



Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation

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NSED Mission Statement

“NSED will participate in the Bering Sea fisheries to provide economic development through education, employment, training and financial assistance to our member communities.”

NSED Board Members & Member Communities

Reggie Barr • *Brevig Mission*
Orville Ahkinga, Jr. • *Diomed*
Oscar Takak, Sr. • *Elim*
Joel James • *Gambell*
Dean Peterson • *Golovin*
Elvina Naranjo • *Koyuk*
Don Stiles • *Nome*
Truman Kava • *Savoonga*
Victor Joe • *St. Michael*
Harvey Sookiayak, Sr. • *Shaktolik*
Wilfred Katcheak • *Stebbins*
Joe Garnie • *Teller*
Frank Katchatag • *Unalakleet*
Frank Oxereok, Jr. • *Wales*
Dan Harrelson • *White Mountain*

Community Welder Project

At many of the NSED Outreach and Fishermen's meetings in 2009, community members requested assistance from NSED for the purchase or provision of welding equipment to repair fishing vessels and other gear. The NSED Board of Directors directed staff to develop estimates for welding packages.

Weld Air Alaska, Inc., a company experienced in configuring portable welding packages, provided a competitive quote for the portable welding equipment needed. The package developed includes a 4-wheeled trailer, generator, steel and aluminum wire feeders, plasma cutter, aluminum and steel wire, stick welding electrodes, and an air compressor. This unit will allow individuals to bring the welder to their vessel or equipment, rather than the vessel to the welder.

Before delivering the welding package, NSED required each respective city council to pass a resolution stating which community organization would own, maintain, and store the welding equipment and trailer.

The NSED Education, Employment & Training department is currently developing and planning for welding classes to be held at a State approved welding training site. The organizations responsible for the welding equipment are encouraged to name two to three individuals for participation in these classes.

The Board took into consideration that a welder package may not be the most useful equipment for each community; therefore, city councils were given the option to submit a proposal for alternate equipment that fit within the budget and fulfilled similar benefits for the fishing community.



Community welding trailers purchased from Weld Air Alaska, Inc.

For more information about the Community Welder Project, please contact:

Galsy Ashenfelter
NSED Anchorage office
(800) 650-2248
galsy@nsedc.com

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NORTON SOUND SEAFOOD EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FAQ

What jobs are available?

In Nome:

- Processors
- Forklift drivers
- Crane operators
- Filleters
- Drivers
- Quality control

In Unalakleet:

- Processors
- Fish buyers
- Quality control
- Maintenance

Are there positions open on the tender vessels?

In Nome:

- Deckhands

In Unalakleet:

- Deckhands

On your application, please list any special knowledge/experience and licenses you may have.

How do I apply?

Applications can be found:

- online at www.nsedc.com
- at the Anchorage office, please call (800) 650-2248 for a faxed copy
- through your local NSEDC liaison

Nome contact info:

- (907) 443-2304
- (907) 443-2457 (fax)
- Nome Job Service

Unalakleet contact info:

- (907) 624-3014
- (907) 624-3808 (fax)



Nome crab processing line.

How old do I have to be?

Processors must be 16 years or older. State law prohibits hiring anyone under 18 for any other positions.

Is there assistance for housing and transportation if you live outside Nome or Unalakleet?

Housing: A housing stipend is available. The employee and housing provider are required to sign a contract in order to be considered. The Unalakleet plant has some housing providers lined up prior to the season. In Nome, the employee is responsible for finding housing.

Transportation: If you are applying from a community outside Nome or Unalakleet, transportation can be arranged.

How long does the season last?

Season begins: Both plants fill some positions in late May/early June to prepare for the season. The rest of the positions are filled in mid-June.

Nome season ends:

In Nome, the season winds down in late October.

Unalakleet season end:

In Unalakleet, the season ends in mid-September.

Are there opportunities for advancement?

NSEDC has a history of promoting from within, providing training, and opportunities for advancement to willing, hard-working and good standing employees.

What does NSSP expect of me?

You are expected to:

- Arrive on time and ready to work
- Be sober
- Complete your shift with a good attitude
- Get along with coworkers
- Take advantage of NSEDC's training programs
- Work overtime

What can I expect from NSSP?

NSSP will provide:

- A safe working environment
- Training appropriate to your job
- Opportunities for advancement
- Time and a half pay for over 8 hours/day and 40 hours/week

How do I qualify for the “End of Season” bonus?

Upon hire, each employee is eligible for a per hour bonus which is paid at the end of the year. The amount you receive depends on:

- Your completion of the season
- Willingness to work
- Quality of work
- Punctuality
- Completion of shifts

Leaving the season early to attend school is an exception to these policies. Please provide at least two weeks of notice so your position can be filled.

