

## The Nakwatsvewat Institute



<b>Project Title:</b>	Hopi Dispute Resolution Services
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$905,000
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2006 – Sept. 2009
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 2 jobs created
- 3 Native American consultants hired
- 25 elders involved
- 4 youth involved
- \$207,439 in resources leveraged
- 27 individuals trained
- 8 partnerships formed
- 1 governance code/ordinance developed

### BACKGROUND

The Nakwatsvewat Institute (TNI) is a nonprofit organization that collaborates with Native American communities to reform and enhance governance and judicial institutions. For the past ten years, TNI staff has worked with the Hopi Nation's court system to revitalize customary law traditions in interpersonal disputes.

Under the Hopi Tribal Constitution, the 12 individual Hopi villages have jurisdiction over family and property laws. Despite village sovereignty over these issues, the Hopi Nation's trial and appellate courts have seen a dramatic increase over the last thirty years in the number and complexity of

actions brought before the civil court system. The increase is largely due to a growing number of intra-village property, probate, and family disputes that are being referred to the tribal courts from Hopi village governments.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project's purpose was to create and train village-level institutions to settle intra-village disputes through customary dispute resolution practices.

The first objective was to develop an alternative dispute resolution training curriculum. To complete the objective, TNI staff utilized existing dispute resolution curriculum and adapted it to suit Hopi needs. To complement the content and encourage open discussion, staff created a teaching manual, a student workbook, and DVD of Hopi dispute situations.

The second objective was to train at least 120 tribal members in the alternative dispute resolution training program. Staff originally envisioned conducting the trainings on a village by village basis, but altered the implementation plan to offer a series of reservation-wide trainings. The decision led to fewer trained community members than

planned, but resulted in a smaller group receiving more intensive training. Each community member attended a four hour orientation session, mentored a trainee, conducted a mock mediation session, and participated in 42 hours of workshops. Overall, TNI staff certified 27 community members in dispute resolution.

The third objective was to conduct at least three alternative dispute resolutions in the 12 Hopi villages. TNI staff coordinated an outreach effort to community leaders and tribal court staff to promote the service. During the project timeframe, 35 community members made general inquiries into the mediation services via court order and village government recommendation, and 16 of these community members completed the required intake forms. Of these, seven obtained agreement from both disputants to conduct mediation. At the conclusion of the project period, TNI staff and certified community members conducted three mediation sessions and reached two agreements.

The project's fourth objective was to develop rules and codes of dispute resolution for the 12 Hopi villages. TNI staff conducted focus groups with Hopi village leaders to determine their needs. Staff then collaborated with UCLA Law School to develop a template code which can be adapted to suit each village's unique culture and customs. None of the villages had adopted the code by the end of the project period, but the code is available should village leaders choose to formalize the mediation program in the future.

#### **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

For the 27 Hopi tribal members now certified as village mediators, the project provided an opportunity to gain knowledge about, and be involved in, a non-adversarial process that focused on resolving community disputes privately and according

to traditional Hopi culture and customs. Many project participants were village and tribal leaders who will use the skills and training they received to settle village members' disputes. Furthermore, project activities will serve to reduce the caseload for the tribal court system.

To sustain the momentum of this project, TNI staff applied for and secured a three-year Administration for Native Americans grant to educate Hopi families in dispute resolution.

## Sipaulovi Development Corporation



<b>Project Title:</b>	Tourism and Entrepreneurship for a Sustainable Future
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$206,000
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2007 – Sept. 2009
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Tribal Nonprofit

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 3 jobs created
- 1 business created
- 6 Native American consultants hired
- 8 elders involved
- 25 youth involved
- \$3,014 in revenue generated
- \$97,905 in resources leveraged
- 45 individuals trained
- 43 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

The Hopi Nation is located in northeastern Arizona and is comprised of twelve autonomous villages located on three mesas. Hopi Nation counts approximately 12,500 community members, of which 7,300 live within the current reservation boundaries. The Hopi people have occupied the area for over 1,500 years – the longest authenticated occupation of a single area by any Native American tribe in the United States.

