

Program Impact: 2022, by the Numbers

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



Photo credit:
Morgan & Alora,
Navajo, AIEF Scholar

Intro & Background

For over three decades, PWNA has partnered with reservation-based programs to ease immediate needs and infuse social equity for their people. In every Tribal community, grassroots leaders are resilient, resourceful and committed to changing lives. Although western colonization and formation of the reservation system, broken treaty promises and racial marginalization led to food insecurity, education barriers and the digital divide, our Native partners will never stop their tireless efforts to bring hope, relief and sustainable gains to their people and communities.

PWNA functions as an ally to help these program partners address the issues they prioritize. Not assuming we know best or that Tribal Communities lack in capacity to deliver, we support them with resources and training to increase their impact.

We know that none of our work would be possible without these partnerships and the generosity of donors who believe in our mission. Indian Country has the highest need in the U.S., clearly pointing the way for individual donors, corporate social responsibility and inclusion in the American dream. PWNA helps with its distribution system and large network of Native partners.

While many people remain unaware of the severities facing Native Americans, we thank you for remembering Indian Country. Native people are resilient and keep working for change, but your support keeps them strong and striving toward social justice with a hand up along the way.

Mi-gwettch (Thank you)

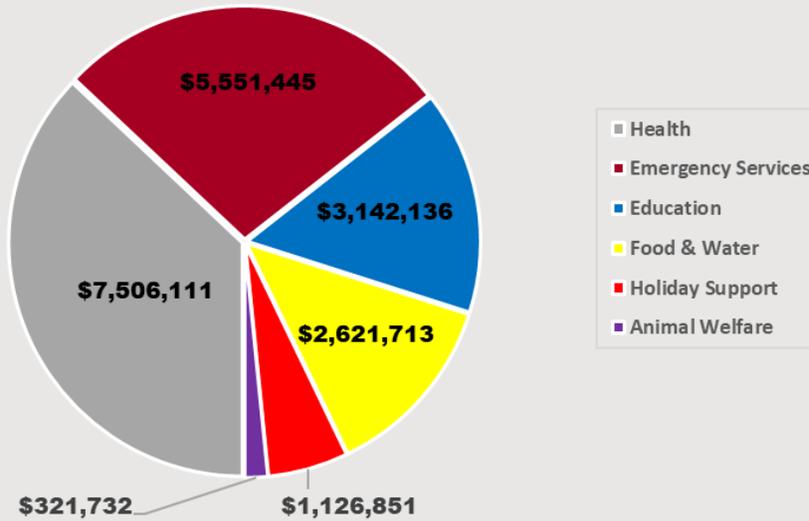
Joshua Arce
President & CEO



Major Programs Overview

Year-round, PWNA helps its reservation-based partners address the issues in their communities that impact every facet of life. Together, we address six pillars of need and service: emergency services (including disaster response and emergency preparedness), education, food and water, health, holiday support and animal welfare.

2022 Aid, by Major Program



PWNA maintains a network of Tribal partnerships, two warehouses and a fleet of trucks to distribute critical supplies and services to the reservations. Our delivery drivers traveled nearly 117,000 miles in 2022. PWNA staff also supported distributions, training and other activities on the reservations.

A recent [poll](#) from NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health found that inflation caused significant financial problems for 69% of Native respondents. Only continued focus on becoming more NativeAware® and investing in Tribal communities can help turn the tide toward the social parity that is needed.

Emergency Services

Purpose of the Program: To provide winter warmth, seasonal services and critical supplies for reservation Elders, communities and shelters, and support tribal readiness for disasters

Situation: As global warming increases disasters such as floods, forest fires, blizzards and tornadoes, it is critical that PWNA continue to serve as a first responder for the reservations and equip Native communities to plan, train and respond to these events locally. Winter warmth is always a concern for the Elders too. On any given night, 19,000 Native Americans are homeless (sheltered, unsheltered). 40% of Native Americans live in sub-standard homes and 16% of homes are overcrowded. In addition, 75% of Hopi residents rely on water contaminated with arsenic, and 30% of Navajo families haul water due to abandoned uranium mines.



