I’m working on a new job title, or as one of the directors of AWARE’s board said, “You worked your way up at AWARE; now you can work your way down.” I was hired as AWARE’s Executive Director in 2002, and am very proud of the growth and accomplishments AWARE has achieved under my leadership. We’ve strengthened and broadened programs and programming to provide a greater depth of intervention and prevention services that make significant changes in individuals, relationships, agencies, and communities. It’s also been my honor to nurture a new generation of leaders to continue the important and life altering work of AWARE. While I’ve resigned my position as E.D., I’m remaining on staff full time serving other needs at AWARE. Meet Mandy Cole, AWARE’s new Executive Director.

You know how important AWARE is to me, and knowing that Mandy will be our next E.D. is both thrilling and gratifying to me. Many of you already know Mandy, have worked with her and experienced the dedication, brilliance, and enthusiasm she brings to AWARE, our work, our community, and our state.

For those who don’t know Mandy, she has worked at AWARE since 2005 and has been our Deputy Director since that position was created in 2014. I am delighted that AWARE will continue to have strong, passionate, and capable leadership and a voice to champion our work to address and end gender based violence in Juneau and Northern SE Alaska.

Mandy is stepping in at a very challenging time. AWARE is facing a $200,000 decrease in the funding we receive for homeless assistance. We are tightening our belts while looking at increasing efficiencies. AWARE is not alone in this struggle; our community partners and you, our supporters, know the burden of providing services to the most vulnerable Alaskans when the Governor has vetoed funds to keep both Alaska and Alaskans viable. While we hope and advocate for a better outcome, we also prepare for more people needing our services. As I write, there are 36 residents in our 32 bed shelter; we’ve purchased cots to accommodate the already growing need.

AWARE remains dedicated to being good stewards of your donations. Thank you for your support of AWARE and of Mandy Cole, our new Executive Director, in whatever way you’re able to manifest it. Gunalcheesh! We couldn’t do it without you!
Men’s Work

Men’s Class Series
This past May and June, Equity Coordinator Austin Tagaban and Prevention Coordinator David Abad developed and implemented an 8-week class series geared towards self-identified men in Juneau.

The structure was based on the 8-week class series that the Haa Tooch Licheesh Coalition hosted in March to explore the intersections of gender equity and racial justice in Juneau. About 40 members of the community took time each Friday to participate in that dialogue.

This format turned out to be an effective and successful tool to mobilize men for social change. The first class drew almost 20 men of different races, ages, and experiences. The group continued to take shape as the weeks progressed. Each week covered a different topic: power & privilege, patriarchy & colonialism, fragility & entitlement, intersectionality, healing & accountability, and allyship & action. Through these discussions, the facilitators focused on fostering relationships within the group while rooting each class in safety for, and accountability to, women, LGBTQ2+, and people of color. Since the completion of the series, the group has expressed interest in regular monthly meetings which will begin on Monday, August 5th. For more information email davida@awareak.org.

Men’s Gathering
On June 28-30, Juneau hosted the first state-wide men’s gathering. This 3-day event was organized by AWARE, ANDVSA, Sealaska, and Goldbelt Heritage Foundation, along with other key sponsors from the community. Five months earlier, AWARE’s Prevention Coordinator, David Abad, began the planning process with Rae Romberg from the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (ANDVSA). Together they strategized: how does a conference for men address gender equity and end violence against women? Several partners were pulled into the conversation to conceptualize the journey for those attending.

The gathering began on Friday at Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall. The event was open to the community and included dinner, keynote speakers, performances by the Woosh.Ji.Een dance group, and a march down to Marine Park. Men, women, and children walked in solidarity with a banner reading “Stop the Hurt and Harm.” The gathering continued into the weekend at the University of Alaska Southeast where over 60 men and women from all over the state participated in dialogues, healing circles, breakout sessions, lunch panels, and harvesting activities. More than half of the participants came from other parts of the state including Utqiagvik, Homer, Bethel, Nome, St. Paul, Kodiak, Seward, and Anchorage. Closer to home we also had participants from Sitka, Ketchikan and Metlakatla. Overall, the gathering focused on three revolving themes: addressing gender equity and centering women’s voices in the work of ending gender-based violence; providing opportunities for men to inspect their relationship with colonial/patriarchal masculinity and to redefine it in a healthier and safer way; and addressing trauma and healing with a cultural/indigenous approach.

First Ever Youth Pride Party in Juneau

When Education Specialist Stephanie Luther asked about support groups in town for transgender and questioning youth, she found that there wasn’t much available. So Stephanie made some phone calls. AWARE teamed up with SEAGLA, Planned Parenthood of the Great NW & Hawaii, the Zach Gordon Youth Center, and the Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition and together, we hosted Juneau’s first pride party just for youth in middle and high school.

