



2015
Annual
Report

Mission:

Serving immediate needs.
Supporting long-term solutions.

Vision:

Strong, self-sufficient Native American communities

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Our Purpose:

Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) is committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans living on remote and often isolated reservations. Collaborating with our partners in more than 300 tribal communities, we provide immediate relief and support long-term solutions for strong, self-sufficient Native American communities. We believe the people who live and work in the communities PWNA serves have the solutions to the problems that challenge their quality of life. PWNA's role is to provide resources and support to these community-driven efforts toward lasting change.

Our Impact:

More than 1,000 reservation programs know they can count on PWNA as a consistent, reliable resource. Our services are available year-round to address critical needs related to education, health, food and water, holiday support, emergency relief, and animal welfare for 60 reservations. PWNA also connects outside resources directly to the reservations, collaborating with other organizations to support solutions within tribal communities.



A Message from our Board

In last year's annual report, we shared highlights of 25 years of work as National Relief Charities (NRC). We officially launched as Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) on July 29, 2015, as it better communicates who we are and what we do as partners within tribal communities addressing the issues and solutions needed in each area.

We accomplished a number of impactful initiatives in 2015. In addition to the annual program impact we share in this report, we launched a supply drive to obtain bulk donations of high-need products for the tribes we serve. We continued to simplify our identity and promote understanding of our work by beginning our consolidation of programs into four distinct areas: American Indian Education Fund, Northern Plains Reservation Aid, Southwest Reservation Aid and Reservation Animal Rescue. This change, currently underway, streamlines our giving channels and creates fundraising efficiencies, while continuing the critical services and addressing the needs of those we serve.

As a 501(c) 3 nonprofit, we focus on the reservations with the highest needs and rely solely on monetary and in-kind donations to do this. We are so thankful for the financial support that has allowed us to continue our 26-year legacy, ensuring steady, solid service for Native Americans in 12 states.

Our committed donors; corporate, foundation and nonprofit partners; tribal program partners; volunteers and staff make our work possible, and without their commitment, we would be unable to improve the quality of life for a population receiving less than one percent of America's charitable giving. Thank you for all of your contributions to PWNA.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Pete, Chairman



Why PWNA?

Donors have many choices in deciding which nonprofit organizations to support. So, why do our donors, volunteers, reservation partners and staff choose PWNA? Simply put, we're different.

PWNA performs a dual role, serving immediate needs by providing critical goods and services such as water, food and emergency supplies while also supporting long-term solutions in education, nutrition and leadership development that lead to sustainable change. Instead of assuming what each tribal community needs, we listen carefully and respectfully so that we can be a helpful partner in addressing their self-determined needs and solutions. This means we're providing the right goods – the requested goods – in the right time and right way for tribal Program Partners to impact their communities. The critical act of listening and asking for feedback, and being a consistent resource, has resulted in 95 percent customer satisfaction among our large base of reservation partners.

By involving tribal community members in the delivery of our services, we're challenging dependency and poverty while simultaneously building capacity. Our approach gives our network of more than 1,000 reservation partners, along with their volunteers, a direct hand in improving the lives of those they care about most: those within their own communities.

PWNA on the Move

Underway now, and completing by the end of 2016, PWNA is consolidating from eight to four program areas. We are replacing the six programs known as American Indian Relief Council (AIRC), Sioux Nation Relief Fund (SNRF) and Native American Aid (NAA) in the Northern Plains and Council of Indian Nations (CIN), Southwest Indian Relief Council (SWIRC) and Navajo Relief Fund (NRF) in the Southwest with two programs – Northern Plains Reservation Aid and Southwest Reservation Aid. In addition, we are continuing our education and animal welfare services, under our American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) and Reservation Animal Rescue (RAR) programs. These four program areas will make it easier for donors to identify the giving channel they are most interested in supporting. Our existing services will continue to be available through these four programs:

- **American Indian Education Fund** offers scholarships and college grants, emergency funding and college readiness camps, as well as literacy and school supplies to help end the cycle of poverty.
- **Northern Plains Reservation Aid** provides material aid and services for nutritional, health, emergency and holiday impact for reservations located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Nebraska and Washington.
- **Southwest Reservation Aid** provides material aid and services for nutritional, health, emergency and holiday impact for reservations located in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, southwestern Colorado and southeastern California.
- **Reservation Animal Rescue** helps partners rescue hungry or injured stray animals and stop the spread of disease and overpopulation in reservation communities.



PWNA in the News

PR Newswire (Texas):

"Supply Drive to Collect Most Needed Items for Native American Communities" – July 29, 2015

"As a long-time partner with PWNA, I have seen the impact of their work first hand. Families on the reservation are always in need of household items, school supplies, toiletries, food, clothing and other items. Without PWNA's help, through initiatives like the supply drive, a lot of families would be going without."

Associated Press (National): "The Latest: Mine leak water has likely reached Lake Powell" – Aug. 13, 2015

"The organization, Partnership With Native Americans, is planning to deliver 20 pallets of water to Monument Valley, Mexican Hat and Halchita in the Utah portion of the reservation on Monday."

KOTA-TV (South Dakota): "Red Cloud kids give back" – Sept. 28, 2015

"We did a fundraiser for our (class) trip last year and we had some money left over,' said Dorian Sage Baldes, now a high school freshman. 'So we decided to donate it to Partnership With Native Americans and it feels good. It feels really nice to be able to give back instead of being selfish."

