

Ain Dah Yung Center



JANUARY

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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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 St. Paul, MN 55104

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 F: 651-224-5136
www.adycenter.org

Like us on
 Facebook/Ain Dah Yung Center

2015 Annual Report



Hi my name is Brandon Lee Wilson I am 20 years old. I am honored to have this opportunity to be here with you all, be a part of this community and to share with you my story.

I am a person who made something out of nothing. My mother kicked me out when I was only eleven years old. I have been homeless for seven years of my life and have been in and out of several out-of-home placements (shelters and couch hopping). When I first heard of the Ain Dah Yung Center I was 14 years old.

The minute I stepped in the door I felt like I was HOME. I remember that the staff treated me like they knew me for years. They introduced me to everyone. Talked with me right away about the rules and guidelines, and treated me like I was an equal amongst them.

The Ain Dah Yung Center was not a shelter, in my eyes it was a safe haven. It was also a place that would not hesitate to acknowledge your accomplishments, or acknowledge when you're slacking off. ADYC showed me that there ARE people that care. But me being young, I was still focused on the wrong things... so I left.

At the time, I felt like I wasn't ready for the structure and the stability. I wasn't ready to open up. I didn't trust that they would understand what was happening to me. I felt like they were getting too close, and for me when people got too close...they eventually disappear.

The second time I came to the Ain Dah Yung Center shelter, I was 16 years old. This time I had obtainable goals – like staying in school, finding work, and getting my grades up... all things that I was work-

ing on so that I could move to the Youth Lodge... thus reaching a goal that I thought was unattainable, finding long term housing that was safe and stable.

My journey at the Youth Lodge included staff who understood me and knew what I was going through. They taught me about budgeting and credit cards, how to buy groceries and not overspend. They taught me how to interview for jobs so that I could actually get a job and not be nervous. We had weekly meetings where things were explained to me, the rules were consistent and I knew what to expect. The staff talked with us about using drugs and the realities of that world and life style. The Ain Dah Yung Center prepared me for real life.

It was at ADYC that I was able to start writing again, something that I started when I first became homeless as a young kid. It was my escape, my means to thrive... and now it is something that I get to share with other youth who are struggling.

Today I am a step-father of two beautiful kids: Alexander, age 8 and Destiny, age 10. I'm in a wonderful relationship that's now going on for four years. I have a nice three bedroom apartment on the Eastside of St. Paul. I work for Ramsey County Human Services as a customer service specialist and I'm also a workshop coordinator for a non-profit organization called the Irreducible Grace foundation, which works with vulnerable youth - especially those who are ageing out of foster care or state guardianship – to become successful adults. We assist youth to develop emotional trust in adults while planning and achieving their college career and life goals.

I appreciate all of the Staff at ADYC for all they have done to help and support me. I feel if it wasn't for them I would not be the humble man I am today.

They will always be looked at as my family and a part of why I am someone who made something out of nothing.

Many thanks,
Brandon

AIN DAH YUNG CENTER

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION: DECEMBER 31, 2015-2014

ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash	315,049	86,597
Accounts Receivable	202,065	214,927
Pledges Receivable	0	10,000
Prepaid Expenses	17,338	15,736
Total Current Assets	534,452	327,260
Property & Equipment - Net	686,053	748,083
Total Other Assets	686,053	748,083
TOTAL ASSETS	1,220,505	1,075,343
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Accounts Payable	21,089	18,840
Accrued Payroll Liabilities	20,627	19,934
Refundable Advances	28,655	3,655
Total Current Liabilities	70,371	42,429
Loan Payable - Long Term	130,000	165,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	200,371	207,429
NET ASSETS		
Board Designated	100,000	100,000
Temporarily Restricted	60,000	34,027
Unrestricted	860,134	733,887
TOTAL NET ASSETS	1,020,134	867,914
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,220,505	1,075,343

These are year-end results – audited results will be available May, 2016 via our website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lt. Henry Halvorson – President
Jan Werness – Vice President
David Glass – Treasurer
Barbara Benjamin-Robertson - Secretary
Sarah Wowcha – Trustee