One of the villages, Sipaulovi, was founded in the 1680s and counts approximately 1,200

enrolled members. In 2005, the Sipaulovi Village Board of Directors formed and incorporated the nonprofit Sipaulovi Development Corporation (SDC) to plan and implement the Village’s economic development activities.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project’s purpose was to establish the Sipaulovi Visitor Center to operate and promote a locally-designed tourism program.

The project’s first objective was to hire staff and establish the visitor center’s administrative policies. The Sipaulovi Village Board hired an executive director, finance director, and tour manager to oversee the management and operation of the visitor center’s programs. Staff first worked with contractors to complete minor renovations to the center, including making the building handicapped accessible and repairing the roof. In collaboration with consultants, staff then established the center’s financial policies and procedures, and authored a business plan. Staff also developed an employee handbook which detailed village tour policies, procedures,

and etiquette. Finally, staff collaborated with Sipaulovi's artists to develop a handbook for marketing, displaying, and selling their arts and crafts to tourists.

The project's second objective was to strengthen staff capacity to operate the Sipaulovi Visitor Center. Staff scheduled workshops with area trainers to gain knowledge on a variety of topics, including financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Staff also organized trainings for the community's artists, such as marketing and business plan development.

The project's third objective was to establish the Sipaulovi Visitor Center and Tour Program. With community input on appearance and content, contractors constructed two information kiosks in high-traffic areas within the community. Staff developed an orientation video and walking tour script to provide visitors with information on Hopi cultural values and history, visitor etiquette, and Sipaulovi village sites of interest. The tour manager also trained village youth to provide public walking tours when on-site staff was unavailable. Finally, staff worked with village residents to restore and upgrade the foot trails within Sipaulovi village for visitor use.

The project's fourth objective was to develop a state-wide and national marketing program for the Sipaulovi Visitor Center. In collaboration with design contractors, staff created a Hopi community map, marketing brochures, and a website. Staff developed a network to distribute the marketing materials, which included partnerships with Arizona state and federal parks, chambers of commerce, cultural centers, and hotels. Over the course of the project timeframe the Visitor Center welcomed over 3,000 visitors, of which 750 participated in the guided walking tour. To broaden their outreach efforts, staff organized and

publicized an annual Hopi festival, Suuvoyuki Days, which offered a 10-kilometer run, artist booths, cultural lectures, guided tours, and traditional Hopi foods.

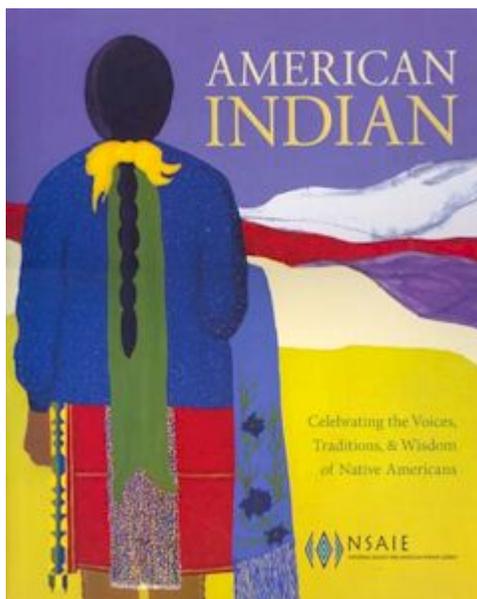
#### **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Only recently has the Hopi Nation decided to accept outside visitors into their villages. Project staff worked closely with community members to ensure that all tourism activities were culturally appropriate, unobtrusive, and allowed the Sipaulovi community to continue their traditional way of life. Cedric Kuwaninvaya, SDC Executive Director, shared, "The project has allowed us to provide tourism opportunities on our terms. Our village wants tourism, but we want to maintain our Hopi traditions at the same time. We feel we have established the infrastructure to do just that."