What gear and clothing do I need?

Rubber boots are the only protective gear you are required to provide. Arrangements can be made if you need assistance purchasing them.

Protective gear provided by NSSP for use at the plants: aprons, gloves, safety glasses and hair nets.

You may use your own rain gear provided it is in sanitary condition.



Unalakleet salmon processing line.

NOME FISHERMEN'S FAIR COD COOK-OFF



ALASKAN COD ROLLS

Kim Knudsen's Prize Winning Recipe from the Nome Fishermen's Fair Cod Cook-off

Makes 8 rolls

Ingredients (Cod)

- 1 whole Cod fillet cut into 3-4 inch sections skins and bones removed.
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 clove of fresh garlic (crushed)
- Salt and pepper

Ingredients (Spring Rolls)

- 16 round sheets of rice paper (8" diameter)
- 1 head of romaine lettuce (leaves separated and washed)
- 6 oz. cooked rice vermicelli noodles
- 1 large carrot peeled into strips
- Half a cucumber peeled and cut into approximately 2 inches strips
- 1 bunch of cilantro (stems removed)
- 1 eight ounce bag of fresh mint
- 12 cooked shrimp, halved length wise

Directions

Season cod fillets with salt and pepper. Heat olive oil and garlic in a large skillet at medium heat. Cook fillets for approximately 2 minutes on each side. Cool. Flake. Set aside.

Soften rice paper in luke warm water, one sheet at a time, and lay on a flat surface. Use two sheets overlapping each other. Line the top third of the wet pliable rice sheet with three shrimp halves, cut side up, and line with lettuce, noodles, cooked cod, carrot, cucumber, cilantro, bean sprouts, and mint leaves. Make sure the ingredients are neatly placed in a straight row, evenly distributed from one end to the other.

To roll: using your second, third and fourth fingers, press down on the ingredients while you use the other hand to fold over both sides of the rice paper. (Pressing down on the ingredients is important because it tightens the roll). Continue to press down and roll over shrimp halves. Finish making all the remaining rolls. Garnish with mint, lime, and green onion.



Nuoc Cham Dipping Sauce (makes about 1 ½ cups)

- 1 cup boiling water
- 1/3 cup fish sauce (Nuoc Mam)
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lime juice (1 lime, squeezed)
- 1 tablespoon chili paste
- 2 cloves of minced garlic

Directions: Combine all ingredients and it's ready to serve. This sauce keeps up to three weeks, if refrigerated.

A WINTER TRIP TO SALMON LAKE



By Charlie Lean

In April, NSEDC Fisheries Development staff and Melinda Reynolds, a limnologist (someone who studies inland water systems) with the National Park Service, ventured out to Salmon Lake for a few days to do some measurements at the lake and to scout for Chinook salmon spawning sites.

NSEDC Fisheries Research and Development has been working to restore the sockeye salmon run on the Pilgrim River to historical levels. Over fifty years ago, there were a number of fish camps at Salmon Lake that regularly caught thousands of sockeye salmon every summer. Soon after the road to Salmon Lake was constructed in 1958, the number of salmon returning to the lake dropped. This was probably due to over-fishing and a change in subsistence practices. Previously, the salmon were cleaned and processed at the lake and the heads and guts were thrown back in the lake; this returned valuable nutrients to the lake to help support the next generation of salmon. More and more, whole fish were taken back to Nome, and the lake was left with fewer nutrients. It seems likely that this depletion of nutrients, together with increased fishing pressure, led to the decline of sockeye salmon returns. What is certain is that the sockeye salmon return to the Pilgrim River fell to a low number and remained low until the 1990's.

In the 90's, NSEDC, in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game and the Bureau of Land Management, began a project to fertilize Salmon Lake. The juvenile sockeyes that rear in the lake for one or two years depend on plankton. The idea was that fertilizer would lead to more plankton, which would lead to more abundant, healthy salmon. It appears that the program was hugely successful – from 2003 to 2007 returns to the Pilgrim River were between 40,000 and 90,000 sockeyes. In fact, we may have been too successful. It seems that many more salmon were returning to the lake and their off-spring were too numerous for the lake to support. Too much competition among the juvenile salmon in the lake meant



Sye Larson (left) and Charlie Lean (right) take an ice core on Salmon Lake. *Photo by Melinda Reynolds.*

that none of them were getting enough to eat. This resulted in the very low return to the Pilgrim River last summer. Another poor year is forecasted for this year.

