Dionisio Barboza Named 2018 Alutiiq Museum Volunteer of the Year

On Valentines Day, the Alutiiq Museum likes to show a little love for its volunteers. Every February we honor someone who has contributed meaningfully to our mission with our Volunteer of the Year award. For 2018, by unanimous staff vote, Niche Barboza is our winner.

Barboza moved to Kodiak in 2017 with his wife Amanda Lancaster, the museum’s collections and facilities manager. A life-long Texan, he was excited to explore Kodiak’s mountains and sea shores, but unsure what sort of community he would find. The long trip to Alaska was eye-opening but the reception in Kodiak friendly. Barboza, who has worked in the food industry for years, found a job as a medical dietary aid at the hospital. Here he designs meals to meet patient needs.

“I work with the patients to make sure that their food is good for them, and I really enjoy it. My job got me more interested in helping out in the community, and since my wife works at the museum, that was a good place to start.”

While it is common for the spouses of staff members to lend a hand at the museum, Barboza’s support represents an entirely new level of dedication. In the past year he has given his time to move crates, assemble shelving and desks, organize library books, and type large quantities of data into spreadsheets. He recently spent three days rearranging and organizing museum storage areas with staff members. His work schedule allows him to help out during the day, and his interest in history makes it fun. We thank Niche for his hours of assistance and for lending a hand to so many different projects. 

Quyanaa Niche, we are glad to have you in Kodiak.

Alutiiq Museum volunteers help set up for events, greet visitors, identify historic photographs, organize collections, work with archaeologists, serve on our advisory committees and much more. To learn more about volunteering at the museum, please contact us at 844-425-8844. We welcome all volunteers. No prior experience is necessary, and we will find an opportunity to fit your schedule.

The Alutiiq Museum is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and culture of the Alutiiq, an Alaska Native tribal people. Representatives of Kodiak Alutiiq organizations govern the museum with funding from charitable contributions, memberships, grants, contracts, and sales.

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