

## **Problem**

The community of Kake Village, Alaska is experiencing a progressive trend of youth violence & death associated with substance use. The incidences are deeply traumatic and remind the community of a period in its history when this small village of 800 people was the suicide capitol of the United States. Community leadership recognize that the challenging economic, social and cultural reality of the community that contribute to the tension and despair are not going away any time soon. Fears are great that the trends in youth violence and death will not only continue, but will accelerate.

Kake Village has a population of X; X number are between the ages of 10-18; X number are between 19-35; X are between 36 – 65 with an elderly population of 65 and older of X. The community, the City of Kake, the Village of Kake and Kake Village Corporation have undertaken a number of important efforts to reinforce key systems that help provide stability within the community from a systems standpoint:

- A new Superintendent of Schools was selected to fulfill the community's value for the School to engage with the community as a resource and asset to advance the community's economic, social and cultural development and priorities – not to function independently from the community.
- Island-wide governance and leadership groups formulated a collective plan to begin to address the community energy development needs to alleviate some of the economic strain on the community, evolve opportunities with associated industry and create a framework to evolve appropriate industries and opportunities that serve the long term viability of the community
- Regional health services enterprises (SEARCH) are actively involved with Kake's efforts to respond to community grief & trauma issues en masse as needed.
- The Village of Kake actively supports one of the few cultural social groups throughout Alaska that promotes the vitality of traditional native song and dance in other Villages; Kake's group travels to other communities to participate and encourage the resurgence of these practices in other communities and recognizes the value of its own cultural assets (elders) in restoring the ceremonial life of the community.

## **Project Description**

Kake Village has the interest, will and the capacity to ensure that its painful past is not repeated in the current generation. What Kake needs is not just a plan, but a pathway to transition the community to a process that supports a healthy future for all members of the community. The challenge is to create a community wide process and experience where participants feel they are part of forging a shared future together and become invested in building that future, together.

Engage the youth, parents and elders of Kake in a 2 week process designed to:

- Reconnect the community to its shared history as a framework for understanding its current reality

- Engage Kake's youth in a consensus based process to identify their desired Vision for themselves and the community of Kake – and undergo their own analysis of what the underlying issues are that inhibit the Vision and how do they participate in it
- Facilitate Kake's adult community in taking the Youth Vision into account and forming an integrated Vision for Kake's future and undergo an analysis of the issues that include the Youth issues analysis as well as that of the community

## Approach

The approach to this project will engage the community in articulating a solid, consensus based plan to achieve their desired future. And, perhaps even more importantly, will create an experience to journey the youth and adults of the community toward reinvestment in the power of shared context and relationship as the foundation for cooperating, collaborating on an on-going basis.

This project is built on the assumption that the members of Kake – young and old – inherently embody the insights, wisdom and capacity to understand and address their most critical issues as a community. The support needed is the *process* to undertake this journey together and reveal the consensus of what *everyone* wants and will commit to achieve, as individuals and collectively, as a community.

The project will rely on the following to achieve its objectives:

- Use native youth facilitators trained in consensus based methods to lead Youth Vision, Contradictions & Image Shift work
- Use native youth facilitators trained in filmmaking to record the community process, journey to present at a final community celebration
- Deploy a team of master level trained facilitators to support the Youth sessions and lead facilitation of the larger community-wide sessions
- Engage Kake's adults in creating an integrated Vision for the future of Kake, relying on and adding to, the Youth Vision
- Facilitate Kake's adults in an analysis of underlying contradictions, relying on and adding to the Youth analysis of issues as they see it
- 1 Evening: A community-wide 'release' event featuring a motivational speaker that relies on humor & the human experience as the basis for reshaping one's understanding of reactions, responsibilities and opportunities tied to personal trauma and tragedy. The event is intended to lift and transition the community's experience of deep emotional pain as a community to personal introspection and hopefulness -- preparing the group for the next phase of the work together: Image Shift. The motivational speaker has experience presenting to and motivating young people as well as adults.
- 2 days of community work on 'Image Shift' – a process for personal reflection and transformation; identifying and understanding the messages we receive, how they shape the images we hold of ourselves and how our images shape our behaviors. The work relies on the

idea that changed messages change images and that changed images change behaviors. The session focuses on individuals doing their own work and sharing in small teams with each other, but will end with a collective list on what's needed to support the transformations identified in this work? This data will help inform the group's strategy session.