PWNA Impact:

- Year-round aid to 59 shelters for the aged, homeless, disabled and abuse victims, aiding 6,663 people
- Firewood or winter fuel vouchers to Rosebud, Pine Ridge, Winnebago, Navajo and Mescalero Apache Elders
- Winter and/or summer emergency boxes to 8 Northern Plains and 4 Southwest tribes, with items such as blankets, batteries, candles, water and nonperishable food for winter storms, and water, sunscreen, bug spray and fire extinguishers for summer storms and outages
- Emergency relief for 2 water shortages, a fire, a monsoon, flooding and COVID relief 5 times, infusing over 548,000 pounds of staple foods, bottled water, hygiene kits, diapers, blankets, PPE and other essentials to assist about 4,660 people in the Southwest
- Trained or engaged 377 tribal citizens around disaster readiness
- Resource and asset mapping, safety and first responder training with Cheyenne River, Crow Creek, Lake Traverse, Pine Ridge and Santee Reservations, thanks to the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies
- Emergency preparedness planning and training in three White Mountain Apache communities, thanks to Boeing, Levi Strauss and Freeport-McMoRan

Education Services

Purpose of the Program: To increase resources for Native education, support access and retention from pre-kindergarten through college and support Native college and career readiness

Situation: Education is a cornerstone of economic mobility, but systemic failures and unrealized treaty promises leave half of Native students not finishing high school. About 7% of Native students attend Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools that leave them with the lowest reading scores in America. College-bound students face barriers such as poverty, the digital divide and racial discrimination, while some people believe college is free for Native Americans. 16% of Native Americans hold a college degree (while 40% of Whites do), and 65% of all jobs require post-secondary education or training beyond high school.



PWNA Impact:

- School supplies and backpacks for 12,888 K-12 students at 58 partner schools, with support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- Books for 3,303 children across 7 reservations to motivate reading and build comprehension
- 1,146 pairs of TOMS shoes (and another 3,266 at back-to-school time), plus Bombas socks
- \$240,400 in undergraduate and graduate scholarships, with Synchrony Bank and Dougherty Foundation funding 56 and Walmart providing laptops to some first-year students
- Mentored scholars through PepsiCo RISE Native American employee workforce group, and provided care packs and holiday gifts
- Conducted Four Directions (4D) leadership development with adult and youth cohorts in the Northern Plains and Southwest, graduating 41 emerging leaders thanks to General Motors and Newman's Own Foundation
- Held a 4D alumni event in the Southwest, thanks to Newman's, Protect Native Elders and Native American Connections
- Launched a vocational scholarship program, provided free digital training to 1,621 scholars and re-granted \$58,000 to Native-serving organizations for digital training, thanks to the Grow With Google Indigenous Career Readiness Program

Food & Water

Purpose of the Program: To ease food insecurity by increasing local food supply for Native American Elders, children and families, and support food sovereignty through gardening and local access to healthy foods in rural and remote Tribal communities



Situation: Food on the table is a basic human right, but it's not that simple for the people PWNA serves. Low food security – insufficient food quality or variety for dietary health – has impacted Native families for decades and fueled high rates of nutrition-related diseases such as diabetes and obesity. Many Tribal communities are food deserts devoid of fresh fruits and vegetables, and 51% of Native residents travel off-reservation for groceries. Food hardship — the inability to afford enough food for yourself and your family — has increased in families with children, according to a 2018 study by the Food & Action Center. The food hardship rate is 23% for Native families (compared to 16-19% nationwide). Plus, 25-40% of Native Americans live with water insecurity.



PWNA Impact:

- Fresh produce for 2,960 people, including 2,200 from Pine Ridge and Eight Northern Pueblos funded by Bank of America
- Emergency food boxes for 2,751 people, including 2,112 funded by Olo for Good along with fresh bison or mutton and solar lights to help Elders who worry about bills and gas for the grocery store many miles away
- Staple foods for 82 food banks and senior centers, providing food for 17,940 people
- Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for 20,329 people
- 744 bags of breakfast groceries picked up by or for Rosebud Elders
- 268,272 bottles of water to communities with unsafe drinking water

"Our ancestors raised us on buffalo. We were healthy with no cancer, diabetes or obesity. We were active hunters and used every part of the buffalo... [The bison distribution] helps bring back ancestral ways."

