

COOK INLET  
TRIBAL  
COUNCIL, INC.

# THE PEOPLE

VOLUME 13, No. 2 FALL 2004

STRENGTH THROUGH LEADERSHIP

*a quarterly review of social service programs  
for the people of the Cook Inlet Region*

## INSIDE THE PEOPLE:

SUMMER GREENHOUSE  
PROJECT IS GROWING  
*Page 2*

ANCHORAGE YOUTH  
CENTER  
*Page 3*

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES  
OPENS COFFEE SHOP  
*Page 4*

WORK THERAPY  
*Page 4*

CISCO SYSTEMS, INC.  
AWARDS LARGEST PRODUCT  
GRANT TO CITC  
*Page 5*

CITC TO ADMINISTER  
TANF IN ANCHORAGE  
*Page 6*

CITC OFFERS  
IDA PROGRAM  
*Page 7*

NINILCHIK REFORESTATION  
SUMMER CAMP  
*Page 7*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

#### CITC BREAKS GROUND ON NONPROFIT SERVICES CENTER

##### *Greetings,*

Whether it's a fish camp or an office building, physical structures and their contents have an effect on how we think and feel. Our physical environment can change how we react to situations and how we interact with each other. Whether we realize it or not, we respond to how a structure is maintained and we think about whether our surroundings are serving their intended purpose. Each environment has a story to tell.

In mid-August, we broke ground on our own new home, the Nonprofit Services Center, which should be ready for use by the end of 2005. The Center will consolidate our services into one location and bring us closer to our nonprofit partners Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, The CIRI Foundation, and the Alaska Native Justice Center. Work is well underway and is projected for completion by December 2005.

The physical environment that we work in is important because it speaks

volumes about who we are and what we value. This building will demonstrate to our community, and to the entire state of Alaska, that Cook Inlet Tribal Council is an indispensable part of the regional landscape. Instead of our programs being scattered around Anchorage, as they currently are, they will be centralized in an easily accessible, modern and efficient facility.



*CITC board members break ground at the site for the new building.*

Furthermore, the Nonprofit Services Center reflects the status of CITC as a community leader and partner. We anticipate that the Center will also serve as a gathering place for community groups and conferences that reflect our shared values and our mission of providing opportunities for Our People to meet our endless potential.

*Continued on page 2*

## CITC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Clare Swan**, *Chair*  
*appointed by CIRI*

**Penny Carty**, *Vice Chair*  
*appointed by Salamatof Village*

**Diane Buls**, *Treasurer*  
*appointed by CIRI*

**Debra Morris**, *Secretary*  
*appointed by CIRI*

**Charles Anderson, Jr.**  
*appointed by CIRI*

**B. Agnes Brown**  
*appointed by CIRI*

**John Crawford**  
*appointed by*  
*Seldovia Native Association*

**A. Debbie Fullenwider**  
*appointed by*  
*Eklutna, Inc.*

**Gary Harrison**  
*appointed by*  
*Chickaloon-Moose Creek*  
*Native Association, Inc.*

**Thomas Huhndorf**  
*appointed by CIRI*

**Christine Kashevarof**  
*appointed by CIRI*

**Harriet Kaufman**  
*appointed by*  
*Native Village of Tyonek*

**Patrick Marrs**  
*appointed by CIRI*

**Roberta Oskolkoff**  
*appointed by*  
*Nimilchik Native Association*

**Rita Smagge**  
*appointed by*  
*Kenaitze Indian Tribe IRA*

**Michael Tucker**  
*appointed by*  
*Knik Tribal Council*

# SUMMER GREENHOUSE PROJECT IS GROWING

*Educational Services System*

This year's summer greenhouse project was the answer to teenagers who might complain of nothing to do in the summer. The Education Department's Summer Greenhouse Project was in its second year of operation providing training for Alaska Native and American Indian students about horticulture and landscaping industries through hands-on skills.

Throughout the summer, middle and high school students planted and cared for more than 30 different varieties of flowers and vegetables. Students also built flower boxes and picnic tables; transplanted flowers and delivered flowers to various departments at CITC. This work

experience is a valuable future reference for teenagers with little or no work experience.

"We're building skills that students can use for a lifetime," said Amy Maitland.

Visiting guests interested in the Greenhouse Project gave students a chance to practice important skills such as making introductions, shaking hands and public speaking. This summer's visitors included the CITC Board of Directors and Senator Murkowski's Health and Human services staff member.