So what were we doing out at Salmon Lake in April? Part of the problem was that the fertilization of the lake stopped just when the very large returns were over-populating the lake. NSEDC has resumed fertilization with the goal of returning escapements to around 30,000 sockeyes. This would be enough salmon for a sizable subsistence harvest without the risk of over-escapement that occurred from 2004 to 2006. We were taking measurements to try and understand the chemistry and biology of the lake as the winter season ends, so that we can apply fertilizer to the lake most effectively. We took ice cores to look for algae growth. We also measured temperature, dissolved oxygen, and chlorophyll (an indicator of plankton) at a range of depths. These measurements will

continue throughout the summer. Our plan is to add 20 tons of fertilizer to the lake in July and August.

While we were out at Salmon Lake, we also took a trip down the Pilgrim River and over to the Kuzitrin River drainage. For that trip, we turned our attention from sockeye salmon to Chinook salmon. Specifically, we were looking for possible spawning sites for Chinook. Chinook salmon have specific requirements for where they spawn: the characteristics of the water flow and the size of the rocks on the bottom of the water system are both very important. We identified a couple sites and left devices that will measure the temperature over the course of the year to see if the temperature regime is appropriate for a Chinook spawning site. If the results are positive, our goal is to use these sites for planting Chinook eggs in the future. This is part of NSEDC's mist incubation program, in which we incubate and plant salmon eggs to increase salmon returns. We have had some local success with chum and Coho salmon and we are investigating the possibility of expanding the program to include Chinook salmon as well. We are also investigating locations in Eastern Norton Sound, such as the Unalakleet and Shaktoolik River drainages, for possible egg planting.

Although the winter may seem to be an odd time to study fish in sub-Arctic Alaska, we made some important observations that will help guide us in our efforts to improve the salmon returns to Norton Sound watersheds.



Charlie Lean, Sye Larson, and Melinda Reynolds prepare to drill through the ice on Salmon Lake to measure chlorophyll concentrations, oxygen levels, and temperature as part of the Pilgrim River sockeye salmon enhancement project. *Photo by Kevin Keith.*

SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE



2009 NSEDC SBI Grant Recipient Spotlight: Snowflake Multimedia

Snowflake Multimedia, owned by Kendra Nichols-Takak, was one of five recipients of NSEDC's 2009 Small Business Initiative (SBI) grant. Kendra's video production company was formed with the help of a \$19,467 SBI award.

The Bering Strait region has the population and need to support a regional video production company. Snowflake Multimedia's goal is to provide unique, professional, and broadcast quality video products relevant to the region. "How To" videos can be produced to not only preserve cultural traditions, but can also be an educational tool for those not familiar with the culture. Through media such as video and audio production and internet broadcasting, Snowflake Multimedia can help people connect with community members, members of surrounding communities and the rest of the world.

Snowflake Multimedia can document special events such as weddings, conferences, and

training sessions. Besides creating new videos, Snowflake Multimedia can also convert your archived family videos from VHS to DVD, extending the life of your records. Snowflake has the capability and provides the option to sell or share your video footage on the internet. All products can be shared through various media: YouTube, websites, DVDs, podcasts and television.

About the Owner

Kendra Nichols-Takak has had an interest in video production since she was a young girl. Her dad had an old 8 mm camera, and later a video camera, and for as long as she can remember, her father was always finding ways to capture family memories. Kendra loved being involved in their "productions" and helped direct countless family videos.

Kendra's serious interest in video productions started in high school, when she worked on a career report and researched opportunities to become a film director. Kendra attended the Academy of Art College in San Francisco, California, majoring in Motion Picture and Video Production. She later transferred to the Art Institute of Seattle and earned a degree in Video Production.

About being a small business owner Kendra says, "Owning your own business takes up



Kendra lining up the shot.

all of your free time." Kendra advises future SBI applicants to spend time with a business planner, such as the staff at Kawerak's Community Planning and Development Program or the Alaska Small Business and Development Center. There are many licenses, permits and fees for starting up a small business. Kendra highly recommends sitting down with your accountant to understand what information you will need to prepare at tax time, this will also help organize your filing system.

Kendra says, "If it was not for the SBI grant I would not have started my business, now or maybe ever. The start-up grant has enabled me to purchase equipment necessary to provide quality video products."

This is an exciting time for Kendra and an excellent opportunity for Norton Sound residents and organizations to take advantage of Snowflake Multimedia's services.

2010 NSEDC Small Business Initiative Applications Available

Business grant opportunities of up to \$35,000

The 3rd Annual NSEDC Small Business Initiative application period is now open and staff are accepting completed applications from residents looking to start or enhance a small business.

The 2010 Small Business Initiative application deadline is July 15, 2010, at 4 p.m.

The NSEDC Small Business Initiative is a competition for individuals to promote and develop small business ventures in an effort to help alleviate social and economic issues facing the Norton Sound region.

