



PARTNERSHIP WITH
NATIVE AMERICANS®

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Capacity Building in Native Nations

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



Remembering Native Americans

While news cycles focused on disasters and war, donors here at home kept some of their attention on the needs of Indian Country. This allowed us to meet most of our 2023 program goals, bringing relief for immediate needs and building capacity for long-term solutions.

The one critical area where giving fell short was water. Yet access to clean water remains a battleground for many Tribes. In fact, in 2023, the Supreme Court ruled the Navajo Nation has a right to enough water for agriculture and other uses but that its treaty with the U.S. didn't make any promise to aid the Tribe with clean water. Native Americans living in rural and remote reservation communities face this and many other risks every day.

Reservation Risk Factors

- Food insecurity for 1 in 4 Native families (23%)
- Less than 2 in 10 Native people without a college degree (16%)
- Poverty impacting 1 of every 2 families in PWNA's service area
- Only 500 health clinics for 574 recognized Tribes, an unmet treaty right
- High health disparities (diabetes, asthma, obesity, tooth decay, and more)
- A digital divide limiting access to education, healthcare, and jobs
- Limited outside aid when emergency strikes
- Thousands of stray and injured animals with limited veterinary care

PWNA and our Tribal partners are comforted by the overall impact made in 2023. To maintain the momentum, we'll need all of you to stay informed, help spread the word, and continue to support PWNA and other Native nonprofits.

Our Goals for 2024

- Food Security: 350,000 lbs. of food for 30,000 people
- Water: 225,000 bottles of water
- Education: 260 scholarships and school supplies for 15,000 youth
- Leadership Development: 35 people trained and graduated
- Emergency Response: 250 CERT/First Aid/CPR trained, or planning disaster response
- Animal: 700 dogs and cats spayed/neutered/vaccinated and 10,000 lbs. of supplies



A Message from the President

Dear friends and supporters,

The Aspen Institute defines community capacity as “the combined influence of a community’s commitment, resources, and skills that can be deployed to build on community strengths and address community problems and opportunities.” The operative words are commitment, resources, and skills. While PWNA and our program partners have commitment and skills, we could not better Tribal communities without the resources you provide.

I'd like to offer a special thanks to Olo for Good, the Tides Foundation, Boeing, Feeding America, Bank of America, General Motors, the Grow With Google Indigenous Career Readiness Program, and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies for making Indian Country a priority for equity, inclusion, and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

2023 was a year of capacity building. We expanded emergency preparedness into new communities, focused food demonstrations and public meals on healthy nutrition, invested in leadership development, and awarded scholarships for graduate, undergraduate, and vocational students. These solutions are paving the way for community leadership today and tomorrow.

Another special thanks goes to our individual donors who support deliveries for immediate relief. Without funding for the basics – food and water, disaster relief, school supplies, seasonal needs, and animal welfare – we couldn't focus on a brighter future.

