



SHAKOPEE
MDEWAKANTON
SIOUX
COMMUNITY

2023
DONATION
REPORT





A NOTE FROM THE

SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY BUSINESS COUNCIL

Dear Friends and Relatives,

As a tribe dedicated to helping others and serving the Community, it is our honor to present charitable donations each year to many deserving organizations, tribes, and events near and far. The tradition of *wóokiya*, or generosity and helping, has been a longstanding value for the Mdewakanton Dakota people. Being a good neighbor, good employer, and good steward of the earth is a core part of who we are and what we do.

As a sovereign, federally recognized tribe, our government's top priority is to meet the needs of our tribal members and provide for the next seven generations. Alongside that priority is our responsibility to help those in need, continuing our Dakota tradition of giving by donating time, money, and other resources each year to a variety of worthy causes.

Since opening our first bingo hall in the 1980s, the tribe has donated more than \$400 million to Native and non-Native organizations, nonprofits, health care facilities, and local governments—both in our home state of Minnesota and across the country. This tradition of giving defines our people, the Mdewakanton Dakota, and we feel extremely fortunate to be one of the top charitable givers in Minnesota and Indian Country as a whole.

On behalf of our Community, we would like to thank our tribal members and the thousands of people employed by our various enterprises and departments. All of the good work happening in our Community and beyond could not be accomplished without them. We also want to extend our gratitude to our 2023 donation and grant recipients, who are helping to improve the lives of many.

This report shows only a fraction of the remarkable and meaningful work that tribal communities, nonprofits, and other organizations are doing and the often life-altering impact it has upon the people and causes they serve. We are honored and humbled to be a part of the positive outcomes accomplished by these important endeavors.

Piundapi (We are thankful).

Keith B. Anderson
SMSC Chairman

Cole W. Miller
SMSC Vice-Chairman

Rebecca Crooks-Stratton
SMSC Secretary/Treasurer

FISCAL YEAR 2023

DONATIONS SELECTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX COMMUNITY

SMSC Work Groups were formed in 2012 to help give SMSC members an opportunity to be a part of larger tribal initiatives and provide input and recommendations to the Business Council. The Sharing Resources Work Group has played a critical role in setting the guidelines of the SMSC's donation selection process to align with Mdewakanton Dakota values.

Through their work, the SMSC continues to plan seven generations ahead and stay true to its mission of being a good neighbor, good employer, and good steward of the earth.

“**Han Mitakuyepi. We reviewed hundreds of applications throughout the year and would like to thank all the organizations for your time and effort. Congratulations to the organizations awarded funding. We love seeing words on paper grow into projects we can see, and we value the partnerships and connections that have grown from this work. No matter how big or small your organization is, you make a difference in the communities you serve.**”

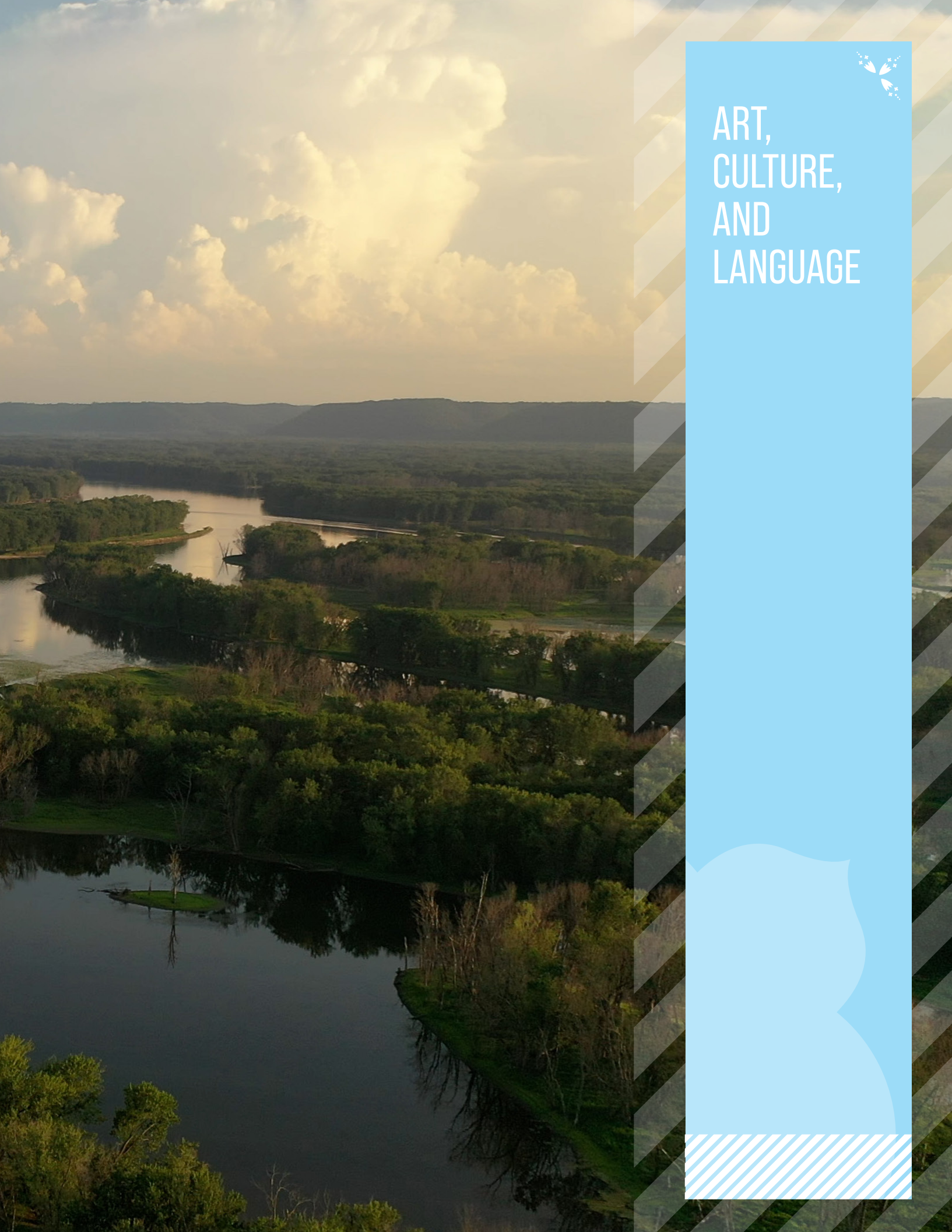
– THE SMSC SHARING RESOURCES WORK GROUP



For more information about charitable giving and donation requests, please visit

SHAKOPEEDAKOTA.ORG





ART, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGE





Works by (left to right) Kathleen Wall, Bobby Dues Wilson, and Thomasina TopBea

KATHERINE E. NASH GALLERY (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA)

**PROVIDING A SPACE FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN ARTISTS**

\$50,000

Countless Native American artists are making valuable contributions to the cultural fabric of the Upper Midwest. But their work—especially in the painting medium—is not often widely shared as part of exhibitions of paintings or contemporary art organized by “mainstream” galleries or museums. The University of Minnesota’s Katherine E. Nash Gallery is changing that through a new exhibition, *Dreaming Our Futures: Ojibwe and Očhéthi Šakówinj Artists and Knowledge Keepers*, that will travel throughout Minnesota in 2024. Featured in the exhibition is a variety of painting media and esthetic approaches from 29 Ojibwe, Dakota, Lakota, Chippewa, and Anishinaabe artists.

The exhibition premiered in January 2024 at the Katherine E. Nash Gallery located within the Regis Center for Art on the campus of the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. In April, it will travel to the Rochester Art Center and continue on to the Tweed Museum of Art at the University of Minnesota, Duluth in September.

The Katherine E. Nash Gallery will also publish a fully illustrated exhibition catalogue with critical essays by several prominent Native American scholars. The catalogue will be distributed worldwide by the University of Minnesota Press and help the impactful collection live on long past the exhibition.

The SMSC donated \$50,000 to support the exhibition and its objective to raise awareness of and deepen engagement with Native work from Ojibwe and Očhéthi Šakówinj artists. The funds are being used to support the exhibition, tour, and catalog by covering the costs of printing, shipping, crating, and framing.

MISSION:

The Katherine E. Nash Gallery is a research laboratory for the practice and interpretation of the visual arts.

TUSWECA TIOSPAYE

INCREASING THE NUMBER OF NATIVE SPEAKERS

\$10,000

Language preservation is a dire situation that faces most tribal communities. Language is important for the identity of Native people and enables speakers to connect to their culture and spirituality, and continue the knowledge held within the language. While efforts are being made to introduce new generations to their language, in many cases the most fluent speakers—community elders—have been left to carry it on.

Tusweca Tiospaye was founded in 2007 to promote and strengthen the Lakota language on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The very next year, the organization began holding annual summits to keep Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota language and culture alive and thriving for future generations among the Oceti Šakowin. The summit gives elders and fluent speakers the opportunity

to visit with each other in their language and allows learners and youth to engage with the language. In addition, the summit is used to share teaching methods, technology, materials, and other resources for creating a successful language program.

