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## FIRST PEOPLES FUND



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<b>Project Title:</b>	Native Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Cultural Assets
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$302,453
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2010 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 2 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 1 business created
- 5 Native American consultants hired
- \$10,000 in resources leveraged
- 87 individuals trained
- 11 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

Founded in 1995, First Peoples Fund (FPF) is a Native nonprofit cultural arts organization based in Rapid City, South Dakota. FPF's mission is to honor and support the creative, community-centered First Peoples artists throughout the country by providing entrepreneurship training and technical assistance.

Native communities, families, and individuals in the Great Plains region are beset by poverty, yet hold significant cultural assets in the form of tradition-based artisans. However, these artisans do not have access to resources, nor business and entrepreneurial training specific to the Native arts market. Such training would help artisans grow their businesses and

obtain fair compensation for their work. Additionally, many Native community development financial institutions (NCDFIs) lack specialized knowledge unique to the Native arts market.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to increase the capacity of four Great Plains-based NCDFIs to provide a targeted program for arts-focused training and technical assistance to meet the business specific needs of local Native artisans and culture bearers. The partner organizations for the project included: Four Bands Community Fund (Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, SD), Lakota Funds (Pine Ridge Reservation, SD), Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation (Winnebago, ND), and Cherokee Nation Economic Development Trust Authority (Tahlequah, OK).

Along with FPF, these NCDFIs serve six Tribes as part of the Great Plains Artisan Entrepreneurship Consortium; the Consortium's purpose is to grow the economies of Native communities through empowering and strengthening local artists' business and entrepreneurial skills.

The first objective was to conduct a 2-day train-the-trainer workshop with each of the four NCDFI partners to increase skills and knowledge of the Native arts business. FPF asked each of the partnering NCDFIs to identify at least one staff member to become a business coach for community artists. These staff then identified one to two local artists who already had a good business skill set to participate as artist success coaches.

During the first project year, FPF conducted a train-the-trainer workshop in Rapid City; 16 business and artist coaches completed the training. The workshop utilized FPF's Native Arts Entrepreneurship curriculum, and the project team created trainer certification standards to certify NCDFI staff to implement the training in each community. The newly trained coaches also participated in site visits, during which FPF staff reviewed existing programs for artists and identified areas for improvement, such as marketing or pricing skills. The training and certification process strengthened the capacity of the NCDFIs to serve emerging artists in their communities; NCDFIs developed an understanding of artists' unique business needs, and built stronger relationships with artists.

The second objective was to conduct a community-level artisan entrepreneurship training for potential and emerging artist entrepreneurs. All four communities successfully hosted art marketing and professional development workshops, serving a total of 71 participants. In addition, FPF provided onsite technical assistance to the NCDFI staff to continue building capacity to serve artists in their communities. As a result, NCDFI staff and artists demonstrated increased knowledge of business skills, including creating business cards, taking and using digital photos for marketing, and developing an artist profile.

## **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Prior to this project, most Native artists in the partner communities had no contact with an NCDFI. Through FPF's training the NCDFIs are more aware of the needs specific to Native artists, and artists are aware of NCDFI business skills training. FPF continues to utilize the curriculum and technical assistance to support newly certified trainers.

Not only do the executive directors of the partner NCDFIs better understand the value of Native artisans, but many artists benefitted directly from this project as well. Through local workshops, Native artists in each community received guidance on how to create tools necessary to start a business, including websites, PayPal accounts, business cards, photos of artwork, resumes, and portfolios. Although most still are at the emerging level, each is building capacity.

Participating artists viewed themselves as role models for others in their communities, and mentored other artists. They developed one-on-one relationships with the NCDFIs and FPF, and received valuable training not previously available. As one Native artist on the Pine Ridge Reservation stated, "[This training] has been key to my professional outlook on art."

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## FOUR BANDS COMMUNITY FUND, INC.



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<b>Project Title:</b>	Expanding Business Opportunities on the Cheyenne River Reservation
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$283,437
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2010 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 27 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 20 businesses created
- \$50,837 in resources leveraged
- 72 individuals trained
- 11 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

Four Bands Community Fund, located in South Dakota, is a Native American community development financial institution. Founded in 2000, it has grown to be the leading organization on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in the areas of small business training and lending, entrepreneurship education, and financial-literacy. It encourages the economic development and quality of life for all communities and residents on the reservation.