The opening of the Sipaulovi Visitor Center created opportunities for over 3,000 visitors to experience the Hopi way of life, and has increased and deepened their knowledge about the Hopi culture and people. The tour's emphasis on visitor etiquette and respect resulted in a structured and comfortable experience for all involved. The tour's accompanying activities, including the kiosks, orientation video, and access to Hopi artists, enriched the visitor experience.

To continue project momentum, the Sipaulovi Development Corporation staff will continue to collaborate with visitor centers at other Hopi villages to manage tourism activities and present a reservation-wide experience for visitors to the Hopi Nation. Staff will also continue to reach out to partners to increase the exposure of Sipaulovi's tourism activities.

## The National Society for American Indian Elderly



<b>Project Title:</b>	NSAIE Knowledge Preservation Project
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$782,820
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2005 – Sept. 2009
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 1 job created
- 9 Native American consultants hired
- 150 elders involved
- 80 youth involved
- \$470,943 in resources leveraged
- 80 individuals trained
- 127 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

The National Society for American Indian Elderly (NSAIE) was established as a nonprofit in Phoenix in 1987. NSAIE's mission is to improve the quality of life for Native American elderly by providing small grants to a network of tribally administered social service programs. The goal of the grants is to provide an opportunity for all Native American elderly to have access to services that will support them in their homes as respected members of their communities and as keepers of traditional knowledge.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was to collaborate with Native American elders to develop and publish a cookbook containing information on the history, cultural significance, preparation, and cooking methods of traditional Native American recipes.

The project's first set of objectives was to develop the administrative infrastructure to implement project activities. To complete the objective, project staff first coordinated a cohort of 80 AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers working with Native American elderly in tribal communities across the country to serve as information gatherers for cookbook content. Staff then formalized a partnership with Weldon Owen, an international publishing and distribution company known for its cookbook series. Finally, Weldon Owen and NSAIE completed a scope of work and finalized a contract.

The project's second set of objectives was to develop, market, and offer the cookbook for

purchase. Americorps volunteers identified 150 community elders willing to share their knowledge and collaborated with them to submit recipes and other pertinent information to NSAIE staff. During the project timeframe, staff collected over 300 recipes and 30 narratives for inclusion in the cookbook. In collaboration with Native American authors and photographers, NSAIE developed a 304-page cookbook that also contains a significant amount of cultural and historical information about Native American tribes. The cookbook was released for purchase in 2008 and is being sold through major retail outlets, such as Amazon and Barnes and Noble, and has also expanded into international markets.

NSAIE staff shared that due to the wealth of information collected during project activities, the final product was not a traditional cookbook. Recipes do not make up a majority of the book's content, but rather enrich the cultural and historical information offered. In an effort to meet project objectives, NSAIE staff worked to publish a series of seven regional cookbooks. Staff completed the first book of this series, The Wisdom of Elders: Traditional Food Ways of Five Tribes in Western Washington, and released it for purchase in 2009. Staff did not complete the six remaining regional cookbooks by the conclusion of the project timeframe, but expect to release them for sale prior to 2011.

#### **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

For the 150 elders involved in project activities, the development of the cookbook provided an opportunity to reconnect with past experiences and to share cultural knowledge with the youth interviewers. An outcome of the intergenerational activities was the development of native gardens, where elders practiced traditional cultivation methods in an effort to share cultural knowledge with the youth. These activities

reduced social isolation by providing an outlet for elders to interact with other members of their communities. The elders' involvement therefore served to reinforce their traditional positions as holders of knowledge and wisdom within their respective communities.

The development of an ongoing revenue stream has allowed NSAIE to increase their assistance to elder support programs within their partner communities. Indeed, in early 2010 NSAIE launched the "100 Communities" initiative, which will provide 100 grants of \$1,000 to communities interested in working with Americorps volunteers to broaden and expand service programs for Native American elders.

*"Brimming with lavish photographs and rich with authentic voices, this book celebrates current Native art, lifeways, and song and dance, as well as never-before-published images of artifacts and cultural events."*

Publicity Release for American Indian,  
Weldon Owen Publishing