

ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

*Piagiksuat Nunaaqqit, Pillaataqtuat Taimanigu*

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, THRIVING FUTURES



**ASNA**  
ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION



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\*All activities noted in this annual report reflect events in fiscal year 2024.



*Piagiksuat Nunaaqqit, Pilluataqtuat Taimanigu*

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, THRIVING FUTURES









## 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
- » Five (5) emergency department beds; One (1) standard emergency room, two (2) trauma bays, one (1) isolation room, one (1) crash room
- » Eight (8) inpatient beds
- » Three (3) labor and delivery rooms; two (2) standard delivery rooms and one (1) birthing and surgery room
- » Physical Therapy
- » Computed Tomography (CT) scan / Coronary Computed Tomography Angiography (CCTA) scan / Dual X-Ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) bone density scan / 3D Mammography / 3D/4D Ultrasound / Ceribell Status Epilepticus Monitor / Cystoscopy / Dilation and Curettage (D&C) / Emergency Cesarean Section / Labor Epidural Analgesia or Epidural Pain Management / Transesophageal Echocardiogram / Cardiac Computed Tomography (CT) scan / Implantable Cardiac Loop Recorder / C-ARM
- » Specialty Clinics: Allergy, Audiology, Cardiology, Colonoscopy, Dermatology, Diabetes Clinic, Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT), EGD (Upper Endoscopy), Endocrinology, Gastroenterology, Gynecology, Hepatology, Neurology, Nutrition, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Chronic Pain Management, Pediatric Cardiology, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, Surgery and Urology.



**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

*Anḡuniallaniq* — Hunting Traditions

*Qiksiksrautiqaḡniq Iñuuniagvigmun* — Respect for Nature

*Qiñuiññiq* — Humility

*Ukpīqutiqaḡniq* — Spirituality





## LEADERSHIP

## FROM LEADERSHIP

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

PAĠLAGIVSI—Greetings and welcome to this year’s annual report. We deliver a message of gratitude to our partners, our patients, our families, for your continuous faith in the Arctic Slope Native Association’s mission to promote health and wellness for the people of the Arctic Slope region.

Our annual report focuses on achievements in the year 2024 that support our efforts to bring healthcare closer to home. The theme we share is, “Healthy Communities, Thriving Futures,” which in our Iñupiaq language translates to, “Piagiksuat Nunaqqit, Piġuataqtuat Taimanigu.”

This year, in order for us to greater support our growing families, we’ve expanded our medical service capabilities at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH). We commissioned a new state-of-the-art birthing and surgery suite, co-located within the existing SSMH Labor and Delivery Suite. The new birthing space provides the equipment necessary for our board-certified OBGYN doctors to offer advanced specialized care for our expecting mothers.

Just as our providers at SSMH are pleased to meet the parents of new babies, they also encourage the expecting parents to schedule an appointment at the SSMH Medical Imaging Department for three and four dimensional (3D and 4D) ultrasound imaging. This experience is truly a memorable moment for both mom and dad.

Many expecting mothers request for access to pain management during labor and delivery of their babies. With the new SSMH birthing suite and staff to provide the specialty care, we can now provide labor epidural analgesia, which is a type of pain relief medication made available for mothers during labor. Also, for the first time in healthcare delivery at SSMH, when complications arise during labor or that affect the baby, an urgent cesarean section may be performed.

In an effort to further support our expecting mothers, SSMH physical therapists strive to provide culturally-sensitive and compassionate care for those in need of physical therapy. The SSMH physical therapists are trained to offer a wide-range of pelvic health therapies to meet the unique physical challenges that women face during and



after pregnancy. This new program is called, Pelvic Health Rehabilitation, which promotes confidence and healing, as mothers regain strength in their new bodies.

In addition to all the wonderful services in support of our growing families, ASNA/SSMH hosted our first annual *Mommy & Me* event celebrating new mothers. Our goal with this event is to inspire healthy living throughout pregnancy and the first year following the arrival of their newborn baby. Mothers in attendance learn about programs and support services available in the region, meet and greet providers, as well as tour the SSMH Labor and Delivery Suite. ASNA/SSMH looks forward to caring for many families for generations to come.

Moving forward, in the coming year, ASNA promises to continue medical service growth to bring healthcare closer to home. We have plans to expand many specialty clinics in the ASNA service area villages, and we will continue to grow at SSMH. We plan to expand the trauma rooms located at the ER, and increase laboratory diagnostic capabilities to provide necessary medical services for our people to maintain, “Healthy Communities, Thriving Futures.” These new services are only made possible because of the strong foundation built by our leaders. We are grateful for the ASNA Board of Directors’ leadership and guidance towards our mission, “...to promote the health and well-being of the people of the Arctic Slope.”