KCGS-TV (Utah): "Native American Heritage Month: The Realities of Hardships" – Nov. 14, 2015

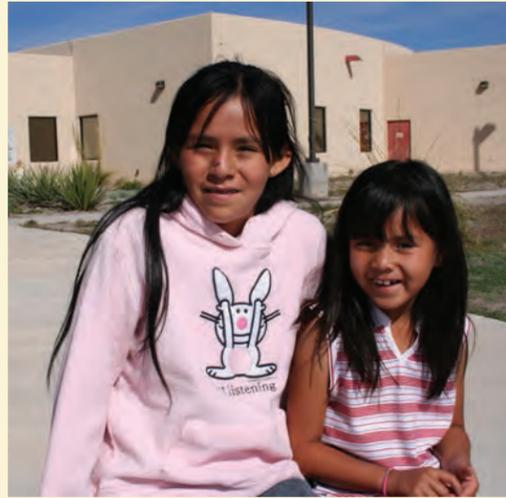
"Combating these critical issues is Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA), a nonprofit organization committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans living on remote, isolated and impoverished reservations, including Utah's Navajo Indian Reservation."

Working Through Challenges to Build Strong Communities

PWNA cares about quality of life for Native Americans and respects their self-determined goals for their tribes. More than 1,000 reservation partners identify critical needs and goals in their tribal communities, collaborating with PWNA to address the challenges together.

“As a counselor, I search for organizations that will contribute to my self-help programs, so I can encourage the students to be lifelong learners and productive in their communities. PWNA staff members are compassionate about helping students and adults be self-sufficient. Our school has participated in many PWNA services: healthy living, holiday services, school supplies, community events for a backpack program and a One World Play Project for distribution of soccer balls for healthy youth activity. Next year, I am going to apply for the hug-a-bear service to help children cope with their grief. PWNA reaches out to the community and helps make everyone feel special. Thank you for being my partner and supporting our self-help programs.”

— Clara Marie Landavazo,
Counselor at Baca/Dlo'ayazhi Community School, Navajo Nation
(PWNA partner since 2010)

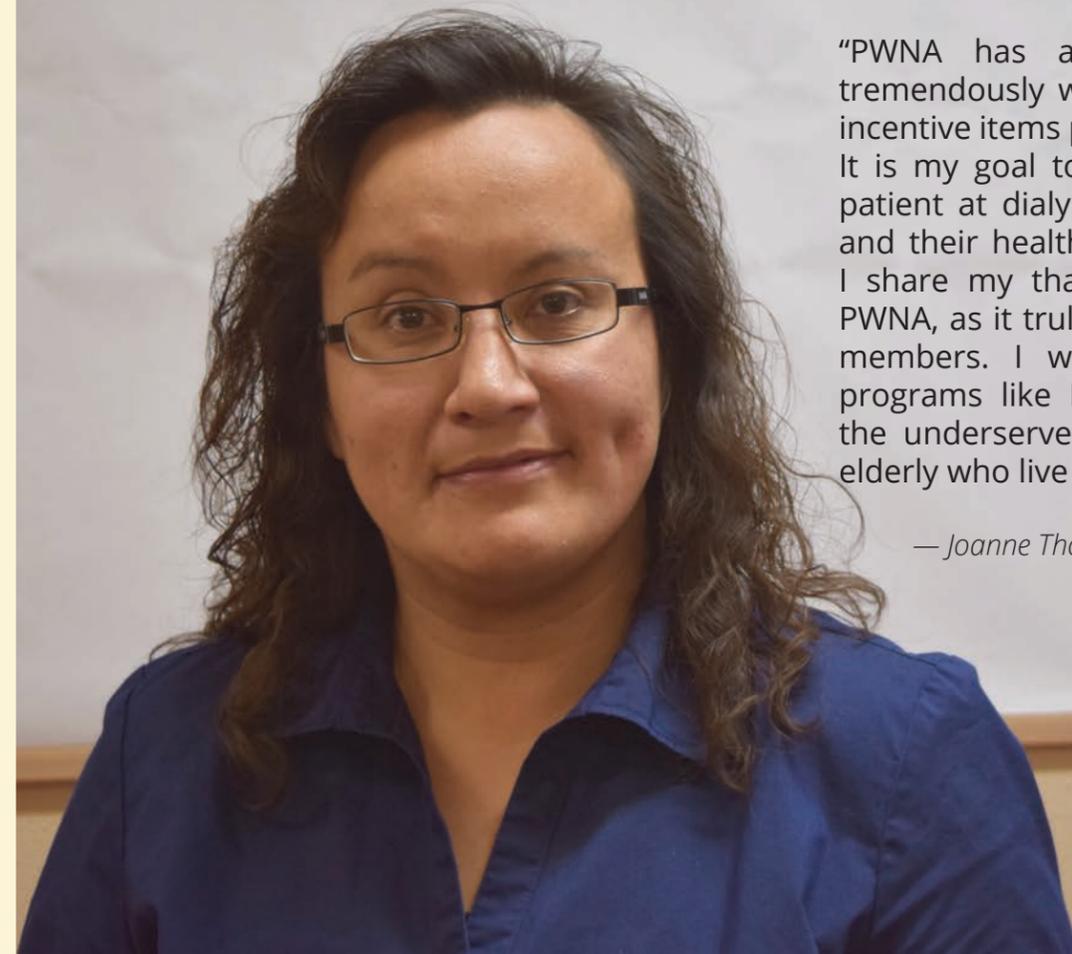


“Our program re-connected with PWNA and their animal rescue program and things immediately started to happen. Their office staff was so helpful and our first delivery consisted of dog food and treats, flea/tick treatment, bleach, gloves and paper towels. We also learned during a staff visit that we can apply for grants for reduced-cost spay and neutering services and medications to ready domestic animals for adoption. We thank PWNA for all their help and for remembering the animals.”

