthcare providers arrange for the elders to receive wellness visits. ASNA manages the Aimaagvik Assisted Living under contract with the North Slope Borough.

In 2022, Aimaagvik successfully re-licensed with the State of Alaska.

### MEDICAL TRAVEL FUNERAL ASSISTANCE (MTFA) PROGRAM

Some of the most difficult decisions in health care involve how to pay for and access the services we need. In addition, they involve where to get help when someone we love passes away. The Medical Travel and Funeral Assistance (MTFA) Program supports traditional Iñupiat values of compassion, cooperation, and love and respect for one another.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and the North Slope Borough (NSB) have granted funds to ASNA to manage the MTFA Program. MTFA helps ASRC shareholders and NSB residents in medical or funeral crises when no other alternative funds are available to pay for such services.

The MTFA Program serves the communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik and Wainwright.



## BY THE NUMBERS

### *Nursing*

Babies delivered: 12  
Primary Care visits: 9,801  
Primary Care telehealth visits: 202  
ANMC VTC encounters: 146  
Inpatient admissions: 245  
ER visits: 6,410  
Specialty Clinics offered: 74  
Specialty Clinic patients: 1,401  
Sleep studies: 39  
Sleep studies in villages: 34  
Diabetes education appointments: 140

### *Dental*

Dental patient visits: 6,414  
Dental procedures: 27,201  
Sealants/preventative resin: 4,385  
Fluoride treatments: 3,122  
Dentures made: 96  
Village trips: 36

### *Eye*

Patients served with same-day eyeglass service: 185

### *Imaging*

DEXA scans: 154  
X-rays: 5,804  
Village x-rays: 373  
Computerized topography (CT) scans: 1,343  
Mammograms: 480  
Ultrasounds: 896  
Lung cancer screenings: 70



### *Laboratory*

Chemistry test and panels: 15,144

Urine assays and panels: 3,714

Hematology assays and panels: 6,235

Transfusion services test and panels: 188

Microbiology procedure: 2,111

Send out procedures: 15,835

Specialty tests (COVID-19, FLU A + B, RSV, and Strep A & B by PCR): 5,965

POC test and panels: 11,982

### *Screening for Life*

Women receiving mammograms: 464

Women receiving cervical cancer screenings: 270

### *Social Services*

Total children served in 2022: 73

Family Preservation/Food Assistance served: 31

### *COVID-19 Numbers (through December 31, 2022)*

COVID-19 tests: 21,299

Completed vaccines: 896

Monoclonal antibody treatments: 131





## EMPLOYEES

### RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

#### *2022 Employee of the Year: Kayla Marie Tulai*

The ASNA Employee of the Year Award is a special recognition for the employee who represents ASNA's mission, vision, and the guiding principles of the Iñupiat Values. Kayla Tulai has been selected as ASNA's 2022 Employee of the Year.

Kayla joins a distinguished list of individuals who have received Employee of the Year honorees since its reintroduction in 2014.

- » 2022 Kayla Tulai
- » 2021 Marie "Iqilan" Solomon
- » 2020 Kris Elkins
- » 2019 Amber Leavitt-Hopson
- » 2018 Becky Andrew
- » 2017 Hermie Romero
- » 2016 Cynthia Nethercott
- » 2015 Dr. Joan Gaela
- » 2014 Audrey Saganna



ASNA Staff Recognitions

Service awards recognize employees that have completed key milestones in their careers with ASNA. Each employee has grown with the organization and provides leadership and support for new employees in their areas. We would like to thank them for their commitment to ASNA and all that they do to build up our organization.

5 YEARS

Jose Aguayo  
Dr. Susan Blanchard  
Jennifer Bracewell  
Dr. Shane Bracewell  
Ralph Bucatcat  
Anastacio Elquiero  
Melvin Guevara  
Ingrid Jones  
Jeremiah Leavitt  
Jami Lechner  
Dr. Jacqueline Lesniak

Dr. Arnold Loera  
Maria Mesina  
Joshua Muchow  
Lilibeth Nageak  
Akolea Pauta  
Dr. Caroline Roberts  
Betty Swan  
Lupe Takafua  
Kayla Tulai  
Nyresha Williams

10 YEARS

Liberty Mary Grace Cenidoza  
Darlene Frantz  
Celeste Harrington  
Jose Labio  
Garrett Nayokpuk  
Jingkie Salamat  
Ilaisaane Tuai

15 YEARS

Kuutuuq Olemaun



### *2022 Healthcare Heroes Award*

Aside from service awards, awards were created to show appreciation for the hard work of health care workers. During the global health crisis, hospitals and health-care systems did everything they could to care for their patients and communities. SSMH depends on our Health Care Heroes serving on the front lines—physicians, nurses, pharmacy, imaging, laboratory, patient registration, environmental services, dietary services, social services and clinical administrative support staff. Healthcare delivery is a demanding profession in the best of times. Delivering healthcare requires exceptional personal strength, competence, and character. ASNA recognizes individuals serving our communities.

