

AIN DAH YUNG CENTER



2015

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OUR MISSION

Ain Dah Yung Center PROVIDES A HEALING PLACE for AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH AND FAMILIES to thrive in safety and wholeness.

Ain Dah Yung Center
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www.adycenter.org
Like us on Facebook/Ain Dah Yung Center



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

WHY WE DO THE WORK WE DO



Norma Jean's Story

Boozhoo... my name is Norma Jean and I'm from the White Earth reservation in Northern Minnesota. Today, I am also known by - kiizhi-ibaakiizhiigok - you will soon come to know and understand the strength it took me to tell my story.

I am truly honored to have this opportunity. Telling my story has been surprisingly harder than I thought it was going to be. It brings back a lot of memories and emotions but I feel it is important to tell my story so that other young people don't feel alone and know there's always hope. My dad passed away when I was 5. When that happened, my life became chaos. There were multiple men coming through the house, lots of crack use, alcohol, and marijuana. I felt like I had suddenly become invisible. My mom seemed to look right past me. There was no one to take care of me, I would scrounge for food, and get myself to school. School was my safe place. I remember sitting at the front of the bus so that I could talk to the bus driver.

When I was about 12, my mom and I became homeless. I was in and out of shelters, couch hopping, living with family members, and then back to being homeless again.

We were living with my aunt when my mom called the Ain Dah Yung Center. Something happened between the two of them and we couldn't stay anymore. I remember my mom said, "A van is coming to get you, take all your stuff and go with them!" I was really nervous and then I saw the big house... a really big house. That night the staff did a smudging ceremony with me, a Native ritual, that made me feel

instantly connected to my culture and the people at the shelter. Over the next two weeks the staff made me feel safe and wanted. They took care of me and I didn't feel invisible anymore. I became involved with Ninjanisag (the Youth Prevention Program) and started singing with the drum group. When I went back home I stayed involved with Ninjanisag.

Life stayed difficult over the next few years, and knowing I needed to take care of myself, when I turned 16, I packed my bags and headed back to the Ain Dah Yung Center. I was eventually admitted into the Ain Dah Yung Center's Youth Lodge, their transitional living program, which was an amazing experience. There were definitely lots of meetings and rules, which at first was annoying, but as time passed I got used to it and the staff embraced and supported me. With their help:

- I started getting better grades in high school
- I learned how to manage money and shop on a budget
- I learned how to take responsibility and manage my time

I even went to my junior prom. The staff helped me pick out a dress and when I was stood up at the last minute, they dropped me off. I ended up having a fantastic time and even rode home in a limo!

You know, it was during this time that the Ain Dah Yung Center staff arranged for me to receive my Native name. That was a new beginning for me. My mom was there, and for the first time in my life, I felt strengthened...whole. At that moment, I knew I could do anything if I put my mind to it. I have not been homeless since my time with the Ain Dah Yung Center. I am working and in my free time I volunteer at ADYC's Cultural Family Nights.

The staff at the Ain Dah Yung Center have always shown me love, respect, kindness and understanding. Because of them, I know that I am not alone and that I am a person who deserves love.

Now you know why I now have the STRENGTH to share my story,

Miigwetch (Thank you)

AIN DAH YUNG CENTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION: DECEMBER 31, 2014-2013

ASSETS	2014	2013
Cash	86,597	200,155
Accounts Receivable	214,927	176,282
Pledges Receivable	10,000	0
Prepaid Expenses	15,736	7,544
Total Current Assets	327,260	383,981
Property & Equipment - Net	748,083	803,417
Total Other Assets	748,083	803,417
TOTAL ASSETS	1,075,343	1,187,398
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable	18,840	39,000
Accrued Payroll Liabilities	19,934	41,339
Refundable Advances	3,655	42,354
Total Current Liabilities	42,429	122,693
Loan Payable - Long Term	165,000	165,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	207,429	287,693
NET ASSETS		
Board Designated	100,000	100,000
Temporarily Restricted	34,027	24,763
Unrestricted	733,887	774,942
TOTAL NET ASSETS	867,914	899,705
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,075,343	1,187,398

