

DoYon Foundation

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Doyon Foundation Annual Report

2006

It takes a village.



Message from Our Executive Director



Sharon McConnell Gillis.
Photo courtesy of Ellen Evans.

Sharon McConnell Gillis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ellen Evans
SCHOLARSHIP AND ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Lary Schafer
DIRECTOR, PROJECT ENHANCE

Bob Maguire
DIRECTOR, LEARNING STYLES CENTER

Joy Simon
CURRICULUM SPECIALIST, LEARNING STYLES CENTER

Daphne Huntington
SECRETARY/COORDINATOR, LEARNING STYLES CENTER

During 2005 – 2006, Helena “Lena” Hoffman also served as Director of Programs and Jon Laughlin served as Director of Project ENHANCE.

When I think back on this past fiscal year, I see a year filled with accomplishments and positive progress toward our mission to promote self-reliance and the economic and social well-being of Doyon's shareholders and descendants, and to strengthen our Native culture and heritage through education.

In 2005 – 2006, we awarded a total of \$291,532 in scholarships to 460 students pursuing higher education. We celebrated with the Effie Kokrine Charter School when it received a grant that will enable its high school students to ultimately graduate with an associate's degree in addition to a high school diploma.

We also continued managing two grants for the Association of Interior Native Educators, which is leading Project ENHANCE (Encouraging and Nurturing Highly Accomplished Native Certificated Educators) and the Learning Styles Center project. Through these projects, several students received their teacher certification; teachers obtained the tools they need to effectively communicate with their students; and cultural curriculum was developed based on the indigenous knowledge of our Alaska Native elders.

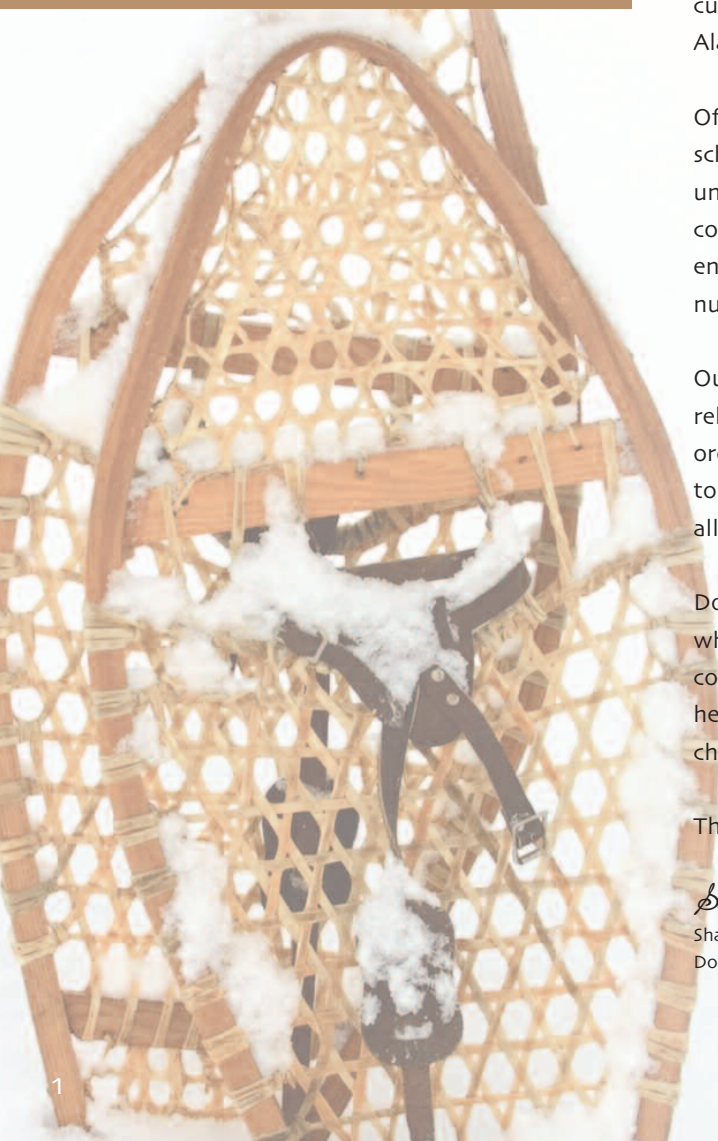
Of course, we recognize there is much more work to be done. High school drop-out rates – especially for Alaska Native students – are unacceptably high. Teacher retention rates – especially in our rural communities – need to be improved. And while more Alaska Natives are enrolling in post-secondary institutions and receiving degrees, the number needs to be higher.