### *Nagliktuutiqaḡniq — Compassion Award*

James Askew, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner (PNP) was nominated by his colleagues for the Compassion Award. His nominator wrote, *“Every day he goes the extra mile for every single patient. He provides high reliability care for our patients in our hospital and in the villages.”* James began his career at ASNA in 2018 as a nurse practitioner.





### *Daisy Award Quarterly Nominees*

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award is an international recognition program that honors and celebrates nurses' skillful, compassionate care. Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital is proud to be a Daisy Award hospital to honor nurses' extraordinary work for patients and their families.

#### *Daisy Award 2nd Quarter Nominee, Geneva Akootchook, RN*

Geneva Akootchook, Registered Nurse (RN) was selected as the 2nd quarter Daisy Award nominee. She joined the SSMH Inpatient Nursing Team in 2021. Geneva is currently Acting Manager of Infection Prevention & Employee Health. *"Her kindness and caring attitude are exemplary! On a particularly high stress day, she brought 'calm to the chaos,' which demonstrated leadership. She is continually striving to increase her knowledge base to continue serving the Arctic Slope."*

#### *Daisy Award 3rd Quarter Nominee, Angela Maslov, RN*

Angela Maslov, Registered Nurse (RN) was selected as the third quarter Daisy Award nominee. A patient recognized her who stated, *"Her soothing voice and calm demeanor kept my stress level down."* Angela was an ER nurse at SSMH for seven years. While she no longer works for ASNA, her patient care experiences and contributions will be greatly missed. We wish her well and hope she returns to ASNA someday.





### *Sunshine Award Quarterly Nominees*

The Sunshine Award recognizes the care team that supports nursing staff and works closely with them to provide patients with compassion and care. The SSMH Sunshine Award is dedicated to non-nursing care-givers, including patient care technicians and other vital team members.

#### *Sunshine Award 2nd Quarter Nominee, Dorothy Halfhill*

Dorothy Halfhill, respiratory therapist was selected as the 2nd quarter Sunshine Award nominee. She first came to Utqiaġvik in 2016, and has since made it her home. Dody is described as a team member who provides extraordinary care for her patients. As a result of her exemplary service, ASNA is able to accomplish its mission with skill, knowledge, commitment, and dedication.

#### *Sunshine Award 3rd quarter Nominee, Teresita Balanza*

The 3rd quarter Sunshine Award nominee is Teresita Balanza, Patient Care Technician. *“Teresita has a very loving and giving spirit and the patients love her. She was always so kind and helpful. She does everything with an extra dose of LOVE!”*

### *Inaugural Focus on Employee Wellness Program*

Too often health care employees forget about their own health while caring for patients. The ASNA Administration launched “March into Wellness,” a weeklong wellness event for staff. Preventative services, such as routine dental screenings and lab tests were available. There were also financial planners, and multiple ASNA/SSMH departments provided information on their services.





## SPOTLIGHT ON HOMEGROWN TALENT

*Homegrown Staff: Angel Telfair*

Angel Telfair, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker), is a Case Manager for SSMH. Working in a critical access hospital setting, her role is to coordinate services for patients and their families. She helps them navigate the continuum of care available on the Arctic Slope and off-slope.

Angel Alivrun Telfair is the daughter of Ahlook and Ernest Stackhouse. She graduated from Barrow High School in 2016, then attended Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington. Angel graduated with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Children's Studies, Master's Degree in Social Work, and another Master's Degree in Addiction Studies. She was a previous recipient of the Guy Okakok, Sr. scholarship. Angel says, "Without the ASNA Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership scholarship I received in 2017, I would not have completed my academic goals. I am forever grateful for the professional growth opportunities provided to youth on the Arctic Slope."

*Homegrown Staff: Jayna Wolgemuth*

If you have been to SSMH Dental recently for a routine checkup and/or dental cleaning, you probably noticed a new, yet familiar face in the clinic. In October, we welcomed our newly registered dental hygienist, Jayna Wolgemuth, to SSMH.

Jayna graduated in May 2022 with her Bachelor of Science Degree in Dental Hygiene from Eastern Washington University in Spokane, Washington. She is the daughter of Chris Wolgemuth and Kristy Panigeo of Utqiagvik.

Jayna is originally from Utqiagvik with a large extended family in the community. In her role, she works hand-in-hand with dentists to provide exceptional care for her patients. Jayna also focuses on preventative care, cleaning and oral hygiene needs, including patients in the villages.







### *ASNA Leadership Scholarship Awardees*

Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Scholarship was established in 2015 to celebrate ASNA's 50th anniversary. It is named after one of the ASNA founders, Guy Okakok, Sr., who championed Alaska Native rights. Academic scholarships are available to eligible Arctic Slope tribal members interested in post-secondary health care, social services, or health-related certificate programs. Scholarship awardees receive a one-time issuance of \$2,500 per semester or \$5,000 per academic year, based on financial need.

ASNA is proud to announce the 2022 Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Scholarship awardees: *Samantha Wade and Ariel Sopl*.