These are year-end results - audited results will be available May, 2015 via our website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Valerie Larson - President
Jan Werness - Vice President
David Glass - Treasurer
Barbara Benjamin-Robertson - Secretary
Sarah Wovcha - Trustee

Henry Halvorson - Trustee
Bobbi Patrow - Trustee
Peggy Flanagan - Trustee
James Anderson - Trustee
Gabrielle Strong - Honorary Member

FUND DEVELOPMENT

We would like to honor those that invest in our work and help complete our Circles of Support. We are deeply grateful to the foundations, government institutions, tribes, businesses and corporations that walk with us as we together create paths of safety and resiliency.

TRIBAL SUPPORT, FOUNDATIONS, BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS

3M Foundation
American Association of University Women - St Paul Branch
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
McAfee Gift Program
McKnight Foundation
Otto Bremer Foundation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
RJ Ahmann Company
Target Foundation

The Comcast Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation
The Saint Paul Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutheran Foundation
TJX Foundation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
United Methodist Women of Hennepin Avenue
United Methodist Church
United Way
Xcel Energy Foundation

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

City of Saint Paul Department of Planning & Economic Development
Ramsey and Hennepin County
Ramsey County: St Paul Children's Collaborative

Minnesota Department of Public Safety:
- Office of Justice Programs

Minnesota Department of Human Services:
- Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division
- Child Safety & Permanency Division
- Office of Economic Opportunity

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:
- Administration for Children and Families

U.S. Department of Homeland Security:
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Minnesota Department of Health:
- Office of Minority & Multicultural Health
- Tobacco Prevention and Control

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development:
- Supportive Housing Project, Streetworks Outreach

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

The other Circles of Support we cherish are those individuals that share in our vision to help ensure that children and their families are connected with their cultural traditions, have opportunities to build upon their strengths and lead their best lives. Below we honor these individuals within the following categories:

Pipestone Circle: \$5,000 and above
Quill Circle: \$1,000 - \$4,999
Abalone Circle: \$500 - \$999
Turquoise Circle: \$1 - \$499

Peter Barry
James R Berling
June Blue
Julie R Brown
Marcia Burke
Mary Cochran
Leon & Sally Criss
Robert Cudinski
Judie J Cutler
Mary Adkins
Nancy Andrews
Dan Lemm
Roberta Patrow
Mark & Judith Tucker
Jan Werness

Kathryn Kienholz
Gerald Korbel
Alan & Sandra Kuspa
Christine Kuspa
John Lamski
Heather McMoore
Patina Park
Curt Peterson
Sheri Riemers
J J Ross
Kate Sand
Diane Seurer
Elona Street-Stewart
Lynda Summerall
Kristen Talbert
John Tamminen
Tierre Thompson
Maylon Thorstad
Gregory Tiburzi
Joseph Brown Thunder
Wells Fargo - employees
Kathy Denman-Wilke
Lori-Anne Williams
Sarah Wovcha

Pipestone Circle
William "Kent" Krueger

Abalone Circle
Mary Adkins
Nancy Andrews
Dan Lemm
Roberta Patrow
Mark & Judith Tucker
Jan Werness

Turquoise Circle
Anonymous
Anonymous
Athena Adkins
Mary Adkins
Verlynn Agrimonti
Ashley Alkire
Gary & Margy Balwierz



The Ain Dah Yung Center continues to be a cornerstone for community healing. We are committed to ensuring that American Indian youth and families in the Twin Cities Area retain access to their Indigenous rights of community belonging and cultural identity. The following values continue to guide our actions and decisions:

- Safety always comes first
- We treat each other with love, kindness, respect and dignity
- Native language, traditions, spirituality and storytelling are the keys to healing and thriving in our community
- We act with integrity and accountability as careful stewards of community resources
- Humor and humility help us weather many storms and keep perspective
- We empower all to dream, set high standards and achieve