Our success – and the success of our students and our communities – relies on all of us working together. From our generous donors to organizations that lead important projects, and our dedicated volunteers to parents who take the time to check their child's homework – we can all do our part.

Doyon Foundation scholarship recipient Erica Lord summed it up well when she said, “Education is one of our biggest tools to improve our conditions and make us all that more powerful of a community. The help of our community is essential. It takes a whole village to raise a child, right? Thanks for helping raise me up.”

Thank you for your support.

Sharon McConnell Gillis
Sharon McConnell Gillis
Doyon Foundation Executive Director



Message from Our Board

It is a time of change at Doyon Foundation, as we refocus our efforts on supporting and encouraging our students.

Over the past few years, we have made some excellent progress. Yet, we continue to see a decline in the number of students applying for Doyon Foundation scholarships – and an increase in the number of students dropping out of school.

The first step in addressing this challenge is understanding it. In 2007, we will travel to several communities and undertake several research projects where we will have the opportunity to listen and learn from our students. If you have thoughts to share, we want to hear from you.

Armed with this knowledge, we will develop new strategies to increase the success of all of our students – not just traditional students fresh out of high school, but also non-traditional students who are looking for a new career. And not just students who are pursuing a four-year degree, but also students who want a technical certificate – or maybe even a doctorate!

This refocusing of our efforts means we must scale back on other projects, so our staff of two can put their energy into accomplishing the goals set. For example, our basketball tournament will now be run by the World Eskimo Indian Olympics, and we will no longer sell raffle tickets. We believe this will allow us to get back to the basics – helping our students be successful.

There has also been a change to our board of directors. Long-time board member, Shane Derendoff, decided not to run for re-election. The open position has been filled by our newest board member, Edward “Eddie” Hebert. We thank Shane for his dedication and contributions over the years, and we welcome Eddie and the skills he brings to the table.

One thing that remains constant is our commitment to supporting our students and strengthening our communities through the work of Doyon Foundation. We invite you to join us in these efforts. Whether you have thoughts to share, time to volunteer, donations to contribute, or talents to offer, we welcome your support.



Dawn Dinwoodie.
Photo courtesy of Amanda Rothbarth.

Dawn Dinwoodie

Dawn Dinwoodie
Doyon Foundation Board President

About Doyon Foundation

The Doyon Foundation was established in 1989 by Doyon, Limited, the regional Native corporation for Interior Alaska. As the private foundation for Doyon, Limited, we serve the educational and cultural needs of Doyon's shareholders. Our mission is to promote self-reliance and the economic and social well-being of Doyon's shareholders and descendants and to strengthen our Native culture and heritage through education. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, we work to achieve our mission by providing scholarships, internships and mentors for Alaska Natives, as well as advocating for strong, healthy families and communities by offering education and cultural programs.



Bill Demoski of Galena watches his granddaughter, Justin Kokrine, cut fish.
Photo courtesy of Beverly Kokrine.

Board of Directors 2005-2006

Thank you to our dedicated board of directors, who generously donated their time and talents to help forward our mission during 2005 – 2006.

Dawn Dinwoodie, **PRESIDENT**
Shane Derendoff, **VICE PRESIDENT**
Sarah Sherry, **SECRETARY/TREASURER**
Josephine Malemute, **MEMBER**
Jennifer Maguire, **MEMBER**

We also welcome new board member, Edward “Eddie” Hebert, who began serving on the board in 2006.



Reverend David Salmon of Chalkyitsik.
Photo courtesy of Doyon, Limited.

