

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2016

Alaska



Janet C. Burns Athanas

Bethel Alaska 4-H Youth Development Educator

Home: Petaluma, CA

Nominated by: Alaska 4-H

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Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Joined the Extension program in Bethel, AK, in 1993, and was recruited to develop a youth program between the City of Bethel Alaska and UAF 4-H in 1995. Offered projects in Baseball, Soccer, Archery, Rifle, Gardening, Sewing, Rabbits, Cooking, Computer Lab, Dog Obedience, Ornithology and Robotics. Worked with National Guard, CYFAR and 21st Century Learning Centers, Diabetes Prevention, Tobacco Cessation and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program.

Honors: NAE-4HA Achievement in Service Award, Alaska Municipal League Program of Excellence Award, Alaska Parks and Recreation Department Distinguished Service Award, Melvin Jones Fellow. Past President Alaska Chapter

of NAE4-HA, State 4-H Shooting Sports Coordinator.

Biography:

Janet joined the Extension program in Bethel, AK, in 1993. In 1995 she was recruited to develop a youth program between the City of Bethel Alaska and UAF 4-H. She had a building, a staff member and no defined programs. Janet built collaborations and partnerships with every person, agency and business she could find. They offered many 4-H Projects: Baseball, Soccer, Archery, Rifle, Gardening, Sewing, Rabbits, Cooking, Computer Lab, Dog Obedience, Ornithology and Robotics. The 4-H after school and summer youth programs were a safe haven for children into the evening hours. Janet worked with USDA Child Nutrition Programs and fed community youth lunches, snacks and dinners.

Janet wrote grants to enhance the programs. She hired Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) youth and worked with Camp Fire Girls Rural Programs. It was the only 4-H Program to work with the Power of Youth Initiative. She worked with the National Guard deployment in rural communities and partnered with CYFAR and 21st Century Learning Centers, Diabetes Prevention, Tobacco Cessation and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program. Developed 4-H Projects in Baseball, Soccer, Archery, Rifle, Gardening, Sewing, Rabbits, Cooking, Computer Lab, Dog Obedience, Ornithology and Robotics.

Quote:

Janet served as the face of UAF in a remote community centered in Yupik culture and subsistence lifestyle. As Director of the Bethel 4-H Youth Center and Director of Parks and Recreation, her organizational and fund development skills brought in many amenities that continue to be enjoyed by Bethel youth and families. The sustained relationship between UAF and the city would not have been possible without the strong foundation built by Janet's community minded spirit and highly successful grant writing skills. As Janet stated, "Over 50% of Bethel youth interact with the programs through the City of Bethel and the 4-H Program, and that is my greatest accomplishment."

- Deb Jones, Alaska 4-H Program Leader