

# The Winter Bear Project 2016 Kusko Tour



**Sponsored By:**



# A Message of Hope

In April 2016, The Winter Bear Project traveled to six Alaskan communities to deliver a message of hope through live theatre performance.

## **Major Funding:**

**Southcentral Foundation  
State of Alaska Department of  
Health & Social Services  
Lower Kuskokwim School District  
Harper Arts Touring Fund**

Southcentral  
Foundation



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## **Additional Funding:**

**Alaska Community Foundation  
Bethel Native Corporation  
Donlin Gold**

## **In-Kind Benefactors:**

**Northern Air Cargo  
Air/Land Transport  
Lower Kuskokwim School District  
Kuspuk School District  
Iditarod School District  
Nenana City School District  
Southcentral Foundation  
Drew's Foundation  
Rodney Worthington,  
1997 Revocable Trust**

**Florcraft Carpet One  
GCI  
Ryan Air  
Pen Air  
Tanana Air Service  
Ah Rosemarie B&B  
LUNCH Café & Eatery  
Mimi Hill  
Adeline Potts**

# Tour Schedule

**Thursday, April 7**  
**Nenana City School, Nenana, AK**  
**Community dinner**  
**Preview performance**

**Tuesday, April 12**  
**Bethel Regional High School,**  
**Bethel, AK**  
**Student workshops**  
**Student matinee**



**Wednesday, April 13**  
**Bethel Regional High School, Bethel, AK**  
**Student workshops**  
**Student matinee**

**Friday, April 15**  
**Aniak Junior/Senior High School, Aniak, AK**  
**Student workshops, potluck, & evening performance**

**Sunday, April 17**  
**George Morgan Sr. High School, Kalskag, AK**  
**Potluck & evening performance**



**Tuesday, April 19**  
**Top of the Kuskokwim School, Nikolai, AK**  
**Student workshops, potluck,**  
**& evening performance**

**Thursday, April 21**  
**McGrath School, McGrath, Alaska**  
**Student workshops, potluck,**  
**& evening performance**



# Play Attendance

Community	Attendance	Community Population	Community Turnout (%)
Nenana	120	386	31%
Bethel Regional HS	394	495 (Students)	80%
Aniak	104	524	20%
Upper & Lower Kalskag	144	514	28%
Nikolai	49	96	51%
McGrath	90	354	25%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>901</b>		

# Workshop Attendance

School	Student Contact Hours	Instructor Contact Hours
Bethel Regional	43	16
Aniak Junior/Senior High School	39	18
George Mason Senior High School	10	3
Top of the Kuskokwim School	18	4
McGrath School	42	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>52</b>



# Cast & Creative Team



## 2016 Kusko Cast & Crew

Sidney Huntington.....Brían Pagaq Wescott  
Duane "Shadow" David.....Izzy Juneby  
Miranda Huntington.....Misty Nikolai  
Victor Sam.....Jake Waid  
Raven.....Jasmine Stokes  
Wolverine.....David Leslie  
Wolf.....Skyler Ray-Benson Davis  
Lynx.....Aurora Lewis

**Playwright & Producer - Anne Hanley**

**Associate Producer - Sarah Mitchell**

**Director - Tom Robenolt**

**Technical Director - James Bartlett**

**Production Stage Manager - Kadey Ambrose**

**Production Technician - Kaleb Daugherty**

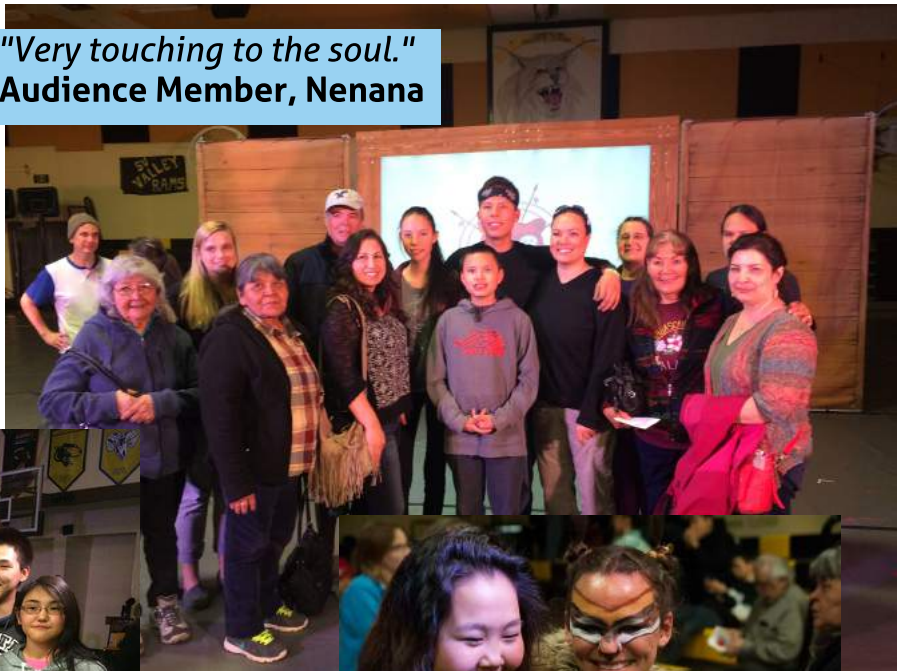
**Tour Chaperone/Cook - Adeline Juneby Potts**