In 2008, Four Bands published a report that examined the local business marketplace, consumer demand, possibilities for start ups and expansion of existing services. This report informed the organization of strategies to increase business growth on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Specifically, through the report, Four Bands discovered many Native Americans did not start targeted businesses due to water infrastructure issues, insufficient technical assistance and mentoring, and lack of general entrepreneurship and business training. Four Bands developed this project to remove such barriers to business launch and development.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The project's purpose was to prepare local entrepreneurs to start or diversify 15 businesses. These businesses would generate goods and services for the reservation, resulting in the creation or retention of 25 jobs.

The project's first objective was to recruit businesses and assist them in developing a professional business plan. Four Bands produced radio and print announcements to advertise the program, targeting existing businesses with the potential for growth. Through this open recruitment process, project staff recruited 20 entrepreneurs.

Participants worked with business mentors, recruited from the local chamber of commerce, and Four Band's business development manager to research, develop,

and write the plans. Staff and participants developed business plans based on the analysis and recommendations included in a second report commissioned by Four Bands; this report was written by students and faculty at Washington University in St. Louis, and outlined specific steps and policies necessary to build and sustain individual businesses.

In the second year, the project's business development manager worked with each entrepreneur to create individual plans for achieving business goals. The project required participants to plan for two or milestones to start or diversify their businesses. These milestones included depositing savings in an Individual Development Account to acquire owner's equity, applying for and receiving financing, creating marketing budgets, and securing leases or purchasing sites for businesses. The participants convened in weekly sessions to share plans and provide support to one another.

The project's second objective was for the participants to launch or expand their businesses. To assist with this, Four Bands provided capital to participants through a revolving loan fund. The project also supplied 12 businesses with \$2,000 in marketing materials, and three business received \$5,000 marketing packages.

Four Bands planned to partner with the Fort Peck Chamber of Commerce, however early in the project period, the Chamber was disbanded. Four Bands turned to another local resource to fill the mentoring gap, the Eagle Butte Chamber of Commerce, which agreed to take on the Ft. Peck Chamber's role to ensure the project's success. Successful business owners from Eagle Butte and the surrounding communities served as mentors, and advised participants on issues such as launching a business, hiring employees, particular issues of

running a business on the reservation, and dealing with clients. Often, the mentors helped participants brainstorm solutions to problems and overcome roadblocks on the road to business launch and growth.

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

Through this project, entrepreneurs on the Cheyenne River Reservation started or expanded 20 businesses, including: a CPA firm; general construction, roofing, and dry wall companies; a quilt-making business; a maid service; and a life insurance broker. Many businesses increased in size from one or two employees to six or eight. This increase in economic activity spurred job creation, giving Tribal members increased security and stability.

Four Bands provided opportunity and start-up capital to entrepreneurs who had been waiting years to start a business, but did not know where to begin or how to manage one. Some businesses secured loans from larger, more traditional lending institutions, and others increased the number of clients and orders. The owner of Diamond D Construction said he had to turn away clients because he was booked for months.

Furthermore, Four Bands increased cooperation with the surrounding counties and with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Administration. These relationships are vital to addressing the infrastructure issues in the region, and are leading to increased cooperation in business development.

Seeing growth in private ownership and economic development has motivated more Tribal members to start their own businesses. Four Bands will continue to provide business-related training services and strengthen its partnership with Tribal leadership to bring greater economic security to the Cheyenne River Reservation.

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## PINE RIDGE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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<b>Project Title:</b>	Oglala Lakota Voices - A Project to Build the Capacity of PRACC to Engage the Community
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$1,343,963
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 5 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 200 Elders involved
- 589 youth involved
- \$324,059 in resources leveraged
- 156 individuals trained
- 77 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

The Pine Ridge Area Chamber of Commerce (PRACC) serves the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota, home of the Oglala Lakota people. The reservation covers 3,469 square miles, with an estimated resident population of 28,787. The Oglala Lakota are a federally recognized Tribe with approximately 42,360 enrolled members.

PRACC's target community includes existing American Indian-owned businesses on and near the reservation, businesses providing goods or services to reservation residents, other businesses that support the work of the chamber, and nonprofit organizations. PRACC members are affected greatly by negative imaging and

portrayals of the Oglala Lakota people. These inaccurate depictions and negative stereotypes are perpetuated by untrained and uniformed people in the region, and have an adverse social and economic impact on the tourism industry on the reservation. There is great potential for increased tourism, but there is not enough authentic information available to the public to attract visitors.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the project was for Oglala Lakota people to create culturally sensitive, appropriate, and accurate informational resources about their culture, homelands, and businesses, as a standard for best practices in the tourism industry.

