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Southcentral Foundation To Celebrate Grand Opening Of New Primary Care Center Wing

Alaska Native-led Organization Continues 27 Years of Health Care Reform

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What can a nonprofit Alaska Native health care organization do with dwindling funds and a primary care center built with census data two decades old?

“Pray. And also utilize smart money management, establish a 20-year plan, partner with local, state and federal organizations, and focus on customer feedback to create a new three-story wing with intentional design elements that incorporate Alaska Native culture,” answered Southcentral Foundation President/CEO Katherine Gottlieb. “Each phase of the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center incorporates values important to Alaska Native culture. This third phase continues the path of this implementation, from the sun disc to the talking rooms.”

The sun disc is a remarkable feature that does more than direct light into the lobbies on all three floors. Special reflectors along the three-story wall will focus light at each solstice along the designated alcove. The talking rooms were created based on customer feedback. These non-clinical rooms allow for a more relaxed setting for customers and health care providers to review test results, discuss health care options and more.

Since inception, SCF has focused on solving the puzzle of health care. This has evolved into four pillars of the Nuka Model of Care: an integrated care team, from providers to administrative assistants to specialists, partners with the customer in making health care decisions; offering same-day access to these integrated care teams; developing and maintaining a strong supporting infrastructure, including periodic retraining and solicitation of feedback from customers; and the fundamental fact that the Alaska Native people are the owners and drivers of the health care system.

SCF has recently received national recognition of its programs and people. At the National Indian Health Board Consumer Conference in September, SCF received three awards: the National Impact Award for SCF Vice President and Chief of Staff Kevin Gottlieb, D. D. S.; Regional/Area Impact Award for Family Wellness Warriors Initiative; and the Youth Leadership Award for Allison Simeon, a former youth intern for SCF's RAISE program (Responsible Adolescents In Successful Employment). A nonprofit organization, NIHB represents Tribal governments—both those that operate their own health care delivery systems through contracting and compacting, and those receiving health care directly from the Indian Health Service.

Additionally, in September the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration selected SCF as one of 27 recipients of its national Science and Service Award. The recognition was earned as a result of SCF's inclusion of behavioral care into primary care. Also in September, SAMHSA awarded SCF a three-year youth suicide prevention grant. SAMHSA is a public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The first phase of the Anchorage Native Primary Care Center opened in 1997. The ceremony will be held Tuesday, Oct. 6, from 1 to 2 p.m. at the ANPCC. The address is 4320 Diplomacy Drive.

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Established in 1982, SCF's mission is to work together with the Native Community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The nonprofit health care affiliate of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., SCF has grown in its 27 years, from a single dental clinic to an internationally recognized, award-winning health care organization that employs more than 1,400 people and administers a budget of more than \$181 million annually to manage more than 60 health care programs and services.