— Sena Fitzpatrick, Board President,
McKinley County Humane Society,
Ramah Navajo and Zuni Reservations
(partner 2009-2011, and since 2014)

“PWNA is one of the greatest contributors to Native American education; as a college student, I received contributions toward my education twice in one year, which helped me substantially. 2015 was a hard year for me because I studied abroad in Wales, then I interned in Texas, and lastly I interned in Washington D.C. for Senator Martin Heinrich in the fall. All of these experiences required substantial monetary input, so the help of PWNA and their education program made the financial burden much easier on me during the year. I extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire organization; they do a great job for indigenous youth who have the desire to achieve great things in their respective communities. As I get closer to achieving my bachelor's degree and begin to pursue a law degree, I hope one day to send some of my own aid to those in need.”

— Dominic Peacock, AIEF beneficiary,
Pueblo of Acoma
(AIEF student since 2015)



“PWNA has assisted our program tremendously with the many different incentive items provided for our clients. It is my goal to make sure that each patient at dialysis knows they matter, and their health and life is important. I share my thanks and gratitude for PWNA, as it truly helps our community members. I wish there were more programs like PWNA that could help the underserved populations and the elderly who live on fixed incomes.”

— Joanne Thompson, Social Work Liaison,
Dialysis Management Group
and Black Hills Dialysis,
Pine Ridge Reservation
(Partner since 2015)

The harsh realities Native Americans face are reasons why PWNA aids 250,000 Native Americans each year:

- 23 percent of Native Americans live with food insecurity.
- Some tribal communities experience acute or chronic contaminated water emergencies.
- 90,000 Native Americans are homeless.
- 35 percent of Native American children live in poverty.
- 40 percent of Native Americans live in sub-standard, overcrowded housing.
- The typical wait time for tribal housing assistance exceeds three years.
- Native Americans have a higher infant mortality rate than non-Natives, and diabetes at epidemic levels.
- Native Americans suffer greater impact than other ethnicities from cancer due to lack of access to cancer care.
- Tuberculosis risk is seven times higher for Native Americans than others in the U.S.
- Only 17 percent of Native American students start college.
- Only 13 percent of Native American students complete college.
- Overpopulated and stray animals suffer and create disease and safety concerns on reservations.

PWNA is committed to providing high-quality, useful products that reservation partners specifically request to enhance their programs or meet pressing needs in their communities. By providing assistance year-round and staying in constant communication with our reservation partners, PWNA delivers what is needed and our partners never receive unwanted goods.

Food & Water: Providing Nourishment in Food Deserts

- # Served: 168,417 people
- # of Partners Served: 380 food partners
- In 2015, PWNA provided standard food for 26,576 people. These food staples (rice, flour, beans, etc.) are used by senior centers serving congregate meals to Elders. It enables these partners to serve healthier meals, while saving funds they can use in other areas of their programs.
- PWNA provided emergency food for nearly 4,600 people in the Plains and Southwest in 2015. These boxes are especially important to home-bound Elders, such as those in Cameron and Tuba City on the Navajo Reservation. Due to budget cuts, only Elders within a 15-mile radius of the Cameron Senior Center are now receiving home deliveries of hot meals from the senior center, making emergency food boxes all the more vital.
- In 2015, food pantry partners received PWNA deliveries supplying food for 51,316 people – a need that continues to increase.
- PWNA delivered 85,738 pounds of produce in 2015, supporting healthy lifestyles in reservation food deserts where produce is inaccessible or unaffordable.

Literacy & School Supplies: Ensuring Education Access and Retention

- # Served: 25,408 Literacy | 45 partners in 32 tribal communities
- # Served: 25,580 School Supplies | 82 partners at grade K-12 schools in 71 communities
- Neither poverty nor isolation should prevent any child from having the opportunity to read and learn, and because of that, we've seen strong growth in PWNA partners' focus on literacy. There is a mutual understanding that reading is a necessity for improved comprehension and academic performance, while it also provides opportunities for bonding time between youth and adults.
- Self-sufficiency is a constant vision for the communities PWNA serves, and education is a cornerstone of that. With a low high school graduation rate and even lower college graduation rate, it is critical to provide consistent, meaningful support of Native American students through graduation. Literacy and school supplies help us in this aim.
- Building on momentum from 2014, PWNA also enhanced our back-to-school distributions through the support of TOMS. Their generous in-kind donations allow us to distribute TOMS Shoes and Boots to Native American students year after year, through graduation. PWNA's reservation partners helped us put TOMS Shoes and Boots on the feet of more than 74,000 K-12 students in tribal communities.
- In 2015, as more students realize the reality of graduating high school and going to college, PWNA scholarships continued to be requested and PWNA provided aid to 306 Native American students through scholarships, emergency funds and tools such as laptop computers.