The first objective was to develop four exhibit displays depicting authentic Oglala Lakota culture at the recently established PRACC visitor center. This objective also included assisting reservation-based businesses in developing initiatives to utilize the visitor center exhibits and disseminate authentic information. Project staff successfully created four major exhibits: artwork by local Native artists; displays of wildlife found on the reservation; an

audio/visual display featuring various items of cultural importance; and stories and legends about sacred sites of the Black Hills. Staff at the visitor center rotate the materials in the displays throughout the year, and new exhibits continuously are developed, such as the Lakota cowboy, Native veterans, and Lakota youth.

Community involvement was an important aspect of the project's goal. Community surveys identified aspects of the culture that community members wanted to have visible to the public. The project successfully involved large numbers of community members; 3,289 participated through surveys and various activities at the center. In addition to developing the new exhibits, project staff carried out six community initiatives, including a youth art show, sacred sites tours with local students, and translating Elders' stories from Lakota to English for use in the displays.

The second objective was to collaborate with Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Badlands National Park, and Crazy Horse Memorial to develop display exchanges. These exchanges would place authentic Oglala Lakota information at each site, and increase the ability of front-line personnel from area tourist attractions to provide reservation visitors with accurate, authentic information about Oglala Lakota places, traditions, culture, reservation attractions, and visitor protocol. Today, a PRACC exhibit displays information about the Oglala Lakota people and Pine Ridge Reservation at each site.

Project staff also developed a training curriculum for the park personnel, including a site visit to the reservation; 169 people attended the training, which was held in the second and third project years. Through pre- and post-tests, all participants showed at least a 20 percent increase in knowledge of Oglala Lakota culture.

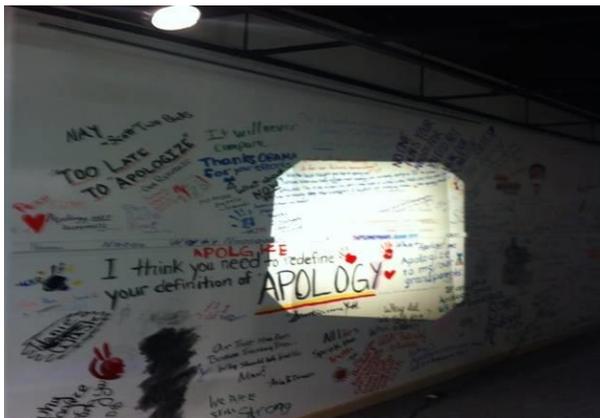
## **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

Through the project, PRACC's standing and role in the local tourism industry were strengthened, and the reservation was highlighted as a tourist destination. The visitor center now provides accurate, authentic information about Oglala Lakota culture, designed by Oglala Lakota people with extensive input from the local community.

PRACC positioned itself as a strategic partner in the region, and secured a long-term presence at key tourist destinations. Park staff at all three sites are better informed about the Oglala Lakota people and Pine Ridge Reservation. There is a format for continued cultural education for the National Park Service and other businesses through the South Dakota Department of Tourism.

Furthermore, PRACC staff reported increased traffic to Pine Ridge, benefitting all businesses on and near the reservation as evidenced by a nine percent increase (from 2010 to 2012) in sales tax revenue for Shannon county. There also has been an eight percent increase in traffic to the PRACC visitor center. While project staff reported there still is a lot of work to be done to dispel negative stereotypes and achieve a thriving tourism industry, Pine Ridge gained more credibility as a tourist destination and PRACC will maintain its training program for visitor industry staff to continue to foster a positive view of Pine Ridge.

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**RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL, INC.**



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<b>Project Title:</b>	Facilities Plan to Strengthen Accessibility of Native Arts
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$106,769
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2011 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

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**PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

- 2 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 2 Elders involved
- \$51,317 in resources leveraged
- 4 individuals trained
- 10 partnerships formed

**BACKGROUND**

Red Cloud Indian School was founded in 1888 at the request of Chief Red Cloud, the Oglala Lakota chief who led his people through the transition to reservation life on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The organization provides educational, spiritual, and cultural services, including kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education, a Catholic mission and Jesuit residence, and The Heritage Center (THC).

