

CANHR

TALES OF ...

YUP'IK DEFENDERS



STARRING YUP'IK YOUTH
FROM ALASKA AND FEATURING...

THE POWER OF THE REAL PEOPLE

ALAKANUK, ALASKA

Population: 683

Location: Yukon River Delta, AK
15 miles from the Bering Sea.
488 miles northwest of
Anchorage. No roads in.

Climate: Subarctic

Characteristics: A Yup'ik Eskimo
village with commercial salmon
fishing and hunting/gathering.
Many people speak the Yup'ik
language.

Foods: seals, beluga whales,
moose, rabbits, birds, tundra
berries, eggs and greens.

Transportation: boat,
snowmachine, small airplane
Gallon of fuel: \$6.74



**PROJECT: CIRCUMPOLAR PATHWAYS TO ADULthood
CENTER FOR ALASKA NATIVE HEALTH RESEARCH**

RESEARCHER'S LOG - 01-16-10

TODAY THE REST OF THE TEAM IS HEADED OUT TO JOIN US. TOMORROW WE BEGIN INTERVIEWING 20 YOUTH, AGES 11 TO 18, ABOUT WHAT IT'S LIKE GROWING UP YUP'IK.

WE ARE ONE OF FIVE TEAMS WORKING IN ARCTIC COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE CIRCUMPOLAR NORTH. OTHER TEAMS ARE WORKING IN SITES IN NORWAY, SIBERIA, CANADA AND NORTHWEST ALASKA. WE'RE HERE TO LEARN ABOUT THE STRENGTHS OF YOUNG PEOPLE GROWING UP IN A YUP'IK VILLAGE.

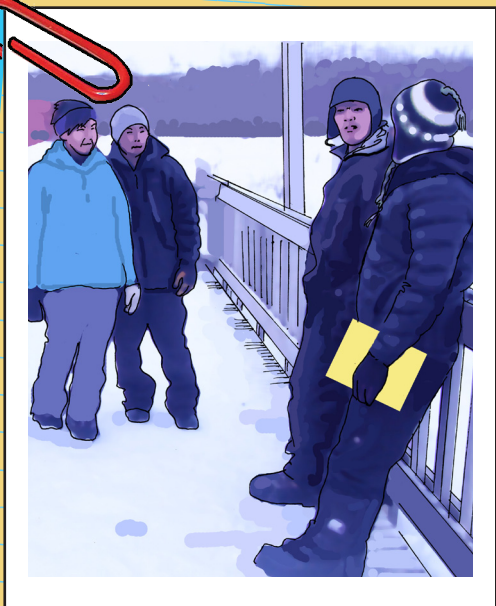
OUR TEAM, INCLUDING THE LATE DR. MOHATT, HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY FOR TWO YEARS GETTING READY.

PEOPLE HERE HAD SEVERAL QUESTIONS THEY WANTED ANSWERED.

- WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES YOUNG PEOPLE FACE GROWING UP TODAY? WHAT STRESSES THEM OUT?
- WHAT DO YOUNG PEOPLE DO TO OVERCOME CHALLENGES?
- WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS AND SUCCESS STORIES?

WE HAVE MANY QUESTIONS AND MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT YUP'IK STRENGTHS FROM THESE YOUNG PEOPLE...

- S.M. RASMUS



WHAT SHOULD YOUNG PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT
BECOMING AN ADULT AROUND HERE?

WHAT DO YOU THINK KIDS
SHOULD KNOW?