Applications are available online at www.nsedc.com or from your local liaison.



For more information, contact NSEDC staff:

Paul Ivanoff, III (800) 385-3190

Roy Ashenfelter (888) 650-2477

Galsy Ashenfelter (800) 650-2248

2010 OUTSIDE ENTITY FUNDING PROGRAM



Community Shares

Several significant changes were made to the Outside Entity Funding (OEF) Program in 2010 as described in NSEDC's winter 2010 newsletter. One such change is that each member community will receive an equal share of the program funding based on 90 percent of the total funds allocated to the OEF Program annually. This year, each community's share was \$60,000.

Grant Award Selection Process

Another significant change is the Community-Based Review (CBR) Committees, consisting of each community's NSEDC director and at

least two other director-appointed residents.

After the CBR Committee's review of the applications, their recommendations were submitted to the full Board at NSEDC's first quarter Board meeting. All recommendations that met program policy guidelines were approved. The communities of Gambell and Stebbins opted to carry forward their share of the OEF funding for future use. Any community's remaining balance from 2010 will also be carried forward for their use during the 2011 OEF Program year.

Program Administration

The administration of the OEF Program

will continue to be overseen by NSEDC Community Benefits Department staff.

The application process for 2011 has not yet begun. Updated information and applications will be available online and advertised upon opening.

Total Funding

The remaining ten percent of the total OEF funds, \$100,000, was allotted for Regional non-profits and has not yet been granted at this time. A total of \$656,161.73 in OEF funding was awarded to member communities in addition to \$470,380 for the 2010 Fisheries-related projects awarded in December.

APPLYING ENTITY	PROJECT TITLE	AMOUNT APPROVED
Bering Straits Foundation	Imangmiut King Island Dancers	\$ 17,500.00
Brevig Mission School	Open Gym Coordinators	\$ 9,700.00
Chinik Eskimo Community	Cultural Revival	\$ 16,136.00
City of Brevig Mission	Public Facilities Upgrade/Repair & Old Clinic Remodel	\$ 50,300.00
City of Elim	Front End Loader Purchase	\$ 45,000.00
City of Koyuk	Fishermen's Floating Dock	\$ 9,558.31
City of Koyuk	Solar Powered Repeater Station	\$ 38,160.87
City of Savoonga	Steel Garage	\$ 53,000.00
City of Shaktoolik	Washeteria Upgrade	\$ 54,632.42
City of St. Michael	Welding Shop	\$ 60,000.00
City of Teller	HBT Service & Teller Emergency Service Vehicle	\$ 7,899.00
City of Teller	Garage Door & Repairs	\$ 12,099.52
City of Wales	Welder-Generator Equipment	\$ 2,931.00
City of White Mountain	White Mountain Loader Purchase	\$ 60,000.00
Mary's Igloo Traditional Council	Search and Rescue Snow Machine	\$ 7,016.80
Mary's Igloo Traditional Council	Cultural Education	\$ 8,365.50
Mary's Igloo Traditional Council	Elder & Youth Cultural Camp/Shelter Cabin	\$ 21,604.19
Native Village of Diomedes	Tribal Elder Assistance Program	\$ 46,469.50
Native Village of Diomedes	Little Diomedes Whaling Equipment & Supply Upgrade Project	\$ 11,212.81
Native Village of Elim	Tubuktulik Watershed Project	\$ 15,000.00
Native Village of Koyuk	Burn Box Construction	\$ 9,630.63
Native Village of Koyuk	Completion of Koyuk IRA Building	\$ 2,650.19
Native Village of Teller	Community Use Generator	\$ 3,014.99
Native Village of Unalakleet	Elder Nutrition and Services	\$ 42,530.00
Native Village of Wales	Kingimiut Dance Festival	\$ 44,750.00
Nomad Charities & Nomad Films	The Island In Between - film production of Savoonga whaling	\$ 7,000.00
Total Amount Approved		\$656,161.73

2010 CONSOLIDATED BULK FUEL PROGRAM



In its fifth year, NSEDC has a record number of participants scheduled to receive their year's supply of fuel through NSEDC's Bulk Fuel Program.

For the 2010 delivery season, 26 participants ordered 4,039,004 gallons of Diesel #1/Jet A 50 heating fuel, 900,000 gallons of Diesel #2, and 1,326,001 gallons of unleaded gasoline. This year's total fuel order more than double last year's total order.

In January, NSEDC sent Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to fuel suppliers for the 2010 Consolidated Bulk Fuel Program. The bidding process closed on February 10th, with NSEDC receiving bids from Crowley Marine Services, Inc. and Delta Western, Inc. (Delta).

NSEDC is pleased to announce we have accepted Delta's bid to deliver fuel to this year's participants.

