



FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION

Serving the Community for 40 Years



September 2008

Welcome to FNA

Fairbanks Native Association's personnel are the heart of our programs. Our Staff provides services that support individuals as well as the larger Fairbanks population. I recognize that each of you adds to our organization, bringing skills and your unique perspective to the work we do here.

I am delighted by the diverse life paths that our staff has traveled before choosing to work for FNA and recognize the strength those journeys bring to our organization. It is, without question, this broad spectrum of viewpoints that allows us to open FNA's door and embrace the broad spectrum of individuals, often representing the most vulnerable in our community, whom we support.

People come to us in need and often we are the only ones who can help. What a difference it makes to open the door gladly, to say in word and action "you have come to the right place." They have come to the right place; FNA is full of good people that will help them.

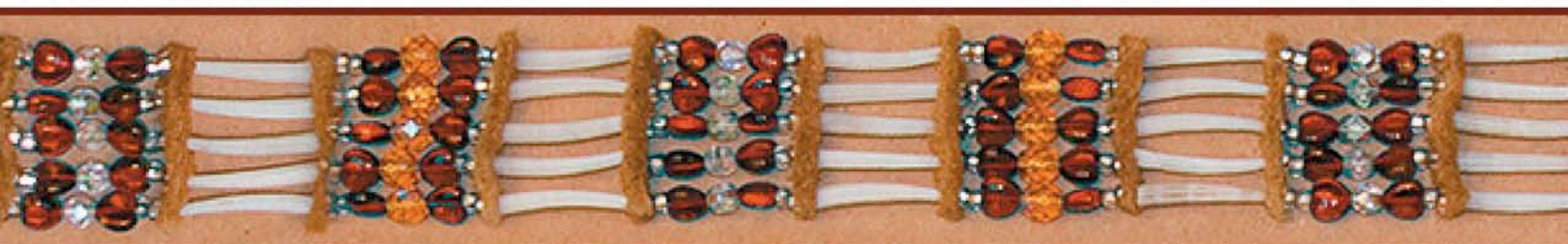
I am proud of this organization, the people who work here and the work we do together.

Welcome to FNA. Thank you for bringing your broad scope of abilities and possibilities to this organization and those we serve. You make Fairbanks a better place to live.

Anaa' Basee',



Doreen L. Deaton~ FNA Interim Executive Director



Greetings.....



“Let’s remember the purpose and mission of FNA-and rise up together as a whole and move forward together in service to our community through our programs and community outreach to embrace all our community has to offer with the rich diversity of our cultures.”

Dear Staff:

This past year has proven to be a year of transition and change for the Fairbanks Native Association. Administration moved to its current location at 605 Hughes Avenue and there have been various changes within FNA’s Administrative staff. Now the Board is moving forward in the search for a new Executive Director.

It is my heart’s desire that as we come to the end of this transitioning period, we the members of the Fairbanks Native Association, employees and board members alike, walk together towards a common goal. Let’s remember the purpose and mission of FNA-and rise up together as a whole and move forward together in service to our community through our programs and community outreach to embrace all our community has to offer with the rich diversity of our cultures.

I would also like to encourage our employees to continue to stop by and share your ideas, concerns and comments with the Board when you have a moment. We value the opinions of all FNA employees tremendously and your comments are taken into careful consideration.

I am humbled to serve as the President of the FNA Board of Directors and promise to always work for the continued success of FNA, its members, employees and the organization as a whole. In closing, I would personally like to thank all of you, the FNA employees for your continued support through these past few months especially during the times of uncertainty, your loyalty to this company deserves a tremendous round of applause. I Thank you, “Tsin-ii choh’ “, for a job well done in keeping this company moving ahead!

With much respect,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda Joseph". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Rhonda Joseph~ FNA President

“TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN...ECCLESIASTES 3:1”



FNA History Video Wins Award

Doreen Deaton and Adam Demientieff's documentary "History of Fairbanks Native Association with Poldine Carlo" won the Best of Documentary category at the 2008 Fairbanks Arts Association Film Festival.