LIKE NOT TO
VANDALIZE STUFF,



KAYLENE
AGE 14

...NOT TO DRINK AT A
YOUNG AGE



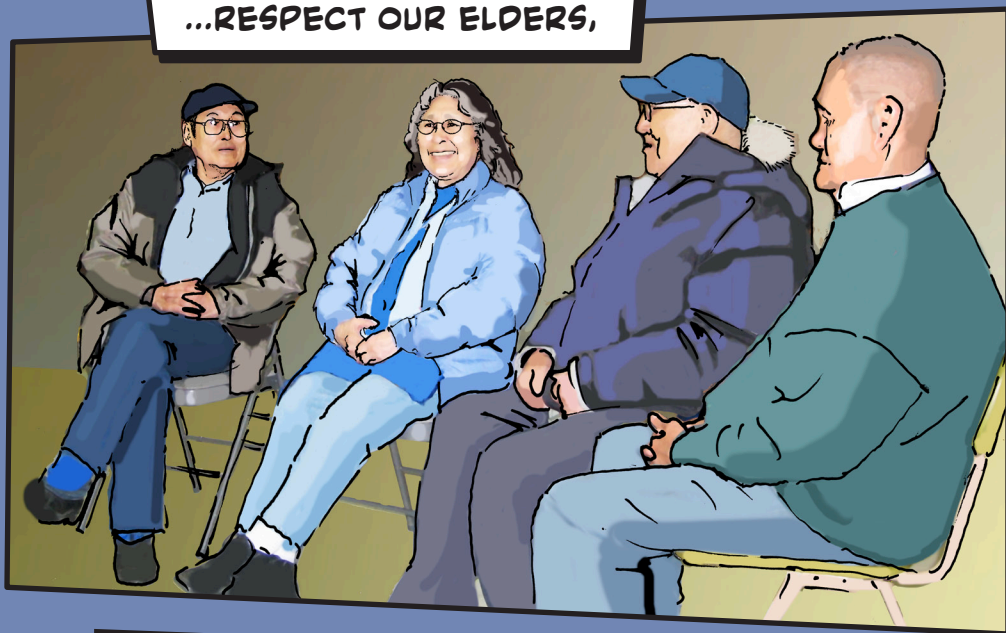
...OR SMOKING, CHEW



...OR TALK BACK TO THEIR PARENTS,



...RESPECT OUR ELDERS,

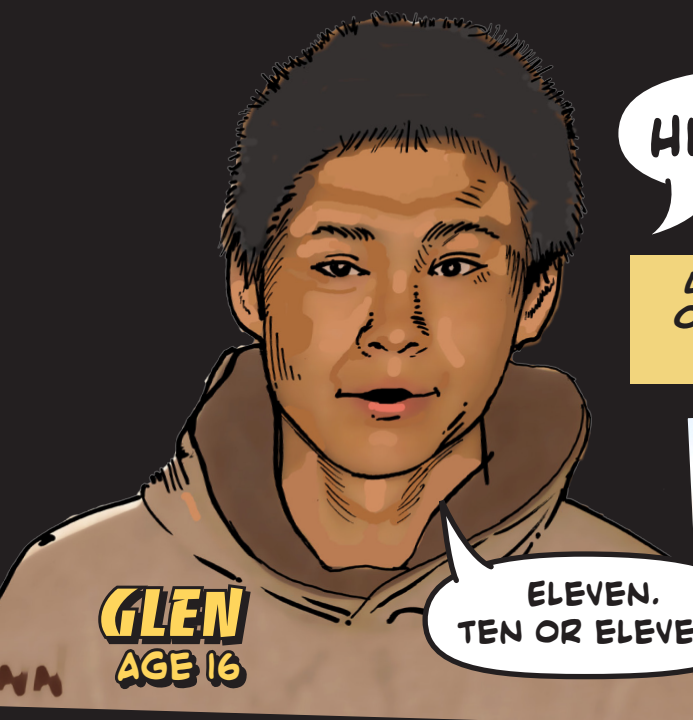


...LISTEN TO THEIR TEACHERS



AND -- I THINK THAT'S IT.

WHAT ARE THE BEST TIMES IN YOUR LIFE SO FAR?

