



IRHA

Community Newsletter

Interior Regional
Housing Authority
828 27th Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-8315
www.irha.org

Provide tribal housing opportunities to positively impact housing needs.

Families with quality affordable housing.

- > Innovation
- > Respect
- > Honesty
- > Accountability
- > Service

Culture, Community & Family

IRHA is more than just a Tribally Designated Housing Authority. We are a family of committed individuals that care deeply about our mission to serve our communities while we create family within our organization. The team at IRHA has a large number of employees that have served the

organization and the mission of building homes for low-income families for many years.

AJ Felix is one of those team members. He has put in 13 seasons with the organization and has left an indelible mark on the communities he has had the privilege of working in as well as on his IRHA family.

This year as he fought his own health battle, the team rallied behind him bringing something he values to the hospital. Athabascan song and dance. Culture is not just a part of life for AJ but it is at the core of who he is, and how he was raised. We share those values here at IRHA and support one another through our traditions.



IRHA Area Amerind Safety Poster Contest Entries

The Interior Regional Housing Authority is excited to share the incredible artwork of two of our young people who recognize the importance of safety!

Congratulations to Mila (age 9) from Shageluk and Jamey (age 12)

from Northway. Both of these artists were selected as the winners here at IRHA and went on to compete at the State level with the [Association of Alaska Housing Authorities](#).

They are now competing nationally at the Amerind Safety Poster Contest.

IRHA recognizes all of the talented youth who submitted artwork. We appreciate your talents and commitment to safety.



L: Drawn by Mila
Age 9, Grade 3
Shageluk

R: Drawn by Jamey
Age 12, Grade 3
Northway



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NEW HOURS:

Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Closed to the public on Fridays.

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer



Eugene Paul, IRHA CEO

Dear Chiefs, Tribal Councils, and Tribal Members,

I am so pleased to highlight a project collaboration for the Elders Day of Caring with the Fairbanks Native Association (FNA), Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), Denakkanaaga, Jolly Rogers, and the Council of Laborers Union. This diverse and dedicated group of individuals gave their time and resources to serve our elders in a traditional way by going into the community and directly serving the needs of our knowledge keepers. I am proud of the work that my team put in, behind the scenes and on the day of service, to ensure this project happened, and focus on improving the safety and quality of life for those that have done so much for our people. My team of twenty-three employees served our elders for a total of 122 manhours of hands-on labor working on a variety of projects; painting, handicap rail installations, slip guards installed on stairs, new stairs, new deck and entrance to home, lawn clean up and maintenance, installation of fire alarms and CO₂ detectors, securing steps, and door trim.

A highlight every summer is the Tanana Chiefs Tribal Partners boat trip. This summer's boat trip was to Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, Hughes, and Huslia. It was a great opportunity to collaborate with our sister organizations such as TCC, and the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) while networking with funding agencies such as Rasmuson Foundation, the Alaska Mental Health Trust, the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, and the Denali Commission, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Congressional representatives from Washington DC, as well as State House Representatives, such as Mike Cronk and Rebecca Schwanke. It was a great opportunity to connect with Tribal leaders in the communities that we serve. I had the opportunity to highlight our accomplishments and the success stories we have had while situating families into quality 6-star energy-rated homes. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to showcase our ability to seek additional grants and funding resources, and the success of finishing projects. I have also been able to highlight the logistical challenges of transporting materials to the villages we serve. This year supplies that were slated to travel to Allakaket and Alatna via Ruby Marine barge were unable to be shipped due to the low water of the river, and supplies have been delayed in delivery timeline to Beaver and Ruby which inevitably delays the projects that we are working on while increasing the logistical costs substantially.



Mike Huston, Northrim Bank President & CEO, spoke with Eugene Paul, IRHA CEO, at the Fairbanks Community Summit, on May 20, about housing importance.

The crews are at the height of the building season. We have a variety of new construction and rehab projects going in Fairbanks, Allakaket, Alatna, Evansville, Eagle and Tetlin, with projects just completed in Northway, and projects that are due to start in Nenana, Ruby, Koyukuk and Beaver. With fall right around the corner, my team continues to push to meet the goals that we have set for the 2025 building season, while looking for ways to improve our service and seeking additional funding sources.



Eugene Paul speaking at Denakkanaaga in Galena, June 2025.