Tusweca Tiospaye has served thousands since it was founded, whether through the annual in-person summit or engagement with its social media, website, and YouTube channel. The SMSC donated \$10,000 to the 2023 summit, which draws hundreds of Native people each year from communities in the United States and Canada. Since 2012, the SMSC has donated \$47,500 to Tusweca Tiospaye to help sustain and encourage Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota language acquisition and preservation.



MAHKATO MDEWAKANTON ASSOCIATION

HEALING, CELEBRATION, AND EDUCATION AT ANNUAL POWWOW

\$20,000

Since 1972, the annual Mahkato Wacipi has been a gathering of tribal nations from the Upper Midwest and Canada to honor their traditions and ancestors. It also provides an opportunity to build bridges between all nations through education, storytelling, and sharing of Dakota culture.

The powwow draws thousands of people each year to Dakota Wokisuye Makoce (Land of Memories Park) in Mankato, Minnesota. This site is an area where many ceremonies and gatherings took place prior to the 1862 U.S.-Dakota Conflict, which resulted in the execution of 38 Dakota on December 26, 1862, the largest mass execution in U.S. history. The annual traditional wacipi is held to honor those who died.

The SMSC continued its longtime support of the powwow by donating \$20,000 to the 2023 wacipi. In total, the SMSC has donated over \$460,000 to the Mahkato Mdewakanton Association since 1992.



WAADOOKOADING OJIBWE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

**REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS
LANGUAGES**

\$5,000

The Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Institute, located on Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe tribal lands in northwestern Wisconsin, operates the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School, which offers students a first-class education while also teaching the Ojibwe language. Waadookodaading's mission is to create proficient Ojibwe language speakers who are able to meet the challenges of our rapidly changing world.

Students who attend the school are grounded in local language, culture, and traditions, while also being made aware of global concerns. Waadookodaading translates to "a place where people help each other" and integrates the tradition of wild rice harvesting, sugaring, trapping, archery, and other traditional activities in its outdoor curriculum.

Founded in 2000, Waadookodaading has built an international reputation for educational excellence. The school has approximately 60 students in grades kindergarten through seventh grade and expanded to offer grades 8-12 for the 2023-24 school year.

The institute relies on a variety of funding sources, including an annual charity golf tournament at the award-winning Big Fish Golf Club in Hayward, Wisconsin. The SMSC supported the event and the school's mission through a \$5,000 sponsorship which goes directly toward the operations of the Waadookodaading Ojibwe Language Immersion School.





EDUCATION



AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION POWWOW

SHARING VALUABLE TRADITIONS
AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

\$1,500

The Anoka-Hennepin Indian Education program, in collaboration with education programs from Elk River Area Schools, Fridley Public Schools, Roseville Area Schools, and St. Michael-Albertville Schools, hosted the American Indian Education Powwow on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at Champlin Park High School.

Collectively, the programs serve more than 70 schools in the north/northwest Twin Cities metro area and assist over 500 Native American families. The programs strive to encourage and inspire the academic achievement, social and emotional development, and cultural awareness of Native students; to serve as a resource to review and recommend accurate curriculum; and to promote cultural diversity among the community, staff, and students.

The American Indian Education Powwow is an important cultural event for the programs, with the aim of ensuring Native American narratives live on and cultural heritage survives for generations to come. In addition to encouraging young Native people to embrace the pride of their heritage through song and dance, the free event serves as an opportunity for non-Native community members to learn about Native culture and heritage. The gathering also included special dance performances and activities, including a traditional lacrosse demonstration, a hoop dance class, drum teachings, and a Native food tasting.

The SMSC donated \$1,500 to the American Indian Education Powwow in 2023.





BUILD WEALTH, MN

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

\$10,000

With a mission to “strengthen communities by empowering families to build wealth through economic development,” Build Wealth, MN utilizes public, private, and foundational resources to develop and provide programs and services that will empower individuals, families, and communities to embrace a new way of viewing their lives in the areas of financial literacy, debt reduction, and wealth creation for generations to come.

A nonprofit Financial Opportunity Center and Community Development Financial Institution established in 2004, Build Wealth, MN is located in the heart of North Minneapolis and is seen as a beacon of hope to those in the community.

To address systemic issues, Build Wealth, MN created a financial intervention program that prepares youth for the financial realities of adulthood and college/career planning. The primary goal of this youth stabilization plan is to meet

underserved youth in their social and cultural context and redirect them by way of holistic character building. The program allows the organization to support the most vulnerable youth in creating generational wealth and avoiding generational poverty.

Through a donation of \$10,000 by the SMSC in 2023, the organization enhanced its technological support for the program in an effort to bridge the digital divide that occurs when students from low-income households face barriers to daily activities that their peers do not. Among the improvements, the organization purchased a high-quality video camera to increase flexibility with recorded presentations and programming for students as well as the purchase of iPads to ensure all students and families have a functioning computerized device to complete various activities.

HALLIE Q. BROWN COMMUNITY CENTER

EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN THE SUMMIT-UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

\$9,175

Founded in 1929, Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Inc. is an African American, nonprofit social service agency open to all, primarily serving the Summit-University community of St. Paul, Minnesota, and the broader Twin Cities metro area. The organization was born as the result of the vision, commitment, and tireless efforts of community leaders in the 1920s.

Although the organization began as a settlement house for African Americans denied services from other agencies, the agency long ago opened the center's services to all people. Historically, the service center has been mixed racially and economically with a wide range of services designed to reflect the character of the Summit-University community as a whole.

In 2023, the SMSC contributed \$9,715 to support an expansion of the center's educational programming through the development of a year-round, drop-in study/tutoring center for middle school- and high school-aged students. This drop-in center provides a space for students to come after school during the academic year as well as during the summer when the center's Youth Enrichment Program is in operation.

MISSION STATEMENT: The mission of Hallie Q. Brown Community Center Inc. is to improve the quality of life in our community by providing access to critical human services; fostering and promoting African American heritage, personal growth, self-sufficiency and self-determination; and developing community leadership.



NATIONAL INDIAN EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

SECURING EDUCATION SOVEREIGNTY

\$10,000

Founded in 1969 in Minneapolis by Native education advocates who sought solutions to improve the education system for Native youth, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) is a vocal and passionate supporter for comprehensive, culture-based educational opportunities that support Native students and their communities. For over 50 years, the NIEA has been working to promote and secure education sovereignty for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

The NIEA Convention and Trade Show was established to create a national forum for sharing and developing ideas and influencing federal policy. The 54th annual event was held October 18-21, 2023, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, with a theme of “Educational Sovereignty. It Begins With Us.” More than 100 workshops and research presentations were hosted at the convention with a focus on language programming, Native curriculum development, professional development for Native educators, advocacy opportunities for Native education policy initiatives, and building tribal education capacity. The event also featured an Educator Day, which provided special professional development opportunities for practitioners, and a Student Day, which empowered students to define their version of success and achieve it.

The SMSC has built a long partnership with the NIEA and continued to strengthen that relationship with a \$10,000 sponsorship for the 2023 NIEA Convention and Trade Show.

THE NIEA ADHERES TO THE ORGANIZATION'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES:

To bring Native educators together to explore ways to improve schools and the schooling of Native children.

To promote the maintenance and continued development of Native languages and cultures.

To develop and implement strategies for influencing local, state, and federal policy and policymakers.



KANSAS UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION

HELPING TO SHARE NATIVE STORIES FROM NATIVE VOICES

\$10,000

The second annual Native Storytelling Workshop was held in June 2023 at the University of Kansas campus in partnership with the Native American Journalists Association and Haskell Indian Nations University.

The workshop brought Native American high school students from across the country to the campus for four days to introduce them to the field of journalism and explore ways that storytelling skills offer opportunities to give back to Native communities. Students had the opportunity to learn the basics of online/digital news content creation, podcasting, and multimedia journalism. The purpose of the workshop was to educate the next generation of Native storytellers by providing them with the tools and skills necessary to tell the stories that matter to them and their communities.

In 2023, the SMSC supported the Native Storytelling Workshop through a \$10,000 donation to the Kansas University Endowment Association, which oversees and partners with private donors to provide philanthropic support to all university-sponsored initiatives and programming.

REACH OUT AND READ MINNESOTA

INCREASING NATIVE REPRESENTATION FOR MINNESOTA CHILDREN

\$12,500

Reach Out and Read Minnesota seeks to give young children a foundation for success through the powerful effects of reading and sharing a story with a loved one. The program leverages the broad access and developmental expertise of pediatric health care providers to bring books and early learning guidance to young children and their families in the vital first years of life. Founded in 1989 as a national organization, the program first arrived in Minnesota in 1997 with three clinics, and an official state chapter was established in 2005. By 2010, the organization listed over 70 participating clinics, including 16 Indian Health Service or tribally affiliated clinics.

As consistent supporters of Reach Out and Read Minnesota, the SMSC contributed \$12,500 to the organization in 2023, with funds supporting an increased representation of Native voices and stories in books used at statewide partner clinics. Purchased from Native publishers and including materials with specific references to Dakota and Ojibwe languages, these books will share meaningful representation of tribal culture to Minnesota families, both Native and non-Native.

