

Haa Tóoch Lichéesh FY' 25 Annual Report



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Who We Are

Haa Tóoch Lichéesh - We believe it is possible.

Haa Tóoch Lichéesh—"We believe it is possible"—is a grassroots coalition rooted in an Indigenized worldview, bridging belonging across identities and committed to the framework and practice of healing justice. Grounded in Lingít Aaní and guided by culture, we work across Juneau and Southeast Alaska to prevent violence, promote healing, and dismantle systems of racial, gender-based, ableist, and colonial oppression. Through trauma-informed, survivor-centered approaches, our programs, projects, and partnerships aim to create the conditions for healing and wellness from the inside out—nurturing sustainable, just, and interdependent communities. Every day, we recommit to collective care, accountability, and unity, recognizing both the challenge and the urgency of this work in the face of historical and ongoing harm.

Mission & Vision: We envision a socially just community in a reciprocal, healthy relationship with the land and with each other. Guided by the wisdom of our ancestors, we reckon with injustice and commit to healing and liberation, while honoring our interdependence. Together, we are imagining and creating a community free from violence.

History

In 2003, the Juneau Violence Prevention Coalition (JVPC) was created to bring together local partners in creating and implementing a community-driven strategic plan to prevent violence and promote healthy relationships. As our work evolved, it became clear that truly transformative violence prevention must be rooted in cultural accountability and led by those most impacted.

In 2017, following years of deep relational groundwork and in the wake of personal and collective tragedy, the coalition restructured. Over a year of deep listening circles, our Executive Director and Board President reimagined the coalition through a lens of regenerative conflict, Indigenous values, and decolonial practice. The coalition reemerged as the Haa Tóoch Lichéesh Coalition in 2018.

In 2024, Haa Tóoch Lichéesh was formally founded as an independent 501(c)(3). Today, we are forging a new path that centers community voice, relational leadership, and the restoration of healthy systems. As a coalition, our strength lies in relationships. With over 30 partner organizations—from tribal governments and grassroots groups to schools, local businesses, and regional entities—we're working together toward a shared vision: a Southeast Alaska free from violence. Our model centers collaboration, mutual accountability, and collective care—anchored in relationships and rooted in culture.

Leadership

For many years, Haa Tóoch Lichéesh was led by a Visionary Council to guide the direction of the coalition through their meaningful ties within the community. Gunalchéesh, Háw'aa, Qu yana, Chin'an, Thank You to all who served on our Visionary Council: T'óok' Xoo Háni Alicia Maryott, See.ei Cecelia Westman, Corlé LaForce, Kaatssaawaa Della Cheney, Dáxkílatch Kolene James, Meryl Connelly-Chew, Kaasei Naomi Michalsen, and Chooshdatláa Nicole Anderson.

Thank you to beloved Elders Kaatssaawaa Della Cheney and the late Kaaxkwhei Leona Santiago, as well as co-founder and mentor Dáxkílatch Kolene James for your ongoing support and wisdom.

Since founding as a 501(c)3 nonprofit, Haa Tóoch Lichéesh has been led by a Board of Directors including; Kaatssaawaa Della Cheney, Guiding Elder; Dáxkílatch Kolene James, Board President; and T'óok' Xoo Háni Alicia Maryott, Board Secretary.

Coalition

To date, HTL collaborates with over 36 organizational partners (listed below) that are committed to walking alongside each other as we build a community and region free from violence. Together, we are part of something much larger than ourselves, and that gives us strength.

Partners contribute in diverse ways, guided by their capacity and the extent to which their missions align with our shared goals and focus areas. From in-kind donations and co-implementation to integrating anti-racist and liberatory organizational change opportunities, partnership looks different for everyone. Our methodology is deeply informed by a number of political, spiritual and educational traditions as well as 'real time' learning where continued learning and deepening into nuance re-shape and transform us and our work.

The following list contains the partners we have worked most closely with over the past 4 years:

Alaska's Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault, Alaska Quaker Friends, Alaska Just Transition, Cedar Group, Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, City and Borough of Juneau Public Libraries, Discovery Southeast, Ecotrust, EMA Foundation, First Alaskans Institute, Four H, Goldbelt Heritage Foundation, Juneau Montessori School, John J. and Frank Sparacio Charitable Foundation, Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition, Kaasei Indigenous Foodways, Kaayani Sisters, KTOO Public Media, NAMI Juneau, Native Movement, Planned Parenthood G.N.W.H.A.I.K., Pride Foundation, Southeast Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children, Southeast Alaska Conference, Southeast Alaska Independent Living, Southeast Alaska Watershed Coalition, Sealaska Heritage Institute, Sitkans Against Family Violence, Sustainable Southeast Partnership, The Nature Conservancy, University of Alaska Southeast/UAS Native & Rural Student Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks/ Cooperative Extension, Woosh.ji.Een Dance Group, City and Borough of Juneau Zach Gordon Youth Center/Services.

Theory of Change

Healing and Transformation: Doing inner work is necessary to do the outer work. We will prioritize our own healing, wellness, and full expression of our authentic selves. We start here.

