

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 three sets of brand new bunk beds, brand new baby cribs, books, clothing, fresh fruits and nutritious food, diapers, household supplies a DVD player, as well as educational and fun DVD's.



Cheryl Noisy Hawk, the supervisor at Gather Our Children Home reports that the littles ones are thriving and doing very well. Over 75 youth, ages 0-12 have found refuge at Gather Our Children Home in its first year of existence.



Donate online at GatheringThunderFoundation.org



Upcoming Events

President: Denise Iwaniw-Francisco

Vice-President: David Sterken

Treasurer: Kelly D. 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!

Mino Ode' "Good Heart Camp" Fundraiser

Gathering Thunder is honored to have sponsored and supported this Native American artist event to help raise funds for the spring and autumn fasting and releasement camp in Northern Michigan.

Mino Ode' volunteer, Betty Davis, explains the Camp in this way: *For many years the Native American way of praying or acknowledging our Creator was underground. In 1978 with the Freedom of Religion Act we were able to come out from hiding and practice and celebrate our Native Way of Life. One of our ceremonies is "Personal fast" or as some may call it "Vision Quest". During this time an individual will be asked to give up food and water for no more than 4 days. Each person will need to prepare themselves for their fast prior to attending Fasting Camp in the spring or in the fall. We, the helpers will let participants know what they need to do one month prior to the date of fasting camp.*



Releasing Ceremony is a way of releasing any traumas you may have endured throughout your life and now you are ready to let it all go and heal with caring and loving helpers.

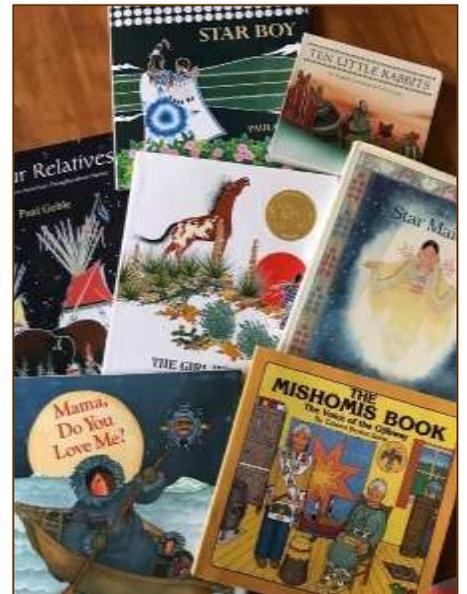
More Important News

Fort Robinson 400 Mile Spiritual Run



For several years in a row, Gathering Thunder has been a proud sponsor of the youth breakfast that takes place each year in Oglala, SD as part of the Fort Robinson 400 Mile Spiritual Run.

As hundreds of young runners and their supporters make their way from their starting point of Fort Robinson, Nebraska by way of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, on their way to Busby, Montana, they get to enjoy a hot and nutritious breakfast that is sponsored by Gathering Thunder Foundation.



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.

Chartered in 2009, Gathering Thunder is a 100% volunteer operated, allowing us to donate nearly 100% of all donations that are made to our charitable organization.

Donate online at GatheringThunderFoundation.org

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, cut wood and electricity continues to help keep our Native elders all across the United States, alive and healthy each winter.



This past winter, GTF provided cut wood, propane, and electrical assistance not only to Gather Our Children Home crisis home in Oglala, SD on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation but for Native elders with children in homes all across Native North America.

"A great big, "Wopila tanka elo!!!" from a family on the Cheyenne River Reservation that was without electricity for their heat, and lighting during this very cold time of the year. Thanks to GTF Heat Fund donors, their lights and heat are now back on."

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



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Native American Education Program 2017 Holiday Gathering



The 2017 Holiday celebration served more youth and families than ever before. The joyous celebration was enjoyed by young and old alike!

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 Holiday party for Native American urban youth and their families. Every celebration begins with a feast of a hot, nutritious meal, followed by gifts, filled

stockings 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!



Native American History and Heritage Month

At Gathering Thunder, we believe that education and outreach is vital to building strong communities, communication and understanding between people.

In November of 2017, Gathering Thunder Foundation president, Denise Iwaniw Francisco (pictured at the right), spent time with Mrs. Kimberly Wilson's first grade history class in Cedar Springs, MI to talk about Native American history and heritage.

Denise brought lots of Native objects, both old and new that the two dozen young learners could each hold, touch or wear. From all reports, the visit was a huge success and students can't wait for the opportunity to learn even more about their Native American friends next year.



Feeding the Four Legged



Honoring our animal relatives is 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.

A great big, "THANK YOU" to Alice McKenna, a Gathering Thunder Foundation volunteer and supporter who has helped to provide food for our four-legged relatives for nearly 8 years running.

Once again, Alice has shipped 1,200 lbs of dog and cat food to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota this past winter where it was distributed by Wayne American Horse and Barbara Dullknife to Native elders in need of food for their beloved pets.

Hiye mitakuye oyasin!

Fort Laramie Treaty 150th Anniversary Ride



Gathering Thunder Foundation is honored to help support the 150th Anniversary Fort Laramie Treaty Ride in April of 2018.

Gathering Thunder will participate by assisting the riders and horses, led by Chief Arvol Looking Horse, the 19th Generational Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe, who will make the arduous trek from Green Grass, South Dakota to Fort Laramie, Wyoming.

Donations in memory or in honor of a loved one may be made at GatheringThunderFoundation.org