

KANA celebrates 20 years of service

by Vicki Sullivan
for the Tundra Times

KODIAK — The Kodiak Area Native Association celebrated its 20th anniversary earlier this month, and community health practitioners Betty Nelson of Port Lions and Joyce Smith of Ouzinkie were honored with awards for health care services to village residents.

Nelson said the organization has come a long way from the days of working out of homes with no organization.

"There were many anxious hours spent for the provider, not to mention the anxiety of the patient left in the

hands of this unlearned, unskilled new health person," she said.

Today, however, Nelson said modern clinics are a pleasure to work in.

"It doesn't seem possible that 20 years have gone by since KANA was first formed," she said. "Looking way back then I am proud to be part of this organization and am looking forward to many more exciting and fruitful years."

And she said that only in Alaska, "with its wonderful people could such a thing come from nothing and in 20 short years become what we are today."