Emergency Relief Spotlight: Responding First for Disasters & Trauma

- # Served: 104,804 pounds of safe drinking water for 14,352 people | 3 Navajo partners
- # Served: 46,220 people aided in shelters | 108 partners on 27 reservations
- In the summer of 2015, the EPA spilled 3 million gallons of wastewater at Gold King Mine, leading to a widespread water emergency in surrounding areas and greatly impacting the Navajo Nation. PWNA worked directly with reservation partners to determine the most pressing needs, and this resulted in emergency water shipments for widespread distribution in three tribal communities: Nenahnezad, New Mexico, Monument Valley, Utah and Window Rock, AZ. In conjunction with our 100-day supply drive, PWNA was able to replenish this critical water supply twice during this crucial period. We also provided 12,906 pounds of sanitizing supplies, due to San Juan River contamination.
- PWNA also provided critical supplies to residential shelters for the aged, homeless, disabled and domestic abuse victims, as well as children in trauma.

Animal Welfare: Empowering Rescue, Rehab and Foster Care

- # Served: 79,425 dogs and cats | 17 partners on 10 reservations
- In 2015, PWNA provided food and other supplies for dogs and cats rescued by our animal welfare partners (dogs are more overpopulated). We also funded a grant for the McKinley Humane Society in Gallup, NM, to support spay/neuter services accessible to numerous tribal communities in their region.
- The dedication of our animal welfare partners continues to impress us. These underfunded groups rescue, rehabilitate and place injured or stray animals in foster care or forever homes, ensuring the well-being of animals as well as healthy, safe communities. Animal welfare and the problems created from overpopulated and stray animals are immense for some reservation communities, leading to human health risk such as animal bites, rabies and the spread of disease. PWNA's partners:
 - Spay, neuter and vaccinate animals of the reservation
 - Educate communities on proper care of animals
 - Enable animal groups to care for more animals



PWNA collaborates with reservation partners who are actively developing programs and projects that will lead to sustainable gains and new community-based resources. PWNA is proud to work alongside our partners and their community volunteers to support these actions toward long-term solutions.

Healthy Cooking for Healthy Living

- Reservation: Pine Ridge (SD) ● Partner: Little Wound FACE program / Lynn Dubray ● 40 parents trained

Parents in the community of Kyle identified the need to learn healthy cooking skills, and if they received training, they could train other parents, as well as youth. To assist with this, PWNA developed menus and meal plans, and conducted train-the-trainer sessions onsite at the FACE (Family and Child Education) office. Participating parents earned incentives, such as cooking supplies and recipes. The project leader, Lynn Dubray, went through the training, as well, and then took over training for new parents coming into her FACE program. In championing this project, Lynn brought sustainable knowledge to the community and a re-useable curriculum the parents have modified to take advantage of food sources locally available on the reservation. This project spanned eight weeks and created an immediate and ongoing impact.

Making a Place for Youth Recreation

- Reservation: Hopi (AZ) ● Partner: Hopi Residential Youth Development / Mr. Sackos
- 675 youth at the school able to access the play area

Knowing the closest village is five miles away, Hopi Junior/Senior High School students wanted to create a gathering place accessible even when school is not in session, while simultaneously promoting health and wellness. Their project focused on the playground and adjacent area at their school near Polacca. With PWNA support, the class added benches and four trees to the existing playground, as well as pavers (enclosures to keep sand and wood chips off the playground). They also moved a gardening area to be in closer proximity to the playground and recreation area. This project provided a positive youth activity, supported skills development through project leadership, and empowered youth to know they can make a difference. The project is continuing to evolve, with the next phase being a basketball court, soccer field and gardening project.



Tuning in with Teens for Music

- Reservation: Navajo (NM) ● Partner: Teens for Music / Mechelle Flowers ● 50 youth attended the workshops

A youth-led group organized as “Teens for Music” proposed music as a positive interest and cultural activity, seeking instruments to teach Native youth to play. This proactive group created videos to share their story, got active on social media and raised \$10,000 online, as a result. In addition to monetary donations, they also received the support of professional Native American musicians at their community workshops. PWNA donated food, supplies and travel expenses for these volunteer trainers and helped promote the events. Seven professional musicians, six of them members of the Navajo Nation, worked their events (five at each event), some traveling from Albuquerque. One reggae song-writer/producer even took a train from Chicago to support a workshop. These teens demonstrated focus, dedication and passion through their hard work on this project. Following the success of “Teens for Music,” the same group of teens launched a spin-off project organized as “Teens for Soccer.” Working directly with One World Play Project, the youth received a donation of 100 soccer balls and organized youth soccer events, once again motivating members of the community to work together.