Centering Relationships and Working Across Generations: Building community connectedness and a community of care through the coalition. We will create intentional spaces of belonging that are intergenerational, inclusive, and regenerative to sustain and support each and every one of us.

Learning and Unlearning: We will commit to an ongoing journey of self-discovery and practice within areas that inspire, nourish, and challenge what we already know. We also recognize that the work is beyond simply shifting our moral consciousness and needs to be oriented towards action.

Remembering the Past to Build a Collective Future: Changing systems of oppression through legal, policy, and institutional advocacy. We will look to our ancestors and those most impacted by violence to build a future for all.

Goals

Nurturing a Community of Care for a Collective Future

Organizational Learning and Transformation

- Build and strengthen a strong, interconnected network for healing justice across SE AK.
- Facilitate cross-sector learning and unlearning.
- Support organizations in developing accessible, inclusive, and actively anti-racist practices, policies, programs.
- Identify funding mechanisms and partnership opportunities that sustain long-term, regional healing justice initiatives.

Healing Through Culture, Identity, and Belonging

Cultivating Healers and Healing Spaces

- Convene healers and leaders to co-create regional healing-centered leadership and accountability strategies.
- Invest in coalition members and staff through professional development, training, and capacity-building as healers and leaders.
- Expand access to programs that foster healing through culture and belonging, prioritizing those most impacted by harm.
- Create accessible spaces that uplift safety, well-being, visibility, and joy.

Weaving our Voices; Honoring Our Relations

Truth Telling and Accountability

- Lead community-driven truth-telling, reparations, and healing efforts.
- Expand community dialogues on racial justice, Indigenous sovereignty, and historical accountability.
- Develop and distribute tools for community lead dialogues and workshops centered on racial equity, relationship building, accountability, and healing.
- Train community members, educators, and justice practitioners to integrate restorative and transformative justice practices into broader community structures.

Organizational Development & Sustainability

- Strengthen board governance, leadership development, and community engagement.
- Develop and implement policies rooted in healing justice that reflect equity and liberation.
- Build sustainable internal processes and secure sustainable funding that support the long-term success of HTL as an organization.
- Strengthen systems for measuring impact, evaluating effectiveness, and amplifying stories of transformation.



FY '25: Birthing a Nonprofit

(July 2024 - June 2025)

Haa Tóoch Lichéesh's transition into independent nonprofithood led us down a path of deep learning and transformation. We dove into policy, system, and plan creation with the goal of creating a sustainable and caring organization. We learned hard truths about the work we can and cannot hold when we walk through grief. Our community held us through this steep climb, and as we reached the end of our first year, we celebrated.

Even through change there were great accomplishments, we provided consistent care to our youth spaces, held joyful and healing community events, and supported coalition partner programming.

Nearly all of our programming in FY2025 was co-hosted or co-sponsored with a Coalition partner organization. Even through organizational change within HTL, our partners supported us in co-creating our shared vision of community healing. Aatléin Gunalchéesh to our partners.

Nurturing a Community of Care for a Collective Future

Organizational Learning and Transformation

- **Partnership in Programming:**
 - Co-sponsored 7 ongoing programs and annual events (Wellness Wednesdays, The Alliance, Lingít Language Class, ANDORE Trainings, Orange Shirt Day, Queer Dip, and Youth Pride Party)
- **Caring for Coalition**
 - Convened partners for strategic planning
 - HTL Birthday Party with 32 attendees
 - Discovery SE Board & Staff Training

Healing Through Culture, Identity, and Belonging

Cultivating Healers and Healing Spaces

- **Kayaaní Áwé Náakw̓ Sitee / Plant Medicine Workshops**
 - Hosted a Plant Teachings for Social Emotional Skills Train the Trainers Workshop with 20 participants.
 - Hosted a Sealaska Heritage Institute Opening the Box of Knowledge Intern who shared plant knowledge with peers through plant walk, presentation, and capstone website.
 - Brought plant medicine to community including but not limited to:

- FAI Elders and Youth Conference, Riverview Senior Living, Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition Potluck, Conferences, Gatherings, Public Events, and Juneau elementary, middle and high schools. .
- ***Celebrating Queer Joy***
 - Co-hosted a Queer Dip during Pride Month with 50 adult and 10 youth attendees.
 - Co-hosted the Annual Youth Pride Party, with 71 youth participants.
 - Supported a Unity in the Queer Community Celebration with staff and a tea bar.
 - Held 5 Queer Wellbeing Workshops facilitated by Trans BIPOC community members.
- ***Affirming Youth Spaces***
 - Co-hosted The Alliance, a weekly after-school space for LGBTQ+ middle school students and their allies.
 - Co-hosted The Wellness Resource Center, an identity & culturally-affirming space for High School students to access emotional safety & regulation, relevant resources, and trusted adults.
 - Over 140 Youth came to a coalition hosted event at their school in FY 25
- ***Cultural Healing Activities***
 - Hosted two semesters of Lingít Language Class garnering 145 registrants.
 - Held a 5-day healing family camp serving 22 Youth, 17 Adults and 2 Elders from the communities of Saxman, Ketchikan, and Metlakatla.