MISSION:

Reach Out and Read Minnesota seeks to give young children a foundation for success through the powerful effects of reading and sharing a story with a loved one. The program partners with doctors and nurses to bring the brain-building power of books to families across the state.



Books are medicine in so many ways.... My patients have started little libraries in their home. Patients and parents are excited to get books! [The books] remind our patients of their culture (such as the wild rice book) which is medicine as well!



**- VALERIE NORRIS, MD,
NATIVE AMERICAN
COMMUNITY CLINIC,
MINNEAPOLIS**



SHAKOPEE EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

**SUPPORTING SHAKOPEE
SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS
AND TEACHERS**

\$1,000

The Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation (SEEF) is a nonprofit organization that began in 1991 to provide greater academic opportunities for more than 8,000 students in the Shakopee School District.

Through SEEF's Teacher Grant Program, educators receive funding from the foundation to try out new ideas, attempt creative programming, or incorporate new technology that otherwise would not occur in their classrooms—all of which provide valuable educational experiences for Shakopee students. This supplemental funding supports excellence and continually enhances the school district.

As long-standing supporters of the foundation and the Shakopee School District, the SMSC continued to support the initiative with a \$1,000 donation in 2023. Since its beginning in 1991, SEEF has funded several teachers' projects focused on Native American culture and history while this year's donation will provide vital funding for educators at a time when economic inflation and other financial constraints have decreased resources.

MISSION:

The Shakopee Educational Endowment Foundation (SEEF) is dedicated to preserving and enhancing the quality of education in the Shakopee School District by funding projects that provide innovative opportunities for our students.



AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

INVESTING IN EDUCATION TO TRANSFORM LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

\$500,000

The American Indian College Fund is the largest and highest-rated Native education nonprofit in the United States, providing scholarships, support services, and community revitalization programs to tens of thousands of Native people each year. Since its inception in 1989, it has provided nearly 147,000 scholarships and over \$259.7 million to Native communities.

Among the organization's initiatives is the Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment, which provides postsecondary opportunities for Native students. The fund aims to address the disproportionate statistic that only 15.4% of American Indians and Alaska Natives over the age of 25 have earned a bachelor's degree or higher, which is less than half the national average.

As long-time supporters of the American Indian College Fund, the SMSC contributed \$500,000 to the Sovereign Nations Scholarship Fund Endowment in 2023. The contribution matched funds secured from other sources and increased the principal balance of the fund by \$1 million, raising the total endowment value to approximately \$6 million. The SMSC's donation accounts for an estimated 13 additional scholarships at \$2,000 per student per year to aid Native college students in pursuing their degrees.

MISSION:

The American Indian College Fund invests in Native students and tribal college education to transform lives and communities.



Education is one of the most powerful tools to bettering our lives and the lives of our families and contributing positively to our community.

– AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND SCHOLAR JASMINE





LEECH LAKE TRIBAL COLLEGE

PRIORITIZING ANISHINAABE VALUES

\$5,000

Established in 1990, Leech Lake Tribal College offers higher education to students who thrive in an atmosphere that prioritizes Anishinaabe values. The educational institution held its 17th annual Golf Classic on June 21, 2023, at the Tianna Country Club in Walker, Minnesota.

As long-time supporters of the college, the SMSC sponsored the 2023 golf event with a \$5,000 contribution. Proceeds from the event support endowed scholarships that ensure Leech Lake Tribal College can continue to offer financial assistance to students. The outing also benefited the college's language and culture activities, such as demonstrations on harvesting wild rice and cooking various wild games.

GREATER TWIN CITIES UNITED WAY

COMBATING EDUCATIONAL DISPARITIES

\$61,000

As the largest non-governmental funder of health and human services in Minnesota, Greater Twin Cities United Way strives for a community where all people thrive regardless of income, race, or place.

Greater Twin Cities United Way works to fight the increasing disparities for growing portions of Minnesota's population, especially younger generations. Children living in poverty start life with the odds of a successful future stacked against them. They are 13% less likely to graduate high school, 43% less likely to complete postsecondary education, and 36% less likely to retain consistent employment. The educational disparities are even more daunting for people of color in Minnesota with low rankings in state high school graduation rates for Native American, African American, and Hispanic students. Meanwhile, people of color in the Twin Cities are nearly four times more likely to experience poverty than their white neighbors.

To help support students and families in need, Greater Twin Cities United Way once again hosted Action Day in 2023 with volunteers packing backpacks with school supplies at U.S. Bank Stadium and distributing them to nearly 100 school districts and nonprofit partners across the Twin Cities metro and surrounding areas. More than 5,000 volunteers attended Action Day this year, providing over 43,000 students with school supplies.

The SMSC contributed \$61,000 to help Action Day reach its goal in 2023 and later distributed 4,000 backpacks to school-aged children at the SMSC Wacipi. As an Action Day sponsor, the SMSC has donated \$126,000 to Greater Twin Cities United Way initiatives since 2019 while distributing 8,500 backpacks to children in need.



UNDERSTAND NATIVE MINNESOTA

CHANGING THE NATIVE AMERICAN NARRATIVE IN EDUCATION

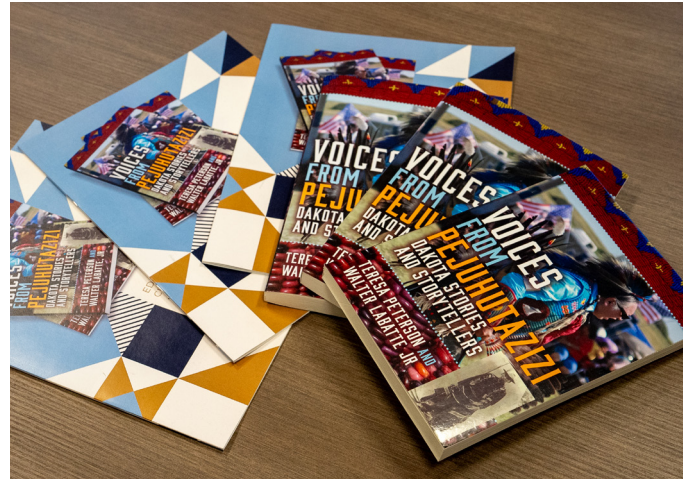
\$5,000,000

IN 2019

Understand Native Minnesota, a \$5 million, multi-year strategic initiative and philanthropic campaign aimed at strengthening the Native American narrative in Minnesota schools, was first launched by the SMSC in 2019.

SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Rebecca Crooks-Stratton leads the campaign and works tirelessly to develop partnerships with educators, authors, civic groups, elected officials, local governments, and other organizations across the state and country. Some strategic partners of the campaign include the Minnesota Indian Education Association, Education Minnesota, the Bell Museum, and the Native Governance Center.

The campaign has worked diligently to incorporate greater awareness of Native Americans, along with accurate information about their history, culture, and modern businesses and tribal governments into Minnesota's K-12 education system. Programming has included listening sessions with Minnesota educators, a podcast series that highlights strong voices of Native and non-Native allies, meetings with various education associations and other groups, and cultivating a resource scan that will help improve classroom resources and curriculum. Although the campaign officially ended in 2023, the SMSC will continue to drive the Native narrative forward throughout Indian Country.



Understand Native Minnesota Initiatives

In March 2023, the SMSC and its Understand Native Minnesota campaign provided an \$80,000 grant to the Three Rivers Park District to develop new Native American education programming at Lowry Nature Center. Located in the 3,719-acre Carver Park Preserve in Victoria, Minnesota, the center hosts over 500 school groups and field trips annually, while the grant funding will develop an interpretive trail highlighting Dakota perspectives on various natural resources. The project is scheduled to open to the public in summer 2024.

In April 2023, the SMSC hosted over 200 educators from across the state for the first-ever Educator Academy at Mystic Lake Center. The event, which filled to capacity in under 24 hours, offered free professional development workshops to introduce K-12 educators to the rich variety of ways to teach Native American topics in their classrooms.

In October 2023, the SMSC and Understand Native Minnesota donated 10,000 free copies of the book *Voices From Pejuhutazizi: Dakota Stories and Storytellers* to Minnesota educators. Within six hours, every copy of the book had been claimed, prompting the campaign to offer another 10,000 free copies. Written by Teresa Peterson and Walter LaBatte Jr., the book is a collection of stories from five generations of one Minnesota family.

Beginning in December 2023, the campaign partnered with the Minneapolis Foundation to accept applications for mini-grants supporting K-12 educators as they teach students about Native American culture, history, and modern tribal governments in schools across Minnesota. The program has \$500,000 available for mini-grants in 2024, with awards of up to \$2,000 per educator.



Most education about Native Americans does not acknowledge the existence and vitality of modern Native communities. We have been mostly invisible. We believe that by promoting Native narrative change in Minnesota schools through a dedicated campaign, we can improve younger generations' understanding of tribes, Native peoples, and their contributions to the state.

**– SMSC SECRETARY/
TREASURER REBECCA
CROOKS-STRATTON**

To learn more about Understand Native Minnesota, listen to the Native Minnesota podcast, and sign up for updates from the campaign, visit understandnativemn.org.