THC plays a key role in providing economic support for local artists by selling their work and preserving historical arts and crafts of the Lakota people. It is one of the few venues in the region that promotes economic and social self-sufficiency for local Native artists. THC is home to a permanent collection of nearly 10,000 items and a resource library. Since 1966, THC has held an annual 10 week-long art show. The Red

Cloud Indian Art Show has grown into an internationally recognized and juried competition. It is one of the largest and longest running Native American art shows of its kind in the country, and one of only a few held on an Indian reservation hundreds of miles from an urban area.

THC is housed in the historic mission building constructed in 1888. The building is one of the few remaining architectural witnesses to the Massacre at Wounded Knee of 1890. However, the museum's storage, display, and activity spaces have reached capacity and lack the means for proper preservation. Additionally, the building is technologically insufficient for future growth. Ninety-nine percent of THC's sensitive collection and 10 percent of its aging collection are not protected from humidity and light due to lack of space and insufficient ventilation systems. These conditions threaten the life span of the collection, and hinders THC's role as an educational and community center.

**PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

To address these needs, THC and Red Cloud Indian School embarked on a strategic planning process to identify how to improve storage facilities, outline strategies for

making THC more accessible and culturally vibrant, and strategize steps for expanding assistance to Native artists.

The objective was to complete the physical and technical assessment of facilities so as to determine the inputs needed to ensure THC can meet Red Cloud Indian School's strategic plan goals. Project staff hired MAC Construction and Encompass Architects, two consulting firms with expertise in museum and gallery design, for the assessment. The resulting facilities plan focused on such technical and physical aspects as: lighting; information technology and electronic communications for contemporary displays and web-based learning for students; proper display requirements of the artwork; and up-to-date storage capabilities.

This assessment was coupled with input from stakeholders and museum and architectural experts. The stakeholders included current board members, local Native artists and writers, museum directors, university professors, current students, and past alumni. The input and suggestions ranged from aspects of museum curation, artistic presentation, and theories of preservation to local concerns of support for artists, transportation, and publicity.

Gathering input from the wider Pine Ridge community was insightful for THC and Red Cloud in general. THC hired a polling company to conduct a phone survey of Pine Ridge Reservation residents. This survey assessed the community's knowledge of Red Cloud School and THC, frequency of visitation, general opinions of THC, and future desires. The firm was impressed with the rate of response to the survey: over 70 percent of the roughly 300 households responded. The survey and response rate provided THC with a wealth of information to guide its progress through the facilities and strategic plan.

## **OUTCOMES AND COMMUNITY IMPACT**

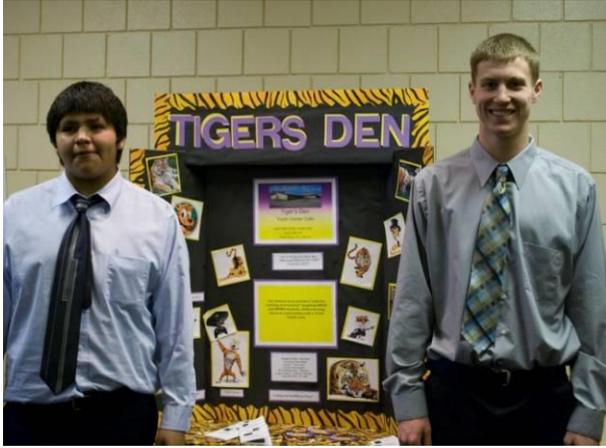
While THC staff benefited greatly from the planning and assessment process, much of the impact will be long-term as plans are implemented. Once implemented, the professionally designed facilities plan will ensure THC remains a major force in the creation and preservation of Lakota and other High Plains art. The plan will assist THC in preserving its collection while opening up spaces for classes, community presentations, storytelling, and potentially an artist-in-residence program.

The community and artists of Red Cloud and the Pine Ridge Reservation will significantly benefit from having a venue to share their stories with the world. They also will have a state-of-the-art gallery for educating local students about Plains art and history, all while expressing the living history of the Lakota.

The additional showroom space will lead to larger inventory and increased sales of contemporary art. The wider community of THC visitors, art show attendees, and regional and national arts organizations will gain a deeper understanding of Plains Indians' culture as the THC enhances its collection.

This project deepened the relationship between THC and the Red Cloud Indian School. As a result, THC can leverage partnerships and community relationships to promote the redesigned center as a vibrant aspect of the Pine Ridge Reservation, as well as maintain its national and international visitor destination status.

