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Crystal Collier - A Community Contributor

by Mary Glover



Crystal, after a busy day in her office at the SVT building, and she is still smiling!

Crystal Collier was born in Seldovia. Darlene Crawford is her mother and Norman Kashevarof is her father. John Crawford is her step-father. Crystal was second to the oldest in a family of two girls and two boys. As of the writing of this article, Crystal's sister, Kimberly, lives in Anchorage and works as an accountant. She has one brother, Norman, who lives in Minnesota and one brother, Donald, who also lives in Anchorage.

When asked what it was like growing up in Seldovia, Crystal's first response was "Fun!" (Now, how many adults reading this article can identify with this statement?) Crystal stated that there were about 175 kids in the school. As it is today, Crystal stated that the community was involved in raising the children. There were many activities, actually

Crystal's family has four "C's" and one "K." "C" (Crystal) and "K" (Kim) were high school sweethearts. They were married in Washington state. They have four children: Chancelen (we all know by "Chance"), Colton, Cortney and Calem. Chancelen and Colton are now attending UAA, Courtney is a freshmen at SBE School (high school) and Calem is in third grade. One of the reasons that Crystal and Kim chose to raise their children in Seldovia is "because of the wonderful community Seldovia is" and also because they would be surrounded by family. Both Kim, Kim's parents (Lou and Marion Collier) and my parents (John and Darlene Crawford) live here. The Grandparents have been active in our children's lives and a great blessing to us. We also love the outdoors, enjoying hiking and fishing in the summer." Kim is employed by the Borough/SNA/SVT and does the

more than now, just because there were more people to plan and execute the activities. Crystal was a Seldovia Otters Cheerleader and was on the drill team. One year, her drill team even attended the Arctic Winter Games.

Crystal graduated one year early from high school having earned enough credits to do so. She then attended the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). During the summers, Crystal gained valuable work experience by working for the City of Seldovia, under the supervision of Elaine Giles. Elaine was a wonderful mentor. One of her earliest memories while working for the City was the time when she was Secretary to the City Manager, Dave Smith, who is Hugh Smith's brother. After completing college, Crystal returned to Seldovia and continued working for the Seldovia City Offices. She was the Deputy Clerk under numerous City Managers and Secretary to the Planning & Zoning Commission where she learned the zoning codes. She worked in this position for ten years and when Elaine Giles retired, Crystal also went another direction. Then in 1988, Crystal started working for the Seldovia Village Tribe as its CEO. Today the Seldovia Village Tribe employs more people than any other entity in town.

road maintenance with heavy equipment.

Crystal states, "My home life is very important to me...I am dedicated to my time with my husband, children and, of course, my relationship with the Lord is important to me and my family." Crystal has volunteered for the Ladies Basketball for many years and plays basketball on Wednesdays and Saturdays with the kids. She stated that it first started out as an activity for women and girls. Chance and Colton used to play with them until they reached high school. Now, Calem comes to play. Crystal stated, "We (Seldovia) are a basketball town." Crystal continues to be active on various boards including the Seldovia Tribal Council and Seldovia Native Association. She spent numerous years helping to make the Boys and Girls Club Building a reality. Through her position at the Tribe, she has spent the past 19 years creating programs that serve the people of Seldovia and Homer.

When asking Crystal what direction she saw for herself she stated, "Raising my kids to be productive citizens and staying healthy and contributing to the community. I think it is important that every one has a contribution." She also said that one of the hardest things about being in Seldovia all these years is that she sees all the good and bad and the changes and tries not to be very vocal about different issues. However, when it comes to her children and issues at the school, she has spoken out. Crystal is well known in our little community and she definitely has given and does give back to our community.



Collier Family Portrait 2006

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