



Steering Committees: Building Healthy Communities by Partnering Together



Steering committees represent all villages, encouraging community wide discussions on healing and wellness issues. They seek input from everyone with an interest in creating wholesome, healthy, and sustainable communities. One of IAM's core healing strategies is the village steering committee. The purpose of the committee is to identify and give feedback on the progress toward the building of healthy communities. They are deliberately designed to include as many of the partnering organizations in each village. They should be inclusive comprising of citizens from various entities such as education, trilateral, villages, corporations, community, government, and the health departments. The steering committee serves as the core partnership entity working together to review needs and data collected by the Listening Way Leaders within each community.

The data serves as the guideline for addressing and finding solutions to alleviating social ills and problems experienced by individuals within each community, and is uniquely representative of that community.





Healing and Renewal



I am excited to announce that we are training Prayer ministers through Elijah House Schools of Ministry for healing of the hearts through prayer and 1:1 sessions. The goal is to get these 4 trained so that they can begin teaching and raising up more people. They will also be involved in working with more people in events for healing from past issues that continue to affect them in their lives today! Plans are in place to begin traveling to villages to host healing and renewal events. Summer is a busy time so we will start in the fall time. The last healing event in April was very successful in Barrow, so plans are being drawn up for more. Our goal is to continue training sessions with our listening leaders from the villages. Churches in the North Slope Borough need to be strengthened spiritually so Pastor David and I plan, and Curt Karns plan to travel to hold services in Anaktuvuk Pass and Kaktovik to begin in the fall. Church leaders in those villages can contact me at **907-231-3492!** *-Dorothy Bekoalok, Healing & Renewal*



Listening Way Program

1. Recruitment & Hiring: LW Supervisor recruited and hired LWL's (Listening Way Leaders) for the following villages:

- Point Hope- Gail Gallahorn (Lillian Lane already hired)
- Wainwright- Maxine Nayakik (Madeline Hickman already hired)
- Point Lay- Sophie Tracey and Gwendolyn Pikok
- Atqasuk- Mary Bordeaux (Flossie Kanayurak already hired)
- Barrow- Lucinda Elliot (hired as a LWL but has transferred to 12- Step program)
- Barrow- Billy Kenton (hired as a LWL but has transferred to 12- Step Program)
- Barrow- Bretlyn Reich (LWL for Youth)
- Anaktuvuk Pass- Bernice Bifelt and Bonnie Wright
- Nuiqsut- Olivia Cabinboy already hired, needing another LWL
- Kaktovik- Fenton Rexford has expressed interest. We need to hire 2 LWL's

I was able to do some recruiting through phone and media but had to travel to AKP and ATQ.

2. Traveled to ATQ with a group and held a Christian concert in the High School Gym. Over 70 people were there. Many were encouraged. We received great feedback from the community including an elder. We were scheduled to go to Wainwright as well but due to trial conditions we were not able to go. We have plans to go to Wainwright this coming March for a concert there.

3. We conducted our 3rd LWL training. We had all our newly hired LWLs come in on April 4-10, 2022 and our current LWLs came in on April 6-10 as well. We had our local Pastors from Barrow help teach the classes. Pastor Darryl Serino from Calvary Baptist church, Pastor JR Markle from Inupiat Assembly of God, Pastor Arnold Brower all attended the training. We had the NSB Health department come over and attend our training and the staff did a presentation as well. We had special speakers help do our training on inner healing. There were over 40 hours of training during our LWL training conference. We also had LWLs from Gambell and Savoonga attend as well. The word is getting around the state and we had folks from Bristol Bay who paid their own way to attend our conference as well. It was a great success and we were blessed to have Mayor Harry Brower attend the meeting and give some very encouraging words. Our LWL's went back to their communities encouraged and better prepared to help others within their communities across the NSB and Savoonga and Gambell. We'd like to do another Training Conference in 2023.



4. We have classes/continuing education every month on the third Thursday of each month. We have our LWL Support Huddle group where we check in with our LWLs from our NSB communities and also from Savoonga and Gambell. These CE classes have proven to be very encouraging and educational for our LWL's. No doubt these classes are part of the reason for the success of our LWL program.

