

VISION ON THE WIND

The newsletter of the Division of Indian Work

Ending the year on a high note

The **Division of Indian Work (DIW)** has had much to celebrate over the past year. To name a few of our larger achievements:

- Completed a \$65,000 challenge grant to replace the aging roof on the building.
- Hosted the first annual LEAP Into the Fight Against Hunger benefit and exceeded our fund raising goal by over \$10,000!
- Raised over \$6,000 for our Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP) through our spring direct mail appeal.
- Secured funding for our Dakota Language Instruction program.

All of our successes build on the breadth and depth of services we provide the Twin Cities' American Indian community. However, our successes do not make us complacent. We consistently strive to offer services that improve the lives of our program participants and community members.

This means that we reach out to connect with the families who need those services we provide, and it also means turning a listening ear to what their needs really are and putting forth our best faith efforts to serve them in the most respectful way possible.

With over 64 years of existence, our services have naturally adapted to fit the emerging needs of the people. We have hit many high notes over that time – and some low. We know, of course, that we have not been alone in

our efforts. Many of you have supported us diligently through the years and we are especially grateful.



Your belief in our work has bolstered our spirits and made us more determined to continue to address the challenges faced by our American Indian community, to help them thrive and create healthy families.

As we wrap up another year of service, we are ever grateful for friends like you who have, year after year, dedicated your support to DIW. You are an amazing gift to those in need and to us you are our high note!

With warmest regards,

Louise Matson

Louise Matson
Executive Director

Visit our NEW website at www.diw-mn.org

Fall 2016





Program highlights

YLDP - In September, Youth Leadership Development Program partnered with the Minneapolis American Indian Center in their Fitness and Nutrition (F.A.N.) Program, engaging our Native youth with active games and sports. YLDP also taught youth about voting and provided real experiences with the voting process.



ATODP - In October, our Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention program held its annual fall blessing event with prayer and feasting with recipes of chicken wild rice soup, frybread and pumpkin spice cupcakes. More than 30 attendees gathered around the presenter to learn about the history and reason for the seasonal blessings. Dance regalia, feathers and other sacred items were blessed.

S.M.A.R.T. Nations - This fall, Science, Math, Arts, Recreation, Technology Nations saw a great start with more than 40 registrations. Along with tutoring and homework help, students and staff learned how to harvest sage, sweet grass and tobacco. In October, nine students along with staff visited the University of Minnesota Morris Campus sparking great interest in several of our youth.

MOTFC - This fall, Mashkiki Ogichidaag Tobacco-Free Communities welcomed 13 youth ages 7-12 and 26 teens to its bi-weekly gatherings at DIW. Ojibwe and Dakota presenters shared their respective tobacco ceremonies and histories as well as ceremonial and social dance songs.

WTB - During third quarter sessions, Women of Traditional Birthing served 10 pregnant American Indian women while sharing prenatal education materials with more than a hundred others. WTB saw the birth of five healthy babies, co-hosted a family meal activity with the FATHER Project, and welcomed the NINDE project doulas to group so the moms could get to know them.

PSOP - Parent Support Outreach Program celebrated another successful family discharge. With PSOP support, the mom successfully reached her goals to attain employment for herself, enroll her children in a new school, and secure permanent housing for her and her family.

Learn more at www.diw-mn.org



Division of Indian Work's mission is to empower urban American Indians through culturally-based education, counseling, advocacy and leadership development. DIW has been a key contributor to the Native community for more than 64 years by providing programs such as Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP), Strengthening Family Circles, Healing Spirit and Health Services.



First Native American Supreme Court Justice Anne McKeig

On September 15, 2016, Minnesota welcomed its first Native American Supreme Court Justice with the investiture of Anne K. McKeig. A descendant of the White Earth Anishinaabe Nation, Anne has long been committed to the welfare of children and has specialized in child protection and Indian welfare issues.

At her swearing-in ceremony speech, Justice McKeig stated, “We as a community have an obligation to work on behalf of all children, for it truly takes a village to raise a child. I will do my very best to serve all Minnesotans. I also promise to never take myself too seriously, nor forget who I am or where I came from.”

And not to say we knew her when, but Associate Justice McKeig has been a long-time Division of Indian Work Board of Directors member!

CONGRATULATIONS, ANNE! We are so proud of you!



LEAP Into the Fight Against Hunger

The Division of Indian Work (DIW) invites you to attend LEAP Into the Fight Against Hunger, the annual fund raiser for DIW's food shelf, Horizons Unlimited on February 27, 2017 at the Metropolitan in Golden Valley, Minnesota.

Horizons Unlimited is the only culturally-sensitive food shelf serving the west metro American Indian population since 1952. Event highlights include live entertainment, a silent auction, appetizers, and a cash bar. Funds raised by this event will be used to purchase food for Horizons Unlimited.

Tickets available at www.diw-mn.org/leap

Monday, February 27, 2017 | The Metropolitan
5418 Wayzata Blvd., Golden Valley, MN, 55416

Networking Hour 5-6pm | Main Event 6-8:30pm

Questions? Call 612-279-6325 | amedina@diw-mn.org



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