Quyanaq,

  
BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK  
Chairperson



  
MARTHA QAĠĠUN MONNIN  
President & CEO





ARCTIC SLOPE NATIVE ASSOCIATION

*Board of Directors*

*Board Chair*

BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK

*At-Large Seat*

*Vice Chair*

NOREEN KALEAK

*Native Village of Kaktovik*

*Treasurer*

ISABEL NASHOOKPUK

*Wainwright Traditional Council*

*Secretary*

LILLIAN LANE

*Native Village of Point Hope*

*Sergeant at Arms*

MOLLY AHKIVGAK

*Native Village of Atkasuk*

*Members*

GWENDOLYN PIKOK

*Native Village of Point Lay*

PETER "EARL" WILLIAMS

*Naqsrarmiut Tribal Council*

LILLIAN KAIGELAK

*Native Village of Nuiqsut*

FRIEDA MOORE

*Native Village of Barrow*



SAMUEL SIMMONDS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL  
*Governing Committee*

THE ASNA BOARD formed a hospital governing committee that oversees the operations of SSMH. 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*  
NOREEN KALEAK  
*Native Village of Kaktovik*

*Vice Chair*  
BERNICE AVIUK KAIGELAK  
*At-Large Seat*

*Secretary*  
ISABEL NASHOOKPUK  
*Wainwright Traditional Council*

*Members*  
GWENDOLYN PIKOK  
*Native Village of Point Lay*

LILLIAN KAIGELAK  
*Native Village of Nuiqsut*

MOLLY AHKIVGAK  
*Native Village of Atqasuk*

FRIEDA MOORE  
*Native Village of Barrow*

MARTHA MONNIN  
*ASNA President/CEO*

RICHARD HALL  
*SSMH Hospital Administrator*

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

DR. ROBERT ORR  
*SSMH Deputy Chief of Staff*

LYNETTE HEPA  
*NSB Director of Health & Social Services*





## HEALTHCARE



### 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.

Services include:

- » Dental examination, periodic and emergency
- » Orthodontics
- » 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

Dental care can and should continue to be received by patients of all ages. Proper dental care is important because it plays a vital role in maintaining overall health and well-being. Good oral hygiene helps prevent cavities, gum disease, and tooth loss, while also reducing the risk of serious health issues like heart disease and diabetes. For children, early dental care supports proper development and builds lifelong healthy habits. For adults and elders, regular checkups and cleanings help preserve natural teeth and ensure early detection of any problems. No matter your age, taking care of your teeth and gums contributes to a healthier, more confident life.

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 the 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.



## 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
- » OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration)-approved safety eyewear, hypoallergenic and silicone frames



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.

Due to popularity and ease of use, the Eye Clinic has added a broader selection of daily replacement contact lens trials. In 2024, 237 patients were fitted with contact lenses for the first time. Wearing contact lenses for the first time can be a transformative experience for individuals offering freedom from glasses and enhanced vision when living an active lifestyle, participating in outdoor activities and participation in sports. In addition, the clinic now carries scleral gas permeable contact lenses to accommodate patient needs for eye conditions that involve an irregular cornea surface caused by keratoconus and other forms of corneal ectasia.





## 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 Pathologist (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.

### *New Service Highlight: Molecular Testing for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)*

With the assistance of a Cepheid GeneXpert molecular diagnostic platform, SSMH has transitioned to testing for sexually transmitted diseases in-house in our hospital Laboratory. The Cepheid GeneXpert is a molecular diagnostic platform that automates polymerase chain reaction testing (PCR) allowing for rapid and accurate detection of various pathogens, including bacteria, viruses, and other micro-organisms. With this added capability, SSMH is able to obtain results for diseases such as *Chlamydia trachomatis* (CT), *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (NG) and *Trichomonas vaginalis* (TV) in 2-4 hours which is an improvement from the previous turnaround time of 3-5 days. Due to a decrease in length of time between testing and results, many patients can begin receiving definitive treatment for diseases and infections the same day they test improving overall health and well-being of the patient.





## QUALITY

The SSMH Quality Department is responsible for ensuring that care provided to all patients meets or exceeds established standards. A significant focus for the SSMH Quality Department is maintaining compliance with all applicable hospital standards, including The Joint Commission (TJC), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) standards.



### *Mommy & Me*

With the 2024 SSMH commissioning of the new birthing and surgery room the ASNA Quality Department held an event titled Mommy and Me. Expectant mothers and new mothers with children younger than 12 months were invited to the SSMH lobby to learn more about programs and services available to new mothers on the North Slope including those provided by SSMH, the North Slope Borough, the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, and the Native Village of Barrow. Mothers and their families had the opportunity to tour the SSMH Labor and Delivery Suite and ask Labor and Delivery staff questions centered around mom and baby. Medical Imaging also provided the opportunity for expectant mothers to receive a same-day a 3D/4D ultrasound. SSMH looks forward to safely delivering more babies in to the future right here at home.