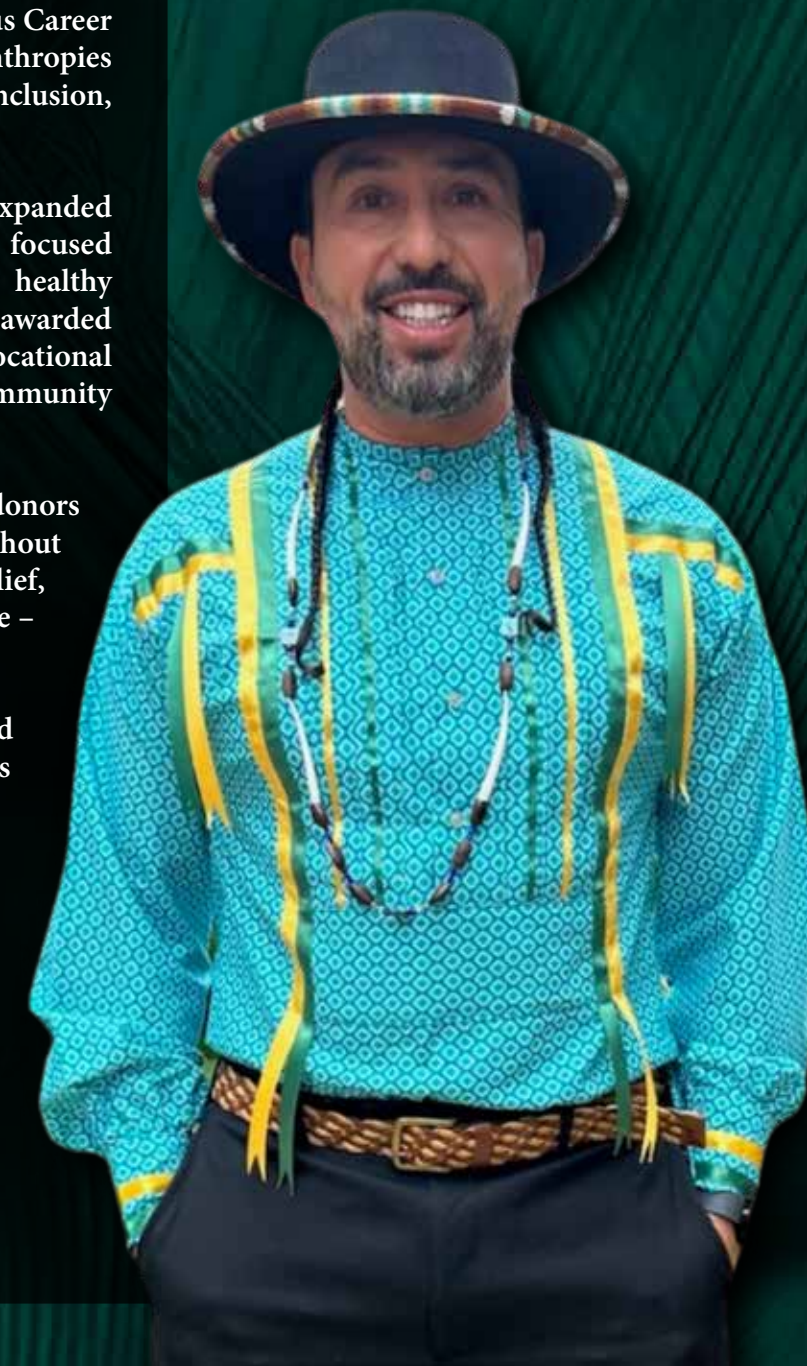
We look forward to continuing to reach our goals and enrich the lives of thousands of Native Americans into 2024 and beyond.

With gratitude,

Joshua Arce.
President & CEO

“While PWNA and our Program Partners have commitment and skills, we could not better Tribal communities without the resources you provide.”

Joshua Arce



Advances in Native Equity

We saw these 2023 advances in Native representation through film, the courts, and political office:

- The all-Native TV series *Reservation Dogs* ended in 2023 with 14 wins and 62 nominations in just three seasons. *Killers of the Flower Moon*, with Golden Globe winner Lily Gladstone, told the true story of greed and crimes against the Osage Nation. Getting Native voices on screen helps tell accurate stories and break down stereotypes.
- The Supreme Court upheld the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), affirming its constitutionality and ensuring Native foster children are placed with Native families.
- The Department of Interior required federally funded institutions to repatriate more remains and artifacts to Tribes, closing the loophole on items they deemed “culturally unidentifiable.” This is a gain, albeit a partial solution, as funding and Native representation are essential to support the process.
- Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are all represented in Congress now.
- Pope Francis officially disavowed the ‘doctrine of discovery’ – calling it “a political manipulation by colonial powers.” This doctrine gave Europeans rights to any discovered land if its inhabitants were not Christians, grossly disrupting Tribes and their way of life. Repudiation is a step in the right direction, but most Indian case law is still based on this doctrine.

