

# SOUTHWEST NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026

## Message from Joshua Arce

**PWNA PRESIDENT & CEO**

Greetings Program Partners.

Welcome to the second edition of your Program Partner newsletter for 2026.

As always, the newsletter is packed with useful information from important dates and deadlines to the availability of key items in our warehouse to support your program. We're featuring Bernina of Kaibeto, Arizona where she works as a Community Health Representative. Learn about her daily routine support and how she is making a difference in the lives of countless people with the help of PWNA by reinforcing healthy habits.

In the evolving world of emergency response and best practices, you can learn how we worked with the Mescalero Apache Tribe's Emergency Management department to train their staff in how to operate drones to respond to disasters or in search and rescue operations.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to Chantal Wadsworth who we nominated for the '2026 Community Hero Award' sponsored by Humane World for Animals. We recently presented her with a \$5,000 prize while helping with her pet food distribution program. A truly inspirational story.

Migwech!



PWNA President & CEO  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation



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# Partner Spotlight

Before sunrise stretches across the mesas of the western Navajo Nation, Bernina Harrison is already at work. After tending to her livestock at home, she begins her workday in Kaibeto, Arizona, where she serves as a Community Health Representative (CHR). She visits patient's homes, checks their vital signs, reviews medications, and provides health education in communities where treatment is often far away

The Kaibeto CHR Program has partnered with PWNA since 2018. CHRs, like Bernina, use the Healthy Living service to provide incentives --personal hygiene, cleaning supplies, paper goods—that the client earns after receiving health education. These resources reinforce the education materials and improve health outcomes

Together, this partnership brings practical, preventative care directly to families, extending health education beyond clinic walls and into everyday life.



Bernina, Kaibeto CHR

2026 PWNA Delivery Calendar can be downloaded from the [Program Partner website](#).

## Service Highlight School Supplies

Each year, PWNA provides essential school supplies to Pre-K through 12th grade students on or near reservations. The service supports Head Start Programs, elementary, middle, and high schools, helping families save money that can be redirected toward other needs. Supplies are tailored by age groups, ensuring every student has the tools they need to succeed.

Program Partner contacts coordinate with schools, submit enrollment projections, recruit volunteers, and manage storage, assembly, and distribution. Supplies must be given directly to students rather than stored as classroom supplies. Requests can be submitted to PWNA administrative assistant, Vanessa Munoz by email at: [vmunoz@nativepartnership.org](mailto:vmunoz@nativepartnership.org), or by fax: (602) 340-8055. **The School Supplies request deadline is May 1st.**

All schools who received school supplies must complete a report and submit Participant Logs with signatures (not school rosters) within 30 days of delivery or distribution. This service helps students complete schoolwork at home, supports educational outcomes, and creates lasting impact in communities where every resource counts.

# Collaboration Corner



## Equipping Communities for Emergency Response

Our continued collaboration with the Mescalero Apache Tribe (MAT) Emergency Management department is strengthening community resilience and preparedness. In early March, we certified community participants in Adult C.E.R.T. & 1<sup>st</sup> Aid/CPR/AED conducted by the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Department of Public Safety and Family Emergency Planning conducted by LEOCODE4. Additionally, several key Emergency Management staff will receive drone training to obtain their pilot license, which will assist during times of disaster and search & rescue.

*You are going to be the ones we call on when there is an emergency. It's good to go through the training - more prepared and equipped.* **Thomas, Mescalero Emergency Management**



## Honoring a Community Hero in Shiprock

We joined Chantal of RezRoads Rescue during her pet food pantry drive-thru distribution in Shiprock, NM, providing pet and livestock food for over 150 households. Additionally, we nominated Chantal for the More Than a Pet 2026 Community Hero Award. She is one of three finalists for the award; and as a finalist, we presented her with a \$5,000 prize in acknowledgement of her remarkable efforts in championing access to pet care. Sponsored by Humane World for Animals, this award recognizes an individual who is dedicated to improving access and resources to pet care.

# Education Update

- In partnership with Synchrony, the AIEF Advisory Program began in January with 6 Mentors paired with 6 student mentees. The program runs one semester ending in May 2026.
- AIEF Emergency funds helped 25 students facing emergency hardship.

Sarah is a graduate student attending the University of Oklahoma where she is majoring in an MLS in Indigenous People's Law. Her ultimate goal is to empower tribes by providing them with knowledge and tools they need to navigate legal systems and advocate for their rights.

*"I'm really grateful and I don't think I can ever repay [donors] for their generosity and what it meant to me as a single parent to receive that kind of help. It made an impact."*

Sarah, Rosebud Sioux Tribe





### **Program Partner Survey: DEADLINE April 15th**

PWNA will be emailing you a program partner survey. Please complete the survey and submit by the deadline.

### **Great Non-Profit Reviews: DEADLINE April 30th**

PWNA would like to give our partners an opportunity to provide a review of the organization. Please contact PWNA staff will email you directions on how to complete a review.

### **PWNA School Supplies Deadline: MAY 1st**

Pre-K to 12 schools and Head Starts are eligible to submit a request for School Supplies. You can download the request form at [www.swnativepartners.org](http://www.swnativepartners.org)

Questions: [aief@nativepartnership.org](mailto:aief@nativepartnership.org) or call (866)-866-8642

## **\*\*\* REPORT DEADLINE REMINDERS \*\*\***

### **Due 30 days after delivery:**

Healthy Living  
Community Events  
Food Pantry

### **Due 90 days after delivery:**

Standard Food  
Residential  
Animal Welfare

## CONTACT US

PWNA only delivers needed goods and services. We want to ensure the products we send fit your needs. If they do not, please call us so that we may better serve you.

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