

## Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) October 2021 Report to the Presbytery of Yukon



### We are Back!!!

We are so grateful to the Presbytery of Yukon, as well as the North Slope Borough, and the Alaska United Methodist Church, for providing grants for IAM's work over the next year. We were so disappointed when we discovered that one side effect of the pandemic was the temporary elimination of all funding for IAM's projects. We had just finished designing our approach, and training personnel for this work, when the pandemic struck. The financial pressures that came with it totally cut off our funding, causing IAM to function for the past 18 months as an all-volunteer agency. Now, however, the North Slope Borough has provided about 40% of the funding we need for the North Slope Region, and the Methodists and Presbyterians have provided about 30% of the funding we need for work on St. Lawrence Island. With these grants, we are starting again—even as we continue writing grants in the hopes of funding the whole ministry that is needed.

We are, of course, most grateful to God, Who makes all of this possible. Scripture tells us that God is love (found, most famously, in 1 John 4:7-21), and that we are to serve as reflections of God's love in all that we do. That being the case it is not surprising that God continues to provide ministries of healing for those struggling with trauma, with addiction, with depression, with grief, or with any of the other social ills that sit on people's hearts.

IAM is one of those ministries of healing, and we are grateful to all those inspired by God to help make this ministry possible. In this report, we will describe progress from each of IAM's signature programs for community healing:

- **The Listening Way**—which provides prayer partner allies for hurting people,
- **Healing and Renewal Events**—which empowers the churches as partners for hurting people and for community health,
- **Collective Impact**—which draws together local people from local government, local business, and the rest of the local community to determine how to respond to local needs, and also provides mechanisms for gathering data on the problems we seek to address.
- **12-Step Facilitation**—Which provides a custom designed, culturally aware approach to spiritual health, and the meaningful relationships that make it possible.

For more information, you can find us at <http://www.iam.gives/>, or email to [admin@iam.gives](mailto:admin@iam.gives).

By Rev. Dr. Curtis Karns, IAM Co-Executive



### IAM Listening Way Program

IAM Listening Way program is excited to kick off our new season of helping others. We're very thankful to the NSB for the funding that has enabled us to rehire our Listening Leaders that have been trained previously. Lillian Lane from Point Hope, Madeline Hickman from Wainwright, Flossie Kanayurak and Veronica Neakok

from Atqasuk, Olivia Cabinboy from Nuiqsut, and Rebecca Brower are ready to engage in Listening to others, praying with others and encouraging those who need encouraging.



Listening Way Leader Graduating Classes



We will also be opening up our 800 Care Connection line. We will use this to make ourselves available to those who may need to talk to someone about what they are going through during this pandemic. We are grateful that we get to be a part of the healing within our region here in the NSB.

We have also trained Zilma Gologergen and Geraldine Slwoko from Gambell, as well as Shana Noongwook and Christopher Noongwook of Savoonga as our Listener Leaders who are ready and willing to help their communities and help us man our Care Connection telephone outreach as well. Quyanapqak to all our Listening Way Leaders for stepping up and stepping out to help the IAM corporation reach out to help others. Lord bless you all abundantly and use you to show Gods Love in action.

*By Pastor David Matthews, Listening Way Supervisor*

### **IAM Healing and Renewal Ministries**

*IAM is pleased to announce* Zoom meetings to be held with people from Barrow...and will be working on getting Atqasuk and Wainwright involved via internet connections with the churches in those villages. We will be hosting Bill Burkhardt and Shelley Royalty from Beach Chapel Church in San Diego, via Zoom to teach prayer ministry to people struggling with crisis.



Utqiaġvik Healing and Renewal Event

Bill is Senior Pastor, church planter and ministers prophetically. Shelley Royalty is a Clinical Supervisor and prayer minister, and teacher. She teaches, on healing from trauma, and ministering biblical healing for those dealing with crisis situations. She will also be teaching people techniques to grounding themselves spiritually as they deal with crisis. When Jesus said that Luke 4:18 was fulfilled by him, He also said we would do likewise. If you are interested in learning prayer ministry for those who are in Crisis...this session is for you...If you have experienced crisis in the past years...this session is for you! Three sessions...will be starting Nov. 5, Friday for one session, and Nov. 6, Saturday for 2

sessions. Specific times and dates will be updated, and the place will most likely be the Presbyterian Church in Barrow, Alaska...if pandemic safety allows.

*IAM also wishes to announce* our desire to collaborate better with the churches in each village. Although we can bring special events, like the one described above, we believe regular events can make a huge difference and can be most effective when organized by local churches. IAM would like to collaborate with local church leaders to help this to happen. Church leaders, watch for our email or phone call sometime in October!

*By Dorothy Bekoalok, Healing and Renewal Supervisor*

## **IAM COLLECTIVE IMPACT PROCESS**

The goal of collective impact is to continuously partner with the many agencies and people in each community already working to bring health and healing. One of the many ways we do this is through IAM Steering Committees. Steering Committees are made up of leaders from across the local community, coming together to plan a local strategy for addressing social ills. We hope to gather Steering Committee membership from the local and borough Government, from the faith community, from the local department of health, from the schools, from youth, from the local Native Corporations, and from others.

As we continue this process, we will remain agile in pursuing better ways to incorporate faith-based components to community healing, while recognizing how much good is already underway. Additionally, we are collecting data from as many sources as possible and conversing with various individuals and elders to continue developing our understanding of needs and solutions for our communities.

The data we are collecting will be compiled and presented to the Steering Committee so that they can serve as the *voice of the community* in recommending actions to address social ills. IAM will partner with the Steering Committee in designing sustainable ways to implement and fund the actions the Steering Committees develop.

*Information from Henry Whitlow, IAM Collective Impact Supervisor*



IAM Meeting with Community Leaders in Gambell

## 12-STEP FACILITATION

IAM in conjunction with Julia Sullivan is developing a training curriculum to offer a leadership course of leading a 12-step program with Inupiaq cultural values defining the way IAM offers programs to residents of the North Slope Borough.

Julia Sullivan is a certified instructor in Internal Family Systems work. She considers this combining of IAM with IFS a foundation of “indigenous work”. She works with several other indigenous (tribes) across the United States and Canada offering healing support.

Internal Family Systems is a powerfully transformative, evidence-based model of psychotherapy. We believe the mind is naturally multiple and that is a good thing. Our inner parts contain valuable qualities and our core Self knows how to heal, allowing us to become integrated and whole. In IFS, all parts are welcome.

IFS is a movement. A new, empowering paradigm for understanding and harmonizing the mind and, thereby, larger human systems. One that can help people heal and helps the world become a more compassionate place.

IAM expects that combining Internal Family Systems with Inupiaq cultural values will a very positive approach to this new part of IAM’s work.

*By Rev. Charles Brower, IAM Co-Executive*



Screenshot: 12-Step Online Bible Study, Presbytery of Yukon 2020