UNITED NATIONAL INDIAN TRIBAL YOUTH

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

\$25,000

United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) was founded in 1976 when J.R. Cook, an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation, saw the need to create an organization to help Native youth realize their potential, express their voices on issues that matter to them, and give back to their communities through community service. In furthering its mission, UNITY has consistently developed and delivered quality services to the nation's Native youth for the past 47 years.

UNITY's work is primarily carried out within a formal network of more than 300 affiliated youth councils at work in 36 states and represents thousands of Native youths who, by engaging in youth council activities, are gaining valuable experiences and leadership skills that help get them ready for a lifetime of community involvement and leadership.

In 2023, the SMSC awarded UNITY a \$25,000 donation to the organization's Earth Ambassadors program. The program recognizes and celebrates 10 young Native people between the ages of 14 and 24 who, through their personal initiative and accomplishments, have demonstrated a commitment to service

within Native communities. The program encourages the participants to stay involved as they progress through a seven-month course of training opportunities and learning experiences, including those offered at the UNITY Midyear Conference, designed to build their skills so they may realize even greater successes in their future endeavors. The program's graduates will emerge with renewed motivation, inspiration, and increased capabilities that will add value to their efforts as they strive to build stronger Native communities.

MISSION:

UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian and Alaskan Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement.





HEALTH AND WELLNESS





NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

SUPPORTING IMPORTANT INITIATIVES AND GATHERINGS

\$25,000

Founded in 1998 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH) has expanded from a small team of fewer than 10 employees to a dedicated staff of approximately 70 individuals. The organization's mission is to address the deficit in quality, accessible, and culturally competent health care services for American Indians and Alaska Natives living in urban areas across the United States.

NCUIH will be holding the organization's 2024 Annual Conference, scheduled for May 2024, in Washington, D.C. A \$25,000 sponsorship from the SMSC will help cover the expenses associated with organizing this important annual conference, which serves as a platform for the exchange of information and best practices among diverse stakeholders, including federal government agencies, Members of Congress, Urban Indian Organizations, Tribal leaders, policymakers, and other nonprofit and non-governmental organizations.

EASTERN SHOSHONE TRIBE

SERVING NATIVE AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

\$10,000

Founded in 2022 by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe, the Eastern Shoshone Children's Lodge is dedicated to serving Native American children and families in the Eastern Shoshone community. Their journey began when a group of passionate individuals recognized the urgent need for a safe and nurturing emergency placement environment for these vulnerable children. The founding of the Eastern Shoshone Children's Lodge was driven by the profound desire to address the dire circumstances faced by children who have suffered from abuse and neglect. It became apparent that there was a critical need for a location that could offer immediate and secure emergency placements, ensuring the well-being and protection of these children during times of crisis.

The Eastern Shoshone Children's Lodge is continually seeking funds for their General Program Support project, which encompasses the overall operations and activities of the organization, ensuring the provision of comprehensive support and services to children who have experienced abuse and neglect in the Eastern Shoshone community. The funds contribute directly to sustaining and enhancing the impact of their programs. The project also facilitates the children's participation in community-based events, such as the annual powwow, visits to the Eastern Shoshone cultural center, and local museums. These experiences not only connect them with their cultural heritage but also provide opportunities for social interaction, community integration, and a sense of belonging.

The SMSC provided \$10,000 toward the General Program Support project in fiscal year 2023, adding to the more than \$1.4 million they have contributed since 2015.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TASK FORCE

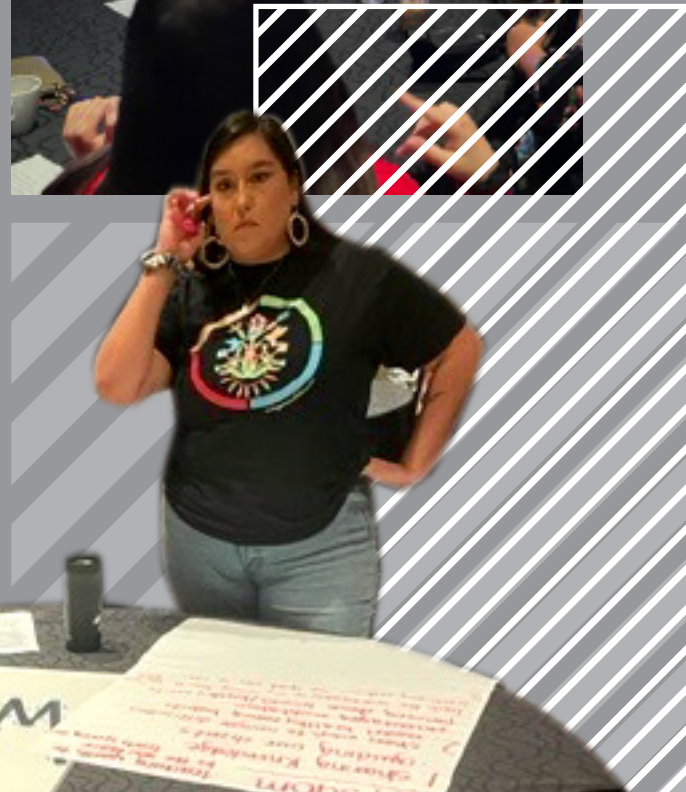
**IMPROVING
COMMUNITY HEALTH
AND WELFARE**

\$14,548

The Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) was founded in 1987 to develop and implement culturally appropriate HIV education and direct services to the Native community in Minnesota. Their mission is to “strengthen the health and education of Native people.” IPTF believes the community will not be completely well until all people have restored their relationships with each other and the earth.

In July, IPTF hosted their Annual Return to First Medicines Conference. The program gathers Native people to learn about food sovereignty. The conference addresses food and nutrition across a person’s lifespan, from nutrition for pregnant mothers to elders. The gathering was attended by Indigenous people and others from throughout Minnesota to learn how to improve the health and welfare of community members by focusing on food sovereignty, seed saving, and preserving traditional foods and medicines. It differs from other conferences because it uses experiential learning for conference participants. The participants don’t just hear facts, information, and new ideas—they also have opportunities to participate in hands-on activities in each workshop. As a result, attendees leave the conference with a clear understanding of their role in promoting and protecting food sovereignty and its impact on one’s health.

The SMSC supported the conference with in-kind donations worth \$14,548, contributing to the \$714,000 they’ve given the Task Force since 2003.



SOUTH DAKOTA URBAN INDIAN HEALTH

SUPPORTING DIVERSE INDIGENOUS VOICES

\$2,000

Established as a nonprofit on October 6, 1977, South Dakota Urban Indian Health (SDUIH) has been dedicated to providing health care services to urban Native American individuals across South Dakota. As a federally qualified health center, SDUIH offers cultural, behavioral, and medical health services to all people, with two full-time clinics located in Pierre and Sioux Falls.

In 2021, SDUIH began expanding its cultural health department to foster connections with urban relatives and promote traditions such as beading, sewing, *inipi* (sweat lodge) ceremonies, and other cultural practices. Notably, SDUIH hosted the first-ever Two-Spirit Wacipi in 2022 to honor and create an inclusive space for Two-Spirit relatives living in South Dakota.

The 2nd Annual Two-Spirit Wacipi held in Sioux Falls on June 17, 2023, expanded on the first and sought to further celebrate

and recognize Two-Spirit individuals in Indigenous culture, acknowledging them as alternative genders highly regarded in tribes. The SMSC provided financial support of \$2,000 to cover expenses for Star Quilts and food.

The donation played a crucial role in supporting the event's inclusivity, as SDUIH intentionally invited LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirit dancers, performers, and drum groups from as far as Oklahoma, highlighting the event's significance in creating a space for diverse Indigenous voices.

This donation highlights the SMSC's commitment to supporting cultural initiatives that promote inclusivity and celebrate the rich traditions of Indigenous communities, fostering cultural awareness and appreciation.



ANNEX TEEN CLINIC

SUPPORTING SEXUAL HEALTH EQUITY

\$5,000

Founded in 1971, the Annex Teen Clinic has been at the forefront of community care, uniting neighbors, public health advocates, and health care practitioners with a common goal of prioritizing the well-being of community. Committed to providing nonjudgmental, fact-based, and inclusive care, the Annex Teen Clinic actively removes barriers to health access, fostering genuine partnerships with the community to promote equity.

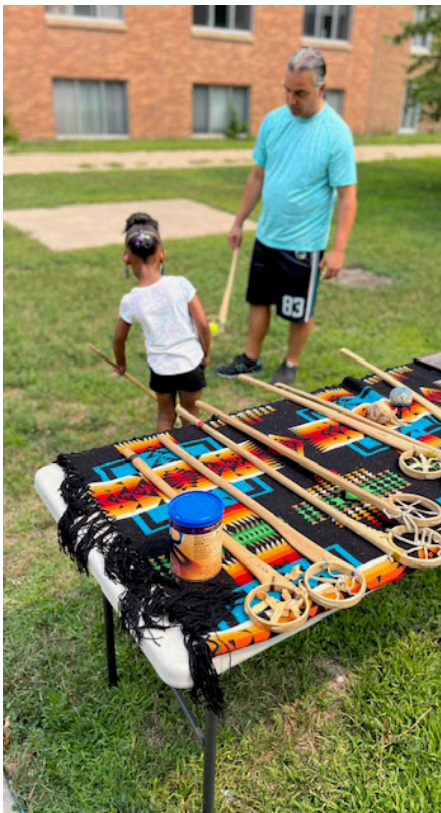
Underscoring the SMSC's dedication to fostering a healthier and more inclusive community, especially for young people, the SMSC provided support to the Annex Teen Clinic with a \$5,000 donation in fiscal year 2023. Located in Robbinsdale, Minnesota, the Annex is a pivotal health care provider dedicated exclusively to addressing the sexual health needs of young individuals.

