THE KUSKOKWIM

Drift

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

2024 - Q4

IN THIS ISSUE:

Early Winter Meetings with Shareholders
Recent Shareholder development efforts
Shareholder Shout out: Crim Phillips Jr.
Subsidiary Spotlight: Holitna
Kuskokwim Educational Foundation Update
TKC makes 2024 Top 49ers List
Elder Care Packages

THE KUSKOKWIM CORPORATION

cutting a path to a better future

COMING TOGETHER: *Early Winter Meetings*

We spend much of the summer and fall gathering and getting ready for the long winters we know are coming. Fishing, hunting, and harvesting before freeze-up. And then, as the seasons turn, we look to spending time together, and that's what we did this early winter. TKC sponsored three convenings in late 2024; The Middle Kuskokwim Gathering, a Shareholder family dinner in Anchorage, and a luncheon during the BIA Provider's Conference. Let's look back at some highlights from those get-togethers.

MIDDLE KUSKOKWIM GATHERING

Hosted by TKC Fish Wheel at the Arviiq Center in Aniak, the Middle Kuskokwim Gathering took place Nov. 6-9. This year being the 5th installment of the gathering, there was a shift in focus that started with attendees. Each of our 10 communities were invited to send one Elder, one youth, one Tribal leader, and one other community leader to represent them in three days of dialogue, cultural learning, solution

mapping, and wellness building activities. One highlight was Yuraq led by Tumaq, Cody Pequeño which allowed for Elder Clara Morgan to have her first Yupi'k dance.

The Gathering culminated with hearing directly from the youth of our region and prioritizing focus areas for us to work on through a handful of task forces. The top four priorities are: Food Security, Housing, Health Care, and Cultural Wellness and Education. We will look to establish the task forces and have them convene in early 2025. This year's gathering brought much healing and really laid out a path to a better future for all of us.

SHAREHOLDER FAMILY DINNER

We know that sometimes you just need to get together to share a meal. In October, TKC hosted a Shareholder Family Dinner in Anchorage which provided an opportunity for our Board, staff, and Shareholders to interact casually and spend quality time together. With no agenda and business to attend to, people gathered to hug old friends, win door prizes, and visit with family. We were reminded the importance of just checking in on each other and look forward to more opportunities like this in the coming year.

BIA TRIBAL PROVIDERS CONFERENCE LUNCHEON

Every year, Tribes from across the state gather at the BIA Tribal Provider's Conference. This well-attended event gives us a chance to host a lunch for those attending the conference on behalf of Middle Kuskokwim Tribes. This year, we had at least one person from each of our 10 communities at the lunch, and TKC gave quick updates on energy and broadband projects, as well as highlights from the Middle Kuskokwim Gathering.

Quyana to everyone who joined us this fall and winter. We can't wait to enjoy more gatherings together in 2025!

SHAREHOLDER DEVELOPMENT: *Building capacity with our people*

Our Corporation's motto is "cutting a path to a better future," and we understand not everyone's path is going to look the same. We work to provide programs, services, and opportunities to benefit all our Shareholders, wherever they are on their path, so they can be successful and self-sustainable.

In the last year, we launched new programs and services, made improvements to programs and services we already offer, and we hosted a variety of cultural and professional learning opportunities for our Shareholders in-region and in Anchorage.

CULTURAL LEARNING

Beaded Dentalium Earrings Class

In October, TKC partnered with Mikngayak to host a Beaded Dentalium Earring Class at our Anchorage office. Everyone who attended went home with a pair of beautiful beaded dentalium earrings along with the knowledge and skills to continue crafting!

"I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to attend this class! I learned several new skills and had a lot of fun!" one of the participants shared. Another participant commented, "Thank you, Mikngayak, Adrian and TKC for offering and hosting this fun class! It was so good!"

During the Middle Kuskokwim Gathering held Nov. 7-8 in Aniak, we invited event attendees and Aniak community members for a craft night. Those who joined us had the opportunity to also learn how to make the beaded dentalium earrings made during the October class, or they could work on a craft of their own. Craft night participants stayed late into the evening working on their beautiful hand-made projects.

Mukluk Making Class

TKC partnered with local seamstress Sally Hoffman to offer an in-region Baby Mukluk Making Class at Arviiq Center in Aniak. The three-day class was held Nov. 1-3 and 10 people participated. Everyone who attended learned to sew infant/toddler-sized mukluks or *kameksak* out of beaver fur, calf skin, and deer leather.