5. We have had special Youth events in ATQ and in BRW. We have around 80 youth attend our Youth rally's. We had 25 college students who flew to Barrow to help with our Youth Conferences. IAM helped sponsor these youth events and they were a great success.

It has been a very busy year but it is well worth it when you see the fruit of your labor. People's lives have been touched and ministered to. Our impact is growing as our LWLs bring back to their communities what they have learned and received throughout our training conferences and then through our monthly follow-up/training sessions. We have merged as a LWL family and we continue to grow and learn how we can help others within our communities. Thank you for your support, it's definitely a team effort as we strive together toward healthier communities. Quyanaq



Fellowship is Key

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

The Listening Way is what we call one of the key programs of Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM), but it is also a great description of our approach for fostering spiritual health. In each community, IAM has staff members we call Listening Way Listeners, and it is their job both to serve as IAM's hands and feet in your communities, but also to serve as *soul friends* and prayer partners to hurting people. They have pledged to make themselves available to support anyone wanting prayer, or wanting an ally as they seek God's healing for their life.

Listening Way Personnel

 David Matthews Supervisor (Utqiagvik)	 Vacant (Utqiagvik)	 Brettlyn Reich (Utqiagvik) Youth Emphasis	 Vacant (Utqiagvik)	 Olivia Cabinboy (Nuiqsut)
 Madeline Hickman (Wainwright)	 Maxine Nayakik (Wainwright)	 Lillian Lane (Pt. Hope)	 Gail Gallahorn (Pt. Hope)	 Vacant (Nuiqsut)

Listening Way Personnel

 Vacant (Kaktovik)	 Vacant (Kaktovik)	 Mary Bordeaux (Atqasuk)	 Flossie Kanayurak (Atqasuk)
 Bernice Bifelt (Anaktuvuk Pass)	 Bonnie Lincoln Wright (Anaktuvuk Pass)	 Sophie Tracey (Pt. Lay)	 Gwendolyn (Apple) Pikok (Pt. Lay)

This is so important! Mental health professionals repeatedly report that feelings of isolation, or loneliness, or of being really different, contribute to a lot of troubles. People in these situations may fall into depression, or may choose to self-medicate with drugs or alcohol to try and dim the negative feelings. This is why it is so important for IAM to provide Listening Way Listeners, and for local churches to provide healthy opportunities for Christian fellowship.



Fellowship is Key

Listening Way Personnel – St. Lawrence Isl.



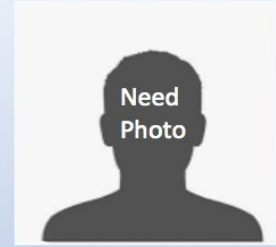
Christopher Noongwook
(Savoonga)



Shana Noongwook
(Savoonga)



Geraldine Slwooko
(Gambell)



Vacant
(Gambell)

This has always been true, of course. Throughout the Bible we see scriptures encouraging healthy spirituality through fostering Christian fellowship. Besides the one listed at the beginning of this article, here are a few more examples:

- “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. 10 For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!” Ecclesiastes 4:9-10
- “For where two or three gather in my Name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18:20
- Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11
- “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” Acts 2:42

It is so important to build up our churches, and to simply show up regularly. This is true on the one hand, because in doing so we are obedient to God’s will as shown in scripture. But it is also true on the other hand, because when we show up, our presence can encourage another person at a critical moment. Indeed, we might be surprised someday to discover that we are the one, who needed that encouragement.

It is also important for some people to make themselves available to others as an ally in their spiritual growth, and as a prayer partner. We are grateful to God for raising up our Listening Way Listeners. You will see their faces in the photos attached to this article. Note that there are still some vacancies. If you are interested in becoming a Listening Way Listener, send an email to admin@iam.gives.

If you wish to be a part of this work, or to help provide financial support his work, you can find us at <http://www.iam.gives/>, or email to admin@iam.gives.