WINTER 2020

Women of Distinction

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Women’s March 2020

Become a Coach

Thank You
Wish List

Women of Distinction 2020

Could you use an evening of nourishment, connection, and inspiration? An evening sharing stories about people doing the positive things you want to see in the world?

Join us as we celebrate Donnie Gott, Lily Hope, Tari Stage-Harvey, and Hazel LeCount at the 24th annual Women of Distinction Gala!

Come for the food and the stories, leave with a dessert or a prize from the auction. Treat yourself, and feel good knowing that every dollar you spend goes toward supporting local survivors.

Tickets are available at www.awareak.org.
February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month!

This month, people across the United States are bringing awareness to the fact that patterns of abuse and control don’t just start in adult relationships. Teen Dating Violence is much more common than people like to think.

In the 2017 Alaska Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 8.2% of students who are dating reported being physically hurt by their partner on purpose in the past year.

This February, students at Juneau-Douglas High School: Yadaa.at Kalé and Thunder Mountain High School have been doing activities in their Advisory classes to bring awareness to Teen Dating Violence and warning signs of unhealthy relationships. This year, the TDVAM theme is #1thing. It is focused on sharing small but meaningful actions that teens can take to make a difference in ending Teen Dating Violence. Share your action steps on social media with the hashtag #1thing. Show others how you’re making a difference!

For more information on teen dating violence, go to www.loveisrespect.org or call AWARE at (907) 586-6623. If you work with youth and would like to schedule healthy relationships class, email stephaniel@awareak.org
Women’s March 2020

AWARE would like to recognize the local leadership that made the 2020 Juneau Women's March possible:

First, we want to honor the hard work of Jenny Smith who volunteered to organize the 2020 Juneau Women’s March with the partnership of AWARE’s Britta Tonnessen, backed by Marsha Buck and PFLAG as the official sponsor for the event. Gunalchéesh to Leona Santiago and the Eagle Raven Dancers for leading the way at the march, in collaboration with other dance and drum groups who graced us with their energy and their voices. Gunalchéesh to Fran Houston, who warmly welcomed us onto Tlingit aani on a windy, cold January day. We feel deep gratitude for the women who spoke with courage and conviction at the podium: Bridget Smith, Wanda Culp, Renee Cup, Zakia McCorkle, Erin Cole, Nadine Lefebvre, and Christina Love. Thank you to Andria Budbill for supporting our two Teen Council youth speakers. Lastly, thank you to all of the organizations, movements, and community leaders hosting tables with opportunities for each of us to take action. If you missed the event, you can find a video of the speakers on the 2020 Juneau Women's March Facebook Event.

Why do we march?

We march because we are stronger when we stand together unified. We march because there are more stories to be spoken and heard. We march because it takes time to dismantle violent and oppressive systems. We march to hold people accountable, including those who call themselves allies but whose actions are not aligned with the core principles of the movement. We march to dig in deeper into our own implicit biases. We challenge each other to know better and do better, as Maya Angelou so aptly articulated. We march because standing next to each other is electrifying.

Change is happening. After the first women’s march we saw the largest number of women of diverse identities running for, and winning public office. Movements like Time’s Up and Me Too are changing entire economic sectors.

Alaska has the highest rates of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, femicide, sexual assault of minors, suicide, mental health neglect, and substance abuse. As Ernestine Hayes has named many times before, these are the symptoms of systems of oppression. These systems were meant to create power differentials - the entitlement of some over the human bodies and natural resources of others. We will keep marching because we are only as strong and as safe as the most vulnerable person.

May we continue to rise and support each other. As Wanda Culp of Hoonah put it so beautifully: "Together, we can!"

The Women’s March is committed to dismantling systems of oppression through nonviolent resistance and building inclusive structures guided by self-determination, dignity and respect. This year, Juneau was one of over 250 sister marches across our nation.
A new Girls on the Run season is about to begin and AWARE is seeking new volunteer coaches to empower 3rd - 5th grade girls! Girls on the Run is a national program that has taught resilience through lessons on healthy communication, self-reflection, positive living, and community building to almost two-million girls. Coaches commit to two 1.5 hour practices after school each week starting March 2 and ending with a celebratory 5K on May 16. Coaches need not be runners, but must have an interest in living a healthy lifestyle and encouraging students to be their best selves! Coaching these programs is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and make a difference in a short amount of time. As one coach said, “My time as a coach helped me maintain a more positive outlook on the future. I saw young girls treat each other with kindness and learn emotional well-being in a way that I was completely unaware of that their age. They’re way ahead of the game and that gives me hope!”

**Become a Coach!**

Training for new coaches is on February 29th! Lunch is provided.

Register to coach, or register a girl to participate, at GOTRGreaterAlaska.org.

For more information, contact heidid@awareak.org (907)586-4902.

Congratulations Gustavus! They had their first teams in over 10 years last semester!
Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's Christmas Elves program a success! Together we supported 33 families!


Many thanks to Luke Canady. This year, finance officers from the State of Alaska volunteered to take pies in the face for the annual SHARE campaign fundraiser (right). Luke chose to donate his portion of the proceeds to AWARE. Thanks Luke!

Gunalchéesh to Jack & Jill Anchorage for donating these beautiful blankets (below).
Women of Distinction Gala!
AWARE is delighted to announce our 2020 honorees:

Donnie Gott
Lily Hope
Hazel LeCount
Tari Stage-Harvey

Save the Date! March 7, 2020
Tickets are available at www.awareak.org