

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Cedeno  
907-539-9994  
ohpublicsafety@ymail.com

## **“Respect” is Just the Beginning at Old Harbor!**

**Old Harbor, AK.** – On Friday March 27th, the entire community of Old Harbor got up early to hurry about putting the last touches on what has become to them a very important day in their battle against domestic violence, sexual assault and child maltreatment. This day alone signifies their entire community’s commitment to fight this evil together. Children hurried about painting the marching signs, adults were checking that everything was set just right, while elders looked on in amazement at how the whole village has been changing. Seeing the children excited and happy about the signs that they had made to be a part in the march brought smiles to the elders’ faces.

Beginning with a rally at the school’s gym, to a full house of adults, children, elders, and community leaders, music played in the background planting a seed in everyone’s mind about what was about to happen. The new Girl Scouts Troop 117 opened up the event with the marching in of our national flag and leading everyone to the Pledge of Allegiance. VPSO Jim Cedeno continued as MC of the event by sharing with the audience the importance of this campaign in the journey towards building a more resilient community. Tribal President Stella Krumrey and Mayor Rick Berns shared a few words of inspiration with their community. But, all of the audience stood up and the Old Harbor Tribal Pre-School class sang in the Alutiiq Song Unuku. Youths Angel Christiansen, Olivia Selanoff and Freya Larionoff stood in front of the audience, took a very deep breath, and told the group what “Respect” meant to them, how you show respect, and why respect is such an important thing in our lives.

After the rally, everyone grabbed a sign and marched outside into the rain to shout to the whole community what they stood for with voices loud enough for the heavens to hear. A bar-be-cue at the end gave everyone, once again, the opportunity to share their emotions, compare their signs, and, most important, share their stories, knowing that they were part of a stronger community who has learned to fight back and no longer live in despair.

Bobbi Anne Barnowsky, the Tribal Administrator and March organizer stated “Making our community stronger means making our people more confident, building stronger connections, strong character and the realization that we have control of the outcomes. Together, we are changing our world!”.

###