- 2 days of Adult/Youth teams (mentoring engagement) – Exploring our assets & environment; taking place over a Friday/Saturday, this event will engage youth and adult teams in a series of 'treks' for small groups will explore the land, assets and resources of Kake, together, to talk about what's currently in place, what's needed and where the gaps are in being able to forge a positive, hopeful future for the community. Community leaders/mentors will actively engage with youth in an outdoor excursion intended to reveal what's in place, but more importantly, to reinforce the connections and relationship between adults and youth in a practical, experiential situation that is directly tied with the land and resource base of the community. These practical experiences help reveal youth and adult insights on what's possible as a precursor to the group's strategy session.
- Joint Youth & Adult strategy session: Looking at the vision, the underlying contradictions, the supports needed to freight individual and collective transformation and our sense of our local assets, culture, needs and opportunities as a community, what actions inform our strategies to launch our vision and address our contradictions? Workshop: What accomplishments signal progress toward our collective Vision? (Identify the small miracle that signals progress)
- Joint Youth & Adult Implementation Planning: who will do what to launch our collective effort for the Strategic plan? (3 month game plan)
- Joint Youth & Adult Planning the Miracle: Designating and choosing the immediate miracle the collective community can do together to demonstrate collective capacity to invest, implement and achieve powerful results together
- 3 Days – Miracle Implementation – Youth & community create the miracle, work alongside each other and achieve something meaningful as a start to a new pathway of collaboration & cooperation
- Community celebration – lunch or dinner together; feast, movie viewing of journey together, sharing the experience with each other, with other communities eager to know 'what's happening here' – telling the story, imagining the future, defining Next Steps together. Blessing ceremony to sanctify the community's work toward transformation.

(See Image of Timeline)

### **Outcomes**

The immediate outcomes of this project, listed below, will support the community's continued efforts to restore collaborative engagement between the Youth and Adults of the Kake community. However the experience the community will have during the course of producing these outcomes will set the tone and example of *how* the community can come together to discuss and problem solve around their most fundamental issues, and, explore effective ways to use the community's cultural, natural and human assets to come together in positive, mutually supportive and productive ways.

- Shared Vision for the future of Kake, developed by the Youth, Elders and community
- Member-defined priorities for nurturing the spirit of community to support long-term transformation among individuals and families within Kake
- Strategic plan to achieve the vision, address underlying contradictions and mobilize assets, resources and opportunities to create momentum across the entire community
- Defined pathways to renew and sustain mutually invested *relationship* between youth and adults in Kake
- A video record and memory-journal of the community's efforts to launch their journey together – to support Kake's role and capacity to model this work for other Villages and communities (through video story telling instead of having outsiders present during the vulnerable periods of the community's work together)
- A 'miracle' at the end of the session to engage the community in immediately producing a small 'miracle' (identified in the strategic plan) to signal that the process does not end with the creation of the plan, but is at the beginning of the community's journey to unleash and actualize their capacity to be champions with and for each other – together.
- Community celebration & ceremony to lay the groundwork for the next steps in the journey together

**Budget**

<b>Provider</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
TA Team (4 Youth + 4 Adults) 2.5 weeks	Transport, Lodging		\$21,093
TA Team	Food \$25/day/person * # days		\$3,800
TA Team	Material Supplies	\$300	\$300
TA Team 2 weeks	Service Fee	\$24,000	\$24,000
Motivational Presenter 5 days Time	Transport, Food, Lodging \$1925 +\$150	\$2,075	\$2,075
Motivational Presenter	Service Fee	\$2,000	\$2,000
Community	12 Lunches for 65 people each lunch \$5.5/lunch* 65ppl * 12 meals	\$4,290	\$4,290
Community	2 Feasts/Dinners for 250 people: \$8/meal* 250 people * 2 feasts	\$4,000	\$4,000
Community	'Miracle Money' – funds to support the immediate implementation of a small miracle identified in the Strategic Plan	\$5,000	\$5,000
Community	Local Fuel – Participant Transport for Exploration Teams @ \$10/gallon x 10 gallons x 10 vehicles	\$1,000	\$1,000
		<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,558</b>

PROJECT TOTAL: \$67,558  
**FNDI REQUESTED AMOUNT: \$20,000**  
 UNMET NEED: \$47,558