Gardening for a Healthier Lifestyle

- Reservation: Fort Belknap (MT) ● Partner: Red Paint Creek Community Council / Hannah Has Eagle
- 172 residents participated in the project

Wanting to embody traditional and cultural ways to unite the community, the Red Paint Creek Community Council sought to build a high-tunnel garden to support self-sufficiency and healthier lifestyles on the reservation. The council partnered with local schools, developing a plan to get the entire community involved – everyone from Elders to youth. PWNA funded the supplies to construct the garden and get the project off the ground. Immediately springing into action, the Hays-Lodge Pole Elementary School germinated the seeds and transplanted them into the garden, while Aaniiih Nakoda College of Harlem, Montana, donated 120 plants (tomatoes, melons and spinach). Fruit trees, herbs and flowers were also planted. As a result, the community of Lodge Pole enjoyed a successful harvest of produce, which was distributed to Elders and other community members. In addition, PWNA, in conjunction with the council, conducted food preservation classes. More than 1,000 volunteer hours went into the project for tilling, planting, maintaining and harvesting the garden. Making an immediate and ongoing impact on self-sufficiency and healthier lifestyles, the Red Paint project is ongoing, and the council has been hosting seed-saving events to promote planting in 2016.



Developing Leaders Through Four Directions

- 4 cohorts convened, with 42 active participants from 19 tribes

In 2015, PWNA launched the Four Directions Development Program (4D) in our Southwest service area. As a capacity building service of PWNA, 4D focuses on leadership and development training for grassroots leaders, equipping grassroots leaders who want to make a greater contribution to their tribal communities. Developed as a direct result of partner feedback about needs and next steps that will help our partners be more effective, 4D is a 6-month curriculum in which partners commit to personal and professional development goals and work with “keys,” or mentors, for support in attaining their goals. One cohort graduate, Christy Sangster-Begay, of the San Carlos Reservation, has already co-organized and launched a new group, “The Ni’godza’n Project” (TNP), to provide her community with the education and information to live a sustainable lifestyle. While living in this digital world, TNP is about reconnecting the people to the land. Through TNP, Christy is actively working after school with students from the Twin Mesquite Community, who are learning about recycling, zero waste, gardening and healthy physical activities, which is the Apache Way of Life. Thanks to funding from The John T. Vucurevich Foundation, PWNA was also able to expand its 4D services in South Dakota in 2015.



Coming up in 2016

Supported by Newman’s Own Foundation, a greenhouse project, an orchard project, an intergenerational sustainable food system and a community-generated food production project will wrap up in 2016, along with two emergency readiness projects funded by the North Central Division of the American Red Cross. Supported by a Walmart Foundation grant in 2016, we will begin enhanced food distribution, community garden projects, and training on cooking and canning, and wrap up in 2017.



Our Supporters

In-kind donors and community investors collaborated with PWNA in 2015 to address critical supply needs of our reservation partners and provide funding for community-led initiatives focused on nutrition, health and emergency preparedness. We want to thank them for their generosity and dedication to PWNA's mission.

PWNA is fortunate to also have the support of more than 500,000 individual donors who support our work year-round. We recognize the significance of our supporters' contributions for education, including school supplies and scholarships, as well as food and water, winter fuel and holiday support for the Northern Plains and Southwest reservations we serve.

- 268,145 donors have given to at least two PWNA programs in their lifetime
- 34,014 donors have given one gift every year for five or more consecutive years
- 684 donors have given at least one gift of \$1,000 or more in any one year

In 2015, PWNA also saw a 28 percent increase in the number of new donors over 2014. We attribute this, in part, to increased awareness of our work and the power of our new name.

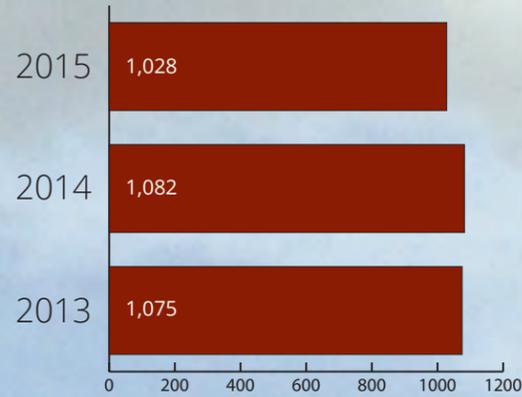
We are also appreciative of our Heritage Circle members – those donors who are leaving a legacy gift to PWNA in their will – and members of our Circle of Friends – monthly donors who provide consistent support PWNA can count on in meeting our mission.