The party featured food, tie-dye, a bonfire, and door prizes. Ms. Gigi Monroe gave a surprise drag performance, and a local youth played live music, performing “cheesy” love songs he’d written himself (Don’t worry, the song says—he’s not lactose intolerant). About 50 people attended.

One feature participants might not have noticed was the survey. Organizers collected information from the party-goers about what kinds of support would be helpful for the community going forward. The plan is to continue supporting local transgender youth in a way that is useful to them.

Zoe Ruskin wrote an article about the party for KTOO: “Tie-dye, rainbows and love songs: Juneau’s first youth LGBTQ Pride party” which was published on June 25th.

If LGBTQ2+ terminology is new or confusing to you, you’re not alone. Check out the LGBTQ 101 class taught by Trystan Reese of the Family Equality Council. The cost is $60 and the modules are all online so you can work at your own pace. This course will help you understand not only the acronym LGBTQ but also these 4 pillars of identity: sex assigned at birth, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. [www.training.familyequality.org/courses/lgbtq-101](http://www.training.familyequality.org/courses/lgbtq-101)

If you or anyone you know is struggling with their gender identity, call us at (907)586-6623 or call Trans Lifeline, available every day from 6am-midnight Alaska time at 1-877-565-8860.
The backbone of AWARE is our intervention services. Staff work tirelessly 24/7 to meet the needs of our residents—adults and children. In FY 19, we provided 10,332 nights of safe shelter for 215 individuals. That’s an average of 28 people/night. We’re a 32 bed shelter, so you’re accurate if you imagine there are nights when people are sleeping on cots and couches. We also recognize the multiple needs of the people we serve, such as people with mental health concerns and substance use disorders, people whose children have been abused and people with disabilities—thus the tireless advocacy. The services we offer adults and children are comprehensive and life changing, whether our program participants are residing at AWARE, or coming to meet with our legal advocate, one of our counselors, participating in children’s or parenting groups, or dealing with sexual assault victimization and the criminal justice process.

And so when AWARE built our supportive transitional housing, Kaasei, we also requested proposals for traditional healing. We contracted with Master Carver Wayne Price who designed a healing totem and screens (Eagle and Raven, 10 feet wide each on either side of the totem pole). Initially we imagined this at Kaasei, and subsequently we recognized the larger community healing that all of Juneau could embrace in acknowledging both victimization and healing from domestic and sexual violence. Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska and the City and Borough of Juneau are enthusiastic partners with AWARE in bringing this vision to fruition, and we have a site at Twin Lakes that will become the home of Kaasei Plaza, a peaceful setting where groups and individuals can sit with the totem and screens and share the healing. Many pro bono partners are working with us as well: Corvus Design, PND Engineering, Haight & Associates, and PDC Engineering, thus far. We are hopeful the plaza will be complete in the fall, and that we’ll raise the totem and screens at a community celebration. We are grateful to CCTHITA President Peterson in partnering with AWARE to raise funds to complete the plaza—stay tuned for fundraising efforts. We are so proud of the larger healing that happens in our community when we join efforts on such a meaningful project.

If you’d like more information or would like to support this project, please contact Saralyn at saralynt@awareak.org. Gunalchéesh!

Are you interested in volunteering or becoming a relief advocate at AWARE? Or do you just want to become more knowledgeable about gender-based violence?

**Come to our 40-hour advocacy training in October!**

Classes will be held on evenings and weekends. It is empowering to increase your understanding of domestic violence, sexual assault, and how to support survivors. Come be part of the solution! For more information call (907)586-6623 or email info@awareak.org.
Accepting Nominations for Women of Distinction 2020!

Do you know a woman who consistently goes above and beyond for our community? Somebody who upholds and supports people at the intersections of gender, race, age, ability, or identity? We want to hear from you. Help us highlight the everyday sheroes that uplift our community.

Nominations are due by September 27, 2019. Go to www.awareak.org/WOD to download the registration form and view past honorees.

Girls on the Run & Boys Run I Toowú Klatseen

Being a Boys Run I Toowú Klatseen or Girls on the Run coach is a rewarding way to have a positive impact on a group of kids. Coaches work in teams after school to facilitate a curriculum with lots of fun activities. The programs, mentoring, and 5K give kids crucial life skills and a sense of achievement that last into their adolescence and beyond. Coaches are needed at elementary and middle schools across Juneau.

The Boys Run I Toowu Klatseen program is a partnership between AWARE and Central Council Tlingit & Haida. We are so excited for this next phase of our partnership! Tlingit & Haida recently hosted a fun new 5K called a "Salmon Run." Participants were divided up into three groups: salmon, killer whales, and fisher people. The killer whales and fisher people tried to get flags off the salmon before the salmon crossed the finish line. We were thrilled to see new kids and potential coaches attending.