The partnership with the United States Marine Corp (USMC) Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program is moving forward successfully. We originally had three communities slated for projects over the next three years, 2026-2028, however, due to need, Major Wolf has agreed to four projects in four communities over the next three years. In the 2026 season, we will highlight Beaver and Allakaket. My team met with Major Wolf and Lieutenant Hoyerman this week, with site visits to both Beaver and Allakaket. The site visits were an opportunity for Major Wolf to begin the process of gathering information for planning and logistical purposes to begin outlining the specific phases of the operation and to secure the approval of the USMC leadership. The case study of the North Slope and their partnership with the IRT Program has saved TNHA an approximate, \$1,000,000.

In my eighteen months of service at IRHA, my team and I continue to meet with Tribal leadership and visit the villages we serve. Housing for our people is my priority, and we focus heavily on building today while planning for tomorrow.

During TCC's annual convention and spring subregional meetings, Tribal Leadership and Tribal members spoke up about the importance of battling the negative impacts of Methamphetamine and Fentanyl for our people. The IRHA team has heard your concerns and has moved forward, meticulously planning and organizing a Methamphetamine and Fentanyl Remediation training to educate our people on how to test and remediate homes that have been impacted by methamphetamine and fentanyl. The training program and curriculum have been written and developed by my staff and will host up to twenty participants: 16 FNSB residents and 4 village-based residents. The training will be held in Fairbanks. The two (2) Cohorts are scheduled for August 7-8 and August 9-10.

IRHA is pleased to share that Congress passed the FY25 appropriation for NAHASDA's Indian Housing Block Grant to \$1.11 Billion, the same amount designated as FY24. This reflects a 69.67% increase from FY20 to current.

The IRHA team strongly advocates and supports the Association of Alaska Housing Authorities (AAHA) top three (3) recommendations for the current administration:

- Safeguard Tribal purchasing power
- Reverse the Biden-Harris unfunded BABA mandate
- Sustain the HUD Tribal Intergovernmental Advisory Committee

The executive team continues to advocate for housing legislation, NAHASDA reauthorization, NAHASDA funding, and Build America, Buy America (BABA), as well as Congressionally Designated Spending. We continue to look for ways to supplement the limited funding Tribes get from HUD.

IRHA is actively seeking additional funding on behalf of our Tribes. Since January, my team has written and submitted grant applications to supplement the overall cost of building to a variety of agencies: Fairbanks North Star Borough, Key Bank, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, Kansas, Enterprise Community Building, and Senator Murkowski's Congressional Appropriation.

In closing, as time passes and I've watched the work being done from my administrative staff to the construction crews, and I am honored to be a part of the commitment this group of people put into serving our Tribes and the people of the Doyon and Tanana Chiefs Region. Their hard work and dedication are limitless, and they continue to show up, work hard, and look for ways to improve our delivery model of building 6-star quality homes.

Dog'i'dinh,

Eugene Paul



Michelangelo Bustamante, Native American Bank, met with Eugene Paul, IRHA CEO, and staff to talk about partnership opportunities on July 11.



L-R: Alfred Demientieff, Kimberly Carlo, Eugene Paul, Patricia MacDonald, Teodor Dornea, Denise Callahan, Speedy Sam, and Constance Reimer-Ely



Above photos: Plowing the water and snow away from the building, 4/5/25, to prevent office flooding.



March 2024-March 2024
Board of Commissioners
L-R: Speedy Sam, Kimberly Carlo,
Chaaiy Albert, Kristen Moreland, and
Alfred Demientieff

Board of Commissioners

Kristen Moreland
Chairperson
Ft. Yukon
Seat E - Exp. 3/2026

Kimberly Carlo
Vice-Chairperson
Ft. Yukon
Seat C- Exp. 3/2028

Leah Woods
Secretary/Treasurer
Manley
Seat D - Exp. 3/2028

William Chaaiy Albert
Vice-Chairperson
Northway
Seat A - Exp. 3/2027

Alfred Joseph Demientieff
Commissioner
Holy Cross
Seat B - Exp. 3/2027

Board of Commissioner Highlight Leah Woods



Leah Woods
Board of Commissioner

Leah Woods is Leah looks forward to originally from Rampart, Alaska. Currently spending her time between North Pole, Huslia, and Manley Hot Springs, Alaska. She is the Tribal Administrator for the Manley Village Council and is pursuing her minor in Tribal Management, and a Bachelor's degree in Rural Development. When she's not working, or spending time with her family, you'll find her trapping, fishing, or hunting with her husband. Leah looks forward to working with the Board Member's of Interior Regional Housing Authority, and Tribes to fulfill the housing needs. She feels it's important to work together, and get creative to come up with solutions when it comes to housing. Partnerships, and leveraging all funding resources are key in this critical time.