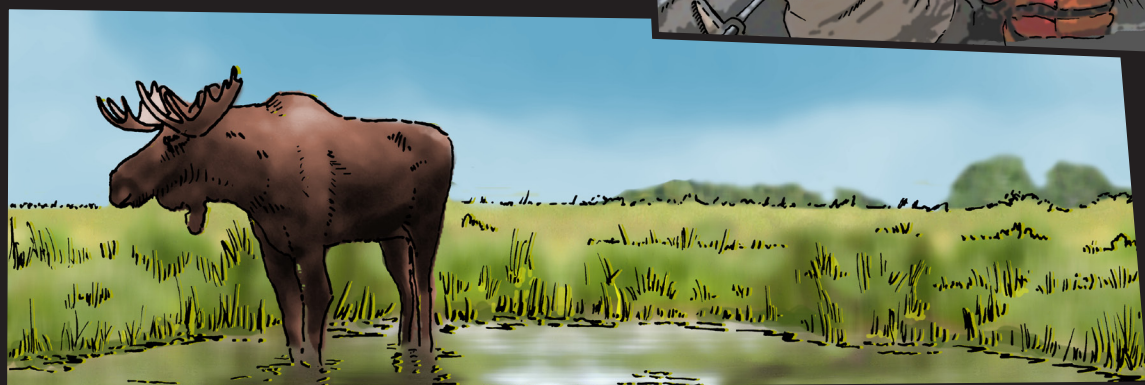


GLEN
AGE 16

HUNTING!

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW OLD YOU WERE WHEN YOU STARTED GOING OUT?

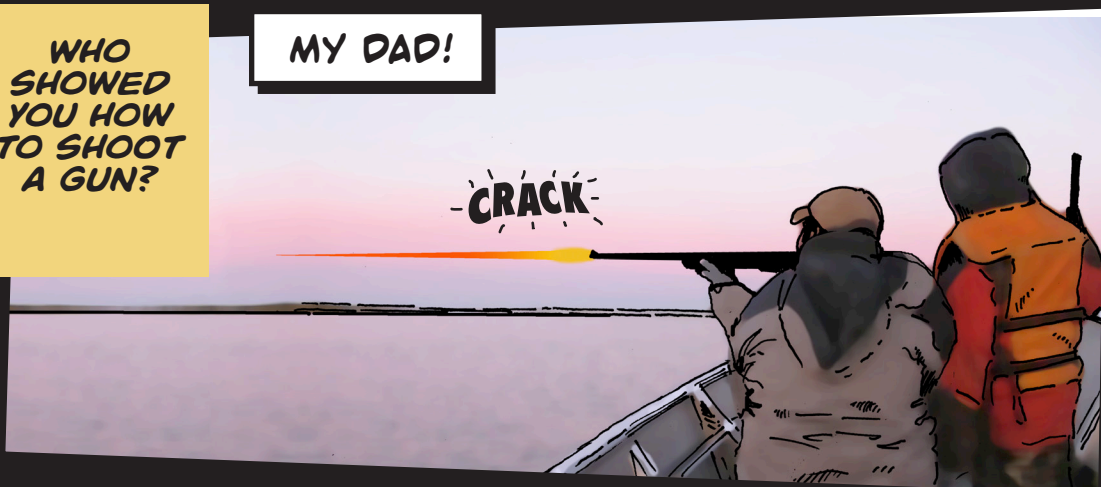
**ELEVEN.
TEN OR ELEVEN.**



**WHO
SHOWED
YOU HOW
TO SHOOT
A GUN?**

MY DAD!

-CRACK-



IS IT USUAL FOR GIRLS TO GO OUT HUNTING
FOR WHALES AND SEAL LIKE THAT?

KATRINA
AGE 18

YES. SOME GIRLS.

FOR SOME GIRLS IT'S A LOT OF FUN
AND FOR OTHER GIRLS -THEY JUST THINK
THAT'S WEIRD --

BECAUSE WE'RE GIRLS
AND WE HAVE TO DO
GIRL STUFF.

WHAT I SEE IS,
I THINK IT'S **FUN**. I THINK IT'S A **RUSH!**

AND SOME GIRLS ARE JUST REALLY **SCARED**.
AND THEY HAVE TO LOOK PRETTY BEFORE THEY GO OUT AND
THEY HAVE TO PUT MAKE UP ON. AND I'M LOOKING
AT THEM AND THINKING...

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK
PRETTY FOR THE WHALES!

**SO THIS IS YOUR EARLY MEMORY OF HUNTING.
DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER MEMORIES?**



FIRST WE WERE RIDING AROUND, SAW THAT SEAL. MY MOM TOLD ME TO GO UP FRONT. MY MOM WAS BEHIND ME AND THEN CAME UP RIGHT THERE, AND HIT IT BUT IT CAME OFF AND GRABBED HER SPEAR...