- Karen Red Star, OST Health Education, Pine Ridge, SD

Health

Purpose of the Program: To support preventative care and health education initiatives led by reservation programs, and help them motivate involvement in healthy lifestyles and community service

Situation: A legacy of healthcare disparities and high disease rates persists in Indian Country. Native adults are nearly 300% more likely to have diabetes and 50% more likely to have obesity than non-Hispanic whites. Yet medical care is limited to the Indian Health Service (I.H.S.). Only 500 of these federally-run clinics serve 574 recognized tribes (less than 1 per reservation), while transportation is an issue for many residents. Despite CARES Act funding, I.H.S. remains ill-situated to respond to a healthcare crisis, and 19% of Native people lack any form of health insurance for outside care. Thus, tribally-run health and wellness programs often take the lead on preventative health care, as well as efforts to improve Native food security and long-term food access.



PWNA Impact:

- Supported 250 health and wellness partners providing preventative care, health home visits and health screenings
- Promoted dental care for #GivingTuesday, supplying oral hygiene products for 16,000 people
- Provided winter coats to 891 San Carlos elementary students, in collaboration with Operation Warm and Molina Healthcare
- Supported healthy lifestyle programs and education for 53,132 people, including 52 partners focused on youth development, suicide prevention, language preservation or other events
- Conducted 3 Train-the-Trainer (T3) cohorts, reaching 47 participants from 8 reservations now able to impact the diets of about 282 people (6 per trainee), thanks to Newman's Own Foundation, Native American Connections and Native chefs who made the link between ancestral foods, culture and food as medicine
- Facilitated a roundtable at the Lakota Food Summit in Rapid City, SD, thanks to Newman's
- Conducted a foraging and gathering session on Pine Ridge, thanks to Feeding America

Holiday

Purpose of the Program: To help our reservation partners spread community cheer, engagement and active involvement at times when families may be experiencing more disenfranchisement and seasonal stress

Situation: The holidays can be an extra hardship for many Native families. The Elders and children on the reservations PWNA serves are certainly aware of holidays celebrated across the U.S., but many families cannot afford holiday gifts or celebrations. Up to 61% of Native American children live in poverty or low-income households, many of them raised by grandparents on severely limited, fixed incomes such as social security – and Native joblessness is twice that of Whites. The overall rate of impoverishment across the hundreds of tribal communities PWNA serves ranges from 15% to 54%.

“ *I really appreciate the holiday service for Elders. It’s all about the feeling of knowing someone is out there caring about us. I’ll remember the donors in my prayers, and I thank you for everything you brought me.* ”
 – Alfred H., Tohono O’odham, AZ



PWNA Impact:

- Helped program partners spread holiday cheer across 28 reservations, such as Crow Agency, Pine Ridge and Rosebud in the Northern Plains and Hopi, Mescalero Apache and Zuni in the Southwest
- Provided 7,951 children with holiday stockings, including items such as toys, books, gloves, hats and stuffed animals
- Provided Santa Stops for 1,235 children age 5 and under
- Delivered holiday gift bags for 4,475 Elders, including practical items such as crosswords, playing cards, first aid and hygiene items

Animal Welfare

Purpose of the Program: To support programs concerned with animal welfare and related human health risk in remote, underserved Tribal communities

Situation: Indigenous peoples have a long history of relationship with animals; more than just pets, they are viewed as brothers and sisters in Native cultures. But today, as families struggle with poverty, so too do the animals – and the problems arising from strays and overpopulation are immense for some reservations. PETA cites that, in just 6 years, 67,000 dogs can come from one female dog and her offspring. The reservations we serve are unable to care for that many animals.

In fact, about 88% of pets living in underserved communities are not spayed or neutered, and 69% have never seen a veterinarian. Plus, many shelters are now overrun because dogs adopted during the pandemic were sent back when people returned to work – still, our partners hope to find homes for all.



“ *The clinics keep dogs healthy and happy. We want to keep dogs in their homes with loving families, and if they don't have homes, we find them homes after vaccinating them. If you really love animals, you strive to get them a loving home.* ”