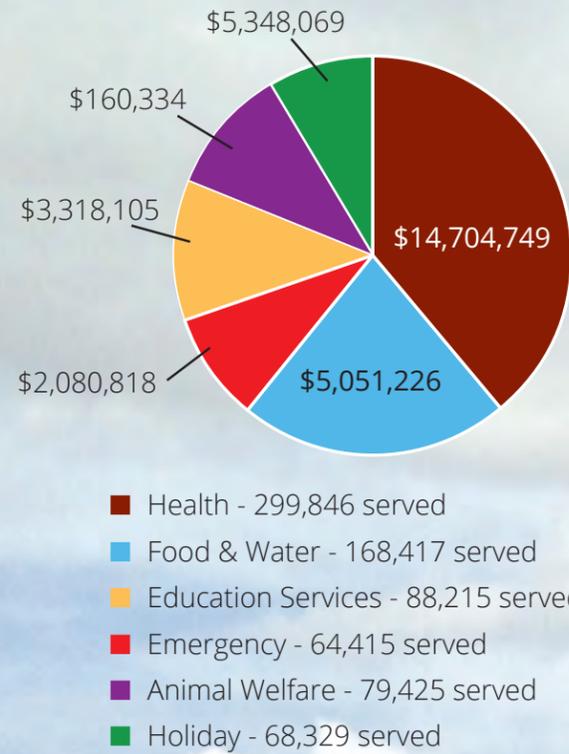
Active Reservation Partners

1000+

Active reservation partners for three consecutive years



Number Served by Program



Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$3,564,341
Accounts Receivable	711,321
Inventory	7,902,173
Investments	3,686,767
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	257,353
Asset held for sale	750,000
Property & Equipment	<u>6,311,562</u>
Total Assets	\$23,183,517
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$921,505
Accrued Expenses	372,586
Annuities Payable	<u>20,545</u>
Total Liabilities	\$1,314,636
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	\$21,684,445
Temporarily Restricted	118,571
Permanently Restricted	<u>65,865</u>
Total Net Assets	\$21,868,881
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$23,183,517

Statement of Activities

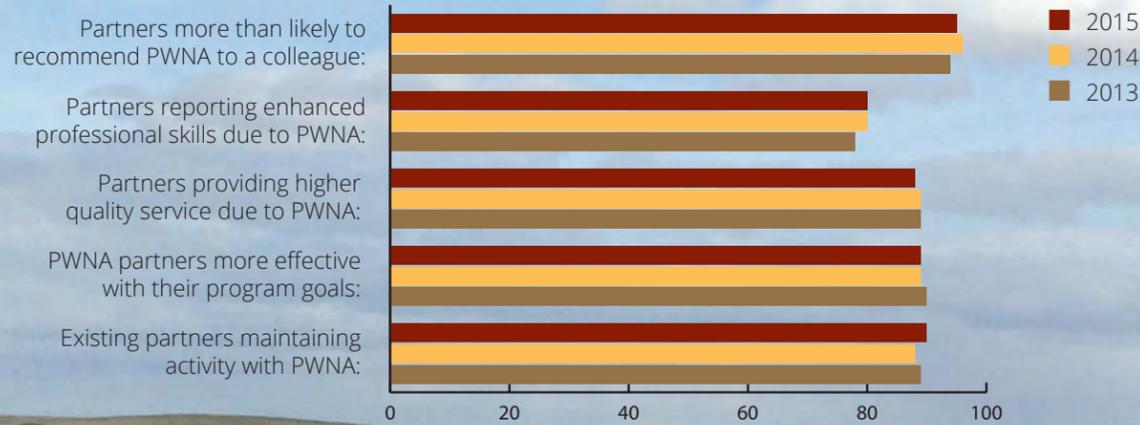
Revenue	
Non-Cash Contributions	\$21,677,561
Contributions and Grants	23,093,702
Other Revenues, Net	<u>1,248,908</u>
Total Revenue	\$46,020,171
Expense	
Plains Region	\$16,469,390
Southwest Region	12,586,789
Educational Support	1,438,399
Other Programs	<u>388,130</u>
Total Program Expense	\$30,882,717
Management and General	\$1,820,539
Fundraising Expense	<u>10,657,345</u>
Total Expense	\$43,360,601
Change in Net Assets	\$2,462,168

Net Promoter Score

95%

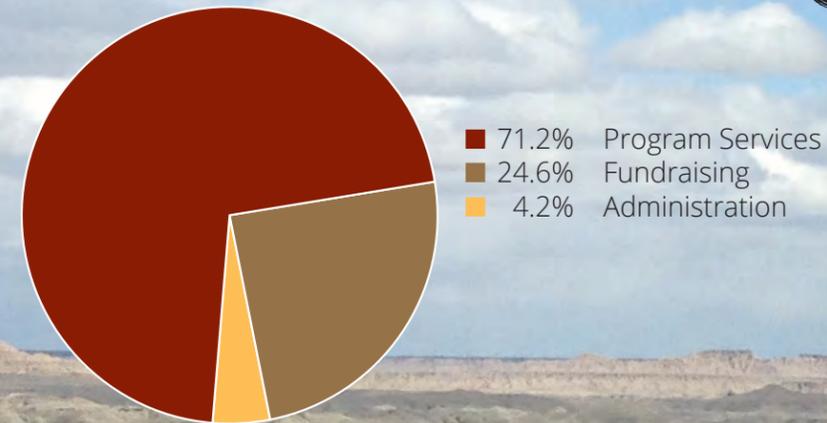
of our reservation partners would recommend PWNA to a friend or colleague

3-Year Impact With Reservation Partners



Percentages Data

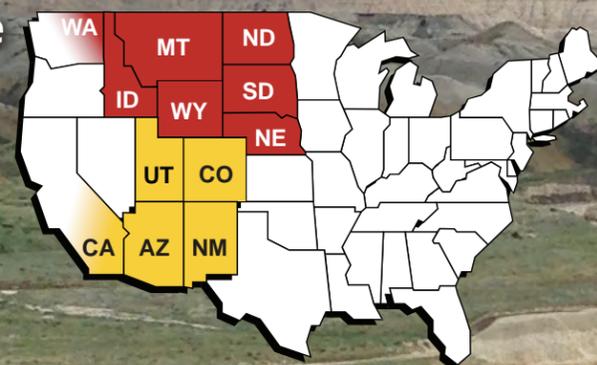
Program Services Expense	\$30,882,717	71.2%
Fundraising Expense	10,657,345	24.6%
Administrative Expense	<u>1,820,539</u>	<u>4.2%</u>
Total	\$43,360,601	100.0%



PWNA meets all 20 Standards of Charity Accountability



Service Area





Our Leadership

An experienced, dedicated Board of Directors with backgrounds that span a variety of industries, including business and financial management, strategic planning, law, education, health care, economic development, grants and programming, humanitarian services and multicultural diversity sets the stage for the strategic direction of PWNA and governs our administration and finances. The PWNA Board of Directors volunteers its time and expertise to help PWNA achieve its mission and vision with efficiency and integrity.