This documentary features extensive interviews with founder Poldine Carlo, Dorothy Perdue who is the widow of founder Ralph Perdue, and former FNA Board member Richard Frank. Through interviews and vintage footage these three long-time advocates for Native people talk about the beginning and development of FNA. They discuss Fairbanks in the 1960's and their dedication to forming an organization that would represent Native people in an urban setting. They also talk about the early gatherings that became the annual potlatch and how important it is to have an event that joyfully celebrates Native culture.

The film was praised by jurors Katie Pride of the Sundance Film Festival, local radio personality Kathryn Harris and University of Chicago film student Sean MacDonald. The jurors selected the film based on its quality as an oral history and the importance of preserving this story.

The FNA History Video was produced by Story Teller Productions, Executive Producer Doreen Deaton and producer Adam Demientieff.



Adam Demientieff



FNA EMPLOYEE PICNIC

GOTCHA!



! THANK YOU!

TO THE

Employee Fund Committee

Karla Martin

Laura McDonald

Elizabeth Vaughan

Aileen Cotter

Stephen Popichak

Christlene French



FNA HOMELESS BBQ

On August 14, 2008 FNA Community Services hosted the 13th Annual Barbecue for the homeless.

Tables of free clothing, boots, shoes, toys, and everyday household items were made available throughout the day for all participants along with a tasty meal.

FNA Community Services would like to thank all those who contributed money and/or time and energy to fulfill the needs of others in our community. Fairbanks is truly a caring and sharing place to live, as demonstrated by the donations of businesses and organizations plus the involvement of many FNA programs and staff.



FNA Early Head Start & Head Start staff were awarded by the Alaska State Head Start Association:



Lynda Page ~
Early Head Start Teacher of the Year

Chrislene French ~
Support Staff of the Year

Debbie Panamaroff ~
Home Visitor of the Year

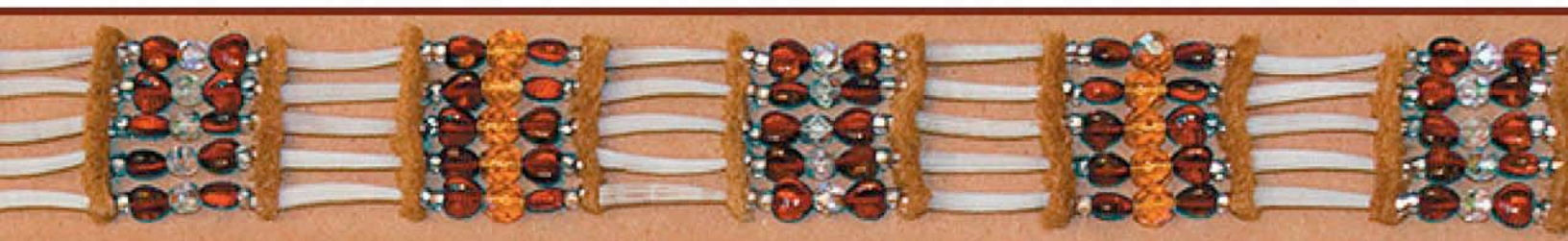
Lynda Page ~ Teacher of the Year

For the past 23 years Lynda Page has served the youngest children in the North Star Borough. Working with Educare, Play –n Learn, and now FNA Early Head Start, Lynda’s gentle nature and genuine gift for inclusion have set her above as the leader in the field.

Lynda came to FNA 4 years ago as the Education and Disabilities Coordinator after years of working in the classroom and as a supervisor, she was approached to move from preschool to infants and toddlers, a long time dream for Lynda, but as a supervisor and not in the direct service capacity. Lynda was excited for the challenge, but soon realized that this was not where she wanted to be. One year later Lynda Page resigned her position and accepted a Primary Teacher position at EHS. A long time CDA qualified teacher, Lynda was now determined to once and for all complete her AA in ECE. After many years of working full time and raising her son with the support of her loving husband Bob, Lynda graduated in the winter of 2007.

Lynda has been identified by staff and co-workers in the field as not only a resource, but also a guide as the most requested practicum teaching site is her Shazheh classroom. Patty Meritt, Director of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Early Childhood AA Program has stated that she is the only teacher that has ever received a perfect practicum grade, and was “the best teacher that she had ever had the pleasure to work with.” Although infant toddler practicum sites were previously not recommended by the University, Lynda Page’s classroom is now on the list. Teachers, students, and local program directors are all familiar visitors to her classroom. During the most recent on-site Federal Review, the Education Review Team member pulled me aside as the director, and shared how impressed he was of this teacher with obviously 3-4 high needs children working without missing a beat and seamlessly serving each child meeting their individual needs. This team member was to visit 3 classrooms and although he did tour each of them, spent the entire afternoon in the Shazheh classroom.