*Students cared for more than 50 varieties of vegetables and flowers.*

The greenhouse is located adjacent to the CITC Education building

at 504 W. 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For more information regarding this project, call (907) 297-2000. 🌱

## GROUND BREAKING *continued from page 1*

We ourselves at CITC are fortunate to be the benefactors of generous community support for this major undertaking. The groundbreaking ceremony was an opportunity to recognize funders and supporters who made this project a reality, including the Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Paul G. Allen Foundation, Senator Ted

Stevens, CIRI and the CITC Board of Directors. They helped us take the seed of a dream and nurture it into reality.

Sincerely,

**Gloria O'Neill**

Gloria O'Neill, MBA  
President/CEO 🌱

# ANCHORAGE YOUTH CENTER

## *Youth Opportunities Department*

As the Federal Youth Opportunity Grant (YO!) comes to a close this year, CITC's Youth Development Services Department is looking for ways to refocus its efforts on young people in the immediate area, whether they've grown up in Anchorage or come to the city from villages around the state. Thanks to CITC's extensive experience in working with Alaska Native youth over the past four years, the Anchorage Youth Center is beginning to be a place where successes are forged.

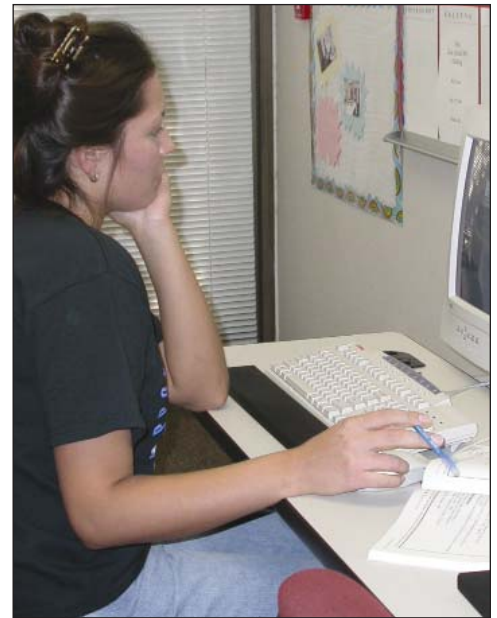
Glo Schetzle, Youth Services Manager, took a moment to tell *The People* a bit more about this latest effort from Youth Development Services. In recognizing the large numbers of young people coming to Anchorage from rural villages, the Youth Opportunity Program was able to gain permission from the federal Department of Labor to use YO! funds in Anchorage for youth, ages 14 to 21, from the communities that YO! Alaska serves. For example, a young

person originally from Tyonek arriving at the YO! headquarters on Fireweed Avenue is taken through an intake and assessment process.

Once the needs of the young person are identified, a case manager can refer them to a host of services and opportunities both within CITC and the wider community. If college-aged, they may also be referred to a postsecondary education specialist, or, if they're primarily in need of employment, an employment specialist. All youth over 18 years of age are encouraged to register to vote, as well. In the future, workshops and culture nights are planned to enhance participants basic life skills as well as to promote education and cultural pride.

At this time, the Anchorage Youth Center is still a relatively small program as the Center looks to attract more youth. Though any area youth are welcome to stop by, funds to pay for training and other supplemental

services are only available at this time for youth from the original YO! Alaska communities. Still, Youth Center staff are able to make a wide variety of referrals for any interested Native youth. 🇺🇸



*Youth work on employment at the Anchorage Youth Center.*

## GROUND BREAKING



*President/CEO Gloria O'Neill with Congressman Don Young and his wife Lu spoke at the ground breaking ceremony.*



*Members of the community gathered for a cloth ceremony at the site of the new Nonprofit Services Center.*

# SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES OPENS COFFEE SHOP AT POTTER MARSH RAILROAD CAR

Innovation often means looking at old challenges in new ways. CITC is constantly looking for new and effective means for helping participants overcome substance abuse and dependency. Who would have thought it could be found along the Seward Highway at the fringes of Anchorage?