While all this played out, the Tribes in PWNA’s service area made advances in food security, emergency preparedness, leadership development, and higher education. Despite struggles with economics and health disparities, these Tribes are exercising their all-important sovereignty and self-determination. Doing so is crucial for Native communities to remain socially, culturally, and economically viable long-term.

These milestones impart hope for a brighter future based on truth and social justice for all Americans.

Repatriate: <https://www.voanews.com/a/native-american-news-2023-in-review-7409149.html>

Doctrine: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/30/world/europe/vatican-repudiates-doctrine-of-discovery-colonization.html>

Law: <https://www.governing.com/context/what-the-repudiation-of-the-doctrine-of-discovery-means-for-indian-country>



Irene R., Navajo
Pinedale, New Mexico
Firewood Recipient

Partners for Social Impact

Since 1990, we've approached our work through respect and partnership – it's even part of our name! We've collaborated with hundreds of reservation-based programs, relying on their knowledge of the people and needs to custom-fit our services. Industrious and resilient, these community leaders never stop working for change, while we serve as a trusted partner and resource to help increase their impact.

We've partnered with hundreds of donors too, both individual and organizational. We're making Native lives better because you believe in our mission and place your trust in us.

Inclusion and social responsibility have never been more important. As a nonprofit, one of our biggest challenges is getting the word out. Many people remain unaware of the extreme challenges Tribes are facing, so we thank you for remembering Indian Country and for helping others become more NativeAware®.

“To help PWNA financially was a personal decision to support programs that improve Native lives and communities in various but specific ways... food, water, clothing, healthcare, education. In my research, I have found that PWNA is led by knowledgeable and motivated Native Americans, provides greatly needed necessities to the Tribal people, and prioritizes sovereignty and self-determination. Native cultures are rich and diverse, but their communities are financially fragile. Contributing is a way to help address the historical injustices they have faced and continue to face today. Improving the lives of all in need should be a priority for anyone who has the means and resources to help.”



Ray B., FL, PWNA Donor



Impact Through 6 Pillars of Service

Partnership With Native Americans is one of the largest Native-serving nonprofits in the United States. Native-led, our programs span six pillars of need in Indian Country – food and water, education, emergency, health, holiday, and animal welfare. We respond to each pillar by focusing on immediate relief and long-term solutions. Overall, we work with 500 Tribal partners to impact quality of life on the reservations.

Food and Water (# people served)

2,850
Produce

4,752
Breakfast/
Emergency Food

6,322
Food Pantry

15,652
Standard Food

18,021
Holiday Meals

Most Americans don't have to think about access to food and water, but these are everyday worries for many Native families. Additionally, most food that comes from government aid is often laden with fat or carbohydrates, contributing to nutrition-related diseases like diabetes and obesity. This makes it vitally important that Tribal communities return to the use of ancestral foods and have access to clean water.

To offset food insecurity, PWNA and its programs provide food in 10 different ways throughout the year. For example, thanks to funding from Olo for Good, the Tides Foundation, and Bank of America, PWNA distributed more than 113,000 pounds of fresh produce and ancestral foods such as bison and mutton to 10 different Tribal communities in 2023.

Through our Native American Aid (NAA) and Navajo Relief Fund (NRF) programs, we provided emergency food boxes to Elders on 9 reservations in 2023.

23% of Native families suffer from food insecurity – the highest rate of any race in the U.S.

Our Northern Plains Reservation Aid (NPRA) program provided breakfast foods to Elders of the Rosebud Reservation – foods they received while awaiting their social security checks. Rosebud Elder Regina S., whose husband is terminally ill, participated in the Breakfast in a Bag service for the first time in 2023. She was elated to have healthy food that did not consume her limited income.