Strengthening Our Future

Through Education

Many of our students are from rural communities, where the cost of living is very high and the distance from a college campus is very far. For these students, the decision to attend college is a major one – and the ability to pay for college is a significant factor in their decision.

With the support of our individual and corporate donors, we are proud to help these students achieve their educational aspirations, whether they are pursuing a technical certificate, an associate's, bachelor's or master's degree, or a doctorate.

Since our inception, we have provided scholarships to thousands of students, who have gone on to play a vital role in strengthening the future of our regional corporation, our villages and the state. Today, these students are employed in a wide variety of professions, ranging from lawyers and doctors, to teachers and engineers, to automotive mechanics and law enforcement officers.

Each year, we award competitive scholarships to full-time, Alaska Native higher education students. Twice a year, we also award basic scholarships, which range from \$200 - \$400, to part-time and full-time students.

The competitive scholarship recipients are selected by an independent scholarship committee, which reviews and scores each application packet. For more information on eligibility, the application process, or the selection process, please visit www.doyonfoundation.com.

*"Athabascans
never give up –*

they always keep going – for 10,000 years. Education is the most important weapon for Athabascan people today – use your education in a good way."

– Traditional Chief Reverend David
Salmon, Chalkyitsik

2005-2006 Competitive Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the 2005 – 2006 Doyon Foundation competitive scholarship recipients, who were awarded a total of \$115,000. For the full list of all 460 students who received scholarships from Doyon Foundation during 2005 – 2006, please visit www.doyonfoundation.com.

Erica Lord,
\$7,000 THOMPSON GRADUATE

Tiffani Ivey,
\$7,000 NATURAL RESOURCE GRADUATE

Roberta Wilson Ward,
\$7,000 GRADUATE

Kate Rajsich,
\$7,000 GRADUATE

Chasity Savage,
\$7,000 GRADUATE

Monty Hawkins,
\$4,000 Liberal Arts

Lillian DeWilde,
\$5,000 EDUCATION

Jeremy Guthrie,
\$5,000 NATURAL RESOURCE ENGINEERING

Ginessa Peter,
\$5,000 THOMPSON BUSINESS

Maureen Mayo,
\$4,000 VOCATIONAL

Kristopher Gallen,
\$3,000 EDUCATION (JR/SR)

Romeo Stickman,
\$3,000 EDUCATION (JR/SR)

Jamey Burke- Stoddard,
\$3,000 SCIENCE (JR/SR)

Nicole Mills,
\$3,000 BUSINESS (SPLIT)

Trinette Guyton,
\$3,000 BUSINESS (SPLIT)

Richard David Sr.,
\$3,000 MAHER COMMITTEE

Aaron Peters,
\$3,000 THOMPSON COMMITTEE

David Hertlein Jr.,
\$3,000 NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE

Agatha Erickson,
\$3,000 COMMITTEE CHOICE

Julianna Clock,
\$3,000 COMMITTEE CHOICE

Ashley Wallace,
\$3,000 NATURAL RESOURCE VOCATIONAL

Jeremy Maguire,
\$3,000 NATURAL RESOURCE RURAL
DEVELOPMENT

April Whitmire,
\$4,000 VOCATIONAL

Chelsea Royal,
\$3,000 HEALTH

Charles Ralston,
\$4,000 LIBERAL ARTS

Stephanie Sweetsir,
\$3,000 SOCIOLOGY/POLITICAL
SCIENCE/PSYCHOLOGY (SPLIT)

Heather Scales,
\$3,000 SOCIOLOGY/POLITICAL
SCIENCE/PSYCHOLOGY (SPLIT)

Katie Charlie,
\$5,000 KPMG ACCOUNTING

Drew Olson,
\$5,000 RUEDERICH ENGINEERING

Making a Difference

One student at a time

2005 - 2006 Scholarships

Total Awarded: \$291,532

In 2005 – 2006, we awarded a total of \$291,532 in competitive and basic scholarships to 460 part-time and full-time higher education students.

