

Everyday Woman of Sitka – Hillary Nutting (Martin) Kaasanák



Can you please tell us a little about yourself? How long have you lived in Sitka? What types of things are you involved in here?

Hello! My name is Hillary Nutting (née Martin). My Tlingit name is Kaasanák and I am Chookaneidí. My parents are Ronny and Mary Martin of Hutchinson, Kansas (formally of Sitka). My grandparents are Patricia Martin and Sam Martin both of Sitka. I am married to Randy Nutting and together we have three daughters; Ashlyn, Riley, and Everly. I was born in Anchorage, but raised here in Sitka. I graduated from Sitka High School in 2009 and went on to get my Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Kaplan University.

My professional title is Youth Program Manager for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska. I am a Volleyball Coach at Sitka High School and Blatchley Middle School. I enjoy camping, paddle boarding, and hiking with my family and our three dogs; Isla, Ava, and Piper. Softball has been a lifelong passion of mine and I look forward to being on the diamond every summer.

What is your biggest struggle right now?

My biggest struggle right now is creating quality time for self care. I gravitate towards being busy all the time; it's just in my nature. I enjoy my fast paced lifestyle, but my body and mind need quiet time to reboot. I tend to give myself a time limit for my self care, which really defeats the purpose. Turning 30 this past spring has really opened my eyes to how important it is to take care of myself and slow down. I can't be the mother, wife, employee, and friend I want to be if my gas tank is always running on fumes. I want to be fully present to my loved ones, not just going through the motions because they all deserve that.

What does a normal "Day in the Life" look like for you?

A "Day in the Life" of me looks like waking up with my French Bulldog, Piper, snuggled up next to me. I pour a cup of coffee before getting ready for the day. My work day is usually filled with meetings, which honestly I love. I enjoy interacting with my co-workers, students, and families. Planning, organizing, and co-creating programming or events that will benefit Sitkans brings me so

much joy. Once the work day is done, my husband and I will go for a walk or I'll head to volleyball practice. Randy and I usually end the day with a TV Show or movie after Everly goes to bed.

Cooking for my family every evening is probably one of my favorite parts of the day. I love creating meals from the deer, salmon, or halibut my husband brings home. I enjoy being creative and experimentive in the kitchen. Seeing my family enjoy the meals I make for them is the best feeling.

What makes you proud to be a woman?

When I first read this question, I thought about my Grandma Pat. She is strong, witty, and knows herself in a way that I one day hope to obtain. Countless Sitka children refer to her as their Grandma and she cares deeply for every single one of them. She has faced heartache and loss with faith and perseverance. Watching her be a Great-Grandma to my daughter brings me an indescribable joy.

My Grandmother, Mother, Mother-in-Law, and Aunt are all people who inspire me to be determined, patient, giving, and funny. I have two phenomenal sisters who are the bravest people I know. I have been blessed to be surrounded by amazing women that have love woven within them.

I think the thing that makes me most proud to be a woman is the fact that my husband and I are raising three incredible, smart, and awe-inspiring daughters! Watching them become women in their own way is so rewarding. Ashlyn is a world explorer and has a heart of pure gold. Riley brightens every room she walks in to and will make you laugh until you cry. Everly runs to the edge of the sea fearlessly and nothing holds her back from dancing to every Trolls song. My beautiful girls, they are going to change the world!

Do you have something you'd like to say to other women in Sitka?

Pursue happiness always. The things that make you happy can change over time and that's ok. Follow your heart, a woman's intuition is powerful.

Don't lose your car chapstick because then your bag chapstick becomes your car chapstick and it really just avalanches from there. Always be Beyoncé.