## THE LAKOTA FUNDS



<b>Project Title:</b>	Reigniting Lakota Economic Sovereignty
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$1,308,694
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	Social and Economic Development Strategies
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Native Nonprofit

### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 7 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 8 businesses created
- 3 Native American consultants hired
- 3,585 youth involved
- \$28,750 in revenue generated
- \$4,333,106 in resources leveraged
- 7 individuals trained
- 23 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

The Lakota Funds is a community development financial institution, chartered in 1988 by the Oglala Sioux Tribe to promote the economic sustainability of the Oglala Lakota Oyate (people) on Pine Ridge Reservation. The reservation covers 3,469 square miles, with a Native population of over 28,000; the 2000 U.S. Census Bureau reports 42,357 enrolled Tribal members, on and off reservation.

The lack of private enterprise, high rates of poverty, dominance of public sector employment, and low recirculation rate of reservation dollars, combined with the unique legal status of land, make for a

challenging environment in which to promote and nurture healthy businesses on the reservation. Additionally, low levels of financial literacy and poor credit scores are pervasive. Not having a financial institution on the reservation further stifled the local economy: prior to this project there were no commercial banks or credit unions on all of Pine Ridge’s 2.2 million acres.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this project was to help the Oglala Lakota people regain economic sovereignty by broadening the financial knowledge and options available to Tribal members, Tribal youth, and Lakota businesses. The first objective was to establish a new community development credit union, headquartered in Kyle, with at least 350 members who are residents of the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Lakota Federal Credit Union is a community credit union with a low-income designation that will serve approximately 40,000 people.

The credit union received its charter from the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA) on August 29, 2012, and opened its doors on November 15, 2012. Despite delays in the NCUA chartering process (the Lakota credit union was only the second

chartered in 2012), and its remote and challenging location, project staff did a great deal of preparation to ensure the credit union had approval to start lending immediately upon opening. The Lakota Federal Credit Union will offer unsecured and secured loans, direct deposits, check cashing, online banking, and ATM cards, among other services; ATM machines also will be placed in strategic locations throughout the reservation. While projections predict the credit union will have 250 members by the end of its first year of operation and 570 by the end of the second year, staff reported it is likely they will exceed these projections, based on the 534 membership pledges collected during the project period.

The second objective was to develop a youth financial mastery and entrepreneurship program encompassing training, summer camp, and a business plan competition, to operate in high schools and elementary schools on the reservation. The project's youth specialist utilized Oweesta's "Building Native Communities" curriculum, which was piloted with 60 students at Pine Ridge High School. The youth specialist implemented the financial program in four schools on the reservation, and the project team reached students through alternative sites, such as the Tribe's summer youth employment program.

The youth specialist also taught entrepreneurship and financial literacy classes at the South Dakota Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduates Program (GEARUP) summer camp, which draws Native youth from all over the state. In addition, project staff and partners held a business plan competition each year at the Lakota Nation Invitational, a popular annual basketball tournament hosted by the Tribe. In the first project year, students submitted eight business plans, and by the third year the competition had 31 submissions. Overall,

project staff held 117 financial education sessions for 3,585 youth.

The third objective was to develop and market two new products: a credit builder loan and a contractor business loan. From 2009 to 2012, Lakota Funds approved 33 credit builder loans totaling \$66,000; of these only two have been written off, and the other 31 have been paid in full or are still active. The largest increase in a credit score as a result of these loans was 90 points, with an average increase of 31 points. Lakota Funds also began offering contractor business loans, totaling \$641,500; none of these loans have been written off, and now they are the best performing loan product.

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

Prior to this project, the only financial institution accessible to reservation residents was a weekly mobile bank with limited services. Now, the credit union plays an important role in keeping people and dollars on the reservation. All Tribal members can use the credit union, and anyone can attend financial literacy classes regularly offered by Lakota Funds.

As a result, Tribal and community members now have access to savings and lending without the time and expense of having to travel off-reservation. Community members also reported significant benefits from improved credit scores, including retaining employment and being able to purchase a home for the first time. As a result of the new loan products offered, improved access to credit enabled businesses on the reservation to bid on projects to ensure more jobs stay local.

In addition, youth learned about the importance of credit history, and gained a better understanding of the reservation economy and how they can be a part of it; financial literacy classes for youth will continue after the project's end.