We also helped Tribal partners bring communities together around healthy meals. Southwest Indian Relief Council (SWIRC) Thanksgiving partner Sheena B. with the Tséhootsooí Diné Bi'Ólta' community school in Arizona fed students and families while they attended the school's annual Diné pageant. Meanwhile, NPRA partner Curtis C. from the Pass Creek District ENC on the Pine Ridge Reservation received Thanksgiving meal bags with turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, and cranberry sauce for his Elders. Each bag had enough to feed 6 people. He shared, "A lot of Elders are taking care of grandkids and are limited on buying stuff for the holidays. PWNA is the only program where we can get donations like this for our Elders."

Water is also a year-round issue for many Tribes. In fact, communities of color face unequal access to safe drinking water, including 48% of reservation homes. PWNA provided nearly 200,000 bottles of water to Native Americans in 2023.



“Age-old food inequities impact Native families living on the reservations every day, making PWNA's year-round deliveries vital for community wellness.”

- Bertha C.,
Navajo Nation, New Mexico
SWRA Standard Food Partner

Water: <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/hs.2021.0034>



Education Support (# people served)

100
Leadership
Development

13,883
Literacy &
School Supplies

1,520
Digital
Training

321
Scholarships*

*Scholars also received laptops, care packs, and family holiday gifts.

With higher education sitting at the forefront of economic advancement, PWNA is proud to commit a large investment to Native students, from pre-kindergarten to college and career.

Thanks to support from the Grow With Google Indigenous Career Readiness Program, our American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) program, awarded over half a million dollars' worth of graduate, undergraduate, and vocational scholarships in 2023. We also provided free digital training with Google support.

Only 16% of Native Americans hold a college degree, though 40% of Whites do.

Funding is half the education battle; the other half is facing the college challenges that are unique to Native students. To help, some of our scholarship recipients team up with PepsiCo RISE mentors – a benefit that sets AIEF apart from other scholarship programs.

It was an AIEF scholarship that helped 47-year-old student Donnette M.H. finish her master's in education at Sitting Bull College on the Standing Rock Reservation.

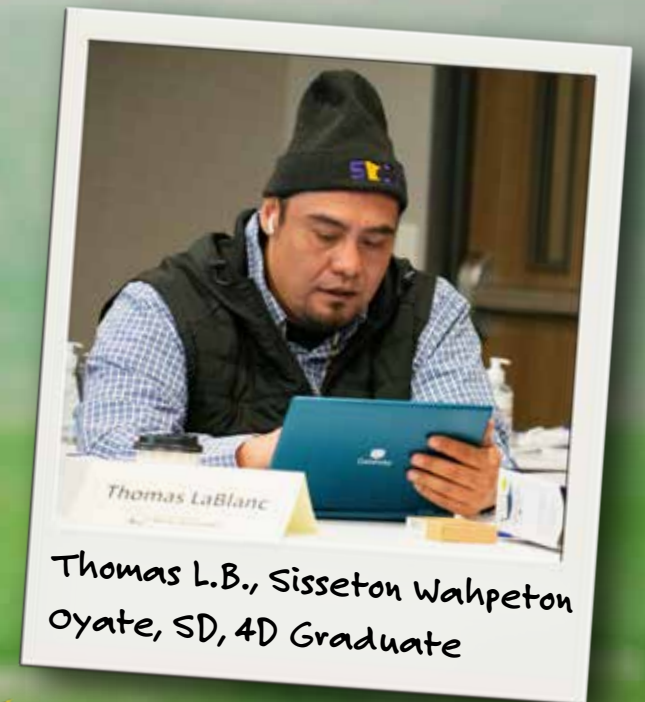
Donnette M.H.
Standing Rock Reservation
Scholarship Recipient



She previously earned an associate degree in criminal justice and a bachelor's in general studies but then took time away to raise her daughter and care for her parents in their final years. While at school, Donnette also held two part-time jobs. In fact, 35% of current AIEF scholars work 20 hours per week while attending college.

Successful learning starts with having the physical tools to get the work done. The Walmart Foundation donated laptops for freshman scholars in need. PWNA provided care packs and holiday gifts for scholars, as well as literacy and school supplies for K-12 students. This equipped children across 20 reservations to focus on actual learning and simply being a kid.