Qaspeq Making Class

We also hosted a Qaspeq Making Class with artist and owner of Frozen Stitches, Emily Leon. The two-day class was held Dec. 14 and 15 at the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage. All materials and sewing machines were provided and participants went home with a handmade qaspeq. "It was a great opportunity for use Shareholders that live in Anchorage," said TKC Shareholder Amanda Hoffman who attended the class.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Spill Response Training

As part of TKC's Surface Use Agreement with Donlin Gold LLC, Donlin assists in providing Spill Response Training on an annual basis for residents from TKC communities. TKC and Donlin partnered to host a 24-hour spill response training in the Arviiq Training center in Aniak from Oct 8-10th, 2024. Chadeaux Spill Responders taught the course, with 17 students from the TKC region. Villages that had participants in the training were from Aniak, Kalskag, Crooked Creek, Sleetmute, Chuathbaluk, and Lower Kalskag. The goal of the annual course is to have a trained workforce in the closest communities to assist with any emergency oil spill response operations. The training also includes an annual hazwopper training and is available to local residents in TKC's 10 villages.

Toyostove Maintenance and Repair Training

In partnership with Aniak Traditional Council, TKC offered a Toyostove Maintenance and Repair Training from Nov. 18-22 at the Aniak Traditional Council's Shop. The class was taught by Lucas Salzbrun from Rural Services Solutions. Nine people from the TKC region participated.

After the training, we were excited to learn that one of the participants, Evan Savage, Jr. from Kalskag, returned home and put what he learned in this training to immediate use. He began installing new Toyostoves in homes of Elders who needed them and ordering parts for Toyostoves that were in need of maintenance work or repair. Evan also shared the knowledge he learned in the training with his co-worker at Village of Lower Kalskag, Pete Sam, and together they worked to install Toyostoves for Tribal members who received assistance through the AVCP RHA Homeowner's Assistance and AVCP Inc. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs.

"Classes like this are very helpful to our communities because we cannot simply call service repairmen when things need to be installed or fixed and most people cannot leave their villages for weeks or months to attend trainings away from home," said Phyllis Evan, Tribal Administrator for the Village of Lower Kalskag. "We keep a list of people who have attended trainings as a resource to call upon when needed. This knowledge will continue to help our communities and we look forward to sending more community members to future trainings at Arviiq."

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Elders & Youth Conference Sponsorship

To encourage intergenerational learning and sharing, through our TKC ROOTS program, we sponsored a group of Shareholder Elders and Youth (Grades 7 -12) to attend the First Alaskans Institute's 2024 Elders & Youth Conference.

The four-day conference was held Oct. 13-16 at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage. The theme this year was "Our Land, Our Food - We are Living Our Indigenous Ways of Life," which was translated from *Dinjii Zhuh K'yàa Zhit Gwarandaii* in the language of the Gwich'in people. The experience allowed people from different generations to come together, heal in a cultural dynamic, discuss important issues faced from people all across Alaska, and learn from one another.

Each day the Elders and youth all wrote down what they took away from the conference and planned to share what they learned from the workshops they attended, as well as the speakers and dance groups that performed, to their families and communities. Participants were able to bring home a project they made in one of their workshops which included rose palms, pickled fish, and jarred herring eggs.

Overall the conference was a success and knowledge was taught of the Gwich'in people and culture.

TKC Nau

Earlier this year, we announced the launch of TKC Nau, our Youth Development Scholarship. This scholarship is intended to provide support for the personal, academic, and social growth of our younger Shareholders, ages 3 through the 12th grade. Since the launch, we've awarded 27 Scholarships to our youth. Funding from these scholarships helped pay for sports registration fees, winter break camp fees, swimming lessons, skiing lessons, travel for competition, as well as materials for art classes and equipment for sports.

Learn more about our Shareholder Development efforts at kuskokwim.com/shareholder-development/

SHAREHOLDER SHOUT OUT: *Crim Phillips Jr.*

Youth Shareholder Crim Phillips Jr. was a recipient of TKC Nau Youth Development Scholarship this year. Funding from our scholarship was used to help Crim cover fees to play on the AK PRIME competitive basketball team in Anchorage.

"Basketball is the place where I feel rewarded for working hard and sacrificing other things in the name of becoming a greater player, and representing my region where I grew up, on the Kuskokwim," said Crim. "Thanks to TKC I was able to apply for the NAU Scholarship to help me achieve my basketball goals."

Crim's hard work and dedication to the game payed off as he was one of the starting five on the AK PRIME team. He was also recognized as the #1 Defensive Player and was selected to play in the All-Star Tournament.

When asked if he had any advice for others who are interested in following in his footsteps, Crim said, "Enroll in any kind of basketball opportunities in or out of school. If you practice a lot, you'll level up and eventually be in college. That is my personal goal, with a lot of help from my Mom."

Congratulations Crim on your basketball achievements! We are proud to be a part of your progress and look forward to seeing what you bring to the court in the future!

KUSKOKWIM EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

As we put another year behind us, we are excited to share the latest updates from the Kuskokwim Educational Foundation (KEF).