In addition to supporting the clinic's existing efforts to help young people take charge of their sexual health by providing confidential health services and education, the donation will

help expand services to those most vulnerable to HIV exposure, with a particular focus on reaching BIPOC young people through the age of 26 in Minneapolis and Northwest Hennepin County.

Moreover, the Annex Teen Clinic is forging new partnerships with the Native American Community Clinic (NACC) and the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (MIWRC). These partnerships involve targeted outreach, joint testing, and technical assistance to bring testing resources and referrals directly to Native American youth. Collaborating with NACC, the Annex Teen Clinic will conduct pop-up HIV and STI testing at sites within South Minneapolis to serve Native Americans in the community.

Additionally, plans are underway to offer case management and support groups for Native American women facing mental health, substance use, and trauma challenges.



CHILDREN'S MINNESOTA FOUNDATION

CONNECTING FAMILIES TO RESOURCES

\$50,000

Children's Minnesota is the only health system in the state to provide care exclusively to children, from before birth through young adulthood. An independent, not-for-profit system since 1924, they have maintained a longstanding commitment to the community to improve children's health by providing high-quality, family-centered pediatric services and advancing those efforts through research and education. Children's Minnesota serves kids throughout the Upper Midwest at two freestanding hospitals, 13 primary and specialty-care clinics, and six rehabilitation sites. They offer a wide array of services from well-child care to management of complex and chronic conditions

Their mission is to champion the health needs of children and their families, building upon the core principle that children are not small adults and have unique needs best served by family-centered care.

In 2022, 2,147 families were referred to Community Connect, a holistic approach to identifying ways to improve health, connect families to resources, and follow up to confirm connections; 55% of those families were connected to resources by Community Connect Resource Navigators and 65% reported

that the services improved the health and well-being of their family. Based on families' responses about what is affecting them, Community Connect staff suggest resources tailored to their needs. Some needs may be addressed on-site at Children's Minnesota (e.g., emergency food support and legal services) and others may involve referrals to community partners.

Thanks in part to the SMSC's continued support of this mission, Community Connect can deliver a more comprehensive care model, increasing access to resources that improve overall health, and narrowing the health disparities gap. The Collective for Community Health umbrella of services propels Children's toward fulfilling a vision of being every family's essential health partner in raising healthier children.

In fiscal year 2023, the SMSC donated \$50,000 to the Community Connect program for its food and car seat safety program. Since 2007, the SMSC has donated more than \$439,000 to the Children's Minnesota Foundation.



NOTAH BEGAY

PROMOTING HEALTHY HYDRATION FOR HEALTHY KIDS

\$100,000

Operating from its four core impact areas of healthy nutrition, physical activity, youth development, and cultural connections, the Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation invests in community-driven and culturally relevant programs that promote health. This is accomplished through programming dedicated to physical activity, nutrition, and self-efficacy that help to secure healthy futures for Native children, their families, and their communities. To achieve its goals, the NB3 Foundation operates multiple programs including the NB3FIT sports programs, its Indigenous-based evaluation program, projects that include national seminars and conferences that aid in defining Native youth health, and its grant programs that provide financial support to Native-serving organizations to maximize impacts in the communities they serve.

The NB3 Foundation's Water First! project, a health movement focused on promoting healthy hydration for Native American youth by reducing consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) and increasing water consumption through advocacy, health-related policy change, systems and environmental (PSE) change, and direct, community-based initiatives.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, SSBs are the largest source of consumed sugar and a main

contributor of unnecessary calories in U.S. diets. Communities of color are heavily and directly targeted by sugary drink manufacturers which majorly contributes to increased consumption of SSBs by Native youth. According to the Indian Health Service (IHS), when compared to all other U.S. races, Native Americans have a lower life expectancy by 5½ years which correlates to those higher rates of death from chronic illness, including diabetes.

The SMSC contributed \$100,000 to this important work in fiscal year 2023. This support will help provide the means to conduct an educational campaign which will feature celebrity endorsements, educational materials distributed in schools and community centers, and targeted social media advertising. The campaign will also feature expert facilitators at the 2023 Healthy Kids! Healthy Futures! Conference, will help produce an annual initiative designed to nationally increase water consumption, and will help with the design and release of an improved app aimed at increasing activity.

Since 2010, the SMSC has supported NB3 with \$885,000, highlighting their mutual focus on a healthier population for all.



TAILWINDS

PROVIDING SAFE RE-ENTRY FOR BEMIDJI AREA RESIDENTS

\$5,000

The Tailwinds Bemidji Re-Entry Program seeks to help ease the transition of clients coming back into society from incarceration or substance use treatment services by giving them a hand-up instead of a hand-out. They walk with their clients as they begin to navigate their new life while disconnecting themselves from the criminalistic and addictive lifestyles of their past. The organization's ultimate goal is to connect their clients with the services and resources they need for success in today's world.

Tailwinds Bemidji expanded its services in 2023 to include substance use assessments and education. The program now includes an addiction awareness and family support program, a marijuana education program, and a drinking and driving educational program. The SMSC donated \$5,000 to support this program, highlighting their commitment to supporting healthy communities throughout the state and beyond.





ELDERS LODGE CORPORATION

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON

\$5,100

Elders Lodge Corporation incorporated in 1995. The Corporation is organized to provide elderly or disabled persons with housing facilities and services specially designed to meet their physical, social, and psychological needs, and to promote their health, security, happiness, and usefulness in longer living. The original intent of the organization was to serve Native American elders by providing homes which supported Native American culture. Over time, Elders Lodge has opened to all elders who meet the criteria for residency. Today, approximately 65% of residents are Native American.

The holiday season can be a difficult time for elders, especially if they are homebound and unable to make visits outside of the building. Since age often brings increased losses—of loved ones, financial resources, health, independence, and more—the holidays can be a reminder of what we no longer have instead of a celebration of blessings.

To help ensure these elders have reason and opportunity to celebrate each year, the SMSC contributed \$5,100 to the Elders Lodge for their holiday season. The focus was on supporting both group activities and individuals, including bingo with prizes, a movie night, cookie making, several meals, and \$100 toward each apartment. The SMSC has supported this effort for several years, contributing \$82,700 since 1999.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

HELPING TO FUND LIFESAVING RESEARCH

\$10,000

The American Cancer Society is a nationwide, community-based voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem. Their global headquarters are in Atlanta, Georgia, and they have regional and local offices throughout the country to ensure a presence in every community. The American Cancer Society was founded in 1913 by 10 doctors and five laypeople in New York City. At that time, a cancer diagnosis meant near-certain death and the Society's founders knew they had to raise public awareness about cancer if progress was to be made against this disease.

The organization's inaugural Twin Cities Golf Classic was held on June 25 and 26 at The Meadows at Mystic Lake. The SMSC contributed \$10,000 to the sponsorship of the event.

The aim of the inaugural Twin Cities Golf Classic was to raise more than \$200,000 to help the American Cancer Society continue to fund lifesaving research as well as free programs and services for cancer patients and their families.

Since 1995 the SMSC has donated over \$286,000 to the American Cancer Society. Their commitment to the cause helps ensure that the American Cancer Society can continue funding groundbreaking research, offering vital programs, and supporting individuals and families affected by cancer.



AED DONATIONS

PROVIDING NECESSARY SAFETY FEATURE
LOCALLY AND BEYOND

\$117,200

An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device designed to automatically diagnose and treat life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias. These are conditions where the heart's electrical activity becomes erratic, leading to an ineffective pumping of blood. Because the device is user-friendly, often equipped with audio and visual prompts to guide the rescuer through the process, they are ideal for public spaces like schools and community/municipal buildings.

Providing these essential devices helps to ensure the safety and well-being for students, staff, and visitors in several ways. In addition to increased survival rates, AEDs offer opportunities for heart health education and community preparedness. Schools especially often host various physical activities and sports events where the risk of sudden cardiac arrest is higher. Having AEDs on-site ensures that help is readily available in case of an emergency.

The SMSC is proud to have provided a total of 82 AEDs to the following organizations in 2023:

- CITY OF MISSION (VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT)
- EAST CHAIN ACTIVITY CENTER
- MAPLE RIVER SCHOOLS
- NICOLLET PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- PRIOR LAKE-SAVAGE AREA SCHOOLS ISD # 719
- SAC AND FOX NATION OF OKLAHOMA
- SCOTT COUNTY (SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT)
- SHAKOPEE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL



PASSAGES WOMEN'S TRANSITIONAL LIVING

STOPPING THE CYCLE OF ABUSE AND ADDICTION

\$10,000

Passages Women's Transitional Living provides services in Rapid City, South Dakota, to women who previously had a history of abuse, drug/alcohol addiction, and/or who were separated from family. Rapid City has a growing number of women—many of whom are Native American—stuck in the cycle of abuse, addiction, incarceration, and homelessness.