## 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.

Services include:

- » General X-ray, digital portable x-ray, and digital portable x-ray in Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay and Wainwright
- » Mammogram breast cancer screening
- » Computed Tomography (CT) Scan
- » Dual-energy X-ray Absorptiometry (DEXA) Scan
- » Three-dimensional ultrasound, four-dimensional ultrasound and obstetric ultrasound. Ultrasound services are extended to Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay and Wainwright





*New Service Highlight: Rapid AI for Stroke Detection*

Rapid AI helps stroke patients by speeding up diagnosis, improving treatment decisions and enhancing coordination of the care team. Once a patient receives a CT scan, Rapid AI uses sophisticated algorithms to automatically process and analyze the scan looking for signs of stroke such as blocked vessels or bleeding in the brain. By automating the analysis process, Rapid AI can help speed up the time it takes for doctors to receive critical information and make quicker and more informed decisions about patient care and treatment.

*New Service Highlight: 3D/4D Ultrasound*

3D and 4D ultrasound technology provides physicians with clear images of a pregnant mother's baby, within the uterus, to monitor the baby's development and address any possible medical issues. This capability not only produces top-quality images for diagnostic purposes, but also provides families with a 3D/4D photo to take home. 3D/4D ultrasound imaging with this highly advanced equipment provides truly spectacular real-time three-dimensional photos of your baby letting you "see" your baby up close even before your delivery date.







## PHARMACY

The Pharmacy Department serves as both a hospital pharmacy and a retail pharmacy for Utqiagvik and operates to meet the general pharmaceutical needs of the Arctic Slope by providing access to pharmacotherapeutic options for the treatment of various disease states. Services include village medication inventory and stock prescriptions through the Pyxis dispensing system for the North Slope villages of Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, and Wainwright. Also, patients now have the ability to utilize a ScriptPro medication refill website and RefillPro mobile application. This added medication refill option allows patients to submit prescription refills and authorizations from their home computer or their smartphone.





## PHYSICAL THERAPY

The SSMH Physical Therapy (PT) Department aims to provide culturally sensitive and compassionate care to individuals in need of physical therapy. PT assist patients of all ages, from infants to elders, in healing most ailments or injuries and treats a variety of conditions, including chronic pain, musculoskeletal disorders, post-surgical, and neurological conditions. PT services include outpatient, inpatient, and "swing-bed", which allows a patient to stay in the hospital and get physical therapy while recovering from an illness or surgery, such as total knee replacement. PT has a wide variety of specialized equipment, including a NuStep, treadmill, recumbent bicycle, and upper extremity ergometer and utilizes a variety of tools used to challenge balance, strengthen weak muscles, and improve posture.

### *Pregnancy and Post-Partum Physical Therapy*

The SSMH Pelvic Health Rehabilitation Program addresses a wide range of pelvic health conditions including pregnancy and post-partum related pain and dysfunction offering safe treatment for the unique physical challenges women face during and after childbirth. During pregnancy, PT assists with alleviating back pain, pelvic discomfort, and joint instability caused by hormonal changes and weight gain through targeted exercises, posture correction, and manual therapy. After delivery, PT supports recovery by addressing issues such as abdominal muscle separation, pelvic floor dysfunction, and musculoskeletal pain. The SSMH Pelvic Health Rehabilitation Program promotes healing, restores core strength and mobility, and empowers new mothers to regain function and confidence in their bodies.



## NURSING SERVICES

### *Specialty Clinic*

The SSMH Specialty Clinic continues to expand services in Utqiagvik to bring patients care without leaving the Arctic Slope. In 2024, the following specialty clinics were offered at SSMH: Allergy, Audiology, Cardiology, Colonoscopy, Dermatology, Diabetes Clinic, EGD (Upper Endoscopy), ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat), Gynecology, Hepatology, Neurology, Nutrition, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pediatric Cardiology, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, Surgery and Urology.



### *Labor & Delivery Suite*

In 2024, SSMH commissioned a new state-of-the-art birthing and surgery unit to add to its preexisting Labor and Delivery Suite. This addition increases the total number of delivery rooms in the suite to three, two standard/recovery rooms and the new advanced surgery unit. The new unit allows for additional pain management for laboring mothers and emergency cesarean sections.

### *New Service Highlight: Labor Epidural Analgesia*

SSMH now provides Labor Epidural Analgesia, which is a type of pain relief commonly used during labor and childbirth. This technique works blocks pain signals from the lower body and provides continuous pain relief while allowing the mother to remain awake and alert during labor and delivery. It involves the administration of a local anesthetic and/or opioid through a small catheter placed in the epidural space of the lower back, near the spinal cord. Medication is delivered continuously or as needed.





## VILLAGE HEALTH SERVICES

### *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 the health and well-being of our residents. SSMH medical providers continue to travel to our service area communities to work alongside CHAP staff to gain an understanding of unique challenges and address village needs.

