



# National Relief Charities

Building Strong, Self-Sufficient American Indian Communities

## *Strengthening Communities*

2011 Annual Impact Report



# Strong, Self Sufficient American Indian Communities

This is our Vision at National Relief Charities.

For nearly 25 years, National Relief Charities has worked with leaders on American Indian reservations to address poverty and strengthen communities. We understand that innovations and solutions are most often born among the people closest to the issues that need to be addressed. This is why NRC's services support our reservation-based Program Partners in their efforts to create the social and economic changes necessary for their communities to thrive. Together, we share a vision of healthy, sustainable, and self-reliant American Indian communities.

NRC understands the considerable need for basic and immediate aid to the communities we serve. In these communities, poverty ranges from 38-63%, unemployment ranges from 35-85%, and food insecurity and lack of opportunities abound. Therefore, we provide needed resources to our partner agencies to ease the urgent needs of the people for food, health, housing, and education. NRC also understands that long term, sustainable solutions to poverty will not be found solely in humanitarian relief efforts. Therefore, we provide capacity building services, technical support, and access to information and financial resources for reservation partner agencies committed to transforming their communities.

**We help create the opportunity and foster the environment for positive community changes.**

[Return to website](#)





## Working For Today

NRC's mission is: To help Native Americans improve the quality of their lives by providing opportunities for them to bring about positive changes in their communities. Your donations this year helped us meet our mission and provide the materials needed by over 1,000 reservation programs to enhance their services. By helping the generation of today, Native Americans believe you are helping seven generations into the future.



## Building Capacity & Hope

From today to "tomorrow" is a long journey. Along the way, we help build a bridge to the future by investing in capacity building with partner agencies and communities. Our 2011 Annual Program Partner Survey shows these results:

- 89% of NRC partners being more effective with their program goals
- 92% having enhanced ability to provide a higher quality of service to their community
- 91% saving to a great extent in funding they can use in other areas of their program



## Working For Tomorrow

The most common misconception we encounter is that many Americans believe the American Indian people are taken care of by the treaties and the government. They are not. You understand this and helped us provide a range of support for long-term solutions such as scholarships and grants, home improvement services, and formal collaboration with communities tackling pressing problems.



*"It's hard to find words to express our appreciation to everyone who donated food, clothing, and shelter, or funding for these basic needs. So many people were helped."*

– Velma Yazzie, Navajo Reservation



**YOU**  
helped feed  
**215,760**  
Native American  
Elders & youth.

**YOU**  
helped **40,472**  
Native American  
students with  
education.

**YOU**  
helped **436,547**  
Native Americans  
with healthcare  
needs.

**YOU**  
helped **17,889**  
Native American  
Elders with  
housing needs.



# Impacting Communities

## Connecting People



*"This past year you encouraged hope and improved quality of life for over 300,000 Native Americans. NRC staff, our Program Partners, and all of the people you helped thank you so much for your generosity and kindness."*

*– All the team at National Relief Charities*

*"I'm a student from a small, poor community. My dream is to go to college. I do not have funding resources, but I am smart and determined to make a difference in the world."*

*"I am a public health nurse on a reservation. I am concerned about the high rates of diabetes and lack of health care services. I am so sad to see people suffer from treatable conditions because they are poor."*



*"I'm an elder and my roof is caving in. My social security barely covers food, water, and heat. I'm on the tribal waiting list for housing, but it's first come first serve and many people are in line ahead of me."*



*"I lead a youth program on a remote reservation. I want our kids to have a safe place to play and learn. I want our teens to avoid violence and drugs. I want to help level the playing field so they have a bright future."*



# One Person At A Time

- \$2,000 scholarships
- Mentoring and support through college
- Emergency funding
- Connection to other scholarships and community resources

## With Resources



*"I returned to my home reservation to teach school and share my experiences with our youth. I can support my family and inspire others. My sister and cousins are going to college now too!"*

## For Stronger Communities

- Medical and other supplies to motivate health screenings
- Information on health resources
- Fresh produce
- Nutrition and wellness classes
- Home healthcare visits



*"My program helped 30% of the Elders in our community identify their disease and learn how to manage it. Some of our Elders who had been homebound are able to participate more with family and community."*

365  
Days  
A Year

- Roof repair and home weatherization for winter
- Blankets, emergency food, and firewood
- Referrals to elderly resources
- Meals at the senior center



*"My roof is fixed and I sleep better at night knowing it won't fall on me. I'm not losing heat so my wood lasts longer and I stay warmer. I look forward to the senior center meals. I eat better and feel less isolated."*

- Supplies for after-school activities
- Community gardens
- Grants to build safe play spaces
- Incentives for positive behavior and community contributions
- Support for leadership training



*"Participation at our center tripled! The kids are a great support to one another and to our elders. They're building confidence. They even started a farmer's market to sell crops from their garden."*

## What's Ahead?

National Relief Charities has been committed to Indian country for nearly 25 years. We have always provided material relief for the urgent needs in our service area. Yet we have also worked with a mindset of impact, empowerment, grassroots community-based solutions, and sustainability. We see tremendous progress being made by our strong network of reservation partners and our collaborative efforts. But there's much work left to do.