Scholarship Recipients' Class Standings

Class Standing	Percentages
Freshman	19%
Sophomore	17%
Junior	17%
Senior	8%
Graduates	7%
Associates	25%
Certificates	7%

Scholarship Recipients' Fields of Study

Fields of Study	Percentages
Business	19%
Liberal Arts	16%
Science	11%
Tech/Vocational	10%
Education	9%
Undeclared	5%
Justice	3%
Natural Resources	3%
General Studies	2%
Office	<.5%

Dorothy Walker

Dorothy Walker, Doyon Foundation's 2006 – 2007 Committee's Choice \$3,000 scholarship recipient, is planning to use her education to create positive changes in her home community of Holy Cross.

"I hope to become either a biologist, geologist or a forensic pathologist. I want to be very educated and then go back to Holy Cross to help with some issues there," she said. "I will learn more about the outside environment and human behaviors. Putting those two pieces of knowledge together will help me make Holy Cross a better environment, bettering nature and people's perspectives."

The UAF freshman, who is studying geology and sociology and is also involved in several campus clubs, credits Doyon Foundation for helping her to go to college.

"My family is not financially able to pay for my college, so I have to find ways to do that through scholarships. The Doyon Foundation is helping very much," she said.

Working Together



Ashley Kokrine. Photo courtesy of Ashley Kokrine.

Ashley Kokrine

Ashley Kokrine is still in high school, but she's already pursuing her college degree. The senior at Effie Kokrine Charter School is participating in the schools' early college program, which allows high school students to take dual-credit college classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). Ashley also receives funding for her college classes from Doyon Foundation.

"This program gives me a head start on my college career," said Ashley, who plans to study early childhood education and become an elementary school teacher. "I get college credits for free, and the teachers from my high school help me a lot with my college homework."

Ashley got her first taste of university life last summer, when she graduated with honors from the Rural Alaska Honors Institute (RAHI). Through the UAF program, high school students from rural Alaska live, eat and study at the university, which helps them make the transition to college life.

Financial assistance is just one way to support our students and encourage success within our communities. There are many organizations across the state undertaking diverse projects to do this, and we are proud to be part of several of these efforts.

Effie Kokrine Charter School

The Effie Kokrine Charter School, which opened in Fairbanks in August 2005, offers students grades 7 – 12 a curriculum that focuses on Alaska Native culture and college preparation. The school was the result of a successful collaboration between Fairbanks Native Association, Association of Interior Native Educators, the Tanana Chiefs Conference, University of Alaska College of Rural Alaska, the National Science Foundation's Alaska Federation of Natives Alaska Rural Systemic Initiative, and Doyon Foundation.

In 2006, the school received a \$526,140 grant that will enable its high school students to take dual-credit college classes at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and ultimately graduate with an associate's degree in addition to a high school diploma. The four-year grant, which comes from the Antioch University in Seattle and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is part of a nationwide program to encourage more Native American and Alaska Native students to go to college.



Laurence Saunders of Kaltag cuts up meat, while Mariah Neglaska watches on. Photo courtesy of Susan Paskvan.





Project ENHANCE

Project ENHANCE (Encouraging and Nurturing Highly Accomplished Native Certificated Educators) is working to increase the hire and first-year retention rate of certified Alaska Native and American Indian teachers, by providing financial support and mentorship opportunities. Several students were certified this year and are returning to teach in their home communities in rural Alaska – a factor we hope will encourage teacher retention and, in turn, increase student achievement.

The project is led by the Association of Interior Native Educators, with support from Doyon Foundation, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough, Yukon Flats and Yukon-Koyukuk school districts.

Learning Styles Center

For the past three years, the Learning Styles Center project has worked to train teachers in the Learning Styles preference philosophy, which recognizes each student has a unique way of learning. The project also continued the development of cultural curriculum based on the indigenous knowledge of our Alaska Native elders.

The project, which wraps up in 2007, is led by the Association of Interior Native Educators, with support from Doyon Foundation, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough and Yukon-Koyukuk school districts. For more information, please contact Learning Styles Center Director Bob Maguire at 907-459-2144.