### *SSMH Specialty Clinics Village Expansion*

New specialty services are being offered in the ASNA service area communities. As part of our commitment to providing care closer to home, it is not always necessary for village patients to travel to Utqiagvik to receive care. Village clinics include Cardiology, Chronic Pain Management, Dental Hygienist, Denture Clinic, Dermatology, Diabetes Clinic, Ears, Nose and Throat (ENT), Emergency Medical, Endocrinology, Family Medicine, Gastroenterology, Infusions, Neurology, Orthopedics, Pediatric Cardiology, Pediatrics, Physical Therapy, Podiatry, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine, Urology, and Women's Health.

### *Village Ultrasound Capability*

With the use of a mobile version of an ultrasound machine, called a portable ultrasound, SSMH is able to extend its diagnostic imaging capability to Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay and Wainwright. This capability allows patients to receive an ultrasound at home, eliminating the need to travel to Utqiagvik. In prenatal care, a portable ultrasound allows expecting families to receive the necessary imaging needed for fetal assessment right from their local NSB Health Clinic. Today, SSMH has performed over 200 ultrasounds in Utqiagvik's outlying villages.





## SCREENING FOR LIFE

The SSMH Screening for Life (SFL) Program handles the management of 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 integrated a Low-Dose Computerized Tomography (LDCT) scan for its lung cancer screening program to provide outreach, patient navigation, and case management services.

In addition to lung cancer screenings, SFL continues to make progress 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 an ultrasound to diagnose a range of liver conditions, including liver cancer.



### *8th 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,' to involve the community in the fight against breast cancer.

On Saturday, October 26, SSMH held a fun event in the SSMH Lobby to promote breast cancer awareness, allow for women to receive their mammogram same day, participate in games and activities and learn more about cancer prevention and education.

During October, participants who received their annual mammogram screenings at SSMH received a celebration bag. The opportunity to be screened was open to all women who were due for mammograms, including village residents.

### *Pap-A-Thon*

Throughout January, and in honor of National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, Screening for Life held an event for women called a Pap-A-Thon which focuses on providing cervical cancer screenings and awareness. This event aims to make screenings more accessible and convenient for women and included a Saturday clinic. Each woman who was screened during the month of January received a swag-bag from SSMH Screening for Life. The opportunity to be screened was open to all women who were due for cervical cancer screenings, including village residents.



## 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 within a defined scope of practice, tribal child/elder care, and medical and burial assistance.

Social Services continues to expand its reach across the region by adding additional staffing and holding various events and activities throughout the year. In 2024 Social Services held therapeutic art nights, kid's fun nights, ice cream socials, a trick-or-treat drive thru, and provided trick or treat bags to all children across the North Slope.

### 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 or participating in eligible subsistence activities. The child must be enrolled or eligible to enroll in a federally recognized tribe. Eligibility is also based on family size and income.





### FAMILY PRESERVATION PROGRAM

For the Family Preservation Program, some of the services include buying groceries for families in need, paying for hotel in emergency medical situations, paying for utility bills for families whose power was going to be shut off, 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 maintains an Independent Living Program. This program focuses on youth near adulthood who need additional help and guidance. They also focus 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.

### YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

In the Fall of 2024 Social Services, along with special guest speaker Mark Tamaleaa, visited each of the schools within the North Slope Borough School District to share stories of resilience and overcoming challenges. The team also provided interested youth with QUESTION.PERSUADE.REFER (QPR) suicide prevention training which is designed to equip students with the skills to identify warning signs and connect peers with appropriate resources. Over 80 youth were successfully trained across the Arctic Slope.



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

### MENTAL HEALTH EDUCATION TOUR AND RESOURCE CARNIVAL

ASNA, along with the North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, City of Utqiagvik, Iḷisaḡvik College, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope and the North Slope Borough School District hosted mental health education tours for communities across the Arctic Slope. The tour aimed to address a wide range of issues related to mental health and substance use, both for individuals and the community. Following an afternoon in the schools, North Slope organizations came together to host wellness & support community resource carnivals for the public to attend. Attendees enjoyed an evening of learning about self-care, mental health awareness resources and supports available to them along with plenty of carnival games and snacks.

### CPR/FIRST AID AND CHILDCARE TRAINING

In 2024, ASNA partnered with Iḷisaḡvik College and the City of Utqiagvik to provide the COU's Summer Youth Program aides with First Aid/CPR and childcare training. The goal of this training is two-fold. The first goal was to ensure that local families enrolled into COU's Summer Youth Program receive quality childcare throughout the summer. The second goal was to interest the youth in pursuing future training and employment in a childcare center setting. Through this initiative, ASNA hopes to kickstart interest and the educational development of local residents to someday support the opening of childcare centers across the Arctic Slope.

This initiative is made possible by a Child Care and Development Grant.