Working with Lynda as a supervisor has been a true gift. She is willing to work with every new teaching staff that orients into our program and train them for their first two weeks at EHS. She embraces the opportunity to lay the foundation for staff in the best way possible and never discourages any staff from coming to her for questions, or ideas. Lynda is the TIC “Teacher in Charge” whenever Carmen (Our Education and Disabilities Coordinator) is out of the office without missing a beat.



Chrislene French ~
Support Staff Person of the Year

When working in the field of Head Start as a Program Director there is one staff person that always receives the brunt of this position, and that is the Program Assistant. I have been very fortunate in my time with FNA as I was gifted with Chrislene French. Chrislene French consistently exceeds her job duties as a Program Assistant ensuring that at all times the position as Director is supported, and handles this brunt with professionalism and graciousness.

To date Chrislene has turned the Client Pay billing and collections over, going out into the community and building relationships with the child care assistance programs as well as OCS and being a part of every enrollment into our program, making sure that each family understands our program and what is their responsibility. EHS is now collecting client pay fully each month building a base for us to move forward and at the complete direction of the Program Assistant. With Chrislene at the helm of this part of our program's deficit, I was able to focus on the QIP and in 2008 we were found with no deficiencies, much to the support of Chrislene picking up so many other pieces and allowing me to focus on this pending review.

No one is unaffected by her genuine care of our program. Never does a day go by when our families are not greeted either dropping off or picking up their children without a welcome from "Miss Christy". Chrislene drives 30+ miles each way every day to work and often gives staff rides to work if needed, and is always offering to help out in any way she can.

In addition Chrislene has built a bridge to our Administration. Over the past years a wedge had been slowly resting between FNA and EHS. Chrislene has made the effort to be there every day, building relationships and securing that trust that is needed to create strong communication. Today, FNA and EHS are at a much better place and all staff feel that they are recognized and appreciated by our Administration.

Debbie Panamaroff ~
Home Visitor of the Year

Debbie Panamaroff has been a Home Base Option Educator for Fairbanks Native Association Head Start for the past 10 years. During this time her quiet and gentle nature has set her apart as a leader in the field. Families consider themselves gifted as they receive her into their home with open arms and hearts. Through home visiting Debbie truly exemplifies and delivers not only curriculum, but the spirit of Head Start.

Debbie is recognized by her fellow staff members as "honest, genuine, caring and a having a pure heart". Over the years Debbie has watched our program develop and mature strongly as a leader state wide in the home visiting field. Above all as a Program Director, Debbie is observed as a highly ethical staff member that is not only aware of, but also respectfully practices professional boundaries. Debbie is able to build relationships with families where she empowers parents as the child's best teacher, while building this incredible resource that extends past the early learning years.

Debbie currently serves 12-13 children successfully, and at the most recent Home Base Graduation, she was awarded by one of her families, thanking her for serving them for more than 8 years. When speaking, the mother stated "that although they wanted Debbie to keep coming into their home every week, she was unable to commit to another pregnancy", and although humorous, this really recognizes how strong these relationships are that she builds on a daily, monthly, and yearly basis.



2008 Miss **WEIO**



2008 Miss FNA, Kimberly Dullen was crowned 2008-2009 Miss WEIO on July 18, 2008. She is pictured above with Miss Indian World, Nicole Colbert and Miss Alaska, Courtney Carroll who was also Miss FNA in 2001.

2008 SERVICE AWARDS

Janet Baker	5 years
Alice Weckwerth	5 years
Amy McLoughlin	5 years
Yuliya Kermes	5 years
Michelle Brockway	5 years
Eric Schaetzle	5 years
Mike Doppler	5 years
Ruth Esmailka	5 years

Cynthia Wood	10 years
Linda Woods	10 years
Robert Finke	10 years

Thank you for your

SERVICE to

FNA & the Community