Our AIEF Four Directions (4D) service helps participants identify and build upon their strengths to make a greater impact. Since 4D launched in 2015, we've conducted 20 cohorts across 38 Tribes, graduating 209 emerging leaders. 4D graduate Thomas L.B. of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate works on issues surrounding Tribal disaster assistance and COVID-19 response. This is critically important given that 75% reduced economic development during the pandemic, according to a recent survey. Thomas is the perfect example of an emerging Native leader working on long-term solutions.



Thomas L.B., Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate, SD, 4D Graduate

“80% of accomplishing something is to be there and be present, but our community isn't growing because we don't know how to take the next step. This [leadership] training is something we'll implement back home.”

Emergency Services (# people served)

286
Wood & Fuel
Vouchers

1,737
Disaster
Relief

1,211
Emergency
Preparedness

2,495
Emergency
Boxes

6,673
Residential
(shelters)

In Indian Country, first responder skills are a true necessity in the scope of capacity building and emergency preparedness. Reservations, by design, are isolated lands often an hour or more from the nearest emergency room or grocery store. FEMA guidelines were not written with rural reservations in mind, and when disaster strikes, outside aid is slow to come. So, Tribal readiness to respond is critical.

With support from Boeing and Levi Strauss in 2023, PWNA facilitated First Aid, CPR, AED use, 72-hour survival, and other life-saving training for 294 citizens of the White Mountain Apache Tribe in Arizona. In addition, 17 completed CERT training to serve as first responders. We conducted similar training with the San Carlos Apache, thanks to Freeport McMoRan. In the Northern Plains, we had 192 CERT graduates from eight different Tribes and provided other emergency response training, thanks to the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

In the last decade, more than 70 natural disasters struck Tribal lands due to climate change and human activities. As part of its Natives Prepared project, Feeding America turned to PWNA for our expertise in both emergency preparedness and food sovereignty.



We led a pilot project with the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate in South Dakota, the Hualapai Tribe in Arizona, and Feeding America food banks. With both Tribes, we explored asset mapping, capacity and resource gaps, and food sovereignty. Among other things, this process showed an inseparable link between emergency preparedness and food security.

“PWNA and Feeding America have shared an essential role in providing disaster relief and emergency food to Native communities impacted by disaster. The Natives Prepared project allows Tribes to create a disaster preparedness plan with their local food bank to respond to the needs of their communities before, during, and after any disaster. PWNA is an experienced first responder with a strong track record in helping Tribes create their own disaster plans. We look forward to the technical expertise PWNA will bring to build the capacity of Native nations to respond to disasters and partner with local food banks.”

- Mark Ford,
Director of Native
and Tribal Partnerships
Feeding America, IL



Native Americans are six times more likely than other groups to live in the areas most prone to wildfires. Winter can be equally harsh. Temperatures drop below zero and Elders face poorly insulated homes, the risk of running out of firewood, and limited transportation. PWNA's Sioux Nation Relief Fund (SNRF) and Southwest Reservation Aid (SWRA) programs distributed winter emergency boxes to nine Tribes, while NPRA and SWRA provided winter fuel vouchers to Elders. Through our SNRF and Southwest Indian Relief Council (SWIRC) programs, we also provided firewood and aided 56 shelters.



Health Support (# people served)

480
**Food Demos/
Nutrition Training**

5,693
**Community
Events**

47,898
**Healthy
Living**

Native Americans face disproportionate rates of health issues, including heart disease, diabetes, cancer, tooth decay, and more. This is largely tied to the reservation system, its inadequate healthcare, and the disruption of traditional Native foodways.

Thankfully, there is a growing momentum to fight for food sovereignty and return to eating the healthy, ancestral foods that predate diabetes. Through our NPRA and SWRA programs, we conducted healthy food demonstrations, public meals, and food tastings with nearly 500 people from the Pine Ridge, Standing Rock, Navajo, and Tohono O’odham reservations. These Train the Trainer (T3) initiatives were supported by Olo for Good and the Tides Foundation, along with 10 4D alumni who volunteered.