#### 2024 ASNA VILLAGE INFORMATIONAL MEETING OUTREACH

The ASNA Executive Team and support staff, along with the North Slope Borough Health Department, traveled to the communities of Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, and Wainwright to host village informational meetings for each community. In partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), ASNA and the NSB traveled to Anaktuvuk Pass, and in partnership with Maniilaq Association traveled to Point Hope. The meeting allowed the organizations to provide the community with an update on programs and services available to residents in each service area. Community members also had the opportunity to ask questions and/or voice concerns regarding program and services and provide feedback regarding any additional needs within their communities.

#### 2024 ASNA VILLAGE HEALTH FAIR

In the summer months of 2024, ASNA traveled to Atqasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, and Wainwright to host village health fairs which allowed residents of each community to meet our employees and learn more about cancer prevention and education, diabetes prevention and education, dental education, Medicaid/Medicare patient benefits, and social service programs. Residents also took advantage of the opportunity to receive health screenings that included a vital check, A1c screening, and a measurement of body composition through the use of our InBody scale.

#### DIABETES PREVENTION

The SSMH Diabetes Prevention Program hosted the 12th annual “Treasure Your Health” Utqiagvik Family Fun Day event. Community partners, community members and volunteers enjoyed many hours of fun and health education including fun physical and wellness activities and to learning about local resources available within our community. ASNA, along with many other local organizations spoke about the services they offer and resources they provide.





#### AIMAAGVIK ASSISTED LIVING

Aimaaġvik Assisted Living is a 12-bed facility that provides 24-hour care and assistance to elders who live there. The Aimaaġvik 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 Aimaaġvik Assisted Living under contract with the North Slope Borough.





#### MEDICAL TRAVEL FUNERAL ASSISTANCE (MTFA) PROGRAM

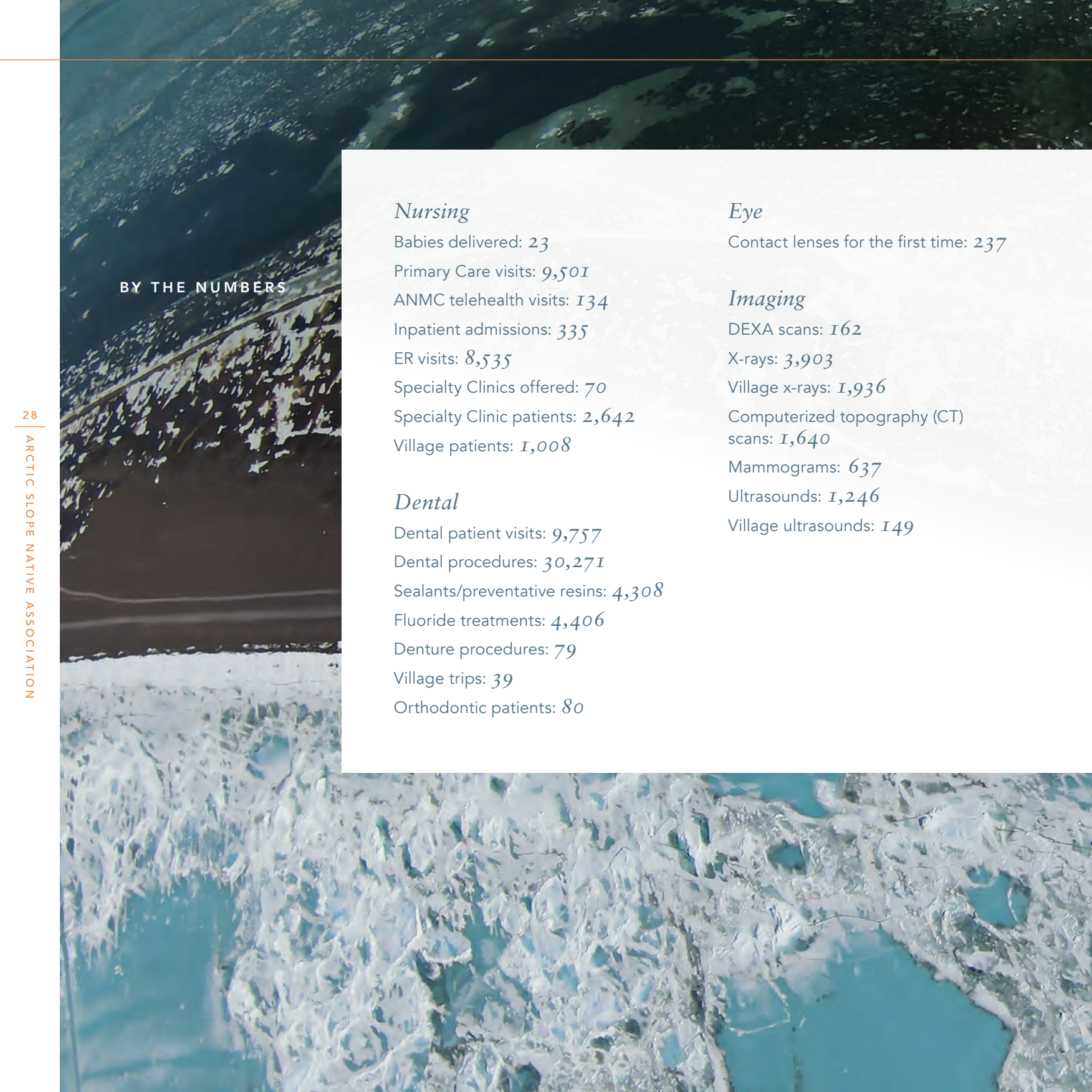
Some of the most difficult decisions in health care involve how to pay for and access the services we need. In addition, they involve where to get help when someone we love passes away. The Medical Travel and Funeral Assistance (MTFA) Program supports the traditional Iñupiat values of compassion, cooperation, 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 crisis 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: 23  
Primary Care visits: 9,501  
ANMC telehealth visits: 134  
Inpatient admissions: 335  
ER visits: 8,535  
Specialty Clinics offered: 70  
Specialty Clinic patients: 2,642  
Village patients: 1,008