As in the past, fuel prices for participants will fluctuate accordingly based on NSEDC's chosen reference price (OPIS Se-

attle for gasoline and ULSD #2 fuel; Platt's LA Jet for Heating fuel/Jet A). There may also be a small adjustment based on tug fuel prices.

The portions of the price that are locked in under the bid are the transportation costs. Deliveries are expected to begin early June.



Bulk fuel barge delivering fuel to White Mountain.

NSEDC NEW HIRE



Kyan Olanna
General Counsel

Kyan Olanna was hired at the beginning of January as General Counsel for NSEDC. Kyan was raised in Shishmaref and attended high school in Nome. After graduating from Nome-Beltz High School, Kyan moved to Fairbanks where she obtained a Rural Development degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Following college, Kyan earned a law degree from Yale Law School, the top ranked law school in the country.

As General Counsel, Kyan is responsible for providing legal advice and guidance to NSEDC's management and for managing NSEDC's legal affairs. She played a similar role with the Norton Sound Health Corporation and has also worked as an

attorney in the law firms of Perkins Coie and Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Munson. Kyan has also served as law clerk to former Chief Justice Bryner of Alaska Supreme Court.

When not at work, Kyan spends as much time as possible with her family, which includes husband John Kakaruk and their children Breanna (11), Bruce (7), and Miley (2).

When asked what she looks forward to in working with NSEDC, Kyan says, "Having grown up in the region and been an NSEDC scholarship recipient in college and law school, I am excited to have the opportunity to give back to both the organization and the local communities."

2010 HERRING SEASON

The Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) is pleased to announce a commercial sac roe herring fishery in the Norton Sound region in 2010.

► **Icicle Seafoods will bring one processor and four tender vessels to the region to buy product from Norton Sound fishermen**

► **Target harvest:** 1,000 tons

► **Sac Roe Herring Price:** Set on a sliding scale as follows:

Bait	Sac Roe						
> 7%	7%	8%	9%	10%	11%	12%	13%
\$75	\$140	\$160	\$180	\$200	\$220	\$240	\$260

► **Bait Herring:** Deliveries below 7% sac roe will be paid \$75 per ton. Only limited quantities of bait herring will be purchased; be advised that NSEDC does not guarantee the purchase of bait herring at a minimum of \$75 per ton.

NSEDC has herring gear for sale through the Revolving Loan program or Fishermen's Receivable Account. Anyone interested in participating in the herring fishery is strongly encouraged to contact NSEDC prior to the opening to ensure timely receipt of gear.



Anticipated opening: mid-June

Eligibility Requirements:

- 1) Norton Sound Resident. Fishermen who live in a YDFDA community should contact NSEDC to request eligibility.
- 2) Government Issued Picture Identification
- 3) 2010 Norton Sound Commercial Sac Roe Herring Permit holder
- 4) Vessel must have a 2010 ADF&G Vessel License and be current on Department of Motor Vehicles registration
- 5) Crewmembers must have a 2010 Crewmember License or State of Alaska Commercial Fishing Permit

Crewmember license available online at www.adfg.state.ak.us

► **Contact Middy Johnson or Elizabeth Ivanoff for more information on gear orders or details on the herring fishery (907) 624-3014**

► **Contact Virginia Nashalook for Revolving Loan or Receivables Account information (800) 650-2248**

"Four Paws" for Logan

For Jeff and Donna Erickson of Unalakleet, the 2010 Iditarod Sled Dog Race meant much more than an exciting competition. It meant their youngest son, Logan, a nine-year old diagnosed with autism, would get a service dog – a companion to help keep him safe.

How can a service dog assist Logan?

There are several ways a service dog will help Logan, primarily by keeping him safe. Using physical contact, the service dog will encourage Logan to stay away from dangerous situations, keeping him from going near traffic or water for example. The service dog will also be trained as a tracker. If Logan gets lost, the dog will be given a command to retrieve or find Logan.

With the help of a service dog, the Ericksons hope Logan will eventually be comfortable enough to sleep independently and they will be comfortable enough to allow him to play outside unsupervised. As Logan's comfort level increases and he becomes more confident, they anticipate he will have more "teachable moments," situations where he will be calm and can possibly regain some of the connections necessary for him to communicate and meet some of his other challenges.

How did the 2010 Iditarod Sled Dog Race help?

Numerous mushers, their family members, and the Iditarod Trail Committee supported and donated to an incredible fundraising effort. Through websites, word of mouth, pledge drives, email, and other media coverage, volunteers raised an amount that by far exceeded the Ericksons' expectations. To learn more about their fundraising efforts, please visit www.4pawsforlogan.com.