Native Americans have the highest prevalence of diabetes of any race in the U.S.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthytribes/native-american-diabetes.html>

Many remote Tribal communities live in a constant state of stress with limitations in housing, transportation, utilities, and health care. Despite treaty obligations, the federally underfunded Indian Health Service is mainly able to address emergency care. So, PWNA supports the efforts of Tribal health partners that provide recurring preventative care, screenings, and health education, aiding 295 of them in 2023.

The supplies provided to our NAA and SWRA Healthy Living partners have a positive impact on Elders like Freddie H. in Thoreau. At 89, Freddie is socially inclined but relies on a caretaker for daily support. With limited healthcare, he receives treatment for some conditions but has learned to live with others.



The Community Events service offered through our NRF and SNRF programs is akin to Healthy Living. It provides partners like Carlita B. with hard-to-get personal care and household products for one-time (versus recurring) engagements. She uses SNRF supplies as incentives for people like Taun B.S. to boost participation at community health fairs on the Cheyenne River Reservation. Taun typically drives 25 miles to shop for these items.

“The people rely on these essential supplies [toilet paper, lotion, cleaning products]. They utilize everything, especially in the outlying communities, which are so far out that they sometimes can’t make it to the store. Being a [PWNA] partner really helps us out.”

- Carlita B.,
Cheyenne River Reservation, SD,
SNRF Health Partner

Taun B.S.
Cheyenne River Reservation
Healthy Living Recipient



Holiday Support (# people served)

7,390
Youth Stockings

1,655
Santa Stops

4,849
Elder Gift Bags

PWNA's holiday support is unparalleled. Partners, volunteers, and donors help us with everything from packing Elder gift bags to seeing a child's face light up when they meet Santa. Together, we serve thousands of Elders and children on the reservations.

Unfortunately, the holidays are also a stressful time for many parents. The year-round lack of jobs, few retail stores, and high prices in remote Tribal communities can seem even worse at this time of year. So, children's stockings, Elder gift bags, and local Santa Stops help put a bit of magic back into the season.

For some Native children – unlike most kids in America – there is no promise of a holiday gift. But in 2023, kids across 10 reservations got to meet Santa when partners like Cheryl C. helped run a SNRF Santa Stop at the Head Start on the Spirit Lake Reservation. Families and children were welcomed with an opening prayer, a pancake breakfast, and a visit from Santa himself! Some 210 children left this event with full stockings for Christmas.



NORTHERN PLAINS
RESERVATION AID®



SOUTHWEST
RESERVATION AID®



Native American child poverty rates have exceeded 40% for almost the past 30 years.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthytribes/native-american-diabetes.html>

In the long-term, volunteers who assist at holiday events like Santa Stops or stocking/gift bag distributions gain skills in event planning, setup and teardown, and overall community service. So, even our holiday gift-giving has a capacity-building component.

With many Elders facing poverty and inadequate access to essentials, Tribal partners like Mike B. at the Pisinemo Elderly Center are committed to spreading holiday cheer and ensuring no Elder is forgotten. These efforts are only possible thanks to donors who support our SWRA and NAA Holiday services. PWNA teams up with partners like Mike to provide holiday gift bags. Filled with disaster blankets and hand sanitizer, books, cards, and other necessities, they help Elders endure the long winters and get a mental health break. 73-year-old Charlene of the Winnebago Reservation was even excited to find bottled water in her gift bag. "I drink water so fast!" she exclaimed. "I don't like tap water because it has sediments, even when you're cooking."

Charlene E.
Winnebago Reservation
Elder Bag Recipient

“People struggle to get necessities like hygiene and cleaning supplies. Working in this program, it's shocking how big the need is. All thanks to PWNA for putting in good work to help our families...”