### *Dental*

Dental patient visits: 9,757  
Dental procedures: 30,271  
Sealants/preventative resins: 4,308  
Fluoride treatments: 4,406  
Denture procedures: 79  
Village trips: 39  
Orthodontic patients: 80

### *Eye*

Contact lenses for the first time: 237

### *Imaging*

DEXA scans: 162  
X-rays: 3,903  
Village x-rays: 1,936  
Computerized topography (CT) scans: 1,640  
Mammograms: 637  
Ultrasounds: 1,246  
Village ultrasounds: 149



### *Laboratory*

Chemistry tests and panels: 22,826

Urine assays and panels: 4,222

Hematology assays and panels: 7,226

Transfusion services test and panels: 556

Microbiology procedures: 1,647

Send out procedures: 6,213

Specialty tests (COVID-19, FLU A + B, RSV, and Strep A & B by PCR): 5,442

POC tests and panels: 2,921

### *Screening for Life*

Women receiving mammograms: 549

Women receiving cervical cancer screenings: 378

Lung cancer screenings: 202



## EMPLOYEES

### RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

#### *2024 Employee of the Year: Susan Miklavcic*

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. Susan Miklavcic has been selected as ASNA's 2024 Employee of the Year.

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

- » 2024 Susan Miklavcic
- » 2023 Jozieta Slatton
- » 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

Lealoa Ale	Erin Rasmussen
Jason Anievas	Emma Richards
James Askew	Ario Selesele
John Brinkley	Andrew Stemp
Jessa Dichos	Kathi Texeira
Kimberlee Ellison	Edgardo Toledo
Arnelica Gandia	Narcisa Toledo
Maria Gandia	Shavannah Toledo
Pauline Havea-Lilo	Samantha Visoury
Johnny Khamsana	Dr. Anjanette Walsh
Jonas Mackenzie	Heather Whorton
Benilda Parks	

10 YEARS

Aubrey Amistoso
Daniel De Tolla
Maria Dino
Xius Jucutan
Fifita Kivalu
Amber Leavitt-Hopson
Andres Librado
Rowell Manalang
Renato Nobleza
Mary Erjoy Reyes
Dr. Lisa Rouse
John Tuazon

15 YEARS

Jamie Bucatcat
Arlene Mueller

20 YEARS

Rosemarie Perez
Dr. Joan Gaela



### *2024 Health Care 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 health care requires exceptional personal strength, competence, and character. ASNA recognizes individuals serving our communities.



### *Nagliktuutiqāñiq — Compassion Award*

Mary Beth Nolan, Lead Mammographer, was nominated by her colleagues and chosen as a recipient of the Compassion Award. Mary Beth began her career with ASNA in 2019. Mary Beth's nominator(s) wrote, "*Mary Beth consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the highest quality of care for our patients. She has an amazing rapport with each patient, developing a trusting relationship where the patient knows they can ask questions and feels comfortable getting their mammograms.*" In addition, her nominator wrote, "*The patient under her care never feels alone. Mary Beth is a treasure here at Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital.*"





*Daisy Award*

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 Leader Award, Colleen Curry, RN*

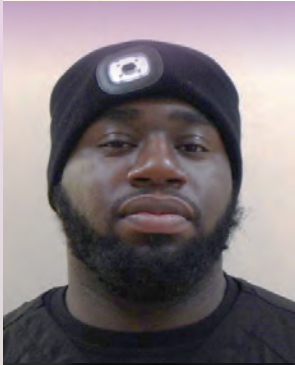
Colleen Curry, Registered Nurse (RN), was selected for the Daisy Leader Award. She joined SSMH in March of 2024 as a Clinical Supervisor. Her nominator wrote *“Colleen has truly gone above and beyond in her role as a Clinical Supervisor! Even with little rest, she consistently steps in to assist with procedures and support for our staff. Her dedication, compassion and commitment shine through in everything she does, and we are so grateful to have her on the team. Thank you, Colleen, for making such a positive difference. Keep shining and being you!”*