New Employee Highlights

Welcome New Employee

Megan Vanhatten

Megan Vanhatten of Nulato; married to Michael Vanhatten III was hired April 2025. Her parents are Donna Demoski and James Patsy. Her maternal grandparents are Ida Demoski (George) and Glenn Demoski Sr. and her paternal grandparents are Laurie Ralston (Patsy) and Andrew Sommer.

Megan grew up in Nulato until she was 14, then attended GILA in Galena. She graduated a semester early and worked until She started school at AVTEC. In 2019, after

AVTEC, Megan moved to Fairbanks. She worked until starting a family with her Husband, Michael. They have two girls, Lana (4) and Emery (1).

It took Megan some time to find a company she truly want to work for. She was a laborer for a couple months before starting at IRHA. She felt the need to get as much employment experience as possible before settling down at a place. She feel that helped her immensely, as she really loves working at IRHA. She says, "I can't wait to see



Megan Vanhatten
Information Specialist
Hired April 2025

where this leads to, and I am hopeful I can be beneficial to this company long term."

New Employee Highlights Continued

Welcome New Electrician

Norman Carlo

Norman Carlo is born and raised in Tanana, Alaska. He attended school at Maudry J. Sommer High. After graduation he moved to Fairbanks.

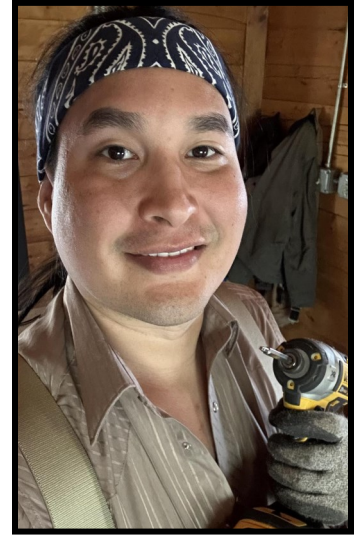
Norman is the youngest child of Jean and Norman Carlo. His grandparents are Pete And Susie Nicholai, of Tanana and Mary Carlo

of Old Louden and Charlie Carlo of Rampart.

Norman joined the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) in 2013 as an apprentice. He finished the apprenticeship program and obtained his journeyman's electrician card in 2019.

Norman loves his culture, including Dene' drumming and singing, and Jig dancing.

Norman came to work at IRHA in March of 2025. He wanted to work for and with his people. Norman says, "Work hard and don't let anything stop you from reaching your goals and dreams."



Norman Carlo
Electrician
Hired March 2025

IRHA is 94% Alaska Native/American Indian Hire

Welcome New Employee

Stephan Roberts

Stephan Roberts, a Nulato Tribal member, was raised in Nulato. He attended and graduated from Andrew K. Demoski School.

After high school Stephan worked as a wildland firefighter and carpenter in the village. In April 2003, Stephan moved to Fairbanks where he was accepted into the Local 1243 Carpenter's Union apprenticeship program.

Stephan finished his apprenticeship at the top of his class in 3 years

and 10 months. He worked out of the union for 13 years before joining the IRHA crew in 2016.

In 2021, Stephan moved home to Nulato and worked as the Tribe's Construction Manager. During this time he achieved his Residential Endorsement Contractors license.

Stephan returned to Fairbanks in 2025 and rejoined the IRHA team in May.

Stephan is married to Amanda Roberts of

Nulato, and together they have three children: Allora (18) Kristanna (12), and Stephan III (8).

Stephan said "One of the reasons I stayed with IRHA was because after the rehab crew added a handicap ramp to a clients house, the client was happy and crying. She hugged all of us telling us how happy she was and thanked us for helping. The handicap ramp created a better quality of life for her husband."



Stephan Roberts
Assessor/Carpenter
Hired May 2025

Below:
Major Wolf visiting the Mendone subdivision, in North Pole, to view the different stages of the houses to be built in the villages starting in Spring 2026.



Marines Innovative Readiness Training (IRT)

Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) was created in 1992 under President Clinton. It is a Department of Defense (DoD) military training opportunity, exclusive to the United States and its territories, that delivers joint training opportunities to increase deployment readiness. Simultaneously, IRT provides key services (health care, construction, transportation, and cybersecurity) with lasting benefits for our American communities. Its biggest focus is to leverage the resources of the military to address local needs and foster community development while simultaneously enhancing military readiness.

Tagiugmiullu Nunamiullu Housing Authority (TNHA) applied for and was awarded the opportunity to work with the program in 2024. The transport of supplies by the military is estimated to have saved TNHA \$1 million in costs. Their successful application inspired the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) to apply for the program.