Samantha Wade is a tribal member of the Wainwright Traditional Council. She is the granddaughter of Andrew and Hannah Ekak of Wainwright and the daughter of Bill and Carolyn Wade. Samantha is passionate about giving back to her community and becoming a medical doctor. She is working towards her Master of Health in One Health at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Ariel Sopl is a tribal member of the Native Village of Barrow Traditional Government. She has gained years of experience working at various dental practices and looks forward to serving underserved communities upon graduation. Ariel is currently a senior at the University of Alaska Anchorage and is expected to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Dental Hygiene in 2023. She is the daughter of Ruth Okakok and Alan Bankston.



### *ASNA Internship Program*

ASNA hires summer interns to work in a variety of positions throughout the organization. Each placement was based on their interests and experiences. The 10-week program provides valuable work experience by learning the roles of each department and gaining exposure in a health care setting.

The following interns were hired during summer 2022 (pictured left to right in lower left photo):

Sara Wolgemuth  
Eve Negovanna  
Dominick Reyes  
Robin Masterman  
Jeremiah Goodwin  
Dakota Miller



IN REMEMBRANCE



## IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF KATHLEEN OLEMAUN

ASNA would like to honor and remember a beloved employee, Kathleen Olemaun, Lead Patient Benefits Coordinator.

Kathleen was a dedicated ASNA employee for twenty-four years and one of the longest-serving employees in the organization. *“During times of sorrow, we long for peace. God's peace surpasses all understanding and will guard our hearts and minds. Losing Kathleen has left a void in our lives. She has helped many patients and their families across the Arctic Slope. Without her, the office will not be the same. We join in grief and pray for renewed serenity for her family, our organization, and our region,”* stated Martha Monnin, ASNA President/CEO.



## QUYANAQ





## *Quyanaq!*

Reflecting on our organization's resilience in 2022, we extend our heartfelt thanks to those who contributed to its success. It is because of the leadership of our board of directors, administration, hospital administration, physicians, nurses, and support staff that we can ensure that the people of the Arctic Slope are healthy and content.

We are thankful to the tribal councils for their support: Naqsaḡmiut Tribal Council, Native Village of Atqasuk, Native Village of Barrow, Native Village of Kaktovik, Native Village of Nuiqsut, Native Village of Point Hope, Native Village of Point Lay, and Wainwright Traditional Council.

In addition, thank you to our partners, including: North Slope Borough (NSB), NSB Community Health Aide Program staff, NSB Emergency Management Services staff and volunteers, NSB Public Health Nursing staff, NSB Search & Rescue, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Arctic Slope Community Foundation, City of Utqiaḡvik, SKW Eskimos Inc., and North Slope Borough School District. We would also like to recognize our outside partners, including: Alaska Children's Trust, First Nations Development Institute, Iḷisaḡvik College, and Rasmuson Foundation. We look forward to our continued success in 2023.



## INCOME STATEMENT

OPERATING REVENUE	2022	2021	2020
Grant and contract revenue	\$ 59,583,596	57,508,814	46,886,191
Patient service revenue, <i>net</i>	54,550,279	39,471,533	42,860,074
Other	1,498,575	855,423	1,004,882
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>115,632,450</b>	<b>97,835,770</b>	<b>90,751,147</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries and fringe benefits	54,053,642	53,663,862	51,160,464
Contractual and professional services	19,159,239	11,725,305	10,034,403
Supplies	8,303,344	7,371,996	7,578,062
Depreciation	6,943,669	7,471,986	6,846,632
Direct assistance payments to individuals	3,416,521	2,914,408	2,681,383
Travel and per diem	1,310,374	985,545	943,419
Other	9,128,454	8,721,931	6,180,564
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>102,315,243</b>	<b>92,855,033</b>	<b>85,424,927</b>

<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>13,317,207</b>	<b>4,980,737</b>	<b>5,326,220</b>
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NET NON-OPERATING REVENUES			
Nonoperating grant revenue	—	616,238	5,745,985
Investment income	(4,470,953)	6,410,897	1,871,367
Interest expense	(41,693)	(176,258)	(118,689)
Gain (loss) on sale of capital assets	16,000	(225,857)	(57,746)
PPP forgiveness revenue	—	7,761,325	—
Capital contributions	6,872,271	1,521,520	2,117,143
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>15,692,832</b>	<b>20,888,602</b>	<b>14,884,280</b>

Net position at beginning of year	253,469,274	232,580,672	217,696,392
<b>NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 269,162,106</b>	<b>253,469,274</b>	<b>232,580,672</b>



## BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2022	2021	2020
Current assets	\$ 73,095,255	66,872,267	33,068,944
Investments	55,347,703	47,984,251	39,718,924
Capital assets, <i>net of accumulated depreciation</i>	180,350,765	184,666,048	186,615,919
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>308,793,723</b>	<b>299,522,566</b>	<b>259,403,787</b>

LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities	39,631,617	45,553,292	26,823,115
Long Term Liabilities	—	500,000	—

NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	180,350,765	184,161,080	183,858,869
Unrestricted	88,811,341	69,308,194	48,721,803
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 269,162,106</b>	<b>253,469,274</b>	<b>232,580,672</b>



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