- Cheryl C., Spirit Lake Reservation, ND
SNRF Holiday Partner



Animal Welfare (# animals served)

637

Animal Supplies

220

Community Events

1,027

Spay/Neuter

Animals play a huge role in the lives of Native Americans. Historically and culturally, they are considered part of the family and more. Unfortunately, many residents living on reservations lack the resources to manage the stray dog and cat population or care for orphaned animals.

PWNA's Reservation Animal Rescue (RAR) program focuses on partners who rescue, rehabilitate, and place injured or homeless animals in foster or forever homes. RAR provides food, blankets, toys, and treats to support their rescue efforts. In addition, RAR helps subsidize mobile spay and neuter clinics in communities without veterinary care.

RAR partner Amanda S. has been the manager at Round Valley Animal Hospital in Arizona for a decade and fostered more than 100 dogs in her home. Despite the challenges of securing pet food and foster families, Amanda's shelter has helped at least 4,000 animals so far, and she only hopes to improve those numbers. "Our mission has always been the animals." We checked up on Round Valley rescue Griffin, a 6-year-old chow mix who was found with severe road rash and a broken leg. After a lot of hard work, dedication, and a \$7,000 surgery, Griffin's femur is repaired. He's on the road to recovery with a Round Valley team member always by his side. To cover the surgery, the staff and community pitched in what they could. Amanda also thanked RAR donors and added, "Donations are the number one thing." In 2023 alone, donors supported \$82,500 for spay/neuter and vaccination of reservation animals.

70% of pets living in underserved communities in the U.S. have never seen a veterinarian.

Since 2016, the main dog foster on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation has been Janice D. The Lame Deer community where she lives doesn't have an animal shelter, but it's her dream to open one. RAR partner Patricia R. shared that Janice has six adopted dogs at home, including Guppers, whom she met as a wandering pup in need of a home. Janice is incredibly grateful for RAR supplies she receives, such as puppy pads, food, collars, and more.

<https://www.humanesociety.org/news/major-milestone-reached-nationwide-program-supports-pets-underserved-communities-provides-its>

“ A lot of times you see animals really suffering. It's really important that donors know they are doing a great job in supporting services to our community. They're helping these dogs survive around here, and we're very thankful. If we don't have that, I don't know where to go. There are no nonprofits to help locally.

- Patricia R., Lame Deer, MT
RAR Animal Welfare Partner





4D alumni Austin R.D. writes for a leadership organization on the Cheyenne River Reservation and is starting a nonprofit to research and develop language guidelines for youth. With support from PWNA and General Motors, he attended a 2023 media summit to learn about networking, new communication skills, and how to build a plan.



Aid by Major Program

54,071
Health

12,402
Emergency
Services

15,831
Education

47,597
Food & Water

13,894
Holiday Support

1,884
Animal Welfare



“Thanks to PWNA’s support, I was able to connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for advancing the well-being of Native American communities. I try to do my best within my own community, volunteering my time when it comes to culture or program building. I learned that we need structure and timelines for programs; otherwise, it’s just an idea. Please accept my deepest thanks for facilitating an enriching and transformative experience.”

- Austin R.D., Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, SD, AIEF 4D Alumni



Linda W., PWNA Donor, IL

“I choose to support Partnership With Native Americans because of their two-fold mission. One is to provide for current needs, such as wood for the winter to heat their homes. Two is to support life-changing initiatives for Elder safety. I watched Native America on PBS, their season 2 with 4 shows. Making sustainable changes in people’s living conditions improves their lives, and I hope, helps them move forward with hope and energy.”

Native Representation

The future of reclaiming food sovereignty, health, and overall equity in Indian Country is highly dependent on Native representation, especially in the 2024 election year. Roughly 4.7 million Native and Alaska Native people are eligible to vote, according to the U.S. Census Bureau – powerful proof that we can make a difference.