Roberta (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
Burns Foundation
Comcast Foundation
FR. Bigelow Foundation
House of Hope
Hugh J. Andersen Foundation
McAfee, Inc
McKnight Foundation
Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures
Otto Bremer Foundation
Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Target Foundation

The Saint Paul Foundation
Thrivent Financial for Lutheran Foundation
TJX Foundation
St Paul Foundation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Tiwahe Foundation
United Methodist Women of Hennepin Avenue
United Methodist Church
United Way
WCA Winifred Bean Foundation
Western bank
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

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

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

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

Minnesota Department of Public Safety:

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

Julia Fish
Deb Foster
Anthony Frank
Angela Gauthier
Sarah Gehrig
Michelle Gerrard
Julianne Glad
Christen Glass
Mark Hahn

Christal Moose
Daniel Mueller
Deepa Nirmal
Jean Novak
Phyllis Owen
Patina Park
Roberta Patrow
Curt Peterson
Judy Peterson

Pipestone Circle
Anonymous, William "Kent" Krueger

Marilyn Hannemann
Kurt Hanson
June Heineman
Holly Henning
Alexander Heller
Denise Huynh
Katherine Iverson
Susan Jacobson
Heather Johnson
Victoria Johnson
Laura Kelly
Matt Kinney
Frank Kromar
Sharon Lamb
John Lamski
Thomas & Mary Jo Lockett
Daniel Lemm
T.M. Libro
Chris Lindberg
Takayla Lightfield
Raeyna Longtin
Laura Martell Kelly
Mary Malteses
Karen Marano
Roberta Cordano
Danika Curry-Johnson
Paul Mattessich
Lois Matthews
John Matthews
Kara McGuire
Nancy McKinley
Heather McMoore
Mary Jo Merrick-Lockett
Lynn Middleton-Koller
Sophak's Mom

Brian Pittman
John Riemers
Monica Rothe
J J Ross
Randy Ross
Tom Rulland
Becky Rose & Mike Schwab
Diane Seurer
Ellen Shelton
Kara Smidt
Linda Sorensen
Steve Spalding
Doralee Sprenger
Brandon Staresnick
Chi Steiner
Elona Street-Stewart
W. Summerall
Joseph Tahdoohnippah
John Tamminen
Kate Theisz
Chris Thompey
Tierre Thompson
Victoria Tirrel
Thomas Todd
Mark Tucker
Karen Ulstad
Bradley VanSpiell
Kerry Walsh
Gail & Rod Wieberdink
Lori-Anne Williams
Margaret Wind
Alicia Zetah

Abalone Circle
Alan & Sandra Kuspa, Bill Pomije
Sheri Riemers

Turquoise Circle

Anonymous
Anonymous
Mary Adkins
Ashley Alkire
J Ayers
Gary & Margy Balwierz
James Berling
June Blue
Kay Brandt
Julie R Brown
Nancy Cain-Kouri
Jackie & Dan Campeau
Cecelia Caspram
Janna Caywood
Marilou Chanrasmi
Jacqueline Chapeau
Mary Cochran
Roberta Cordano
Danika Curry-Johnson
Pauline & Robert Danforth
Chip & Debbie Daniels
Stewart Daniels
Debra DeNoyelles
Tyler Dercks
Kristen Dillon
Peter Dodge
Ben & Barbara Etkorn



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 2015, 87 youth were provided with emergency shelter. 79% of shelter residents had a minimum of one individual session with the Youth and Family Counselor. 92% of residents received an initial mental health assessment upon entering shelter and 100% were offered in-house individual and/or group counseling.**

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 2015, a total of 228 youth participated in prevention and cultural activities including monthly family nights.**

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 2015 the Youth Lodge housed 15 youth. 100% of youth received an initial mental health assessment and met with the Youth and Family Counselor monthly.**

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. **2015 brought funding cuts to the StreetWorks Collaborative. We were able to restore outreach workers in July and since then connected with 350 new youth contacts and 123 repeat youth.**

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 2015, the Children's Mental Health Case Managers provided case management to 39 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 32 families with a total of 66 children served. There were 33 families served through parenting/family groups in 2015.**

• **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 2015, 219 hearings and 361 children were monitored in Ramsey County for ICWA compliance. 90 families received full legal representation from our SMRLS attorney and 9 families received legal consultation.**