Our approach to working in Indian country is different. We use our considerable relationships and experience to bring groups of people together who can collaborate on real solutions to social problems. We take the time to understand the main concerns in a community and projects delayed by resource constraints, to learn about the available resources and what is already being done, to learn about community interest and support and what we can add to the equation. We find the people who are working to move the community out of the current situation with positive sustainable solutions, the grassroots folks who are involving the people most affected, and we partner with them for lasting impact.

Whether it's farmer's markets to address food insecurity and nutrition, or housing projects that include job training, or culturally-relevant health education curriculum and inspiring more Native youth to college, NRC will continue to collaborate with American Indian leaders to strengthen their communities based on their self-determined goals.

We look forward to sharing this journey with you.

[Return to website](#)

*"We know what needs to change. We know how to do it. But we lack the resources and capacity. Our partnership with NRC lets us execute our plans and strengthen our community."*

*— Karen Red Star, Pine Ridge Reservation*



# Thank You For Your Support

NATIONAL RELIEF CHARITIES is built on the generosity of thousands who give what they can to support our work. We receive no government funding and are primarily supported by small gifts from many people, which add up to a big impact. It takes cash, people who care about Native Americans, groups who provide program supplies, our staff, and our partners working together to meet our mission. **TO ALL OF YOU, WE THANK YOU.** Please visit NRC's [Supporters](#) page to learn more about those who make our work possible.

## Statement of Activities

Audit Year Ended 12.31.11

### REVENUE

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Noncash Contributions    | \$ 22,263,531        |
| Contributions and Grants | \$ 23,520,662        |
| Other Revenues, Net      | \$ 205,897           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>     | <b>\$ 45,990,090</b> |

### EXPENSE

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Plains Region       | \$ 17,244,491 |
| Southwest Region    | \$ 15,418,962 |
| Educational Support | \$ 1,407,880  |
| Other               | \$ 118,652    |

**Total Program Expense \$ 34,189,985**

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Total Fundraising Expense    | \$ 12,526,192 |
| Total Administrative Expense | \$ 841,734    |
| Total Operating Expense      | \$ 47,557,911 |

Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets \$ (1,567,821)

## Statement of Financial Position

Audit Year Ended 12.31.11

### ASSETS

|                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents   | \$ 2,765,760         |
| Inventories               | \$ 11,208,058        |
| Pledges Receivable        | \$ 24,248            |
| Prepaid Expenses          | \$ 193,685           |
| Property & Equipment, Net | \$ 9,313,667         |
| Investments               | \$ 173,284           |
| <b>Total Assets</b>       | <b>\$ 23,678,702</b> |

### LIABILITIES

|                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Accounts Payable               | \$ 1,151,074        |
| Accrued Liabilities            | \$ 361,675          |
| Current Portion of Debt        | \$ 165,768          |
| Line of Credit                 | \$ 1,468,594        |
| Long-term Debt, Net of Current | \$ 1,758,267        |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>       | <b>\$ 4,905,378</b> |

### NET ASSETS

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Unrestricted           | \$ 18,708,324 |
| Temporarily Restricted | \$ ---        |
| Permanently Restricted | \$ 65,000     |

THE MAJORITY OF  
DONATIONS GO  
TOWARD PROGRAMS.

**72%**

A SMALL AMOUNT OF  
DONATIONS GO TOWARD  
ADMINISTRATION.

**2%**

*“The most important thing that National Relief Charities provides for the reservations is hope...”*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dr. Joshua Tompkins, Chairman:**

Adjunct Professor at North Central University in Minnesota

**Rodney Trahan, Treasurer:**

Founder of Streamline Enterprises business coaching practice in Wyoming

**Dr. Helen Usera, Secretary:**

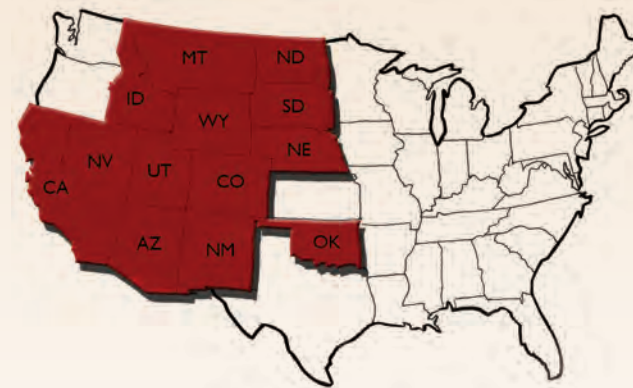
President & CEO, Chiesman Center for Democracy in South Dakota

**Ann Marie Woessner-Collins:**

Managing Director of Business & Economic Incentives at Jones Lang LaSalle in the Twin Cities

**Kevin Diepholz:**

Business Development professional with Werner Electric and entrepreneur in Minnesota



*Serving tribes  
in 12 states*

## The Programs of National Relief Charities:



SOUTHWEST INDIAN  
RELIEF COUNCIL



AMERICAN INDIAN  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Relief Fund



AMERICAN INDIAN  
RELIEF COUNCIL



Sioux  
Nation Relief Fund



ROAR  
Rescue Operation for Animals of the Reservation



CIN Council of  
Indian Nations



Native  
American  
Aid

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