In the 2023-2024 school year, KEF awarded a total of $70,000.00 in scholarships to 52 Shareholder students! These scholarships have supported students pursuing higher education, workforce development, and cultural training. We are thrilled to see many of our recipients making strides in their academic and professional journeys, and we remain committed to helping them achieve their goals.

2024 KEF FALL SILENT AUCTION

The annual KEF silent auction is one of KEF's largest fundraising events. The online auction allows people to bid on variety of items donated by local individuals and businesses. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this auction go directly to helping our Shareholder students achieve their education, career and cultural learning goals.

This year's online auction was held Oct. 23-30. Instead of hosting the auction on Facebook, we used an online auction platform, charityauction.com, which allowed people to participate in the auction without a Facebook account. It went very well and we will continue to utilize this online platform in the future.

We had a total of 40 items available for auction this year and we raised a total of $5,068! Quyana cakneq to everyone who donated in the auction and bid on items. Every dollar makes a difference for our Shareholder students!

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL LEARNING SCHOLARSHIP

In addition to continuing education scholarships, KEF offers a non-traditional scholarship for Professional and Personal Development and Cultural Learning. This scholarship is available to Shareholders who are interested in non-degree learning opportunities that may improve employability, enhance personal life skills and provide cultural connection and enrichment.

We provided a total of 17 cultural learning scholarships this year so Shareholders could attend our Baby Mukluk Making Class in Aniak and our Qaspeq Making Class in Anchorage.

We didn't provide any personal or professional scholarships in 2024. If you are interested in applying for our Personal and Professional Development Scholarship, some examples of learning opportunities we may be able to help fund include (but are not limited to):

- Personal finance, money management, or budgeting classes
- Cooking, meal prep, or nutrition classes
- Parenting classes
- Leadership training
- Small business training
- Earning a career-related license or certificate
- Attending a career-related conference or workshop

Learn more about KEF's Personal & Professional Development and Cultural Learning Scholarship at KEFalaska.org.

SUBSIDIARY SPOTLIGHT:

Holitna

Strategic Outfitting for the health of those who have served our country

For decades, The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC) has pursued business opportunities that allow us to take the profits we earn and reinvest them in our people and communities along the Middle Kuskokwim and beyond.

Through a diversified portfolio of investments and strategic business opportunities, TKC has achieved continued success. Today, TKC's family of companies includes 17 subsidiaries that employ nearly 400 people worldwide. Our major sectors of business include aviation, construction, environmental restoration, and facility outfitting. While our work sometimes takes us far from home, no matter where we are, we operate with the core values of the Middle Kuskokwim at heart.

A key player in TKC's mission is Holitna, a subsidiary business of ours that has been operating since 2016.

Named for one of the tributaries that converges with the Kuskokwim River near Sleetmute, Holitna specializes in 8(a) Initial Outfitting services, particularly in the healthcare sector, with a strong focus on outfitting facilities that serve military

medical patients and Veterans Administration (VA) hospitals. Holitna's strategic outfitting services are critical for ensuring that these medical facilities are equipped to provide the highest level of care to those who have served our country.

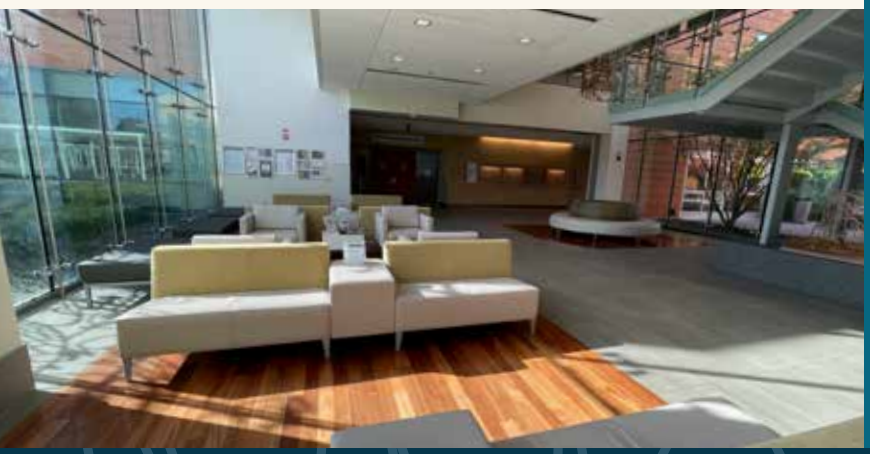
Holitna's work includes everything from site planning and equipment procurement to installation and operational readiness, ensuring these medical facilities are fully functional and compliant from day one. The team at Holitna works in close collaboration

with clients to manage constantly shifting targets, providing comprehensive communication to ensure that each project stays on track and delivers satisfied customers.

With a team of nearly 40 employees, Holitna remains committed to its mission of delivering quality outfitting solutions that support the healthcare needs of military personnel and veterans.