AIN DAH YUNG CENTER PROGRAMS

Our **Emergency Shelter** provides culturally specific emergency shelter to American Indian youth who are homeless, runaway, in a family crisis, or involved with juvenile corrections. Services include: emergency and short-term shelter, crisis intervention, case and systems advocacy, information and referrals, access to medical/dental care, counseling, case management and community education. The Ain Dah Yung Center is the only 24-hour emergency shelter facility for any youth in Ramsey County and the East Metro, and is the only American Indian youth emergency shelter available to American Indian youth in the Twin Cities metro area. While there are other youth serving shelters, we are unique in our ability to serve children as young as age five. This enables us to keep sibling groups together, of critical importance to our Native families and a benefit to all families in general. **In 2014, 115 youth were provided with emergency shelter. 100% of youth were offered in-house individual and/or group therapy.**

Ninjanisag (Our Children) Program is a multifaceted program focusing heavily on engagement and prevention - working to ground youth in Native culture while designed to combat chemical and commercial tobacco abuse, teen dating violence, gang relations, sex trafficking and other self-compromising behaviors among at-risk youth between the ages of 8-17. Through opportunities for community involvement, leadership development, culturally specific health education, and cultural enrichment activities, Ninjanisag develops interpersonal competencies and strengthens the skills our young people need to become community leaders and mentors for other youth. **In 2013, a total of 98 youth participated in prevention and cultural activities.**

Beverly A. Benjamin Youth Lodge is a culturally grounded transitional living program available to youth between the ages of 16-21 that have no parental substitute or foster home to which they can safely go. This intervention program emphasizes training, education and employment goals and is designed to develop a support system to meet holistic needs of body, mind, and spirit. Youth Lodge services emphasize the relationship between youth and positive role models (staff and elders) to teach new behaviors, learn appropriate ways to express feelings, and manage everyday living. Creating community and cultural connection helps tap the inner strengths of youth to better educate them for independent or inter-

dependent living - helping to break the cycle of homelessness. 90% of youth who come to the Youth Lodge finish high school, continue their education, become self-sufficient, and finally leave homelessness behind them. **In 2014, the Youth Lodge housed 16 youth. 100% of youth were offered in-house individual and/or group therapy.**

The Street Outreach Program provides street-based support to runaway or homeless youth unable or not wanting to enter a shelter. Case workers provide information on safe housing, basic needs resources and health related issues. They also provide health and personal care supplies, food and access to transportation. Youth are provided with drop-in services where they can eat a hot meal, do laundry or shower. **In 2014, approximately 3004 street outreach contacts were made.**

Oyate Nawajin (Stand with the People) Programs are designed to keep American Indian families together and strong by providing the knowledge, skills and resources they need to provide a safe, stable environment for their children. Programs and services include:

• **Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Case Management:** Provides support, case management and assistance in coordinating resources for families with children who have mental health needs. **In 2014, the Children's Mental Health Case Managers provided case management to 36 youth and their families.**

• **Family Preservation and Reunification:** Our Family Advocacy Program uses traditional American Indian teachings and an asset-based approach that builds on the strengths of families and was established in response to the disproportionate placement of American Indian children outside the home. We provide family preservation and reunification services that combines self-help, professional intervention, and cultural reinforcement in order to strengthen families experiencing a process of family reunification and/or stressful parenting situations. Our family advocacy program supports families through group learning, increasing positive social networks, connecting families to cultural teachings and healing, case management, appropriate referrals, resource acquisition, and general family support. **Preservation and Reunification services were provided to 36 families and a total of 67 children and served 27 families through Parenting Skills Group in 2014.**

• **Indian Child Welfare Legal Advocacy/Compliance (ICWLAC) Project:** was created to enforce local compliance with the federal Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). ICWA was created to prevent the dissolution of American Indian families and to reduce the number of American Indian children in out-of-home placement. The Ain Dah Yung Center's ICWLAC Project provides court monitoring on cases involving American Indian children, legal representation to American Indian families (through a collaboration with Southern Minnesota Region Legal Services), and education/outreach to identify systemic problems and strategize on solutions regarding ICWA compliance. **In 2014, 90% of the hearings in Ramsey County were monitored for compliance with the Indian Child Welfare Act. 44 families and 116 children received full legal representation and 5 families received legal consultation.**