...AND THEN WE WERE GOING AND THEN IT CAME UP
BESIDE THE BOAT AND I THREW, AND MY MOM
THREW. I HIT IT, AND MY MOM HIT IT.



AND WE STARTED CHASING IT WITH
SPEARS, AND MY DAD AND MY MOM
GOT UP TOP AND THEY THREW IT.



MY MOM HIT IT AND MY
DAD TOOK OUT HIS GUN
AND SHOOT IT.

WATER -
FOR YOUR LONG
JOURNEY HOME -
QUYANA*



*we **THANK YOU!**

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH CHALLENGES IN YOUR LIFE?

**WHAT HELPED?
YOU GOT THROUGH IT
BECAUSE YOU WERE
ABLE TO...?**

FELICIA
AGE 17

I GOT
THROUGH IT
BECAUSE...

I DON'T THINK
I HAD ANY DOUBTS IN
MYSELF.

WHEN MY MOM SAID WE WERE
GOING TO THIS, OR WE'RE GOING
TO DO THAT, I DIDN'T HAVE ANY
DOUBT IN MYSELF.

SO...
I THINK THAT'S
WHAT MADE ME GET
THROUGH IT.



ANY ADVICE TO HELP YOUNGER
KIDS GROW UP GOOD?
ANYTHING YOU'D TELL THEM?

DONNA
AGE 16



YES.

WHAT WOULD THAT BE?

IF YOU'RE
HAVING PROBLEMS...
DON'T WORK IT BY
YOURSELF.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY SHOULD DO?

TALK TO AN ADULT.



YOU SAID YOUR GRANDPA WAS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE, DO YOU GO TALK TO HIM ABOUT THINGS IF YOU HAVE THINGS ON YOUR MIND THAT YOU NEED... LIKE HOW OFTEN WOULD YOU GO TALK TO HIM?

I DON'T TALK TO HIM.

HE TALKS TO ME.

EVERY TIME I GO TO HIS HOUSE, HE ALWAYS FINDS SOMETHING TO TALK TO ME ABOUT.

FREDDIE
AGE 17

I MEAN THAT STUFF MAY BE ON MY MIND, BUT SOMETIMES I DON'T TALK TO ANYBODY ABOUT ANY OF MY PROBLEMS.

AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN MY GRANDPA... IT'S LIKE HE CAN READ MY MIND, READ WHAT I'M THINKING.

BUT HE ALL OF A SUDDEN JUST TALKS ABOUT IT, AND THEN I FEEL A LITTLE BIT BETTER, NOT AS GOOD AS HOW I REALLY WAS BUT...

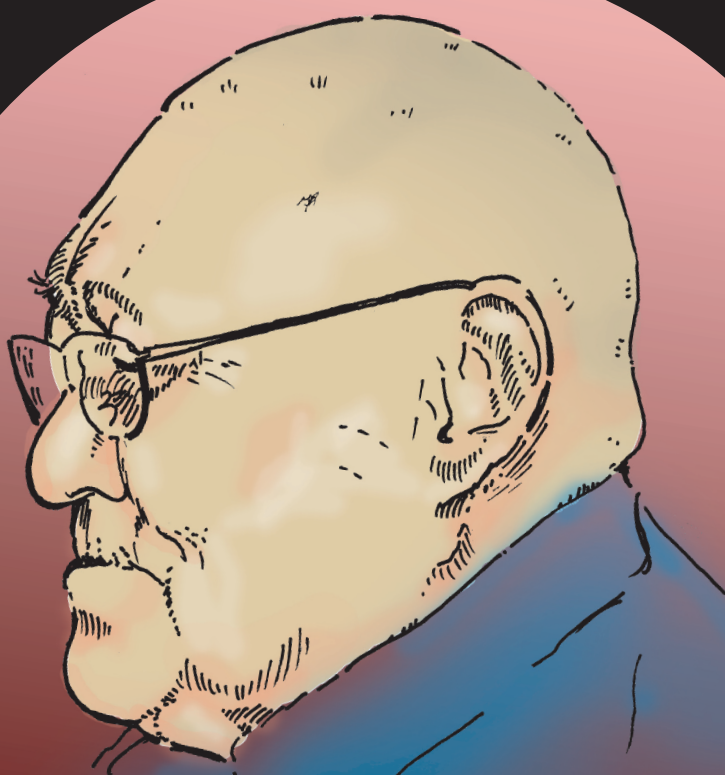
I DON'T KNOW. SOMETIMES HE ALWAYS JUST ALL OF A SUDDEN TALK ABOUT THINGS.