Passages Women's Transitional Living provides these women with a safe living environment, helping them remain clean and sober while they make positive changes and rebuild their lives. Because the need is great, the organization opened a new building in August 2023, so they could double their services. They serve up to 14 women at a time, providing all their needs in a secure home where they can learn life skills, gain employment, reunite with their communities and families, and obtain the skills they need to get out of the cycle of homelessness and incarceration.

In 2023, the SMSC donated \$10,000 to Passages' "Walk-It-Out" program, which provides transportation and case-management needs. With this support, Passages was able to expand their services and help more women reunite with their families and communities.



MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING ILLNESS

\$50,000

Make-A-Wish Foundation of America was established in 1980, building on the legacy of a 7-year-old boy named Chris who had leukemia. His wish to be a police officer inspired an organization dedicated to granting wishes for other children with critical medical conditions. In 1982, Make-A-Wish Minnesota was established as an independent chapter of the national organization. In their 40 years of service, they have granted more than 6,000 wishes with many more to come.

Wishes are categorized by type (wish to have, to go, to be, to give) and each wish has its own associated costs. Wishes are as unique as the children who dream them, and Make-A-Wish requires the support of donors, volunteers, and communities to help every eligible child realize their wish. One of their largest fundraisers is the Annual Wish Ball, held for the past four years at Mystic Lake Center.

To support this important work, the SMSC donated \$50,000 to the annual gala in 2023. This contribution adds to the \$238,500 donated to Make-A-Wish since 2015.



SOUTH METRO COMMUNITY SERVICES

TRAINING AND TESTING FOR PEER RECOVERY SERVICES

\$50,000

Established in 2015 as Sage Prairie Community Services, South Metro Community Services has a profound commitment to facilitating healing within the recovery community and recognizes the importance of representing and serving the South Metro region. They offer a comprehensive range of services that provide individuals and communities services completely free of cost. This commitment reflects their dedication to accessibility and ensuring that those in need can benefit without any financial burden.

Designed to empower individuals on their journey toward sustained recovery and improved well-being, South Metro Community Services offers recovery support services, treatment navigation, education and awareness, community engagement, resource referrals, and advocacy and policy development.

The organization also offers specialized programs to address the unique needs of specific populations, such as culturally specific recovery services, programs for youth or veterans, and services tailored to the LGBTQ+ community.

The SMSC provided \$50,000 toward South Metro Community Services' ambitious project aimed at providing naloxone training and culturally specific peer recovery services to the communities of Scott and Dakota counties. The project plays a crucial role in the mission to combat substance use disorders, while offering essential support to those in need. The contribution will be used for transportation, equipment, supplies, and training.



SAINTS FOUNDATION

BUILDING A BETTER NURSERY FOR NEWBORNS

\$500,000

St. Francis Regional Medical Center has a rich tradition of providing quality health care for the people living in Minnesota's Scott, Carver, and western Dakota counties. The St. Francis service area has experienced rapid population growth, and the hospital has grown alongside it with 89 licensed acute care beds available. In 2022, the hospital saw 5,028 inpatient admits, 125,810 outpatient encounters, 35,536 emergency department visits, and 888 newborns delivered.

Among the many services they offer, the hospital provides important care for the newest members of the community including birthing services, breastfeeding resources, and childbirth education. Additionally, 29% of newborns born at St. Francis in 2022 needed to utilize the services of the level II nursery. Instead of sending these patients to other hospitals, they were able to receive care close to home. As those numbers rise, they must improve the facilities in which those services reside.

The SMSC awarded a grant in the amount of \$500,000 to fund an expansion which includes six level II infant beds, two of which will be able to accommodate twins, adding visual healing enhancements, and reducing noise for increased healing time. These improvements will increase efficiency for staff and physicians, patient privacy, and amenities for families.

Since 1995, the SMSC has donated \$3.3 million to the St. Francis Regional Medical Center

THE BRIDGE FOR YOUTH

CENTERING AND SUPPORTING YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

\$7,500

Since 1970, over 50,000 youth have found safety and stability at The Bridge for Youth (The Bridge) through emergency shelter, as well as transitional housing for youth—including parenting youth and their young children; individual, family, and group counseling; specialized case management for crime victims and youth who identify as LGBTQ+; phone/text crisis intervention; and street, site, and mobile outreach. The Bridge is at the forefront of addressing youth homelessness in Minnesota, positively impacting the lives of the most vulnerable youth in the community through youth-centered programs that offer a pathway out of poverty and chronic homelessness.

The Bridge is a critical emergency resource for youth and families, open 24/7/365 and directly accessible with or without a referral. Providing immediate safety and stability for youth ages 10-21 (including minor-aged pregnant and parenting youth and their children), The Bridge is the largest emergency shelter for minor-aged youth (ages 10-17) in Hennepin County, and the only emergency shelter in Minnesota for pregnant and parenting youth.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of youth experiencing homelessness identify as BIPOC, compared to just 26% of all Minnesota youth. In Minnesota, 35% of youth experiencing homelessness are pregnant and/or parenting, and in Hennepin County this increases to nearly 50%. Annually, 11% of Indigenous youth experience homelessness; in the past year, 2% of youth at The Bridge identified as members of the Indigenous community.

In fiscal year 2023, the SMSC donated \$7,500 to facilitate the healing, recovery, and development of pregnant or parenting youth and their children who have experienced homelessness, neglect, violence, trauma, and/or exploitation, by providing parenting supplies—blankets, diapers, onesies, nursing supplies, baby wipes, books, and toys, etc.—helping them to heal, grow, and thrive. Since 1998, the SMSC has donated \$31,000 to this essential service.





LOCAL



LOCAL YOUTH BOOSTER CLUBS

OFFERING SUPPORT TO STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN NEIGHBORING ATHLETIC ASSOCIATIONS

\$4,110

In 2023, the SMSC made various donations to several local youth booster clubs and associations in Shakopee, Prior Lake, and New Prague. These athletic organizations benefit youth who are active in their communities, participating in dance, soccer, swimming and diving, hockey, basketball, volleyball, cross country, wrestling, and baseball.

2023 LOCAL BOOSTER CLUB AWARDS

NEW PRAGUE

New Prague Trojans Boys Swim and Dive Booster Club

PRIOR LAKE

Prior Lake Back Court Club (Lakers Athletic Booster Club)
Prior Lake Savage Hockey Association (PLSHA)
Prior Lake Soccer Club

SHAKOPEE

Shakopee Boys Basketball Association
Shakopee High School Cross Country Booster Club
Shakopee High School Girls Soccer Booster Club
Shakopee Mat Club
Shakopee Varsity Baseball Booster Club
Shakopee High School Volleyball Booster Club
Shakopee High School Wrestling Booster Club





SCOTT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

INVESTING IN THE STORIES OF THE PAST

\$53,324

The Scott County Historical Society (SCHS) is a nonprofit museum, historic house, and research library with a mission to search, save, and share Scott County history. Located in downtown Shakopee, SCHS serves the entire Scott County community by preserving information and making it available through professional collections practices, engaging exhibits, and educational outreach programs for people of all ages.

Incorporated in 1969, the SCHS locates, preserves, exhibits historical materials, and interprets the history of the county. In 2023, the SMSC donated \$53,324 to help the organization with technology upgrades, including microfilm to log eight years of Scott County newspapers that the public can access. The SMSC donation also funded a frost-free freezer to professionally archive the SCHS film collection.

Community Member and SCHS Secretary Margo Gavle Prescott explains, "This donation helps tell the stories of all those who have lived and currently live in Scott County, including Dakota people. It's really important to invest in technology upgrades to ensure this organization can continue to meet the needs of the county for years to come."

SCOTT, CARVER, AND DAKOTA CAP AGENCY

SUPPORTING ACCESS TO CULTURALLY SPECIFIC FOODS

\$15,000

The Community Action Partnership of Scott, Carver, and Dakota counties (CAP) was founded in 1965 to serve individuals and families in the tri-county area struggling to attain basic needs and resources. Their mission is to assist and empower individuals and families living in these communities to achieve social and economic well-being. For over 55 years, CAP has helped to build healthier and stronger communities by creating accessible, high-quality education, safe and stable housing, and energy support.

In fiscal year 2023, the SMSC awarded CAP \$15,000 in support of the organization's food and nutrition programs. This funding helped meet the increased need of those experiencing food insecurity in the tri-county area and allowed CAP to purchase culturally specific foods for the food shelf and food distribution activities for diverse communities.

SCOTT COUNTY

**POSITIVELY IMPACTING
RESIDENTS LIVING IN
SCOTT COUNTY**

\$79,200

Scott County is one of the fastest-growing counties in Minnesota with a population of 150,928 as recorded in the 2020 U.S. Census. The Minnesota River creates the northern boundary of the county and has rich historical and cultural significance to the SMSC, whose lands are located in Scott County. The two governments have worked tirelessly to create a collaborative partnership across a variety of important topics and programs for all county residents, including care for waterways, public health and safety, and the sheriff's department.

