



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE ALASKA PUBLIC RADIO NETWORK AND STORYCORPS
LAUNCH INITIATIVE TO RECORD ORAL HISTORIES OF ALASKANS**

StoryCorps Alaska Will Record More than 500 Stories of Everyday Alaskans in Six-Month Initiative.

Alaska – (October 15, 2008) – Today, StoryCorps, the acclaimed project to create an oral history of America, together with the Alaska Public Radio Network, launched a new initiative to collect the diverse voices and life experiences of Alaskans. StoryCorps will record over 500 personal interviews that will be preserved at Alaska institutions and organizations, and at the oral history project's growing archive at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.

StoryCorps has visited all of the lower 48 states since beginning operation in 2003 and will venture to Alaska just as the organization reaches its fifth year anniversary in October 2008, and as Alaska moves towards its fiftieth anniversary of statehood in January 2009. For the Alaska Initiative, StoryCorps will facilitate interviews, hosted by community-based organizations, local radio stations, educational institutions and membership organizations from October 15, 2008, through April 30, 2009, in **Fairbanks, Nome, Barrow, Dillingham, Unalaska and Juneau**. StoryCorps will also be helping people who live in other parts of Alaska record their own stories.

"StoryCorps looks forward to capturing and preserving real life stories from the people who experienced them," says Dave Isay, the founder of StoryCorps. "Sharing these stories honors our history, encourages appreciation of our Elders and our traditions, and captures the true spirit of our community."

"By celebrating our shared humanity and collective identity, our partnership with StoryCorps will help ensure the rich heritage of Alaskans will be presented and preserved with dignity," says Duncan Moon, Managing Editor, Alaskan Public Radio Network (APRN). APRN will be broadcasting 13 local stories statewide. Select stories from StoryCorps' national archive are also aired every Friday on National Public Radio's Morning Edition.

A StoryCorps interview is a 40-minute conversation between people who know each other. It is also a conversation in which the participants choose what they want to talk about. At the end of the interview, participants will receive a free broadcast-quality CD to take home and share, and a copy of the interview will be archived at the American Folklife Center at the Library of

Congress. Organizations that partner with StoryCorps Alaska will also receive an archive of all interview materials collected through their assistance.

How often does one get to ask a loved one, “What was the happiest moment of your life?”, “What are you most proud of?”, or “How do you want to be remembered?” Occasions rarely arise for shared reflection in everyday life, but StoryCorps—the most ambitious oral history project in American history—is recording these meaningful conversations and ensuring that personal stories live on for generations to come.

While in Alaska, in addition to APRN, organizations that StoryCorps will partner with also include: **First Alaska Institute, Anchorage; Alaska Heritage Museum, Anchorage; Inupiat Heritage Center, Barrow; Tuzzy Consortium Library, Ilisagvik College, Barrow; University of Alaska Rural College, Dillingham; Sealaska Heritage Foundation, Juneau; KTOO FM Public Radio, Juneau; Juneau Public Libraries, Juneau; Alaska State Library, Juneau; Nome Community Center, Nome; KIAL, Unalaska Community Broadcasting, Inc., Unalaska; Unalaska Public Library; Gustavus Public Library, Gustavus; Rasmuson Foundation, Anchorage; and the Kenai Community Library, Kenai.**

For more information about StoryCorps Alaska, Alaskans are encouraged to call the toll-free number, 888-723-7020, and to visit www.storycorpsalaska.net.

ABOUT ALASKA PUBLIC RADIO NETWORK

Based in Anchorage, the Alaska Public Radio Network is a member-based organization of 25 independent public radio stations spread across Alaska. These stations pool their resources to create and share news and public affairs programming of statewide value, boosting service to Alaska’s citizens. To learn more about Alaska Public Radio Network, visit <http://aprn.org/>.

ABOUT STORYCORPS

A Peabody Award winning not-for-profit, StoryCorps has helped tens of thousands of everyday people record and preserve the voices, experiences and stories of their lives. Millions listen to StoryCorps broadcasts on public radio and the Internet. Select stories have also been published in the New York Times bestselling book, *Listening Is an Act of Love* (Penguin Press). StoryCorps is one of the largest oral history projects of its kind, creating a growing portrait of who we really are as Americans.

STORYCORPS ALASKA SCHEDULE

City	Interview Dates
Barrow	10/15/2008 – 4/30/2009
Dillingham	10/15/2008 – 4/30/2009
Nome	10/15/2008 – 4/30/2009
Unalaska	10/15/2008 – 4/30/2009
Juneau	1/5/2009 – 1/30/2009
Fairbanks	10/15/2008 – 4/30/2009

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