The donations surpassed the amount needed for a service dog for Logan, and people are still donating. A

special account has been set up and they are looking for others in need – families with children who have challenges. The Ericksons still receive letters from folks asking how they can help; Jeff and Donna direct these inquiries to the 4 Paws for Ability website, www.4pawsforability.org.

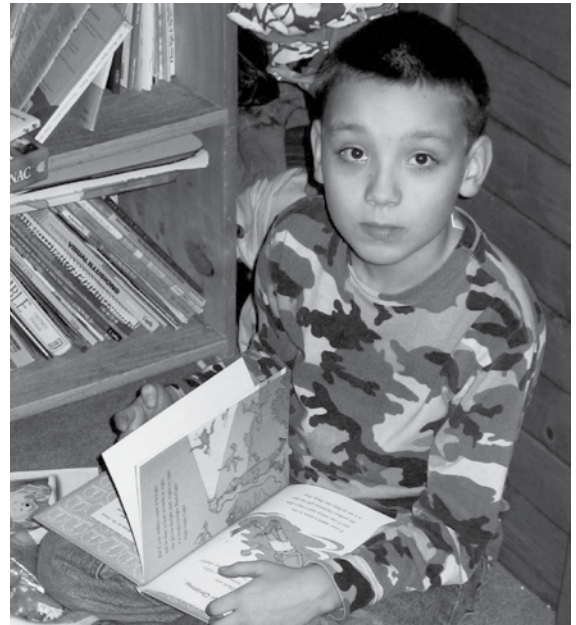
Other Fundraising

Jeff Erickson, as Bering Straits School District's Activities Director, along with his family, have grown close to and take care of many of the students that pass through Unalakleet for school activities. The Ericksons named their son Logan after one of Jeff's "boys," Elwin Logan Noongwook, a student from Savoonga who passed away. The Ericksons were especially touched when Logan Erickson's "Savoonga family," led by Elwin's mother, Janet Noongwook, held raffles and "split the pots" to help raise funds for Logan's service dog.

When does Logan get his service dog?

His dog is scheduled to arrive in Unalakleet in late September. The 4 Paws for Ability team is currently training three or four dogs. As part of the training, Jeff and Donna send pictures and videos of Logan and Unalakleet's changing landscape. In mid-August, Logan's dog will be selected and the Ericksons will learn the dog's gender, breed, and other details so they can start preparing Logan.

The last stage of training will involve Jeff, Donna, Logan, and Logan's brother Talon traveling to Ohio in mid-September for a 10-day training course with Logan's service dog. Jeff says, "Logan now has a 'stand-offish' demeanor towards dogs. He doesn't mind them, but doesn't especially go out of his way to play with them." Jeff, Donna, and Talon will be trained as "handlers" and can then train others. Training will be an ongoing process, maintained for the life of the dog.



Logan Erickson

As a way of saying thank you, Jeff and Donna have handmade a banner and many gifts. They say, however, that their words and gifts can hardly express their appreciation for the generosity from Logan's many supporters. Below is a list of some of those supporters:

Ross Adams
John Baker
Martin and Kathi Buser
The Bromley Companies
Art Church
Penny Cross
Theresa Daily
Linwood and Kathi Fiedler
Cindy Gallea
GCI
Andri Grishkowsky
Vern Halter
Dana Hills
Lori Henry
Stan Hooley
Horizon Airlines
Heidi Ivanoff
Middy and Aurora Johnson
Dee Dee and Mike Jonrowe
Kim Kline
Judy Kotongan

KNOM Radio
Lee Larson
Lance Mackey
Phil and Ann Meyer
Kathy McGuire
Allen Moore
Albert Nicolai
Northern Air Cargo
The Noongwook family
Mary Pomeroy-Horne
Palmer Sagoonick
Sebastian Schnuelle
Jeff Schultz
Dallas Seavey
Mitch & Janine Seavey
Sylvia Smythe
Alice Thaggard
Town Square Art Gallery
Jona and Jon VanZyle
Aliy Zirkle

To learn more about autism
visit www.autismspeaks.org

WILLIAM “MIDDY” JOHNSON, IDITAROD MUSHER



Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation's own William “Middy” Johnson, the Southern Norton Sound Seafood Products' Operations Manager, completed the 2010 Iditarod Sled Dog Race. It is hard to imagine what it takes to train for and compete in a race 1,049 miles long, with sled dogs, in the middle of winter. NSEDC staff had plenty of questions for Middy.