**WHAT DID YOU THINK WHEN YOU HEARD WHAT
FREDDIE SAID ABOUT YOU?**

NAKMIIN IRNIAPUT NALLUNRITAPUT.
CAURALLRIT NALLUNRITAPUT; IRNIAPUT NALLUNRITAPUT.
ASSINRILNGURMEK PIAQATA EGMIINAQ PUGTEVKENAKU
ATATAARQU TAUGAAM. MIKELNGUUM UMYUARA ASSIRIKAN
NALQIGULLUKU UUMIKEVKENAKU.

MIKELNGUUT NUNURRLAINAYUNAITUT TUA-I-GGA
TAKAGENRIRCQAATEN. TEGGNEQ PICIULRIAMEK QANRAQAMI,
YUUT TAMALKUITA AGTUUMALARAI. TEGGNEQ
MURILKETARTUQ AVATMINEK.*

**FRED
AUGUSTINE**
ELDER



***WE KNOW OUR OWN CHILDREN. WE KNOW HOW
THEY ACT. WE KNOW OUR CHILDREN. WHEN THEY DO
SOMETHING WRONG, WE SHOULDN'T MENTION IT RIGHT
AWAY, BUT LATER. WHEN THE CHILD IS IN A BETTER
MOOD, THAT IS WHEN WE SHOULD EXPLAIN IT TO THEM
AND NOT SCOLD THEM. BUT YOU DON'T SCOLD THEM ALL
THE TIME OR THE CHILD WILL LOSE RESPECT FOR THEM.
WHEN AN ELDER SPEAKS THE TRUTH, HE TOUCHES
EVERYONE. AN ELDER IS VERY AWARE OF
HIS SURROUNDINGS.
(ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY MARY AYUNERAK)**

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR IN THE FUTURE?

WE GET OUR
LANGUAGE BACK.

ROBERT
AGE 13

AND WHAT DO YOU FEAR
ABOUT THE FUTURE?

WE MIGHT NOT GET
OUR CULTURE BACK.



PROJECT: CIRCUMPOLAR PATHWAYS TO ADULthood
RESEARCHER'S LOG 01-21-10
INTERVIEWS COMPLETED: 25 IN TOTAL

ON THE PLANE BACK TO THE UNIVERSITY WE CONSIDER THE CHALLENGES THESE YOUTH FACE TODAY. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THOSE THINGS THAT STRESS THEM OUT, LIKE THEIR PARENT'S DRINKING, GOSSIP, BOREDOM AND SCHOOL, THEY ARE SPEAKING OF THEIR DISCONNECTION FROM A YUP'IK WAY OF LIFE.

THEY TOLD US THEY FIND STRENGTH IN THINGS THAT ARE "YUGTUN," WHICH MEANS "IN THE YUP'IK WAY." THINGS LIKE:

- **CONNECTING WITH GRANDPARENTS AND ELDERS**
- **TAKING CARE AND LOOKING OUT FOR YOUNGER ONES**
- **GOING OUT HUNTING, FISHING, GATHERING**
- **MAKING TOOLS, SPEARS, SPEAR THROWERS**
- **ESKIMO DANCE**
- **SPEAKING YUP'IK**

THEY ARE THE NEXT YUP'IK GENERATION - AND THESE ARE TALES OF YUGTUN DEFENDERS!





TALES OF YUGTUN DEFENDERS ©2012

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CIRCUMPOLAR PATHWAYS TO ADULTHOOD PROJECT

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