If you’re interested in becoming a coach, please visit BoysRun.org or GOTRgreaterAlaska.org, or contact Heidi at heidid@awareak.org or 586-4902.

New Coach Training for Boys Run is on August 24th.
New Coach Training for Girls on the Run is August 31st.
Free CPR and First Aid Training for coaches is on August 25th.

Resources for Youth in Juneau

There are so many wonderful people across our community whose entire focus is serving our youth! But how many people know that?

The Youth Engagement and Wellbeing Subcommittee of the Haa Tóoch Lichéesh Coalition identified a need to coordinate our messaging. We found that the first step is identifying all of those providers and what they do. We want to make sure that we have a robust safety net so that no matter what door a young person walks in through, they will be connected with resources that support their health and safety.

We are producing a brochure of youth services in Juneau. The brochure features leadership opportunities and social support, health care providers, mental health services, suicide hotlines, LGBTQ2+ resources, job centers, support for those experiencing homelessness, and more.

If you’d like to have this resource, please email danieller@awareak.org.
Thank You!

Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to **Wings Airways** for the flight seeing trip they donated to our children’s program; to **JB Auto Boutique** for the 30 Easter baskets they delivered; to Monica Ritter for helping out with our garden this summer; and to **Tavio Snyder** for collecting donations at his 6th birthday party!

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**Shelter Wish List**

- $5-$10 gift cards
- Movie/swim passes
- Bus tokens
- Chocolate
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- New razors
- Nail clippers
- Tweezers
- Tampons
- Toilet paper
- Tri-fold paper towels
- Trash bags
- Forks, spoons
- Paper cups
- Kitchen utensils
- Copy Paper
- Manila envelopes
- Batteries
- New pillows
- New sweat suits
- New underwear

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**So many ways to help**

**Shelter Wish List**

AWARE is in constant need of certain items listed to the left. We’ve recently added a few new items to this list: Chocolate of all kinds, and $5-$10 gift cards for Heritage coffee, Fred Meyers, or other local businesses. We also need small luggage and duffel bags. Unfortunately, we do not have space at our facility to store luggage. If you have extra luggage, please donate it to St. Vincent de Paul. Your donations help us cut our operating costs and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. We appreciate your generosity.

**Clothing**

AWARE has accounts at Alaska Dames & Mommy- &-Me consignment stores. When you drop off clothing and put them under AWARE’s account, (after they have sorted everything and accepted what they can), we are able to give women and children vouchers to pick out items that they need. Thank you so much for thinking of us!!

**Make a Donation**

Visit [www.awareak.org/donate](http://www.awareak.org/donate) or mail a check to: PO Box 20809, Juneau, AK. 99802. Our Tax ID number (EIN) is: 92-0064944. AWARE is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization and your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law.

You can also donate to us through Pick.Click.Give using your PFD, or through United Way of Southeast Alaska.
Farewell & Hellos!

Kirk Burke, Local Coordinator for Girls on the Run & Boys Run I Toowú Klatseen

It is with a sad heart that we bid farewell to Kirk Burke. Kirk brought so much wisdom and perspective to his work with the Girls on the Run and Boys Run I Toowú Klatseen programs. He deepened our conversations about men’s work and equity. We will miss his laughter on the field and around the office. We still ask him to volunteer at all of our events—and he still shows up! Gunalchéesh Kirk!

Danielle Redmond, Communications Coordinator

Hi! My name is Danielle. I’m a mom and a doula and I became involved with AWARE through social justice work in our community. I grew up in Duwamish territory and am grateful to call these steep mountains home now. Most of my previous work was in the climate and environmental field and I’m fascinated by the intersections of people and planet. Right now feels like an important time to understand the abuse of power and to focus on healing.

Heidi Herter Davis, Local Coordinator for Girls on the Run & Boys Run I Toowú Klatseen

Hello! I am so happy to be working with everyone at AWARE as the local GOTR/ I Toowú Klatseen Coordinator. I see this position as an opportunity to invest in the long-term health and well-being of Juneau and our larger Southeast Alaska Community. My family recently moved back to Juneau after nine years of living in Gustavus. I love to hike, bike, and chase my two-year-old daughter.

Gunalchéesh to the Weavers

Last April, weavers started meeting in our conference room to craft a Giving Strength Robe for AWARE. The project is well underway and coming along beautifully. We are deeply honored to have this project at AWARE. We love the opportunity for participants to observe and learn weaving skills and traditions and are grateful for the powerful art and healing the weavers are creating. Gunalchéesh to Lily Hope for championing this robe, and to ALL the dedicated weavers.
Now accepting nominations for 2020 Women of Distinction! Due date is September 27th, 2019. See page 5 for more info.