In the spring of 2025, the IRHA started working with the Marine Corps regarding its IRT Application. This conversation led to a potential 3-year project involving multiple communities. The project would involve both construction work in the community and transportation of materials to each of the communities, and is an ongoing process. If fully completed, the 3-year project would be extremely beneficial for all parties. In addition, the IRHA is exploring additional avenues of how else it could successfully partner through the IRT program in other aspects of its operations.

Anticipated locations for the IRT program within IRHA are scheduled to be in the following villages:

- Beaver
- Allakaket
- Shageluk



Military personnel building a home in the Cherokee Nation through the IRT program.

CO₂/Smoke Detector Partnership

Don't Wait — Check the Date!
Replace Smoke Alarms Every 10 Years

Age matters when it comes to your smoke alarms. Check the manufacture dates on your smoke alarms today!

- Remove the smoke alarm from the wall or ceiling.
- Look at the back of the alarm for the date of manufacture.
- Smoke alarms should be replaced 10 years from the date of manufacture.
- Put the alarm back on the ceiling or wall if it is less than 10 years old.

Additional Tips:

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.
- If the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.
- Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.
- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.

For more information about smoke alarms, visit usfa.fema.gov and www.nfpa.org.

Click here to add image.

U.S. Fire Administration | FEMA | National Fire Protection Association | NFPA

CO₂/Smoke Detectors are a vital part of fire prevention. Several organizations have graciously offered to help the communities replace and install 10-year detectors. The Johns Hopkins Smoke Alarm Project and the Red Cross are offering detectors. The Alaska State Fire Marshal's Office is offering fire prevention training in several of our communities. Alyeska Pipeline and Mt McKinley Bank both made a financial contribution to help this project take place.

Below Pictures: IRHA Construction staff working on the IRHA building .



Did You Know?

A cost allocation plan The IRHA will only Plan (IHP), without (CAP), which is allocate a Tribes spending anything, similar to indirect funding once a project until a Tribe costs, is created for is underway and an designates through a Tribal Housing Environmental Review resolution the programs and Tribally Record (ERR) has been direction they would Designated Housing completed. like to take, i.e. New Entities (TDHE) use in IRHA holds onto all construction, designating NAHASDA Tribes' funding that Rehabilitation, Home funding. The plan have signed a Acquisition, etc. explains the handling of costs incurred throughout the year. a resolution joining the IRHA Indian Housing

Elder Day of Caring—July 21, 2025

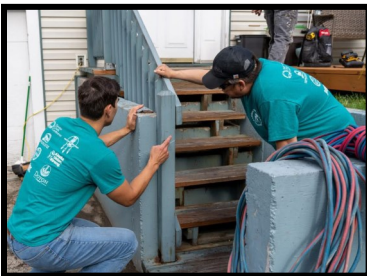
Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) collaborated with their sister organizations; Doyon Limited, Denakkanaaga, and Interior Regional Housing Authority, along with the Council of Laborers Union and Jolly Roger, to do an Elder's Day of Caring for residents of the Interior.

The Interior Regional Housing Authority was pleased to be a part of this day filled with Ch'eghwtsen', a place of love, compassion, and understanding. It is an important aspect of our culture to serve our elders, and in

that light our team was thankful to be apart of this effort.

To all those that served first hand and behind the scenes, we appreciate your dedication to serving our knowledge keepers.

Thank you to all of our sister organizations for making the work we do so meaningful.



The Power of Partnership

Partnership is a collaborative relationship between individuals, organizations, or entities working together to achieve shared goals. It is built on mutual trust, respect, and a shared vision, making it a cornerstone of success in both personal and professional realms.

Partnerships allow companies to pool resources, share expertise, and mitigate risks. On a personal level, partnerships foster growth and resilience. Whether in friendships, marriages, or community projects, working together strengthens bonds and creates a sense of belonging. Effective communication and compromise are key to maintaining

these relationships, ensuring that all parties feel valued and heard. However, partnerships are not without challenges. To overcome these hurdles, it is essential to establish clear expectations, maintain open communication, and regularly evaluate progress.

These powerful tools for achieving success and fostering connection, when they are nurtured with care and commitment, can transform challenges into opportunities and create lasting impact. The IRHA is proud to recognize all of its partners and the significant impact they have on those we serve.



IRHA Employee Picnic—July 3, 2025



JOKE TIME QUESTION:

Why did the roofer go to the doctor?