The culturally based curriculum units developed by the Association of Interior Native Educators (AINE) are currently being used by educators in the following school districts/locations:

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
YUKON FLATS SCHOOL DISTRICT
YUKON-KOYUKUK SCHOOL DISTRICT
GATEWAY SCHOOL DISTRICT
KUSPUK SCHOOL DISTRICT
IDITAROD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOWER YUKON SCHOOL DISTRICT
LOWER KUSKOKWIM SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEW ZEALAND
NAVAJO INDIAN RESERVATION
FAIRBANKS CORRECTIONAL CENTER
PROJECT ENHANCE PROGRAM
ALASKA NATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM (FNSBSD)
CENTER FOR CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES (UAF)
ALASKA NATIVE KNOWLEDGE NETWORK (UAF)



Edward Alexander

When you hear about participants like Edward Alexander, it's clear that Project ENHANCE is working.

Edward, who is originally from Fort Yukon, returned to his home after graduating from the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Secondary Education program in May 2006 and is currently teaching English/language arts at Fort Yukon High School.

"I think the work that has gone into ENHANCE will have a strong impact on teacher retention," he said. "Knowing that there is a network of Native educators out there, and that they are supportive of new teachers, has been really encouraging."

Edward said the people involved in the project were very supportive and inspiring to him. One of these people was Jon Laughlin, past Project ENHANCE Director, who passed away in September 2006.

"He made the year that I went through my teaching internship an enjoyable one, and he was always very supportive and brought up my spirits a number of times," Edward said.

Overall, Edward is optimistic about the future of teachers in Alaska.

"We are entering a time where we have some very good teachers out there, and a network to support them, and those of us who are following in their footsteps are blessed in that regard," he said.

Corporate Donors 2005-2006



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Thank You

We are grateful for the generous monetary and in-kind donations made by our supporters. Thank you to all the organizations and individuals who contributed between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006.



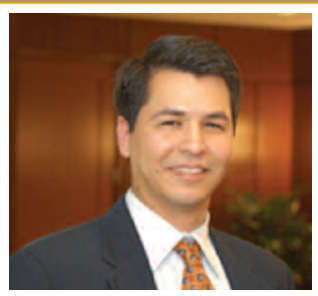
Selina Sam of Huslia works with Danielle Esmailka of Kaltag. Photo courtesy of Susan Paskvan.

Individual Donors 2005-2006



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Curtis Demoski	Jon Laughlin	Tamara Roberts	

Aaron Schutt



Aaron Schutt. Photo courtesy of Aaron Schutt.

Every year during Aaron Schutt's nine-year university career, he received scholarships from Doyon Foundation. And every year, he promised to return to Alaska after he completed his schooling.

"I have always been very proud to be a Doyon shareholder and to be closely connected with the Doyon region. Receiving Doyon Foundation scholarships was an important tie to my people and my home," said Aaron, who is originally from Tok and now lives in Anchorage with his wife, Marissa, and his children, Peter and Keiveri.

Today, Aaron shows his appreciation by supporting the Doyon Foundation as a donor.

"Our Foundation makes higher education possible for a number of our shareholders. It is also an important way to give back to our Foundation," he said.

"Every year, I wrote an essay for the scholarship application that said I would come home to work for Native people. I did what I said I would do," said Aaron, who graduated from Stanford Law School in 2000 and is now the senior vice president for Doyon, Limited.

Receiving the scholarships not only helped Aaron financially – it was also important to him personally.





Charlene Ostbloom. Photo courtesy of Information Insights.

Charlene Ostbloom

Through the Nee Ts'e Neyh donor program, past scholarship recipient Charlene Ostbloom has been able to show her gratitude to the Doyon Foundation.

"As a past scholarship recipient, I understand how important the Doyon Foundation is to Doyon's shareholders. I wanted to be able to give back," said Charlene, who graduated with a psychology degree from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1995. She is currently a consultant with Information Insights in Fairbanks.

Charlene understands the importance of education – and appreciates the diverse educational opportunities made possible through the Doyon Foundation.

"Knowledge is power," she said. "Doyon Foundation is an excellent resource for students. They provide students with so many opportunities – not just scholarships, but also internships and other opportunities. The Foundation really opens doors for students."