Weaving our Voices; Honoring Our Relations

Truth Telling and Accountability

- ***Supporting Accountability:***
 - Facilitated community gift preparation at HTL healing spaces and 3 elementary schools to prepare ceremonial medicine and art in support of the Kake & Angoon U.S. Navy Apologies. Delivered medicine and art to those in attendance at both ceremonies.
- ***Awareness & Remembrance***
 - Held an Orange Shirt Day awareness sign waving event in recognition of Indigenous Boarding School victims and survivors.
 - Hosted two public events that brought in song and ceremony in an effort to recognize community grief and celebrate the lives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP). More than 50 community members attended each event.
 - Co-hosted cleanup days caring for Lawson Creek Cemetery.
 - Supported a community memorial following the public shooting of community member Steven Kissak.
- ***Training for Healthy Communities:***
 - Co-facilitated a one-day Alaska Native Dialogue on Racial Equity training for University Students and Faculty affiliated with the Native and Rural Student Center.

- Gathered an Indigenous Cohort to finalize cocreated Lateral KINDness curriculum with activities centered on kinship and care.
- Co-facilitated a Statewide Restorative Justice Symposium, modeling reflection and accountability.

Organizational Development & Sustainability

- Transitioned into non-profit status successfully.
- Received the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Culture of Health Prize in recognition of Juneau Alaska.
- Regularly held staff reflection spaces to ideate on ongoing organizational policy implementation.



FY '26: Rooting Into the Work

(July 2025 - June 2026)

As Haa Tóoch Lichéesh settles into our new way of being, we aspire to deepen relationships and nurture our values throughout our programming. Our goals this fiscal year are to assess community needs and map out spaces of care that can weave us together. Alongside close partners and allies, we will provide our community with opportunities to connect to each other, our cultures, and the land that holds us dearly.

Nurturing a Community of Care for a Collective Future

Organizational Learning and Transformation

- **Caring for Coalition**
 - Build on coalition partnerships through regular gatherings and strategic programmatic partnership.
 - Increase Regional Partner interconnection and communication efforts.
- **Seeding Connections**
 - Identify routes of increased inclusion of AAPI, Black, and Hispanic community members.
 - Increase youth engagement in strategic planning and program implementation
 - Invite more Elders into programming and create mentorship opportunities.
- **Identifying the Way Forward**
 - Complete Juneau Community Needs Report & Strategic Planning
 - Complete Regional Healing Needs Report & Strategic Planning

Healing Through Culture, Identity, and Belonging

Cultivating Healers and Healing Spaces

- **Regional Healer Network**
 - Facilitate the monthly Southeast Sustainable Partnership Healing Meeting.
 - Build relationships with healers across Southeast Alaska to increase regional connectivity of healers.
- **Cultural Mentorship**
 - Create opportunities for cultural knowledge, local plants, and/or healing-centered mentorship.
- **Kayaani Áwé Náakw̥ Sitee / Plant Medicine Workshops**
 - Hold community harvests to share knowledge and promote connection to place.
 - Create shareable materials to facilitate learning related to local plants.
- **Celebrating Queer Joy**

- Continue holding Queer Wellbeing Workshops for LGBTQ+ adults.
- Co-host community events including the Annual Youth Pride Party and Pride Outside.
- **Affirming Youth Spaces**
 - Continue holding identity & culturally-affirming spaces for middle and high school students through The Alliance and The Wellness Resource Center.
 - Successfully transition The Wellness Resource Center to Yaak̄oosgé Daakahídi Alternative High School.
 - Pilot Alumni Dinner for Juneau's Emergency Youth Shelter.
- **Cultural Healing Activities**
 - Host two semesters of Lingít Language Classes.
 - Host public ocean dips, a traditional Indigenous practice for emotional and physical regulation and release, to care for our community through winter.
 - Increase healing-centered cultural practices across ancestral heritages including Northwestern European, Pacific Islander, Filipino, Latino, etc.

Weaving our Voices; Honoring Our Relations

Truth Telling and Accountability

- **Supporting Accountability**
 - Uphold our value of transformative justice by promoting open communication and willingness to move through conflict with care.
- **Awareness & Remembrance**
 - Uplift healing activities in support of those affected by Indigenous Boarding Schools.
 - Offer grief ceremonies within applicable programming.
- **Training for Healthy Communities**
 - Continue facilitation of Alaska Native Dialogue on Racial Equity dialogues.
 - Cultivate partnership with aligned organizations to advance shared community education and training goals.

Organizational Development & Sustainability

- Continue regular reflection and reconsideration of decolonized organizational policies.
- Build and maintain systems for clearer finance, fundraising, and reporting structures.
- Strengthen staff skills in fundraising and grant writing for increased financial abundance.
- Complete successful onboarding of two new staff members.