Presentations and roundtables by PWNA President and CEO Joshua Arce helped dispel harmful stereotypes and misconceptions. They revealed inaccuracies about Native people, history, and current issues such as boarding schools, food and water insecurity, ICWA, and health equity. In 2023, these engagements also generated new funding for our work.

The challenges faced by Indian Country stem from broken and underfunded treaties, Tribes being relocated to reservations, the Census undercount, and failures in the education system. Reversing this impact takes a year-round focus, proper social investment, and most importantly, Native representation. Currently, less than 1 percent of U.S. charitable giving goes to Native causes.

Now more than ever, PWNA encourages Native Americans and allies to make your voices heard.

Here are some of the organizations Joshua engaged with throughout 2023:

- Policies impacting Tribal health equity (Vitalyst Health Foundation, Molina Tribal Health Symposium)
- Tribal food insecurity, determinants, and solutions (Instacart, McKesson, PepsiCoRise Native American workforce group)
- Native history not taught in schools and its impact today (IPG Mediabrand, Comcast)
- Tribal sovereignty and its implications (University of Texas at Arlington)
- The Doctrine of Discovery and its impact (Westside Church)
- Moderation of equity roundtable (Social Innovation Summit)

If social equity and inclusion for Native Americans is a priority for your organization, we encourage you to have Joshua speak to your team.



Meet PWNA's Board of Directors

Highly motivated to improve the quality of life in remote Tribal communities, PWNA's Board of Directors sets our strategic direction and governs our finances. They volunteer their time and expertise to help us achieve our mission and make an informed impact. To learn more about our Board, visit www.nativepartnership.org/directors.



Corey Mzhickteno, Chairperson

Flight consultant and reservist Air Force veteran with 20 years of military and civil aviation experience, 10 years of Board service for Tribal business enterprises, 5 years of service on the PWNA Board (including former Treasurer), and skills in strategic planning, economic development, business startup, and restructuring.

Tribal affiliation: Prairie Band Potawatomi



MaKenley Barton, Vice Chairperson

Deputy hospital administrator with expertise in Tribal and rural healthcare, finance, operations, and strategic planning.

Tribal affiliation: Cherokee



Matt Horinek, Treasurer

Vice president with expertise in institutional wealth and business development for nonprofits and corporations.

Tribal affiliation: Cherokee



Emily McDonald, Secretary

Senior leader with expertise in disability access and intersectionality, strategy, communications, benchmarking, DEI, and empowerment of women and youth.

Tribal affiliation: Native Hawaiian/Pacific



Dr. Nicole Been

Foundation co-founder with expertise in sports equity, education, socio economic development, and diversity.

Tribal affiliation: Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and the Deer clan



Jackie Blackbird

Indigenous communities' officer with expertise in programming, community partnerships, youth-services, and diversity and inclusion.

Tribal affiliation: Gros Ventre and Assiniboine



Joe Claunch

Strengths-based consultant for research, capacity building, and grant writing focused on Native causes.

Tribal affiliation: Puyallup Tribe



Joshua Arce, PWNA President & CEO

(Non-voting member) Nonprofit executive with expertise in education management, Tribal law, social work, diversity, and business development.

Tribal affiliation: Prairie Band Potawatomi



Our Mission: Serving immediate needs. Supporting long-term solutions.

Our Vision: Strong, self-sufficient Native American communities.

PWNA is a trusted resource and intermediary for philanthropic solutions in Indigenous communities. Entrusted by Native partners and funders alike since 1990, PWNA is one of the largest Native-led nonprofits in the U.S. A 501(c)(3) with BBB accreditation, PWNA invests in the most geographically isolated and underserved Tribal communities, reaching Navajo, Pine Ridge, Rosebud and more to champion hope for a brighter future.

PWNA's Approach:

- Partnering with Native professionals who can drive social change in nutrition, education, community health, and emergency response
- Delivering critical supplies and funding education, capacity building, and community investment projects
- Respecting the self-determined goals of the Tribes and connecting them with outside resources

The most important thing PWNA provides is hope.



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