



Mission & Vision

Serving immediate needs, supporting long-term solutions
for strong, self-sufficient Native American communities

Native American Day

South Dakota was the first state to replace Columbus Day with Native American Day. Residents in the state have been able to recognize this holiday since 1990. For 2019, the Native American Day celebration began on Friday, October 13th with Youth Day festivities, hand game tournaments and the 5th Annual Youth Day Parade. This day also kicked off the 33rd Annual He Sapa Wacipi at the Civic Center in Rapid City, with nearly 1,000 dancers and champion drum groups such as Northern Cree, Southern Style and Midnight Express. It was a beautiful weekend full of love and celebration. Next year, if you can, please come to Rapid to celebrate Native American Day and stop by PWNA, which is only 10 minutes from the Civic Center.



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Program Partner Honor Roll

Reservation	Program	Contact	PWNA Service	Partner Since
Crow Agency	Indian Health Care Services	Tomi Stewart	Community Events	12/09/2013
Crow Creek	Tokata Youth Center	Aaron Vaughn	Healthy Living	07/25/2006
Crow Creek	Project Safe	Kasey Cadwell	Residential	02/14/2003
Cheyenne River	Family Violence Prevention	Leilih Smart	Residential	03/28/2008
Lake Traverse	SWO Home Health Care	Bonnie Thompson	Healthy Living	01/31/2007
Pine Ridge	Martin Addiction Recovery	Paula Livermont	Healthy Living	09/14/2006

Program Partner Highlight

Belinda Ready is the Junior High Principal and Federal Programs Director with Bennett County Schools and has been there since 1993. This school conducts a wide range of activities to support the students. They involve parents through parent breakfasts, STEM activities, Bingo 4 Books and special cross-curricula showcases to reinforce the important contribution families make to their children's education. Due to the challenged local economy, the school was recently approved to provide free meals to all their enrolled students. Belinda and other staff bring resources into the school to help to equip students with the basics and support families in the community. PWNA also helps by providing school supplies, TOMS shoes and even holiday stockings as a trusted partner and resource that helps make a difference in the students' educational attainment. At a recent TOMS distribution, Belinda shared, "I remember one of the students that actually wore his red TOMS with his cap and gown as he walked across the stage for his diploma."

Belinda went into the education field and stayed in it nearly 30 years "for the kids." She has many memories and some of her best connections are those students that spent the most time in her office. "I remember one young man brought me a diet coke one day. 'I know what you drink,' he said, 'I've been in your office enough times.'" When we asked Jonnie and Leona, PWNA staffers and former students of Belinda, what they most remember about her, they shared:

- "I remember that Belinda was always smiling and very genuine. She seems passionate about her job and the kids. I like working with her because she's efficient. – Jonnie
- "Belinda is one of the most caring and thoughtful people I know. When you attend a small school, you create a strong bond with all the staff, and she is one of those people who is always willing to help others and do what is best for the students at Bennett County. I remember Mrs. Ready is very passionate about everything and her school spirit is amazing! – Leona

Belinda is so very important to the students and community of Bennett County, and we appreciate her long-time partnership with PWNA.

Reminders and Deadlines!

October 15, 2019: Deadline to submit requests for Holiday Stockings.

Please note: Submitting a request is only the first step in the approval process. All requests must be reviewed by PWNA and are approved based on our service guidelines and the standing of your program. To be in good standing, **be sure to submit your report for previous service by the report deadline, or your next request cannot be processed.** Each Program Partner will be notified whether their Holiday request has been approved.



School is in Session and AIEF Scholarships are Out

PWNA's education program, the American Indian Education Fund, supports numerous services, including School Supplies and Literacy for K-12 school partners and Scholarships for college partners. Education and especially scholarships are one way that PWNA and our donors can support long-term change in tribal communities.

Each year in late June, our AIEF Scholarship Committee convenes to review scholarship applications and determine which students will receive funding for the upcoming academic year. This year the committee came from four directions to meet in Worley, Idaho, home of the Coeur D'Alene Tribe. Our AIEF scholarship committee members are working or have worked in the educational field within tribal communities for decades. For the 2019-2020 academic year, the committee awarded more than 120 scholarships, including undergraduate, graduate and four-year scholars. One student was selected for the first-ever *Michael Begaye Scholarship* in honor of our long-time AIEF Scholarship Committee member. Michael was the Executive Director of AISES (American Indian Science & Engineering Society) at Arizona State University (ASU) and a wonderful friend and asset to PWNA and the scholarship committee. The scholarship recipient, a freshman attending ASU, will receive a four-year scholarship in honor of Michael.