Nee Ts'e Neyh ● ● ● ● ●

We All Give or Help Program

In 2003, we introduced the Nee Ts'e Neyh (We All Give or Help) donor program. The program is dedicated to helping Alaska Native students achieve their educational, professional and personal aspirations.

Our Nee Ts'e Neyh contributors make annual donations of \$1,000, which enable us to provide both competitive and basic scholarships to part-time and full-time college students. We thank our current contributors for their dedication and generosity.

Four Reasons to Become a Nee Ts'e Neyh Contributor

If you are interested in helping Alaska Native students achieve their aspirations, please consider joining the Nee Ts'e Neyh program. By joining:

- 1 You will directly help talented, deserving, Alaska Native students achieve their educational, professional and personal aspirations.
- 2 You will help increase the number of Alaska Native students with college degrees.
- 3 Your donation is directly applied to general scholarship funding – not one dollar is spent on overhead or fundraising costs.
- 4 You can make an enormous difference in the lives of Alaska Native students for the price of one cup of coffee a day.

To become a contributor, please visit www.doyonfoundation.com or call 907-459-2051.

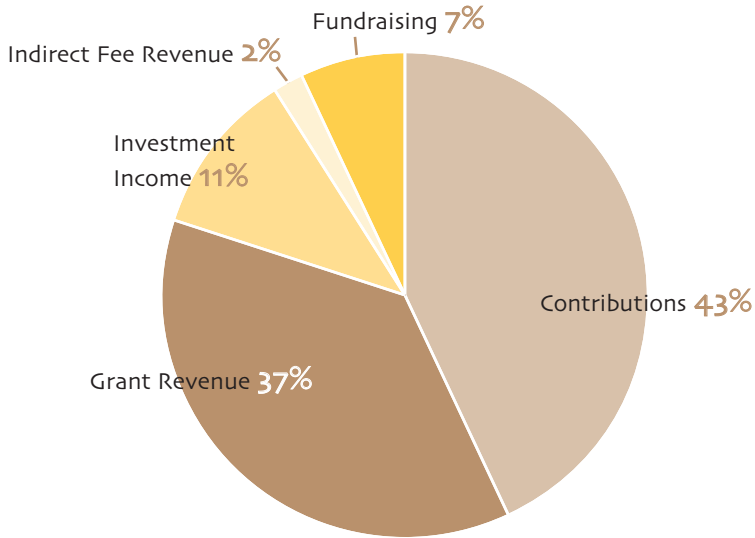
2005 - 2006 Nee Ts'e Neyh Donors

- Julie Biddle
- Shane Derendoff
- Dawn Dinwoodie
- Sharon McConnell Gillis
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- Georgianna Lincoln
- Charlene Marth
- Kathy Mayo
- Shay McEwen
- Aaron Schutt & Marissa Flannery
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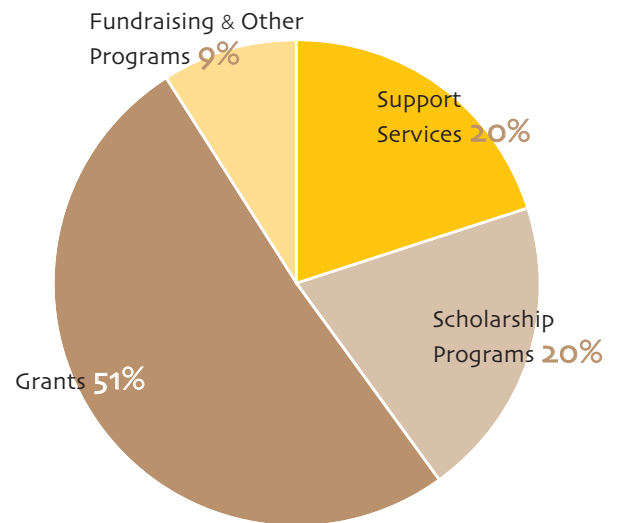
Financials 2005-2006



Total Operating Revenue = \$2,440,832



Total Operating Expenses = \$1,803,057



Gilbert Stevens of Stevens Village teaches Floyd Green of Fairbanks a fiddle tune. Photo courtesy of Floyd Green.

Contact Us

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