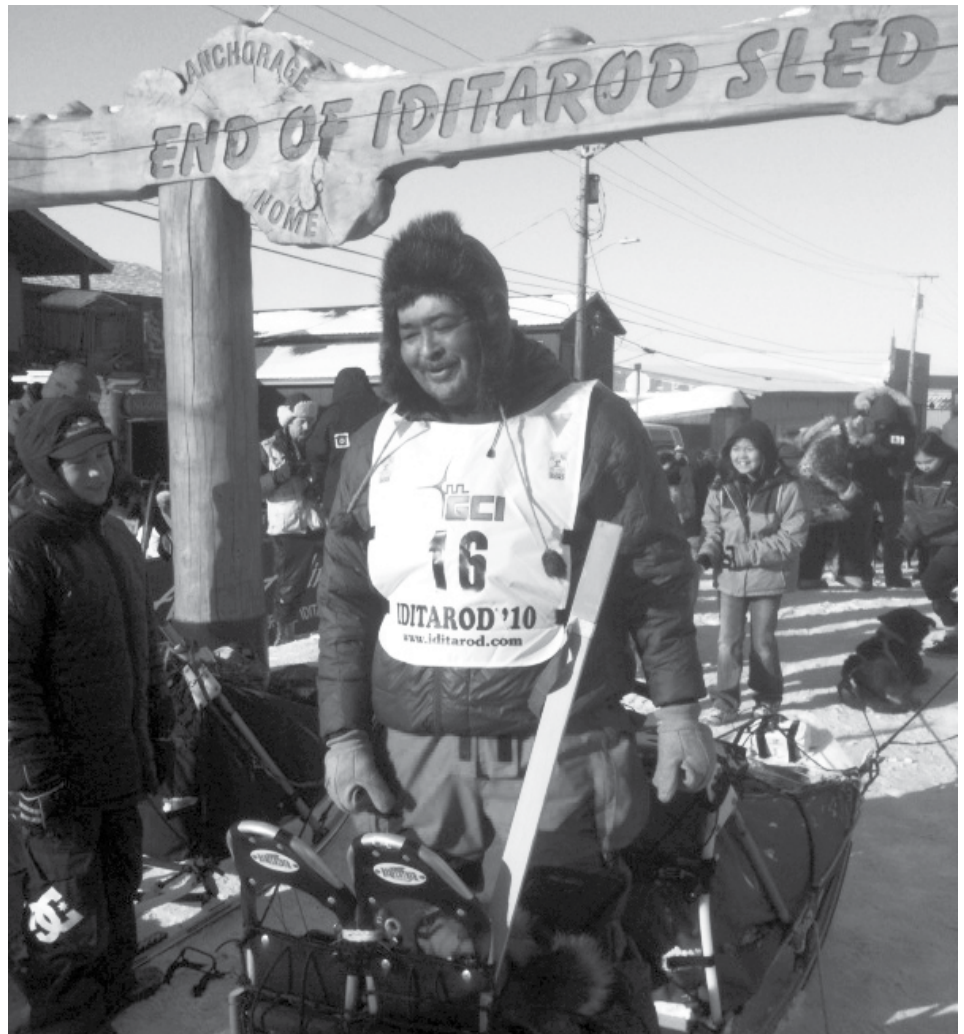
Team Introduction

Middy was born and raised in Unalakleet, Alaska. He and his wife Aurora have one daughter, Sasha, and two sons, Shyler and Sikulik. Middy's dog team consists of lead dogs Sneak, Hunch, Sporty and Wade, and team dogs Charlie, Babe, Whiskers, Lemon, Bruce, Scooter, Max, Sprocket, Porky, Herman, Pokie, Axel, Thunder, Jr., Dozier, and Snow. Growing up around dogs, Middy said, “The Iditarod is an accomplishment that one dreams of fulfilling.” Middy has raced snow machines in the past and enjoys participating in competitive events. He added, “Dogs are slower, however, they are much more enjoyable.”

Training

Middy welcomed advice from other mushers Palmer Sagoonick, Aaron Burmeister, John Baker, Martin Buser, and Dee Dee Jonrowe. They all said, “Get to know your dogs. Don't worry about the other guy's team. Take care of your dogs. Train in as many conditions as possible.”

Middy and his team started training for the Iditarod in November 2009, first on the tundra with the team pulling a four-wheeler to build muscle, then sled training once the snow arrived. Middy said, “Training and preparation are time consuming but the results are evident and rewarding during a race.” Speed was not a priority in the beginning; they started out with short, tough runs. Exposure to as many of the conditions as they might encounter during the race was a key component to their training. Equally important was giving the dogs a chance to recuperate and build muscle.



Iditarod musher Middy Johnson under the arch in Nome.

Qualifying

Mushers are required to compete in two races in order to qualify for the Iditarod. Middy's qualifying races were the Kobuk 440, which he finished in 10th place, and the Chatanika 200, which he finished in 8th place. In addition, as a training run to strengthen his dogs mentally, he and his team ran the Kusko 300 in January of 2010, finishing in 12th place.