Located across from Potter Marsh at a scenic vista, the CITC Railroad Car sells arts and crafts produced by Alaska Native residents in the Ernie Turner Center work therapy program. Under the direction of a master craftsman, participants with diverse talents produce both traditional and original works of art, such as earrings, soapstone carvings and postcards. Gifts are available at a wide range of



*Participants learn valuable skills while working at the railroad car.*

prices to satisfy any occasion. Customers can also find out more about Substance Abuse Services and the Work Therapy offerings at CITC. Tourists or other shoppers can also enjoy the on-site Coho Cup café, which serves a variety of specialty coffee drinks and snack items. The site even includes a deck with seating where customers can enjoy one of Alaska's most beautiful views and perhaps even see belugas swimming in Turnagain Arm. Both the gift shop and Coho Cup are staffed by participants in CITC's programs. Revenues from the Railroad Car and Coho Cup are then returned to the micro-

enterprise programs within Substance Abuse Services to purchase raw materials and other supplies.

So if you're looking for a gift with some extra special meaning, or just a coffee break, check out the Railroad Car just across from Potter Marsh. You won't be disappointed. 🍪

## WORK THERAPY: AN IMPORTANT PART OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

CITC is leading the way when it comes to new approaches for the challenges faced by families in our region. For those struggling against substance abuse or dependency, work therapy is just the latest in the ongoing evolution of services at the Ernie Turner Center.

Work therapy puts into action the notion that holistic health and behavioral health challenges such as substance abuse require holistic solutions that touch on every facet of life. Meaningful work activities, such as participating in a CITC micro-enterprise like catering or arts and crafts production, are part of the regimen of activities leading to recovery. Through these activities, clients not only gain valuable skills and habits that will be useful in re-integrating with society, but they also experience personal growth.

Friends and family members of those struggling with substance abuse often mourn as their loved one grows more and more distant in the haze of their battle with drugs or alcohol. Indeed, abusers often lose not only their jobs and financial resources, but also the skills and values they worked so hard to define before becoming substance abusers. Work therapy can help these individuals recover social identity and self-esteem by reintroducing structure and meaning into their lives. It can also significantly alter self-perception. These are invaluable steps toward victory over alcohol and other drugs.

*Continued on page 5*

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## CISCO SYSTEMS, INC. AWARDS THEIR LARGEST PRODUCT GRANT TO CITC

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. has been awarded a \$282,000 product grant from global network giant Cisco Systems, Inc., launching what both organizations anticipate will be a long and mutually-beneficial business partnership. CITC's grant is eight times larger than any other product grant awarded by Cisco in their 20-year philanthropic history.

Cisco Systems, Inc. cares about organizations which directly elevate the quality of life. Cisco supports such organizations with technological expertise to achieve efficiencies in their information technology systems which translates into more dollars that can then be used to augment direct service delivery. Specifically, this grant means improved business processes, improved network performance, reduced costs of voice services, reduced organizational liabilities and preservation of client privacy. The new equipment provided by the grant will establish CITC's core infrastructure with faster access to network resources and allowing the implementation of *Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)*.

"This grant is going to enable CITC to be innovative and provide the infrastructure that will ultimately assist CITC to

achieve organizational self-determination," said Gloria O'Neill, CITC's President/CEO.

CITC's computer network is currently shared with six nonprofits including Cook Inlet Housing Authority which will roll out VoIP technology as a part of the Cisco award. The products available through this grant will be incorporated into the new Nonprofit Services Center in which CITC, the Alaska Native Justice Center, Koahnic Broadcast Corporation, and The CIRI Foundation will co-

locate. The new Center is currently under construction and scheduled for completion by December of 2005. 🍷



*Gloria O'Neill, CITC President/CEO discusses the Cisco equipment with Walter Harmon from Cisco Systems.*

### *Work Therapy* continued from page 4

CITC currently operates three different forms of work therapy for Substance Abuse Services participants. The first is a fully equipped arts and crafts shop with tools for carving and other crafts. For instance, there are sewing machines for making traditional kuspuks and skin sewing. A master artist provides instruction to the program participants, many of whom arrive at Ernie Turner Center with amazing craftsmanship skills already. The Railroad Car is equipped with a coffee car and sells high quality Native art at its location across from Potter Marsh on the Seward Highway. CITC's Substance Abuse Services department also operates coffee carts at the Primary Care Center and at the CIRI building.

The other work therapy project for Substance Abuse

Services participants is a catering enterprise. Participants in this program have the opportunity to learn skills and gain food service certification while learning food preparation from a professional chef. Catering work therapy participants often provide food for CITC functions and have received rave reviews for their delicious work.

