



**Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Kinship Navigator
Respite Program**

PGST Kinship Navigator Program was established in 2016

- A Kinship Navigator can determine immediate needs and direct families through the often unfamiliar and intimidating public and private resource system that can help stabilize situations facing kinship caregivers.
- PGST works with kinship placements to establish self-sufficiency and the long-term stability necessary to keep children out of foster care.
- In cases where the children are placed through the child welfare system, we work with the kinship placements to provide support, resources and stability.

Incorporating Cultural with Kinship Support

- PGST offers a number of cultural activities, during which we have a speaker to talk with the kinship providers about challenges they face and finding solutions.
- This creates a support system with our service providers, the kinship placements and address's the needs of the families to promote stability and success with the families.
- We have done cedar weaving, wool weaving, drum and rattle making as some of the activities. The children in kinship placement also participate.

Kinship at Port Gamble S'Klallam

- Our kinship navigator is an enrolled tribal elder, Donna Jones, who just retired on Friday, June 3, 2022.
- Being a trusted elder in the community she was extremely effective working with our families, and they trust her, which allows them to come to her with any problems and questions they may encounter.
- Donna also helped facilitate our S'Klallam Positive Indian Parenting curriculum, along with a mental health counselor and some of the graduates of the program. This parenting curriculum, was developed through our IVE Waiver, incorporating S'Klallam values and traditions.

- Through our kinship navigator program, we have been able to help families that we would not have been able to help using other resources, the flexibility of the program is a benefit to the tribal community and the families we serve.
- The Kinship Navigator office is located in the Children & Family Services building, allowing a wrap around service approach with other service providers, such as ICW, TANF, Child Support, Together for Children (Maternal Home Visiting), SNAP, and other support services.

Outreach

- We advertise in the tribal memo/newspaper, giving information about any activities, support services, cultural events and classes to make sure we reach out to all the families who may need support.
- The Navigator also does personal outreach, working with staff on referrals to do any prevention needed to avoid court action and keep the children with family.
- We do this by having staffing's with our ICW staff, the Foster Care Coordinator and our other services providers located at the tribe as well as our outside partners.

Thank you and Contact Information

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