PWNA is also proud to announce that our 2018-2019 AIEF scholars showed resounding success, with more than 95 percent completing the college year. This completion rate varies annually but typically ranges from 90 to 95 percent. Alberta is one of the 2018-2019 scholars who received funding (and was previously funded) by AIEF) and has a summer job at the Child Care Center in Eagle Butte. PWNA will continue supporting these positive outcomes for Native youth and communities.

PWNA Staff Spotlight: Leona Means, Oglala Sioux Tribe

Leona Means is the newest member of PWNA's Northern Plains team. She is a Partnership Development Coordinator for zone 2 and 4 partners. An Oglala Lakota, she calls both Martin and Rapid City home. Leona and her husband Quintrell have two boys and two girls and stay involved in all their activities. Jolden, 19, just moved to North Carolina and Leona is happy he is doing well in his new surroundings. Emirra, 17, is a senior and part of her high school's cheer and gymnastic teams, and Leona is prepping for honoring the spring graduates. Taaliyah, 12, and Quintrell, 6, keep the family busy with sports such as basketball and football. School and travelling teams (coached by their dad) keep the family together cheering for one another.

Leona found PWNA through a Facebook message she posted while looking for work in Rapid City. A couple of people told her about our opening and "it sounded so rewarding." Now she says, "I love it here!" Leona's first visit on behalf of PWNA took her back to her old school in Martin for a TOMS shoe distribution. Returning and helping the students, staff and parent volunteers still allows Leona to support her community and she says, "[PWNA partners] are so thankful for the services and items we provide."

In her spare time, Leona is also a certified skincare esthetician, and you might be able to catch her working a weekend or evening shift at Olive Garden (she's done this for 14 years). Please join us in welcoming Leona to the PWNA family.



For Requests/Products/Services:

Delivery Areas 1 and 3:

Jonnie Winters, Partnership Development Coordinator
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Delivery Areas 2 and 4:

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For Reports/Services:

Tracy Sazue, Program Support Specialist
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Call us:

605-399-9905 or Toll free 1-866-556-2472

Visit us online:

www.plainsnativepartners.org



Youth Food Sovereignty Summit

PWNA closed out July with the second Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit held at Storm Mountain Center in the Black Hills. PWNA program partners, who in recent years participated in other nutrition training supported by the Newman's Own Foundation, recruited Native youth to attend the summit in a camp-like setting. Youth representing five tribes met with partners, staff and alumni to enhance their skills in nutrition, wellness and Native traditions. Buffalo meat provided the nourishment, and the landscape provided the heart and soul as only Unci Maka can.

The first night's hearty buffalo meal was capped with storytelling around a campfire in the towering pines. The next morning, the group broke into four teams and worked through an aggressive itinerary with eight Native leaders, including:

- Life Celebrations, where the youth created their own community by facing their challenges and identifying helpful resources and solutions, empowering them to be change agents (Leaders: Yvonne Decory and Eileen Janis, Pine Ridge)
- Foraging, where the youth went on a hike to identify wild/natural foods and medicines and later received lip balm that was made by slow-cooking the plants in coconut oil and beeswax (Leaders: Daniel Butcher and Austin Red Dog, Cheyenne River)
- Portion Control, where the youth learned teen-friendly methods of measuring portions, reading food labels and the "science of sugar" (Leaders: Emily Good Weasel and Maretta Champagne, Pine Ridge)
- Storytelling, where the leaders wove together stories of nutrition and culture to introduce the youth to tinsila (turnips) and sacred animals (Leaders: Phyllis Swift Hawk and Monica Terkildsen, Wanblee)

The second evening wrapped with a friendly round of "Chopped" Indigenous style. Two paired teams competed with secret ingredients (canned menudo) and eight very brave youth tasters served as judges. There were no winners or losers, just engagement and fun in challenging one another and learning together. The gathering was totally free of TV, cell phone and social media — highlighting instead quality time and community leaders sharing their ancestral knowledge with future leaders.

PWNA thanks our partners with the Cheyenne River Youth Project, New Hope Homeless Shelter & Garden, Pine Ride Long Term Recovery, and the Wanblee Community Action Team for lending these amazing community members to our summit.