More important than the finished arts and crafts or the meals prepared by Ernie Turner Center participants are the lessons learned about life skills and personal growth. The participants leave residential treatment and work therapy better prepared to lead productive, happy lives without relapse into drugs or alcohol. 🍷

# EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES

## *CITC to Administer Tribal TANF in Anchorage*

In the coming months, CITC will dramatically improve our ability to serve Alaska Natives and American Indians who are participants in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program (TANF). In 1996, when Congress passed the Welfare Reform Act, it permanently changed the way federal assistance is administered to families in need by creating block grants for local authorities, such as states, to oversee the program. One provision allows tribes with comprehensive plans to assume oversight of the TANF program rather than the state.

For several years now, CITC has considered becoming the TANF administrator for Native peoples in Anchorage. There were always good

reasons to do so. First, CITC is more familiar with our community than any state agency. CITC knows about the challenges and hurdles that Our People face in trying to improve our lives. By taking on TANF, CITC will help to reduce the red tape that sometimes separates families from the opportunities they need.

Also, CITC's Employment and Training Services Division (ETSD) already offers Welfare-to-Work Case Management. Federal laws stipulates TANF participants must engage in work activities such as employment, job training or further education. ETSD supports participants through that process so that they can more quickly become self-sufficient. Since many ETSD participants receive

assistance, there is a natural and strong connection between CITC's existing programs and the objectives of TANF.

However, taking on TANF is a major task for any organization. CITC had to look carefully at the long term costs and benefits of becoming involved. Undoubtedly, it means adding more employees, investing in infrastructure such as management information systems (MIS) and retraining staff across the entire organization to understand TANF eligibility requirements and appropriate use of funds.

CITC's planning process showed that the challenge was worth it. Other tribes throughout the nation, including Alaskan organizations such as Tanana

*TANF continued on page 7*

## CITC OFFERS IDA (INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT) PROGRAM

Cook Inlet Tribal Council's new IDA (Individual Development Account) Program helps low-income individuals and families develop the skills needed to have a sound financial future.

The IDA participants will be able to successfully obtain an asset such as a first home, open a small business or pay for a post-secondary education. The program provides the incentive of matching savings dollars. A participant in the program can save a maximum of \$800 and receive a matching contribution from CITC of \$4000.



*The first IDA participant opens an account at Wells Fargo*

All participants in the program will attend six financial literacy classes. Participants will have an opportunity to meet with Consumer Credit Counseling and attended workshops as a participant gets closer to reaching their savings goal. These are all important steps of the financial literacy component of the program and to becoming a homeowner, small business owner or student. This program is made possible through key IDA partners including Wells Fargo and Alaska Mental Health Trust.

To be eligible for this program, participants must be Alaska Native/American Indian or the legal guardian of Alaska Native/American Indian children, reside in the Municipality of Anchorage, and be eligible for ATAP/TANF or be able to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit or have income that is less than 200% of the HHS poverty income guidelines.

For all questions about the IDA Program or eligibility, please contact Kimberly Leeper at (907) 265-7916 or by email at [kleeper@citci.com](mailto:kleeper@citci.com). 🌐

# SUMMER CULTURAL ENRICHMENT AND REFORESTATION CAMP AT NINILCHIK

Youth began the summer working on a pilot trail building pilot program in which they built hardened trails preventing erosion and improving salmon habitat. The program taught youth about the effect of winter use of ATVs on wetlands habitat health. During the first two sessions, youth laid 1,200 feet of trail and received praise from state and federal agencies for their work with the environment. Participants ended the summer planting 25,000 spruce seedlings and building an extension to the dock with a stabilized trail to the camp lake.

Along with the service learning projects, campers participate in a variety of activities including canoeing, Native Youth Olympics' sports, drum making, carving, beading, and learning to smoke and can salmon. In coordination with the Ninilchik Traditional Council the campers utilized the educational set net on Ninilchik beach fishing for salmon for distribution to Elders of the Ninilchik tribe. Campers learned wilderness safety, fire safety, visited the Pratt Museum in Homer, hiked the trails at the Winn Nature Center and were certified in first aid/CPR. The youth appreciate the skills they are learning.