Just like the Holitna River adding strength to the current of the Kuskokwim, Holitna's success directly strengthens TKC's broader goal of generating revenue to fund our Shareholder projects and dividends. With every completed project, Holitna's employees help bolster the Kuskokwim region's economic resilience and support of our communities.

For more information about Holitna, visit www.holitna.com.



OUR SUBSIDIARIES:

At TKC, we carefully pursue business opportunities that allow us to take the profits we earn and invest in our people and communities along the Middle Kuskokwim and beyond. Today TKC's family of companies is comprised of 17 businesses that operate world-wide:

- **TKC Development, Inc.**
- **Tumeq**
- **Kuskokwim Community Growth Company**
- **Kuskokwim Properties**
- **Charleston Logistics**
- **+mipps**
- **Sunitna River**
- **Swift River Environmental Services**
- **Green Lighting Group**
- **TKC Aerospace**
- **SIOTS**
- **Precision Heli-Support**
- **Precision Air**
- **Holitna**
- **Suulutaaq, Inc.**
- **Holitna Construction**
- **Air Transport of the Carolinas**
- **Ciqima Federal Services**

To learn more about our business, family of subsidiaries, and the sectors of business we operate in, visit kuskokwim.com/our-business.

TKC MAKES ALASKA BUSINESS MAGAZINE'S 2024 TOP 49ERS LIST

Each year, the Alaska Business Magazine announces their Top 49er list, which ranks the top 49 Alaskan businesses, ranked by gross revenue. We are honored to announce TKC has made the 2024 Top 49er List at #38 with a gross revenue of $107,640,674in 2024.

The financial success is thanks to the guidance of the Board of Directors and the hard work of TKC's staff world-wide in a diverse range of businesses.

This is TKC's 10th consecutive year being recognized on the list (2015-2024). We first made the list in 2010 and remained on the list through 2013. The Top 49ers list is published by Alaska Business Magazine each October.

See the Alaska Business Magazine's 2024 Top 49ers List at akbizmag.com/lists/top-49ers/

HONORING OUR ELDERS:

TKC Elder Care Packages

At TKC, we want our Shareholders to know we are here to help support and celebrate them in every phase of life. As a part of our efforts to engage with our Shareholders of all generations, we recently launched our Elder Care Packages initiative.

Through this initiative, our Elder Shareholders receive a care package of goodies to show our appreciation and recognition. Each box included a letter from TKC, a soup mug, tea bags, crackers, jam, and a deck of playing cards.

Quyana to our Shareholder Records and Relations team, who assembled and mailed out nearly 300 boxes to TKC Shareholders ages 65 and up in December. Not quite there? Don't worry, Shareholders will receive a one time care package upon turning 65 to mark the milestone!

SHAREHOLDER RECORDS: *Unknown Address List*

Shareholders listed below **do not** currently have a valid address on file at TKC. To avoid lost mail and missed communications, please update your TKC Shareholder Record. You can update your record anytime on our Shareholder portal at MyTKC.com. You may also visit kuskokwim.com/shareholder-forms.

Alyse Adair
Jesse Andreanoff Jr.
Stephen Astbury Jr.
Rebecca Bobby
Mollia Brown
Niki Brown
Sophie Brown
Chyann Charles
Nicholas Charles
Andrew Cruger
Dora Diaz Johnson
Marie Dinardo
Louise Donhauser
Herbert Egnaty Jr.
Brian Fredericks
Tammy Heckman
Cynthia Holland
Derrick Holmberg
Ehren Johnson
Brandon Kelila
Steven Kelila
Justice Leavitt
Alexie Littlefish Jr.
Anisum Littlefish
George Macar
Steven Macar
Dwayne Madden Jr.
Samuel Madden
Eugene Michaelson
David Moore
Carl Morgan IV
Emma Morgan
Leah Morgan-Carroll
Sharlynn Morgan
Sonya Nesbit
Nick Nickolie
Paul Nicoli Jr.
Stacy Nook
Deshai Notti
Dari Osguthorpe
Nicholas Pennington
Michael Pepperling Jr.
Nathan Pepperling
Riley Renfro
Taylor Richards
Kaelen Rosander
Erik Sagmoen
Caroline Sakar
Mary Sakar
Tyler Sanbei
Christopher Smith
Tristen Snow
April Stauss
Brittney Steffensen
Brett Tahbonemah
Nic Takumjenak
John Thomas Jr.
Mercedes Thomas
John Tucker
Robert Vanderpool Jr.
David Vogel
Bertha Waskey
Joseph Williams
Neal Williams Sr.
Travis Wolf
Mia Worth
Tationa Yagashoff

For questions or more information, please call our Shareholder Records office at (907) 243-2944 or 1-800-478-2171 (toll-free in state), or send us an email at shareholderrecords@kuskokwim.com. Our staff is available from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. AKST.

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