Dr. James (Jim) Pete, Chairman

Jim is a tribal management consultant providing culturally relevant services to tribal organizations and leaders. He holds a bachelor's in business administration, a master's in organizational management and a doctorate in business administration. His doctoral dissertation explores undertaking the past, living in the present and designing the future for Native American tribal organizations and leaders. Jim is Anishinaabe from the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Guyaushk is his Anishinaabe name, but leadership circles know him as "Dr. Pete." He has served as Tribal Treasurer and Tribal Vice-Chairperson for two terms as a Red Cliff Tribal Council member. Currently an adjunct faculty member with the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College, Jim contributes expertise to PWNA in organizational development, grant and program development and strategic planning.



Kevin Diepholz, Vice Chairman

Kevin is a retired business development professional with a specialty in commercial plastics and electrical solutions. Previously with Werner Electric, he studied business and economics in college and values having worked his way up from pouring concrete, to corporate management and international business development in Taiwan, Korea, the UK, and Canada. He has a broad perspective and ability to interact with people of diverse cultures and socio-economic backgrounds, bringing his familiarity with reservation conditions. A lifelong helper, Kevin volunteers with the American Cancer Society, Ronald McDonald House Charities and Faith's Lodge of Minnesota.



Ann Marie Woessner Collins, Treasurer

Ann Marie is Managing Director of the Business & Economic Incentives practice at Jones Lang LaSalle. A problem solver by nature, she helps companies expand or optimize manufacturing, warehouses, offices, data centers, call centers, and other facilities. She has also held positions with The Staubach Company, KPMG as a Partner, Frito-Lay and PepsiCo, Trammell Crow, 3M, and Dayton Hudson. Ann Marie holds an MBA in finance and a bachelor's from Texas A&M. At Frito-Lay, she managed the company's minority business program and has worked with American Indian tribes on projects that begin to build a sustainable economic base. Ann Marie also served as Chairman of the Board for the Dallas Ballet, and previously served on the Board of the Texas Ballet and the Board of Texas CASA for abused children. Anne Marie currently serves on the Board of Oak Hill Montessori and on the Minneapolis Downtown Council.



Alyce Sadongei, Secretary

Alyce is a nationally recognized expert in the field of tribal libraries, archives and museums, including Native American repatriation and preservation, museum development and training. Currently with the American Indian Language Development Institute at the University of Arizona, Alyce is of Kiowa and Tohono O'odham heritage and holds a bachelor's in communications. A poet, writer and editor, her previous roles involved outreach and training for the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian, executive leadership for a national service supporting the vitality of Native arts, implementing tribal relations for the Arizona State Museum. Alyce's extensive board experience spans the Arizona Humanities Council, Arts for America, Heritage Preservation, the National Emergency Services Review Board, the governor-appointed state board for Historic and Geographic Names and more. Co-founder of the American Indian Museum Collaboration Network, she currently serves on the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum Board. She earned the first leadership award from the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries & Museums and the Director's Chair Award for national impact from the Western Museums Association.

**Ronetta (Roni) Keeter Briggs**

A co-founder of The Osiyo Group as well as Council House Institute, Roni Briggs has a history of integrating human capital, talent management and market growth strategies and holding leadership roles with major businesses such as General Electric, NEC America, EXCEL Communications and Anderson Consulting. Roni assists tribal governments with strategic planning, economic development and human resources development, and has also served as an adjunct professor for tribal management studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She's a speaker, trainer and subject matter expert for organizations such as the Native American Human Resources Association, Alaska Native Village CEO Association, National 8(a) Association, Alaska Native Corporations and American Indian Enterprise Development. Roni adds expertise for PWNA in diversity, corporate philanthropy, tribal governance, consulting, marketing, social responsibility and negotiation. A tribal citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Roni resides in Dallas. She graduated from Oklahoma State University with a degree in political science, completed entrepreneurial certification for Native-owned businesses through the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth and served on the Board of the North Texas Minority Business Development Council.

**Christina Kazhe**

Nationally recognized and respected for her legal expertise in tribal sovereignty, land restorations and federal recognition, Christina is a member of the Navajo Nation and affiliate to the Mescalero Apache Tribe. An attorney, Christina specializes in protecting the interests of Native American communities. Her experience spans Indian Child Welfare advocacy, tribal self-determination, taxation, reservation economic development, gaming law, and environmental and cultural preservation. Before opening her own firm, she practiced federal Indian law with Monteau and Peebles LLP and commercial litigation with Morrison & Foerster LLP. Currently, Christina serves on the Board of Directors for The California Endowment and the Elk Grove Unified School District's American Indian Education Program. She holds a Juris Doctor from Boalt School of Law at UC Berkeley and a bachelor's in human development and Native American studies from the University of California, Davis.