**Costume Designer - Kellie Rieck**

# Nenana

*"Very touching to the soul."*  
-Audience Member, Nenana

*"Terrific mix of old and new values and insight."*  
-Audience Member, Nenana



*"This is a powerful message to be giving teenagers."*  
-Audience Member, Nenana



Photo: Richard Murphy

# Bethel

*"I saw the play when it came to Bethel last year...I was just as moved watching it a second time. It goes to show how well you're presenting your message to the audience. I hope you continue what you're doing and that it starts a movement to end suicide."*  
-14-year-old Audience Member, Bethel



Photo: Ryan Fuhrig



Photo: Ryan Fuhrig

*"I haven't seen smiles like that in months."*  
-Ryan Fuhrig, Bethel teacher, after a theatre games workshop





# Aniak



*"It really helped me thinking about who loves me. I'm going through a tough time right now and was questioning my life. This helped a lot! Thank you!"*  
**-15-yr-old Audience Member, Aniak**



# Upper & Lower Kalskag



*"It spoke truth about something people try to hide."*  
**-Audience Member, Kalskag**



*"Great insight into rural lifestyles."*  
**-Audience Member, Kalskag**



# Nikolai

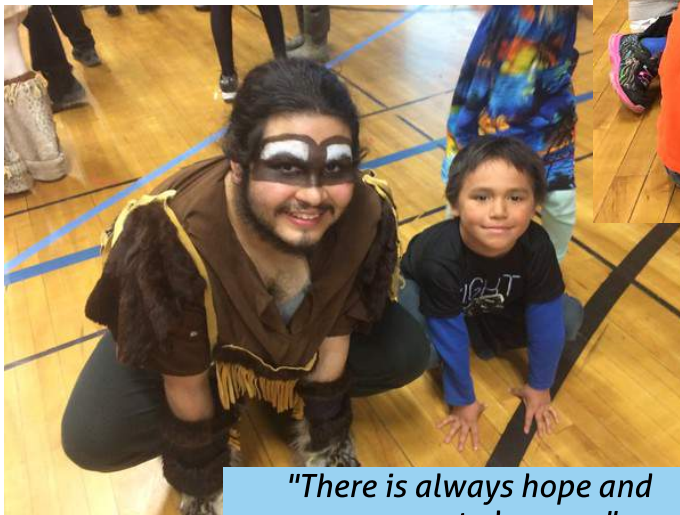


*"...The play was very educational for us kids. Showing alcohol is never the answer. Showing you could get help for suicide...Good to tell us kids to get an education...knowing it was [based on] a true story shows how strong some of us Natives are."*  
**-Audience Member, Nikolai**



# McGrath

*"Excellent choice of role model in Sidney Huntington."*  
**-Audience Member, McGrath**



*"There is always hope and someone to lean on."*  
**-Audience Member, McGrath**





# Evaluation Results



The Winter Bear Project compiled **256** evaluation responses.  
*(Complete responses from each location are available upon request.)*

*Of those surveyed:*

- **49.5%** were under the age of 25
- **75.9 %** identified as Alaska Native
- **99% would recommend *The Winter Bear* to a friend**



**Did the play help you understand more about the causes of suicide?**

**On a scale of "1" (Not at All) to "7" (Very Much):**

- **61%** of respondents selected a "6" or "7"

**Did the play make you feel hopeful?**

**On a scale of "1" (Not at All) to "7" (Very Much):**

- **67%** of respondents selected a "6" or "7"

**Does seeing this play make you more likely to reach out to someone you know who might be having problems?**

**On a scale of "1" (Not at All) to "7" (Very Much):**

- **72.3%** of respondents selected a "6" or "7"

## ***Thank you to our partners!***

Railbelt Mental Health Services  
Nenana Health Clinic, Tanana  
Chiefs Conference  
Nenana City School District  
Nenana City School  
Nenana Student Living Center  
Nenana Native Association  
Bethel Regional High School  
Drew's Foundation  
Lower Kuskokwim SD  
LKSD School Board  
Aniak Tribal Council  
Aniak Jr./Sr. High School  
City of Aniak  
Kuspuk School District

Mary Alice Morgan Subregional  
Clinic, Aniak, YKHC  
City of Kalskag  
George Mason Senior High  
School  
Kalskag Tribal Council  
Catherine Alexie Clinic, Upper  
Kalskag, YKHC  
Crimit Phillips Clinic, Lower  
Kalskag, YKHC  
City of Nikolai  
Iditarod School District  
Nikolai Tribal Council  
Top of the Kuskokwim School  
McGrath Tribal Council  
City of McGrath  
McGrath School

**The Winter Bear Project** is a Domestic Nonprofit incorporated in Alaska. The North Star Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, is the fiscal agent for The Winter Bear Project.

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