The primary purpose of the Scott County Sheriff's Office is to maintain law and order, ensure public safety, and provide law enforcement services to the residents of Scott County. Like many other sheriff's offices, the department was created to enforce local and state laws, protect citizens from criminal activity, and uphold the justice system. In 2023, the SMSC donated \$69,200 to the Scott County Sheriff's Department for a half-ton pickup truck. This donation enhances the capabilities and effectiveness of the Reserve Deputies as they fulfill their diverse range of duties, including event security, traffic control, property checks, weather-related emergencies, inmate transportation, park control, search and rescue missions, and countless other crucial assignments.

Additionally, the SMSC awarded the county's Public Health Department \$10,000 for an outdoor fitness court. The COVID-19 pandemic drove people indoors, which led to social isolation and had negative impacts on mental health. This donation will help address these issues identified by the Scott County Community Health Assessment. Furthermore, the court will help to support the overall quality of life for those living in Scott County by allowing equitable access to outdoor exercise programs.



SHAKOPEE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**BENEFITING DOWNTOWN
SHAKOPEE BUSINESSES**

\$8,284

Since 1955, the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce has been a voice of the business community. Having a strong, dynamic business community benefits everyone living in Shakopee and the surrounding areas. The Shakopee Chamber of Commerce connects local businesses, service organizations, and all levels of government to create an environment where people want to live, work, and play.

In March 2023, the SMSC donated a golf package for the silent auction held at the Chamber's Red, White, and Brews event. This event raised money for the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce's education and programming initiatives.

In April 2023, the SMSC donated a golf package and bingo package for the Get to Know Main Street event. This opportunity benefited members of the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce and visitor's bureau. This online auction was an opportunity for Shakopee businesses and chamber members to learn more about what is happening in the area throughout the year.

Additionally, the SMSC donated \$7,000 to be a sponsor of the Shakopee Chamber of Commerce golf tournament in June 2023, held at The Meadows at Mystic Lake golf course.

SCOTT COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR THE SCOTT COUNTY FAST-TRACK CHALLENGE

\$5,000

The Scott County Community Development Agency (CDA) was created by an act of the Minnesota Legislature in 1974 (Chapter 473) as a government agency to serve the people and businesses of Scott County. Over the years, the CDA has been a vital resource that enhances the lives of all people residing in Scott County. The CDA's ability to work with a variety of partners in local government as well as for-profit businesses and nonprofit organizations offers a unique perspective on how to provide creative leadership that supports the vibrant future of Scott County.

SCOTT COUNTY FAST-TRACK CHALLENGE

In 2023, the SMSC continued their sponsorship for the Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge with a \$5,000 donation. The FAST-TRACK Challenge is a business competition for entrepreneurs who have been in business from zero to five years, and who seek assistance in rapidly advancing their business toward success.

The FAST-TRACK Challenge plays a critical role in cultivating local talent and providing employment opportunities within Scott County. The Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency (SCALE), established a goal to have 50% of the workforce living and working in Scott County by 2030, and the FAST-TRACK Challenge is a significant step in that direction. By participating in this program, entrepreneurs gain valuable

experience and resources that they can use to build and grow their business, while simultaneously contributing to the local economy. The FAST-TRACK Challenge promotes the Scott County Center for Entrepreneurship and its various programs, which are specifically designed to help local businesses expand, create jobs, and increase the tax base.

2023 FAST-TRACK CHALLENGE WINNER

Accelerated Care Solutions (ACS) took first place in the 2023 FAST-TRACK Challenge event. Located in Shakopee, Minnesota, ACS is a health care company that provides project-based and subscription-based services. Their flagship service "Virtual Nurse Triage" features their telehealth platform and team of remote registered nurses for on-site caregivers to connect with. The company has set out to solve the workforce crisis and profitability issues that are negatively impacting the senior care industry. ACS's proprietary integrated processes and workflows allow senior care facilities to maximize the quality and efficiency of the service offerings these facilities provide.

For more information on the Scott County FAST-TRACK Challenge, visit scottcountyfasttrack.com.



LAKESIDE AND CENTER STAGE

SMSC SUPPORTS LAKEFRONT MUSIC FESTIVAL AND PRIOR LAKE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The SMSC has been a presenting sponsor for the Lakefront Music Festival since 2010. This local Prior Lake event welcomes thousands of visitors to enjoy live country and rock music by contributing big-name artists in the industry for two nights of fun, festivities, and great music. In 2023, Lakefront Music Festival hosted REO Speedwagon, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Darius Rucker, and Tyler Hubbard as headliners.

This annual concert raises funds for the Prior Lake Rotary Foundation in support of educational, humanitarian, and environmental activities in the local community and beyond. Further profits go to support the Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools' Athletic Booster Club, Patrons of the Arts, and Parent, Teacher, Child organizations.

The Lakefront Music Festival continues to be one of the most prominent summer events for the area, selling out of tickets weeks or months before the festival. Along with monetary donations, the SMSC also contributes services such as volunteers, equipment, vehicles, pallets of water, and emergency services from Mdewakanton Public Safety.





\$100,000

Prior Lake Rotary Club has had an impact on over 450,000 lives in 2022 and 2023 alone!



SMSC TOY DRIVE MAKES HOLIDAY MAGIC HAPPEN FOR KIDS

1,686

TOYS

In December 2023, the SMSC brought joy to local children during the holiday season. Through the SMSC Charitable Giving Department, Community Members, SMSC employees, and team members donated toys like bikes, dolls, books, games, and more to share with children living in uncertainty.

Over 1,600 toys and presents were donated through this special event. Organizations including Scott, Dakota, and Carver County's CAP Agency, Baby Space, Ain Dah Yung Center, Open Arms Native Missions, and the SMSC's Family and Children Services Department received these gifts and distributed them to local families.





FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

PROVIDING FRESH PRODUCE AND PANTRY STAPLES TO LOCAL FAMILIES

45,387

POUNDS OF FOOD

During the summer of 2023, the SMSC hosted two public food distributions to help Scott County families during a time of rising costs. On May 17 and June 21, SMSC Community Members, employees, and team members banded together to organize and distribute food to local residents. These drive-up events were a huge success with 1,035 families stopping by to pick up fresh produce, meats, canned goods, and more.

Over 45,000 pounds of food were provided to families during the SMSC summer food drives, helping to decrease food insecurity in the community and beyond.



THE HEART OF THE CITY

RACING TO END THE HARDSHIPS OF HUNGER

\$1,000

The Heart of the City (HOTC) is a charity based in Burnsville, Minnesota with a mission to support organizations that empower individuals to enhance their health, end childhood hunger, and overcome hardships. By creating a fellowship among several organizations, more lives are improved, and in turn, communities become stronger.

In 2023, the SMSC donated \$1,000 toward the HOTC annual race which takes place around downtown Burnsville. There is a race for all ages and abilities including a Kids Fun Run, 5k, 10k, and 15k event. Race day raises money for the Kids Feeding Kids (KFK) program within the Boys and Girls Club of the Twin Cities. This program provides kids with a free, nutritious, family-style meal every weeknight as well as on school release days. KFK ensures that children receive essential nutrients and nutritional education to grow into healthy and productive members of society. The KFK kitchens in Minnesota serve more than 150,000 meals a year. This program also helps create relationships and friendships between adult teachers and young people looking for stable authority figures.

The Boys and Girls Club provides a safe place for kids to play, grow, and learn. Members of the Boys and Girls Club are encouraged and empowered to excel in school, therefore avoiding risky behaviors and attending school regularly. The Boys and Girls Club offers youth a chance to become good citizens and lead healthy and productive lives.





COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT





TURTLE MOUNTAIN BAND OF CHIPPEWA

**SUPPORTING FACILITY EXPANSION FOR
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

\$817,089

Given its remote, rural location and the challenging terrain of its reservation in North Dakota, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa has long struggled with the need to provide quick access and timely care to patients in need of critical services with life-threatening illnesses or injuries. Vast ambulance coverage areas, weather concerns, delayed notifications, and more often lead to prolonged delays between an emergency incident and the patient receiving care at a hospital, which is especially problematic when a patient is experiencing a condition that requires rapid treatment.

In response to these challenges, the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa constructed a new first responders facility in 2021 to help with the strained response times to outliers on the western boundaries of the reservation. In fiscal year 2023, the SMSC contributed \$817,089 to help outfit the facility and its emergency care responders with the technology and equipment necessary to save lives, including two ambulances, a defibrillator/cardiac monitor, EMT medical kits, blood pressure cuffs, and other basic medical supplies. As the waitlist for the

new ambulances are between 3-4 years, the SMSC also donated a 2002 Medtec Ambulance to the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa that was being replaced.

These crucial supplies, combined with the newly constructed Dunseith Fire/Emergency Medical Services Station, will help equip first responders in the area with the tools and resources necessary to provide timely, lifesaving support to the entire community they serve.