The Iditarod

When asked if there was ever a point during the Iditarod where Middy thought, “What did I get myself into?” Middy replied, “Those questions came during training, the race itself was very enjoyable. I made it a point to make the most of the experience.” The hardest part of the trail, he says, was going into and leaving Rohn. He jokingly

added, “I thought we had trees.”

The longest stretch of time where he did not see another soul was between Galena and Nulato. It was the middle of the night and it was also the coldest stretch. Temperatures during the race fell well below zero, - 60° F in some areas. Luckily, and unusual for the area, there was not much wind, which made the cold temperatures tolerable. Middy didn't get frostbite. However, he says, it was a job to make sure the dogs didn't get frostbitten either.

Other than that lonely stretch outside of Galena, he and a little group consisting of “Pistol Pete” Kaiser, Quinn “Little” Iten, Matt Hayashida, and Allen Moore traveled closely together. He says he made sure they ate well so they would stick around.

Finish Line

Middy finished the Iditarod in 10 days and 21 hours, not bad for a Norton Sound rookie! Upon arrival and after all the dog chores, Middy had some Chinese food and slept for two whole hours. With all the post race activities, seeing his wife, and attending the banquet, it took a day and a half to get a full 7-8 hours of sleep. The dogs had a long rest and their "usual" meal high in calories, fat, and protein. They enjoyed a flight back to Unalakleet with Middy's main sponsor, Everts Air Cargo.

Future Plans

Middy and his family are continuing to keep their kennel up and running. Dependent upon future sponsorships, Middy would like to run the Iditarod again. Although he learned a lot, he says there is always room for improvement. He is happy with his 2010

finish but would like to race more competitively now that he has some experience. Middy's son Shyler would like to try the Junior Iditarod soon and Sikulik would like to follow Dad's example as well.

Middy's brothers Bruce, Paul, and Harry Jr. gave him a lot of support during preparations for the Iditarod. He thanks them and says, "I need to finally thank my wonderful wife Aurora Johnson for allowing me to take the time to run the race."

Many Other Thanks

Middy would like to thank the people of Unalakleet for their prayers and support, Unalakleet school kids for coloring the drop bags, his wife Aurora and Nita Towarak for trail food preparation, his daughter Sasha for helping with the drop bags in Fairbanks, his family in Anchorage for race start sup-

port, and finally, Middy thanks everyone in the region and state for their support as well.

SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS:

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Mandy and Aaron Burmeister

John Baker

Bruce Johnson

Paul Johnson

Harry Johnson, Jr.

Palmer "Sensei" Sagoonick

Don Stiles and Sue Luke

Justin Esmailka and the fine folks of Kaltag

NSEDC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Lisa Haugen
Unalakleet

My name is Lisa Haugen. I grew up in Golovin and White Mountain. My parents are Bobby Amarok of Golovin and Mary Kowchee of White Mountain. I attended school until the 10th grade. By the age of 20, I had three children. One day I heard someone make a comment about me - they wanted me to hear them - and their comments changed my life. Their comments were, "She is never going to make it in life. She will always live off of welfare." After hearing that, I knew I would prove them wrong.

I worked hard to further my education; my first step was earning my General Education Diploma (GED) in May 1991. My father inspired me and always told me that I can do anything in life, attending a University was one of those things. I attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) from 1993 to 1995. My first semester I did well scholastically, then I started to meet people and my priorities changed from attending school to going out and having fun. After my last semester there, I relocated back to Golovin and found employment with the Golovin Volunteer Fire Department as a Bookkeeper. I also worked as the Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), which I had eight weeks of

training for in Sitka. After the school secretary position became available in Golovin, I applied and moved over to the school from the fire department. I worked as a VPSO for a year and a half and worked as the school secretary in Golovin for four years.

In May 2001, I moved to Unalakleet and married Tony Haugen. Together we have three children, Season, Tony Jr., and Michael. That fall I started to take college courses again through UAF-Distance Learning. I enjoyed it so much that I earned my Associate of Arts General Degree in December 2005. When I delivered my graduation speech, I said that I would be back for my Bachelors, and that came true in May 2010, with a Bachelor's degree in Rural Development.

I currently work for Bering Strait School District as an Administrative Assistant and I am also the School Board Clerk. I work under the Superintendent, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and the Director of Personnel. This fall I would like to enroll in the Rural Development Master's Program offered through UAF. One day I would like a Math degree. My advice to everyone, "Don't let anyone tell you that you cannot do anything, set a goal and go for it, every day we learn something new."

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**Congratulations And Best
Wishes To The Graduating
Classes Of 2010 From NSEDC!**