

Linda S. Thibodeau

Director

Division of Libraries, Archives,
& Museums

lam.alaska.gov

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Robert C. Banghart

Chief Curator

Alaska State Museums

395 Whittier St.

Juneau, Alaska 99801-1718

907.465.2901

Press Release

ALASKA STATE MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 16, 2012

**March First Friday at Alaska State Museum
Opening of the Exhibit, "Out of the Rain: Portraits of people emerging
from homelessness in Alaska's Capital City"**

JUNEAU – With the opening of the exhibition, "Out of the Rain: Portraits of people emerging from homelessness in Alaska's Capital City," the Alaska State Museum will be open with extended hours on March 2, First Friday, with free admission from 4 to 8 p.m.

"When Alisha was 15 years old, both her parents died of AIDS and her cousin was assigned as her guardian. Alisha suffered from severe depression and didn't feel safe with her guardian. Her guardian eventually asked her to leave."

Thus begins one of the stories of a diverse group of men and women, families, children and youth in Juneau revealed in the exhibit at the Alaska State Museum, "Out of the Rain: Portraits of people emerging from homelessness in Alaska's Capital City." In the show, local photographer Jordan Nigro has captured twelve insightful images of members of our community such as Alisha, who know firsthand what it's like to be without a regular, safe and decent place to sleep. In concert with the Juneau Homeless Coalition, Jordan seeks to break the stereotypes commonly held about homelessness and help find solutions for this ongoing dilemma. The exhibit includes short narratives gleaned through conversations with the participants who have graciously offered to share their stories.

In its effort to end homelessness in our community, The Juneau Homeless Coalition establishes, develops, and strengthens relationships among its 23 partner agencies as well as with clients, public officials, and community stakeholders that care about the issue of homelessness. This exhibit is also generously supported by the United Way Southeast Alaska and Wells Fargo.

Complementing the exhibit opening held on March 2 First Friday, guest speaker Nancy Burke, Program Officer for the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, will address a free lecture beginning at 6:30 p.m. entitled "Housing First: A new approach to old lessons for housing the chronically homeless."

In conjunction with the Juneau Homeless Coalition, the State Museum is also hosting a series of free lectures on the impact of homelessness in our community, featuring a different speaker each week (see separate press release.)

Winter hours at the museum are 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. **Free admission to the exhibit that will run through April 21 is available to those who bring a donation of canned food for the Southeast Alaska Food Bank.** Regular discounted winter admission is \$3. Visitors 18 and under are admitted free of charge. An annual pass that allows unlimited visits to the Alaska State Museum and the Sheldon Jackson Museum in Sitka is available for \$15. Assistance is available for visitors with special needs. Please contact Visitor Services at 465-2901 before the visit.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

395 Whittier, Juneau, AK

Phone (907) 465-2901 Fax (907) 465-2976

www.museums.state.ak.us

[return to top](#)

[press releases](#) | [Alaska State Museum](#)