VISION STATEMENT

A trusted fire, emergency medical service facility that dispatches reliable first responder units to Rolette County and Townships of Dunseith, Rolette, the International Peace Garden, Belcourt, and other surrounding areas—where lives matter and everyone is important.

NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY BOARD

**REBUILDING A VITAL
COMMUNITY HUB**

\$200,000

Since its formation in 1985, the Native American Community Board (NACB) has worked tirelessly to protect the health and human rights of Indigenous people through cultural preservation, education, coalition building, community organizing, and more. From providing housing and services to victims of relationship violence to preserving Dakota language and feeding the hungry, the organization's services offer a crucial safety net to the Native community it serves on or near the Yankton Sioux Reservation in eastern South Dakota.

On December 21, 2021, NACB's headquarters were tragically destroyed by arson. While no one was injured, the fire devastated not only the physical office, equipment, documents, community radio station, and food pantry, but also the nonprofit's more priceless archival photographs and collection of recordings with tribal elders. To help NACB recover and rebuild following this overwhelming loss, the SMSC contributed \$200,000 toward the construction, furnishing, and equipping of a new headquarters building in Lake Andes, South Dakota.

When complete, the new building will be a larger and more modern facility that will allow NACB to expand upon the events, programming, and service offerings that it has provided to the surrounding community since its inception. "The positive response from the tribal and non-Indian communities is helping us to get back on our feet," NACB stated in its grant application to the SMSC. "It has been a powerful journey in many ways." Thanks to the support of neighbors and friends, NACB will be able to continue its important and impactful work in a better-equipped setting.

WOMEN EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR INDIGENOUS NATIONS

**ADDRESSING THE ISSUES
FACING INDIGENOUS WOMEN**

\$25,000

Since 2004, Women Empowering Women for Indigenous Nations (WEWIN) has hosted national conferences to engage, inspire, and empower Native women throughout Indian Country by creating a forum for women to come together and discuss the many issues of paramount importance today.

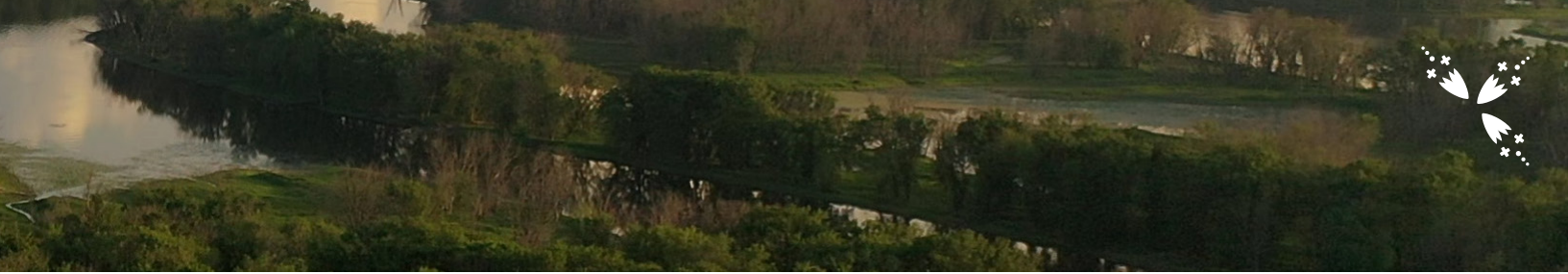
WEWIN's work at the annual conference is heavily focused on building a stage and support network for Native women and helping them build the skills and receive the training and education they need to achieve their life, family, and professional goals. WEWIN deliberately brings together women from all walks of life. Each year, hundreds of Native women from tribal leadership to mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and professionals attend the conference for an opportunity to create stronger networks, impact public policy, help foster economic growth, and continue personal and professional development.

The SMSC continued its longtime partnership with WEWIN through a \$25,000 title sponsorship of the 2023 conference hosted by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians at the Palms Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Warrior Women: Forging New Horizons" was the theme for the 2023 conference which featured keynote speakers, workshops, and breakout sessions throughout the four days. Topics included education, health, leadership, and personal wellbeing and growth, all rooted in traditional and cultural values.

2023 DONATIONS AND GRANTS

Aim for the Handicapped
Ain Dah Yung Center
American Cancer Society
American Diabetes Association
American Indian College Fund
American Indian Community Development Corporation
American Indian Community Housing Organization
American Indian Family Center
American Indigenous Business Leaders
American Legions Veterans Post No. 185
Annex Teen Clinic
Anoka Hennepin Schools Indian Education
Beacon Interfaith Housing
Belle Plaine High School Dance Team
Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe
Brave Heart Society
The Bridge for Youth
Build Wealth MN Inc.
Buss Productions
Cheyenne River Youth Project
Children's Minnesota Foundation
City of Mission
Clare Housing
Claremont Hogfest Committee
Colon Cancer Coalition
Community Area Bussing
Compass Learning Center
Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota
Dream of Wild Health
Eagle Creek Elementary
East Chain Activity Center
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Eastern Shoshone Tribe
Elders Lodge
Environmental Initiative
Every Third Saturday
Fond Du Lac Band of Ojibwe
Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College
Fore Children's Foundation
Franklin Center
Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe
Fraternal Order of Police
Greater Twin Cities United Way
Great Plains Action Society
Grygla Public School
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Inc.
Head of the Lakes United Way
Heart of the City Race
Hennepin Health Foundation
His Haven Ranch Company
Homeward Bound, Inc.
I Am ALS
Indian Child Welfare Law Center
Indian Land Tenure Foundation
Indian Youth of America, Inc.
Indigenous Peoples Task Force
Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul
ISD#742 Powwow Committee
JDRF International
Jordan Lions Club
Kansas University Endowment Association
Katherine E. Nash Gallery
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
Leech Lake Tribal College
The Lift Garage
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
Lower Sioux Dakota Community
The Mac Greeman Foundation
Mahkato Mdewakanton Association
Make-A-Wish Minnesota
Maple River Schools
Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Menominee Indian School District
Metropolitan Economic Development Council
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Minnesota American Indian Bar Association
Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Home Care Foundation
Minnesota Museum of American Art
Minnesota Public Radio
Minnesota Shorthorn Association
Minnesota Zoo Foundation
Montana Native American Center
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Native American Bar Association
National Indian Education Association
Native American Community Board
Native American Community Clinic
Native American Rights Fund
Native Nutrition Conference
The Nature Conservancy
New Prague Trojans Boys Swim and Dive Booster Club
Nicollet Public Schools
Niniijaanis
North Country Food Bank
Notah Begay III (NB3) Foundation
Oglala Sioux Tribe



Olmsted-Rochester Law Enforcement
K-9 Foundation
Passages Women's Transitional Living
Pechanga Resort & Casino
People Serving People
Pet Project Rescue
Pheasants for Hospitalized Veterans
Piestewa Fallen Heroes Memorial
Planned Parenthood Minnesota,
North Dakota, South Dakota
Prairie Island Dakota Community
Prior Lake Back Court Club
Prior Lake Rotary
Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools
Prior Lake Savage Graduation Celebration
Prior Lake Savage Hockey Association
Prior Lake Savage Schools
Indian Education
Prior Lake Soccer Club
Public Art Saint Paul
Ramalynn Academy
Reach Out and Read Minnesota
Red Lake Nation
Rock From the Heart
Ronnie's Fight for CDH
Rural American Initiatives
Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Saginaw Chippewa Indian
Tribe of Michigan
Saints Foundation
Salvation Army of the Twin Cities
Scott Carver Dakota CAP Agency
Scott County
Scott County Agricultural Society
Scott County CDA
Scott County Historical Society

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank
Shakopee Area Catholic Schools
Shakopee Boys Basketball Booster Club
Shakopee Chamber and Visitor Bureau
Shakopee Educational Endowment
Foundation
Shakopee High School Cross Country
Booster Club
Shakopee High School Girls
Soccer Boosters
Shakopee High School Volleyball
Booster Club
Shakopee Mat Club
Shakopee Public Schools
Indian Education Program
Shakopee Varsity Baseball Booster Club
Sicangu Child and Family Services
South Dakota Education Equity Coalition
South Dakota Urban Indian Health
Southern Valley Alliance
South High Foundation
South Metro Community Services
South of the River Pow Wow
Spark Children's Museum of Rochester
Special Olympics Minnesota
Spirit Lake Tribe
St. John's Lutheran Church and School
St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad
Survivor Resources
Susan G. Komen
Southwest Metro Intermediate
District #288
Tailwinds Bemidji
Tribal Share
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
Turtle Mountain Head Start
Tusweca Tiospaye

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity
Twin Cities Public Television
Union Gospel Mission
United Heroes League
United National Indian Tribal Youth, Inc.
United Tribes Technical College
Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Upper Sioux Dakota Community
Victories Square Manager, LLC
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Language Institute
Wacante Kiyapi
Wambli Ska Okolakiciye
Wee3Beasties: Saving the Strays
White Earth Nation
Wilderness Inquiry
Winner Wacipi Committee
Winona-Dakota Unity Alliance
Women of Nations
Woodlands and High Plains Powwow
Women Empowering Women for
Indigenous Nations



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