



December 28, 2011

Darin Gene, President
Native Village of Gakona
P.O. Box 102
Gakona, AK 99586

Dear Darin:

The Ahtna Heritage Foundation is very much in support of your efforts to expand the Gakona Multi-Purpose Community Service Center. The Ahtna Heritage Foundation has a strong mission to support the enrichment and revitalization of the Ahtna Athabascan language and culture. We have worked with the Native Village of Gakona to hold elders luncheons, dance practices and would like to hold bigger events such as regional language summits, regional parenting meetings and regional cultural events.

It is clear that existing facility in Gakona is servicing a critical need in the community. However, there is only one large group space and this is hindering or in some cases stopping activities from taking place when a user is already occupying the space. Given that there is no other large group gathering space in the greater Gakona area and that many group events are planned in the future, creating a separate large gathering space to meet the Ahtna Heritage Foundation's planned cultural activities would be essential to allowing both the foundations activities and other Gakona activities to be conducted simultaneously. We firmly believe that expansion of the current facility is essential to further the social development of Gakona and the surrounding region. I strongly recommend this application and this project.

If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Sincerely,

THE AHTNA HERITAGE FOUNDATION

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Cain", written over a horizontal line.

Bruce Cain
Executive Director



CRBCAC
PO Box 103
Gakona AK 99586

December 27, 2011

Mr. Darin Gene
President
Native Village of Gakona
PO Box 102
Gakona, AK 99586

Re: Buster Gene Memorial Facility Expansion Grant

Dear Mr. Gene:

The Copper River Basin Child Advocacy Center (CRBCAC) supports your efforts to seek funding through the HUD Indian Community Development Block Grant for the expansion of the Buster Gene Memorial Facility. As a non-profit organization we understand the need for funding and seeking such valuable grants to enhance your organization's center and benefit the community overall.

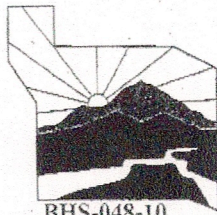
As part of our mission to "foster positive life change in children and families," we believe there is value and positive growth in expanding the facility to engage more children and families in important local event gatherings, educational activities, support groups, training opportunities, etc. Our community is in need of this expansion since the current modern, but one-room facility has limited space or occupancy for rather larger community gatherings. Due to the current facility's inability to provide space for large or numerous gatherings simultaneously, Gakona residents have to travel long distances to participate in different events, which could have otherwise been occupied in the Buster Gene Memorial Facility. It is the hope and projected outcome that the facility's utilization is increased to fully serve its capacity to residents of the Native Village of Gakona.

The CRBCAC looks forward to utilizing the facility for various sponsored events and continued collaboration with the Native Village of Gakona in educating and keeping children and families healthy and safe, which is essential for the future, our children. The CRBCAC appreciates your initiative to further serve our community and encourages the Housing and Urban Development to award the Native Village of Gakona this program grant.


Gina Hoke
Executive Director

www.crbcac.com ph. 907-822-3733 fax 866-815-0626

To foster positive life change in children and families by providing a safe and culturally sensitive environment for children who have been traumatized by physical or sexual abuse.



BHS-048-10

Copper River Native Association

(AHTNA T'AENE NENE)

Mile 104 Old Richardson Highway
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Fax: (907) 822-8801
E-mail: info@crnative.org
Website: www.crnative.org

October 16, 2010

Gakona Village Council
ATTN: Darin Gene, President
P.O. Box 102
Gakona, AK 99586

RE: Letter of Support

Dear Mr. Gene:

I have been working for Copper River Native Association for eleven years in different capacities. During this time I have utilized the Buster Gene Memorial Facility for many of my social services, cultural events and job training activities.

I feel it is important for Copper River Native Association to support village efforts. The Buster Gene Memorial Hall is a beautiful and modern facility and I can see the positive effect that the expansion of the great room would have on future collaboration. CRNA would be able to utilize your hall for large gatherings that we host for our beneficiaries as most recently shown by the CRNA Annual Meeting this year.

Your building is in a very serene location. I like this because my work involves trainings and gatherings that put people in painful places in themselves. I have been hosting domestic violence events this year in Gakona and the participants have always stated that the location of these trainings has been an important part of how they feel when they are there. I have also worked with your Behavioral Health Aide, Shonda Gene in promoting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and wellness activities in the Buster Gene Memorial Facility. Our beneficiaries are very open to these meetings as well as the outlying community.

I am in full support of additional grant funding that will assist the Native Village of Gakona in constructing an addition to the Buster Gene Memorial Facility. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 822-8873 if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Angel Craig
Domestic Violence Program Educator/Coordinator