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## WHITE EAGLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



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<b>Project Title:</b>	Takoja Niwiciyape Project
<b>Award Amount:</b>	\$876,578
<b>Type of Grant:</b>	SEDS - Strengthening Families
<b>Project Period:</b>	Sept. 2009 – Sept. 2012
<b>Grantee Type:</b>	Nonprofit

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### PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- 5 full-time equivalent jobs created
- 620 Elders involved
- 351 youth involved
- \$28,823 in resources leveraged
- 972 individuals trained
- 12 partnerships formed

### BACKGROUND

White Eagle Christian Academy (WECA), located on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota, provides scholastic excellence in a loving environment for students. WECA does this through academic and educational support to address the physical and spiritual needs of its students, their families, and the wider community. WECA operates a kindergarten through eighth grade elementary school for children on the Rosebud Reservation, and is fully accredited from the South Dakota Department of Education.

Through its work as a social and educational services provider, WECA has witnessed firsthand the effects of family breakdown and lack of social, educational, and leadership development opportunities for youth. WECA developed a program to deal

with the interlocking issues on the reservation that were damaging families and hindering the development of youth and achievement of the Tribe's goal for self-sufficiency. These issues include domestic violence, high levels of alcoholism, lack of educational and employment opportunities, and poverty. Therefore, WECA saw a need to focus on building strong families and strong futures through relationship education programs.

### PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the Takoja Niwiciyape project was to build strong families through relationship education that promotes knowledge and tools for healthy relationships.

The first objective was to implement culturally appropriate marriage and relationship education. Project staff educated local Lakota youth about healthy dating and relationships, adapting the themes of the LuvU2 dating and youth relationship curriculum, to be culturally appropriate for the Rosebud youth audience. A total of 135 middle- and high school-aged students completed the 8-hour LuvU2 program. Through surveys and interviews, students indicated an increased understanding about preventing dating

violence and improved healthy relationship skills.

WECA staff also worked with White Buffalo Calf Woman Society, a nonprofit organization on the reservation whose mission is to provide shelter and advocacy for individuals who have been victimized by violence, to develop a domestic violence curriculum and protocol. The curriculum and protocol were written for the community workshops, as well as for WECA staff to effectively recognize and intervene in domestic violence situations.

The second part of the first objective was to implement the Lakota-designed Takoja Niwiciyape (TN): Giving Life to the Grandchild curriculum. Based on traditional Lakota beliefs, the TN curriculum was developed by the local Sinte Gleska University and provides youth, parents, grandparents, and extended family with resources to prevent and delay the onset of alcohol use and abuse, as well as to develop healthy families. Lakota values and stories are incorporated into the curriculum to illustrate the ways in which healthy families, communication, parenting, and role-modeling are all expressions of Lakota community and family values. Overall, 609 adults completed a 32-hour workshop based on the curriculum.

The second objective was to increase the Rosebud community's awareness of the value of healthy communities and families through community projects, retreats, and summits. Project staff implemented 20 youth-designed and led community services projects. This component relied on the development of leadership and community service skills in the middle and high school age youth. The 20 community service projects, although youth-run, were supervised by one of the 13 WECA staff members trained to serve as youth leaders. These projects included a community

beautification and anti-littering campaign, removing graffiti from the BIA school dormitories, and presentations to Tribal leaders on the importance of healthy families, Elder care, and school safety.

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

The project's reach was broad. Project staff reported families benefited from the healthy family preservation courses, and achieved increased security and safety, with less violence and abuse. Parents learned and practiced new ways of dealing with conflicts and disciplining their children, as well as communicating with their partners. Children learned to address problems at home and in school in a healthy manner, and older siblings gained skills in assisting and teaching younger siblings.

Through the project, participating youth learned to identify a problem, develop an action plan, and successfully execute it. Youth removed graffiti that plagued bedrooms in the student dorms, as well as worked with the dorm administration to have security cameras installed to cut down on theft. A sense of pride and accomplishment has fueled the youth to identify future projects and goals to achieve.

The reservation residents also appreciated the various youth-initiated community projects. Many of the volunteers and facilitators were inspired to commit to supporting WECA's development initiatives after witnessing the inspiring youth-managed projects.

WECA continues to seek funding and establish partnerships with other nonprofits throughout the reservation and Sinte Gleska University in order to expand outreach and continue to serve the families of the Rosebud Reservation.