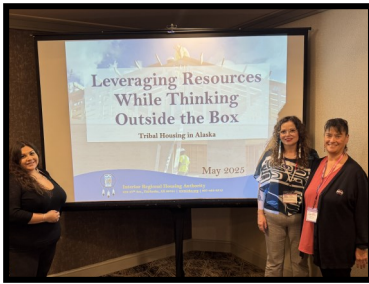
(answer on next page)

IRHA Employee Picnic—July 3, 2025 continued

JOKE TIME ANSWER:
Because he had a bad case
of the shingles.
(question on previous
page)



IRHA presentation at NAIHC in Universal City



Chief Operations Officer (COO), Patricia MacDonald, and Tribal Development Manager, Constance Reimer-Ely were selected to present at the 51st Annual National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Convention in University City, California in late May. The presentation was on

Leveraging Resources While Thinking Outside the Box. The attendance to this session turned out great with all seats full and other's standing along the walls to see the presentation.

Alaskan made gifts were door prizes that were given away at the end.



Photo credit: IRHA Commissioner, Kimberly Carlo



OSHA/HAZWOPER Training

The IRHA Construction crew continues employee development.

HAZWOPER, PPE, Confined Spaces, Lock Out/Tag Out, Fire Safety, Focus 4 Constructions, Safe Driving, and Emergency Actions at work class.

In 2025, IRHA provided training to all construction staff on OSHA 10,



IRHA Housing Advocacy-Priority One: Safeguard Tribal Purchasing Power

To maintain purchasing power for Tribes and TDHEs, the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) would need to be funded at no less than the FY2024 appropriation level.

- In Alaska, Regional Housing Authorities (RHAs) are the largest—and often the only—developers of affordable housing in their regions, utilizing the IHBG in a consortium model as TDHEs to deploy housing and leverage economies of scale.
- Most funding for this work comes from the IHBG authorized under NAHASDA, which consolidated eight (8) HUD programs previously available to Tribes.

While NAHASDA was a landmark reform that respected self-

determination and reduced federal involvement by allowing Tribal communities to identify their own housing needs, one unfortunate outcome is that these needs became easier to silo and were left unaddressed for decades. In the past 20 years, HUD’s overall budget exceeded inflation by 50%, while Tribal communities lost half their purchasing power. As the real dollar value of the IHBG has declined, it allowed inflation to sap the production volume of affordable housing. It was not until FY2024 that the IHBG was restored by Congress to inflation-adjusted FY2000 levels. The resulting generation of lost housing output—totaling billions over a period that HUD had an inflation-protected budget—is unfair to Native communities.

2025 Construction Season Recruitment

The IRHA is accepting applications for the upcoming 2025 construction season. Applications and job descriptions can be downloaded at www.irha.org under Careers.

Available Positions:

- Carpenters
- Laborers
- Electricians

Submit your application to :

Vcruger@irha.org.

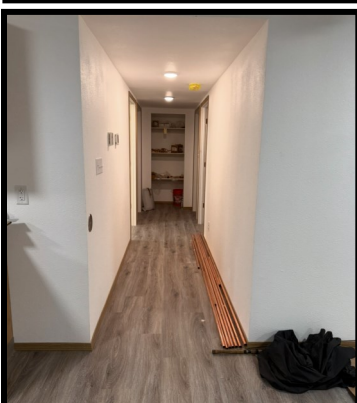
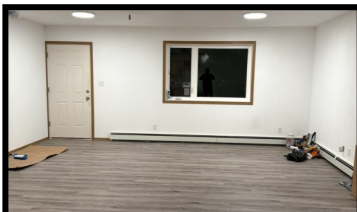
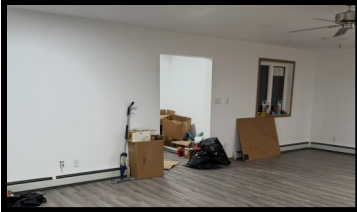
Contact information:

Phone: 907-452-8315
 Toll Free 1-800-478-4742
 Fax: 907-452-3119

828 27th Avenue
 Fairbanks AK 99701



Welcome Home Northway – Julia Claxton



Julia Claxton and her two (2) grandchildren, ages 6 & 3, received their home in Northway on June 3, 2025.

“Everyone is excited; a blessing, the kids are excited and happy for all of the room.”

Northway – Eliza Jimmie



Eliza Jimmie and her five (5) children, ages 7,13,14,16 & 17, received their home in Northway on June 3, 2025.

“Just excited and very happy.”

Thank you to our Community Partners

We thank all of these partners and the generous support they offer those we serve.



First National Bank
ALASKA

MEMBER FDIC



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Proudly Serving The Doyon/Tanana Chiefs Region