**MaKenley Barton**

A member of the Cherokee Nation, MaKenley is a health care professional currently serving as an Administrative Officer at the Cherokee National W. W. Hastings Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. In 2008, MaKenley was selected to be a part of the Cherokee Nation Summer Youth program, where she served at the Wilma P. Mankiller Clinic and at the District Attorney's Office in Stilwell, Oklahoma. MaKenley holds a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah and is currently seeking a master's in health care administration at Oklahoma State University. A former recipient of PWNA's American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) scholarship and guest speaker to our donors, MaKenley brings multiple skills to PWNA, including the provision of health care, data collection and analysis, financial management and tribal community outreach.

**Nikki Pitre**

Currently working for the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC), Nikki Pitre (Coeur d'Alene Tribe) assists with federal-tribal relations and special initiatives and supports collaborations with associations pertaining to tribal colleges and universities. Some of the program grants Nikki contributes to include the "College Bound" initiative with the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE), where tribal colleges partner with their respective BIE feeder schools, and the "Student Success" collaborative with the National Science Foundation to implement project-based learning into tribal college STEM curricula. She also has the honor of serving on the Miss Indian World Committee for the Gathering of Nations, the largest powwow in North America. Prior to joining AIHEC, Nikki helped coordinate bi-annual legislative summits, trade show conventions, mid-year conferences and fundraisers for the National Indian Gaming Association. She earned a bachelor's degree in American Indian studies from the University of Washington in Seattle. Passionate about youth leadership and development, Nikki brings to PWNA experience in higher education, student development, outreach and advocacy for Indian education.

**Leonard J. Smith**

Recognized for Native-owned business advocacy and tribal economic development, Leonard is a member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes. As Founder and Executive Director of Native American Development Corporation, Leonard develops sustainability strategies and partnerships for revenue streams and job creation, supports government contract procurement and assists startup of Native-owned small businesses. Formerly, he founded Native American Manufacturer's Network, generating \$50 million in contracts for Native firms, and served with the Small Business Administration, directing economic partnerships and loans for businesses or farmers and ranchers on Montana, South Dakota and North Dakota reservations. Leonard also served in executive roles for several tribally owned companies. Previously awarded for regional economic development and small business advocacy by the U.S. Commerce Department and the U.S. Small Business Administration, Leonard recently completed the Tribal Housing Excellence Academy. He holds a bachelor's in business administration from Montana State University.

**Dr. Joshua Tompkins**

Joshua is an Associate Professor at North Central University in Minnesota. He is of Lakota heritage. Joshua is the Founder and General Manager of JLT Productions, a record label that he started in 1994. He balances his teaching and production time with "live" concert performances as a virtuoso pianist. Joshua holds a Ph.D. in music. Both entrepreneurial and creative, Joshua helps PWNA through his "out of the box" perspective, experience with P&L management, and awareness of Native American concerns.

**Rodney (Rod) Trahan**

Rod is a certified business coach of Northern Cheyenne descent. He founded Streamline Enterprises in 2007, a coaching practice backed by an MBA and 20 years of experience helping businesses streamline operations and improve the bottom line. He also spent 15 years fundraising for St. Labre Indian School as their Assistant Director of Development and Chief Planned Giving Officer. Being familiar with the history and current challenges of tribes and communities, Rod volunteers with Native American Development Corporation and the Montana Indian Business Alliance, which help Native American business owners.

**Tracey Zephier**

Tracey is an expert in Native American law and a partner at Fredericks, Peebles & Morgan law firm, where she focuses on tribal/state relations, financial and real estate transactions, and legal/physical infrastructure matters for tribes. Tracey has also served as Executive Director of the South Dakota Equal Justice Commission, President & CEO of First Nations Oweesta Corporation focusing on community development financial institutions (CDFIs), auditor for the South Dakota Department of Labor, and banker for Wells Fargo (formerly Norwest). An adjunct professor of tribal governance and economic development at the University of South Dakota as well as Oglala Lakota College, Tracey holds a Juris Doctor from Yale Law School and a bachelor's degree in business administration and accounting. An enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, she was in the first cohort of the Bush Foundation Native Nation Rebuilder's Program.

**Robbi Rice Dietrich, PWNA President/CEO (non-voting member)**

Robbi has 30 years of experience in building positive awareness of organizations and presenting their causes and capabilities to a wide spectrum of public officials, community and business leaders, contributors and the media. Her private sector experience includes work for Frito-Lay, Inc., Ernst & Young, LLP and First Preston Management in the areas of community and media relations, government affairs, organizational development and strategic planning. Committed to supporting diversity and helping people in need, Robbi has held leadership positions on boards of directors with several national, regional and local nonprofit organizations. She currently sits on the Honorary Board of the Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity, the Senior Advisory Board for the Women's Business Council - Southwest, and the Board of Trustees for the Episcopal Foundation of Dallas and the Gaston Episcopal Hospital Foundation. As President/CEO, Robbi leads PWNA in creating and achieving its goals and focusing resources in areas where they can have the most impact on quality of life for Native Americans.

*The most important thing
PWNA provides is hope.*

*Serving
immediate needs.*

*Supporting
long-term solutions.*

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