*Daisy Award, Synteché “Shay” Hart, RN*

Synteché “Shay” Hart, Registered Nurse (RN), was selected for the Daisy Award. She joined SSMH this year as a RN in Labor and Delivery. Her nominator wrote *“She made sure I was well, when and after delivery. Although the contractions were a pain, she prayed with me and kept reassuring me I was fine. For a newbie, yes it was my first experience with contractions, labor and delivery but she made sure I got through it. Her positivity and reassuring words are what made a difference!”*







### *Sunshine Award*

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, Caleb Brown, RRT*

Caleb Brown, Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT), was selected for the Sunshine Award. He joined SSMH in December of 2022. His nominator wrote *“Respiratory Therapist Caleb is so knowledgeable and calming when a patient is under distress with difficult breathing. He is very attentive and reassuring in the midst of an emergency and that makes a huge difference. Thank you, Caleb.”*

### *Sunshine Award, Amber Leavitt-Hopson, Housekeeping*

Amber Leavitt-Hopson, Housekeeping Supervisor, was selected for the Sunshine Award. She recently earned her 10-year recognition with ASNA/SSMH. Her nominator wrote *“Amber brings warmth and kindness to everything she does. As part of our housekeeping team, she is quiet, efficient, and always smiling. Patients and staff alike appreciate her friendly presence and positive attitude. When the team is short-staffed, Amber doesn’t hesitate to step up, working extra shifts and even folding laundry. She goes above and beyond every day without asking for recognition, and we’re grateful for her steady dedication and cheerful spirit.”*

## SPOTLIGHT ON HOMEGROWN TALENT

### *Homegrown Staff: Adison Itta*

Adison Itta began his journey with Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) in September 2018 as a Materials Management Handler. His commitment and growth within the organization led to a promotion to Materials Manager in 2021. In April 2024, he advanced to his current role as Offsite Facilities Assistant Director. Adison's responsibilities span a wide range of essential operations, including materials management, motorpool oversight, warehouse coordination, and support for Off-site facilities.



Adison is the son of Dawndee Ipalook and John Donovan, and was adopted and raised by Clarence and Marie Itta. He also honors the guidance and legacy of his grandparents—Michael & Evelyn Donovan and Frederick Ipalook Sr. & Martha Falk, as well as Simeon “Sunjaqsan” & Josephine “Eqagin” Itta and Mark Sr. & Jennie Ahsoak.

Outside of work, Adison treasures time with his wife Angelica and their daughter Aiverson. He enjoys family travel, participating in spring and fall whaling with Aaluk Crew, and collecting Funko Pops, One Piece and Pokémon cards. He also finds time to relax with video games.

He is currently working toward his CDL and has completed locksmith training and CPI (Crisis Prevention Intervention) certification—each step aligning with his dedication to continuous development.

#### *Homegrown Staff: Jordan Ahgeak*

Jordan a dedicated and compassionate team member whose journey exemplifies commitment, perseverance, and care. She first joined ASNA in 2019 as a Human Resources intern. It was during this early experience that Jordan began to discover a deeper passion for patient-centered care. By 2020, Jordan transitioned into the clinical setting as a Patient Care Technician, where she quickly became a trusted member of the care team.

Jordan pursued a series of certifications including Basic Life Support (BLS), Crisis Prevention and Intervention (CPI), and Phlebotomy. These credentials, paired with hands-on experience, laid the foundation for further academic pursuits. In Spring 2025, Jordan earned an Associate’s Degree in Nursing from Alaska Pacific University (APU) and recently passed the NCLEX, officially becoming a Registered Nurse.

Jordan is a proud parent to Zeke Unutoa and shares this journey with Ramese Unutoa, Zeke’s father. Jordan draws inspiration and strength from her loving family, including mother Kathi Texeira, late father Karl Derek Ahgeak.

Jordan’s story is one of dedication, cultural pride, and professional growth. ASNA is honored to support and celebrate Jordan’s incredible journey from intern to RN.





## GROWING OUR OWN

### *ASNA Leadership Scholarship Awardees*

The Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Award was established in 2015 in recognition of ASNA's 50th Anniversary. It is named after one of the ASNA founders, Guy Okakok, Sr., who championed the rights of Alaska Natives. The academic scholarship is available to eligible Arctic Slope tribal members who are in post-secondary health care, social services, or other related programs with an intent to contribute to the health and well-being of the people of the Arctic Slope. Scholarship awardees receive a one-time issuance of \$2,500.00 per semester or \$5,000.00 per academic year, based on financial need.

ASNA is proud to announce the 2024-2025 Guy Okakok, Sr. Leadership Scholarship awardees: *Kasey Rock, Kiara Burnell, Kimberly Wolgemuth, and Taegan Edwardsen.*

Kasey Rock is a tribal member of the Native Village of Point Hope. She is the granddaughter of Dorcus & Elijah Rock, Sr. and Nina & Ronald Oviok, Sr. She attends Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Kasey understands the need to raise awareness, educate students, and promote acceptance to address ongoing mental health issues across the Arctic Slope. In 2028, Kasey plans to receive a Bachelor's degree and return to Alaska to provide for her community.

