

# Gathering Thunder Foundation

12841 Hillcrest NE, Lowell MI

GatheringThunderFoundation.org

On behalf of Gathering Thunder Foundation's Board of Directors and Advisory Circle members, "Thank You!" to all of our generous donors and volunteers.

Once again, Gathering Thunder was able to assist Native American Youth and Elders all across Native North America in a variety of ways.



## Gather Our Children Home in Oglala, South Dakota

In addition to paying the monthly electric bills for this first of its kind safe house for youth ages 0-12 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Gathering Thunder also provided a brand new playground, two dozen handmade quilts, books, clothing, fresh fruits, diapers, a

computer printer and an infant car seat to help make life a little more fun, safe, healthy and nutritious for the youngest amongst us.



Cheryl Noisy Hawk, the supervisor at Gather Our Children Home reports that the littles ones are SO HAPPY to have this brand new playground to play on!

Donate online at [GatheringThunderFoundation.org](http://GatheringThunderFoundation.org)



## Upcoming Events

**President:** Denise Iwaniw-Francisco

**Vice-President:** David Sterken

**Treasurer:** Kelly Spencer

**Secretary:** Tara Rietberg

**Social Media:** David Fix

**Education:** Maureen Wolverton

**Director:** Lilian Cosme'

## Important Announcement

**Winter in North America can be particularly brutal for Native American elders who live in substandard housing. Freezing temperatures combined with a lack of propane, electricity or firewood to heat their home can lead to hypothermia and even death amongst our Native American elders.**

**Thank you for helping us to help the most vulnerable by donating to our annual Heat Fund drive!**

## Grand Valley American Indian Lodge, Grand Rapids, Michigan

For the second year in a row, Gathering Thunder Foundation was honored to be an official sponsor of this Annual Traditional Pow Wow, held each September at Riverside Park in Grand Rapids, MI.



## More Important News



### Gathering Thunder Quilters

Once again, Gathering Thunder Foundation Quilters created over 4 dozen beautifully crafted handmade quilts that were distributed to Native American elders and youth, all across Indian Country in North and South Dakota.

August 26, 2017 – Lakota elders, Barbara Dullknife, Della Badwound and Cheryl Noisy Hawk presenting Brenda Bremer with a signed Eagle print by artist David Fix as a thank you on behalf of Gathering Thunder Foundation and the Gather Our Children Home safe house in Oglala, SD.

Brenda and the quilters at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Alto MI have



handcrafted well over 100 beautiful quilts that have been gifted to Native American youth and elders all across the United States!

Thank you to Brenda Bremer and all of the incredibly generous quilters who have helped to keep countless youth and elders warm and feeling cared for.



### About Gathering Thunder

Gathering Thunder Foundation is a federally recognized 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Native North American culture, traditions, languages, spirituality, and People.

Gathering Thunder is a 100% volunteer operated, allowing us to donate nearly 100% of all donations that are made to our charitable organization.

### Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run

Each winter, Gathering Thunder Foundation is honored to sponsor the annual breakfast for the Fort Robinson Outbreak Spiritual Run runners and supporters in Oglala, SD. Each year, GTF helps to serve up a nutritious meal to well over 200 participants in the 500 mile relay run from Fort Robinson, Nebraska to Lame Deer, Montana.



## Red Road Sobriety Walk 2017

Gathering Thunder Foundation is honored to be an event sponsor for the annual Red Road Sobriety Walk which is held each year in Grand Rapids MI.

## Heat Fund and Food Assistance

Each winter, Native American elders die of hypothermia in their own homes. Since its inception, Gathering Thunder has been dedicated to assisting Native American elders and youth by keeping them warm throughout the harsh winter months in Native North America. The purchase of propane, wood and electricity continues to help keep our Native elders all across the United States, alive and healthy each winter.

Additionally, Gathering Thunder helps to provide nutritious food for elders returning to their homes from long hospital visits.

**Donate online at [GatheringThunderFoundation.org](http://GatheringThunderFoundation.org)**

## Native American Education Program

Each year, for the past five years, Gathering Thunder Foundation is honored to support the vital programs of the Native American Education Program at Grand Rapids Public Schools in Michigan.

One of our favorite things is to sponsor the annual Christmas party for Native American urban youth and their families. Every celebration begins with a feast of a hot, nutritious meal, followed by gifts and story time with none other than Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (Gathering Thunder volunteers Ortrun and Carl Franklin). Finally, each family is gifted with a large frozen turkey, and farm fresh potatoes for their family holiday meal and a platter of freshly baked homemade holiday goodies to go!



## Ojibway Thunder and Sota Boyz Basketball



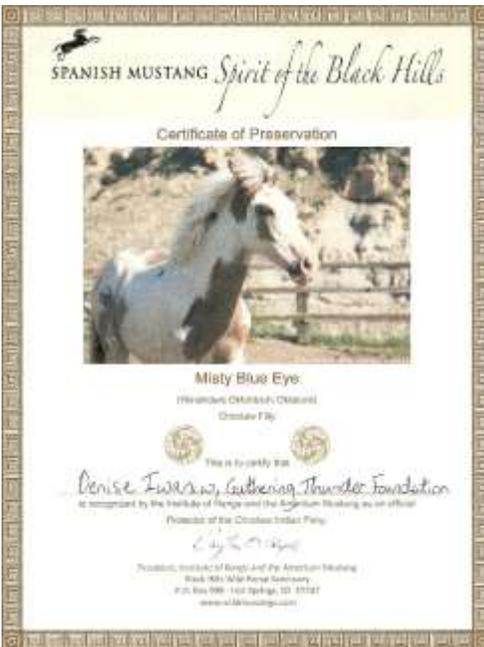
A fun day was had by all as we watched these 7 young warriors battle on the basketball court today. The Ojibwe Thunder from the Leech Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota played hard and with a great attitude, fighting against some big schools and big teams in a St. Paul tournament. They won one and lost one but never lost their drive! Kevin, Dad, and I were



proud to represent Gathering Thunder Foundation and took them out for a lunch celebration afterward which they all enjoyed. In addition, Gathering Thunder had the honor of providing the first ever, matching uniforms, hoodies and coaching polos for the Sota Boyz high school basketball team from Leech Lake Reservation!



– Kelly Spencer, Advisory Circle Member



### Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary

Honoring our animal relatives in also important. Gathering Thunder Foundation supports horse rescues that preserve endangered breeds such as the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary in South Dakota, as well as provides dog and cat food to Native American elders with pets.

### Fall Fasting Ceremonies at Boedne Bay, Brevort MI

Gathering Thunder Foundation is honored to be an official sponsor of the Fall Fasting Ceremonies that take place each year in Brevort. The Fall Fasting Ceremony is a healing ceremony that is conducted in a traditional Native American manner. This traditional form of healing is utilized in assisting domestic violence and sexual abuse victims as well as those

suffering from the effects of PTSD.

**Donations in memory or in honor of a loved one may be made at [GatheringThunderFoundation.org](http://GatheringThunderFoundation.org)**