The Cultural Enrichment and Reforestation Camp in



*Campers made 1,200 feet of ATV trails and planted 25,000 spruce tree seedlings at the 2004 camp.*

Ninilchik has been such a success because of all the diverse groups and individuals working so hard to provide a culturally-appropriate, community-enriching, and self-empowering summer program for the youth of this area. The 2004 camp staff would like to send a huge thank you to everyone who made the program so successful. 🍷

## *Tribal TANF continued from page 6*

Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) have successfully implemented Tribal TANF, and CITC saw that this innovation could work especially well in our existing framework of providing comprehensive opportunity to Our People, which includes opportunities to address educational, family, employment and substance abuse needs.

The array of CITC opportunities is certainly impressive, and as we looked closely at our organization, it became clear where one more piece would make the whole stronger. In the same way that construction of CITC's new Nonprofit Services Center consolidates offerings to a simple one-stop shop for our participants, Tribal TANF also enhances the

likelihood of participant success by consolidating previously separate functions. It is the missing link that CITC needs to help complete the circle of care, connecting participants with a wide range of opportunities.

Most of the groundwork has already been laid for this exciting development. In the coming months, CITC will be adding eligibility technicians, testing systems, and working with state authorities to make sure all appropriate regulations are in place for successful implementation of Tribal TANF. By July 2005, CITC's Tribal TANF will be fully operational, serving the Native families of Anchorage and helping them fulfill their endless potential. 🍷

# CITC SERVICES DIRECTORY

## PHONE NUMBERS

Main number	(907) 265-5900
Administration	297-2541
Accounting	265-7952
Computer Services-Help Desk	265-5954
Human Resources	297-2586
Public Relations	297-2566
TTY	265-5945
Toll-free in Alaska	(877) 985-5900

## ALASKA'S PEOPLE

Main number	265-5964
Toll-free	(888) 553-1213
Fax	265-5963

## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

### SYSTEM

Hospitality and Tourism Institute	297-2036
MEDIAK	297-2000
Partners for Success Program	297-2000
Tribal Scholarships & Grants	265-5904
Youth Services	297-2000

## EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING SERVICES

Career Development Center	265-7983
Child Care Assistance Program	265-7911

Supported Work Services	265-5921
Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation	265-5903
Welfare to Work	265-5921
Workforce Exchange Project	265-5921

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Burial Assistance	265-5911
General Assistance	265-5911
Interim Assistance	265-5911
Individual Development Acc.	265-5911
Supportive Services	265-5911

## FAMILY SERVICES

Child Wellness	265-7953
Dads Program	265-7902
Family Assessment Program	265-7953
Healthy Homes	265-7966
Intensive Family Preservation	265-5924
Life Skills Development	265-7934
New Beginnings	265-7934
Supervised Visitation	331-2000
Tribal Youth Diversion Effort	265-7903
Fax	276-3372

## ICWA HELP DESK

Toll Free in Alaska	(800) 478-4444
Anchorage	269-4088

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

### RESIDENTIAL SERVICES (ERNE TURNER CENTER)

Recovery Journey	550-2400
Wisdom Place	550-2400
Detox	550-2427
Coho Cup Coffee Shops	550-2400

### OUTPATIENT SERVICES

Mobile Treatment Unit	265-5997
Something More	265-5997

### INTERDISCIPLINARY SERVICES

First Step Assessment Center	265-7917
Pathways	265-7991
Connections Program	297-1717

### VILLAGE SERVICES

Cook Inlet Wellness Program	297-2578
-----------------------------	----------

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Native Youth Olympics	297-1772
Camp at Ninilchik	297-1772
Youth Opportunity Program	297-1724
Rural Youth Services	297-1742

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT CITC

For information on current career opportunities, call our Human Resources Development office at (907) 297-2586 or email [dmcinturff@citci.com](mailto:dmcinturff@citci.com). Visit our website at [www.citci.com](http://www.citci.com) for a complete listing and how to apply. 

COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC  
670 West Fireweed Lane  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 29  
Anchorage, AK

## CITC THE PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

is published quarterly for CIRI shareholders residing in Alaska.  
Copyright 2004. Send your comments about the newsletter or articles to:

Amanda Rothbarth, Public Relations  
2700 Gambell St., Suite 400 email: [arothbarth@citci.com](mailto:arothbarth@citci.com)  
Anchorage, AK 99503 website: [www.citci.com](http://www.citci.com)