Kiara Burnell is a tribal member of the Native Village of Barrow and is the granddaughter of Loretta Burnell & Robert Simmonds and Kalei & Wiley Contrades. Kiara attends Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska and is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing. She states "Although I know these next four years will be hard, it'll all be worth it in the end when I can come back home to give back to my community."

Kimberly Wolgemuth is a tribal member of the Native Village of Barrow. She is the daughter of Scott & Tina Wolgemuth and granddaughter of George "Bud" & Jane Stevens. Kimberly attends Columbia Basin College in Pasco, Washington. Kimberly plans to return to the Arctic Slope upon graduating to help address the





health care needs of her community. She also hopes her educational journey will inspire the younger generations to get a better education to better the Arctic Slope for many years to come.

Taegan Edwardsen is a tribal member of the Native Village of Barrow. She is the granddaughter of Nanauq Thorp & Lester Keller, Jr. and Dorothy & Van Edwardsen. Taegan attends Land and Sea Aviation in Anchorage, Alaska. By seeking a career in Aviation, Taegan hopes this opportunity will allow her to provide reliable transportation services to the Arctic Slope by increasing access to crucial resources such as healthcare. Upon completion of her program, she plans to engage with Arctic Slope community leaders and educators to develop programs that support local needs and aspirations for future generations.



*ASNA Internship Program*

ASNA hired summer interns to work a variety of positions throughout the organization. Each placement was based on their interests and experiences. The 13-week program provides valuable work experience by learning the roles of each department and gaining exposure in a health care setting.

- Allana Nageak
- Amare Nageak
- Arlene Unutoa
- Brooklyn Mose
- Kiara Burnell
- Kimberly Wolgemuth
- Taegan Edwardsen

The following interns were hired during summer 2024 (pictured left to right): Amare Nageak, Allana Nageak, Taegan Edwardsen, Kiara Burnell, Kimberly Wolgemuth, and Arlene Unutoa.



## QUYANAQ



### *Quyanaq!*

Reflecting on our organization's resilience in 2024, we extend our heartfelt thanks to those who contributed to its successes. 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 Atkasuk, 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 the 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, Rasmuson Foundation, State of Alaska and the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. We look forward to our continued success in 2025.







## INCOME STATEMENT

OPERATING REVENUE	2024	2023	2022
Grant and contract revenue	\$ 48,526,996	57,423,196	59,583,596
Patient service revenue, <i>net</i>	76,430,672	56,242,252	54,550,279
Other	1,424,282	3,825,100	1,498,575
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>126,381,950</b>	<b>117,490,548</b>	<b>115,632,450</b>

OPERATING EXPENSES			
Salaries and fringe benefits	59,834,021	57,258,416	54,053,642
Contractual and professional services	25,730,743	27,106,694	19,159,239
Supplies	9,361,490	8,718,071	8,303,344
Depreciation	7,636,108	7,235,655	6,943,669
Direct assistance payments to individuals	3,568,420	2,640,098	3,416,521
Travel and per diem	2,176,628	1,978,833	1,310,374
Other	8,564,887	12,921,332	9,128,454
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>116,872,297</b>	<b>117,859,099</b>	<b>102,315,243</b>

<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>9,509,653</b>	<b>(368,551)</b>	<b>13,317,207</b>
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NET NON-OPERATING REVENUES			
Nonoperating grant revenue	—	1,981,205	—
Investment income	15,093,089	7,233,707	(4,470,953)
Interest expense	—	—	(41,693)
Gain (loss) on sale of capital assets	—	—	16,000
PPP forgiveness revenue	—	—	—
Capital contributions	3,489,847	2,592,729	6,872,271
<b>CHANGE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>28,092,589</b>	<b>11,439,090</b>	<b>15,692,832</b>

Net position at beginning of year	280,601,196	269,162,106	253,469,274
<b>NET POSITION AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 308,693,785</b>	<b>280,601,196</b>	<b>269,162,106</b>



BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2024	2023	2022
Current assets	\$ 74,022,650	64,077,046	73,095,255
Investments	83,295,985	70,929,584	55,347,703
Capital assets, <i>net of accumulated depreciation</i>	191,610,281	186,051,145	180,350,765
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>348,928,916</b>	<b>321,057,775</b>	<b>308,793,723</b>
LIABILITIES			
Current liabilities	40,235,133	40,456,579	39,631,617
Long Term Liabilities	—	—	—
NET POSITION			
Net investment in capital assets	187,933,834	186,051,145	180,350,765
Unrestricted	120,759,949	94,550,051	88,811,341
<b>TOTAL NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$ 308,693,783</b>	<b>280,601,196</b>	<b>269,162,106</b>





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