– Tina Bets His Medicine,
 Pound Puppies, Fort Peck, MT



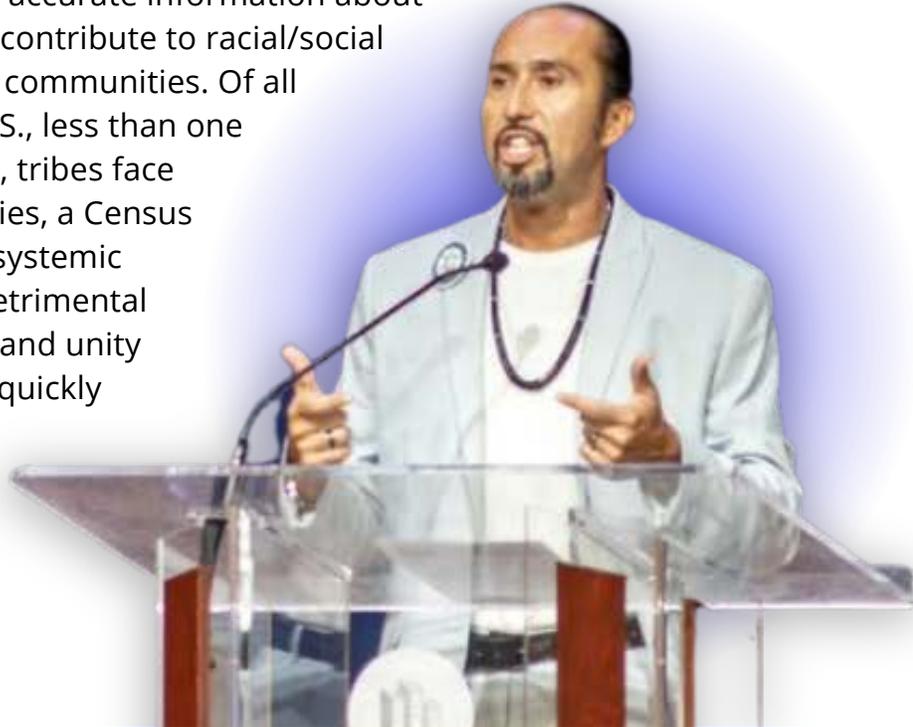
PWNA Impact:

- Supported 11 reservation partners who rescue, rehabilitate and rehome animals, and recruit foster families and forever homes
- Supplied over 17,700 pounds of supplies for rescued animals on 9 different reservations, such as Cheyenne River, Northern Cheyenne and Pine Ridge in the Northern Plains and Navajo, White Mountain and Zuni in the Southwest
- Collaborated with Petco Love to deliver food and vaccines for free clinics on Northern Plains and Southwest reservations, including vaccines for distemper, parvovirus and rabies
- Awarded 12 new grants in 2022 and continued spend-down on 2 others, providing \$93,861 in support for spay/neuter, vaccination and transport for adoption
- Served 1,513 animals across 15 reservations for spay/neuter and vaccinations

Public Education

Purpose of the Program: To provide accurate information about Native American history and modern-day life on the reservations, as well as PWNA programs and impact, while addressing persistent misconceptions that deter opportunity and racial/social justice for Native peoples

Situation: The need for Native voices to be heard has never been greater. Harmful stereotypes and misconceptions, coupled with a lack of accurate information about Native people, history, issues and funding, contribute to racial/social inequity and inadequate support for Tribal communities. Of all the billions given for philanthropy in the U.S., less than one percent is aiding Native causes. Meanwhile, tribes face challenges inextricably tied to broken treaties, a Census undercount that limits federal dollars and systemic failures in the education system that are detrimental to Native students. Amidst the rich culture and unity of Tribal communities, Americans seem to quickly forget Native challenges with food and water, healthcare and housing, education and technology.



PWNA Impact:

- Reached a potential audience of 874.9 million people, making them more NativeAware®
- Generated 72 news articles, 4 radio and TV airings, 4 press releases, social media engagement, fresh content on our website and timely, original content on our blog
- President & CEO Josh Arce advocated for Indigenous peoples at these and other gatherings:
 - Food sovereignty panelist at 2022 Civil Rights Conference, Univ. of Tennessee at Martin
 - Native history and misconceptions, with Renaissance Learning
 - COVID impact on tribal food security, at the 2022 Arizona Food Summit
 - Youth motivational speaker at the Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI)
 - Impact of colonization & assimilation on Native People, with PepsiCo
 - Eras of policy & legislation impacting tribes, for Lawrence Medical Community
 - Forgotten populations and CSR for Tribal communities, at 3BL Forum
 - Native history and the real first Thanksgiving, with Retail Business Services
 - Social justice for tribes, for women's leadership group in Dallas
 - Indian boarding schools and their impact, as op-ed
 - Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), as op-ed
 - Spokesperson for upcoming PTV segment on *Native Nations Today*

Contact Us

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Serving Indian Country since 1990, PWNA is one of the largest Native-led nonprofits for philanthropy and solutions in Tribal communities.

The most important thing PWNA provides is hope.

