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Front Cover: Photos by Leona Young
Back Cover: Posters by Cecelia R. Lapointe
A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

Since our inception, the Native Justice Coalition has continued to grow by leaps and bounds. In 2021, we organized on our toes, gathered more support across the Great Lakes, and increased the visibility of our organization. As a result of the pandemic, the Native Justice Coalition had to be creative to honor the health needs of our community through adjusting our programs and events. We did this work through our Cultural Care Package initiative. We distributed 287 care packages across the Michigan Native community. These packages are full of traditional medicines, traditional foods like wild rice (manoomin), throat lozenges, hand sanitizer, and other health support items from Native and First Nations owned businesses. We received positive feedback and deep appreciation for these care packages. Chi miigwech / thank you letters to us were received, read, and taken to heart.

While the pandemic restricted our in-person work, we worked to build relationships with new partnerships. One of our community partners described our work beautifully as hands across the water. Building new relationships in 2021 grew our impact and brought our number of community partnerships up to 35.

Community strength and resilience drive our work. We recognize the need for this critical work across the Anishinaabe Nation, Great Lakes, Midwest, and all of Turtle Island. We are connecting locally, regionally, and nationally on advancing justice for Native people and our communities. The Native Justice Coalition looks forward to our continued growth, healing, and strengthening our work with the greater community.

CHI MIIGWECH & MARSEE!

CECELIA R. LAPOINTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LEORA L. TADGERSON
BOARD PRESIDENT
2020-2022
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES IN 2021

CULTURAL CARE PACKAGES
INITIATIVES FOR WELLNESS
NJc distributed hundreds of care packages to individuals and families across the Michigan Native American community.

These packages went to communities including the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Peshawbestown, Sault Ste. Marie, Mt. Pleasant, Escanaba, Hazel Park, Tustin, Manistee, Baldwin, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Saginaw, Flint, Dorr, Shelbyville, Alanson, Bruce Crossing, and Watersmeet.

The communities listed here are not the exhaustive list, rather they are just an insight into the impact of the care packages.

278 care packages distributed

HEALING AROUND THE LAKES
MMIWG2S JUSTICE, ACTION & ADVOCACY
In June we hosted this inaugural event in Rapid River, MI and featured vendors, crafts, and a community walk. The walk went to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women awareness billboard located on US-2 in Rapid River.

1 day 7 amazing speakers 80 attendees

“ We have been able to dream up ways to improve and promote racial justice in Native communities. I appreciate how collaborative, flexible, and open the Native Justice Coalition is and I have loved every minute of our work together!”
Dr. Stephanie Budge, University of Wisconsin-Madison

DECOLONIZING RESEARCH
PROJECT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
The newly launched Native led Advisory Board began research that will focus on Great Lakes Native American, First Nations, Métis & Inuit identity. The project will highlight issues of connection to culture, heritage, community, invisibility, and decolonization.
VIRTUAL EVENTS
HONORING OUR WELLBEING
To honor the safety and wellbeing of the community, we held virtual events, presentations, and panel discussions for action events and awareness days including MMIW Awareness Day on May 5th and Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10th.

HARM REDUCTION PROGRAM
CULTURE IS HEALING
We had built relationships with new partnerships such as the Oneida Nation and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians. In November, we hosted a virtual event on Culture is Healing - A Harm Reduction Approach, with the Oneida Nation. These new connections are interested in continuing collaborations on harm reduction work by and for our communities.

“"The event was safe, supportive, and organized very well. It was a safe place for me to share my story... Thank you for your hospitality and I’m glad to know that we have all these allies around the Great Lakes." Alysse Arce, Menominee Nation, Waking Women Healing Institute, MMIW Advocate

ANISHINAABE RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE
Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to host our conference since 2019. We would not hold this conference virtually. We are optimistic that we will be able to host the conference in 2022.

HEALING STORIES ON RACIAL JUSTICE PROGRAM
As with the conference, we have not been able to host any healing stories events since 2019. It is our plan to host at least two events in our rural and remote communities in summer and fall 2022.

TWO-SPIRIT PROGRAM
This program has also been affected by the pandemic as we have not been able to host these events since 2019. The nature of the work requires in-person community collaboration and accordingly, we used this time to raise additional funding and make adjustments to our work plan.

BELOW Photo from 2021 Dawnland documentary screening (left to right) Shirley Brauker, Linda Cobe, Melissa Isaac & Cecelia LaPointe.
The Native Justice Coalition looks forward to continued growth, healing, and strengthening as we work with the greater community.

### 14 General Operations Funders
- Abelard Foundation
- Babson Foundation
- Common Counsel - Grassroots Exchange Fund
- Emergent Fund
- Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
- Funding Queerly
- Honor the Earth
- LUSH Charity Pot
- Mary's Pence
- Midwest Environmental Justice Network (MWEJN)
- NoVo Foundation
- Resist
- Solidaire Network
- Transgender Strategy Center

### 7 Program Specific Funders
- Healing Stories Program
  - Dudley T. Dougherty Foundation
- MMIWG2S Program
  - Unitarian Universalist Funding Program
- Two-Spirit Program
  - Wild Geese Foundation
  - Trans Justice Funding Project
- COVID-19 Support & Flexible Funding
  - Borealis Philanthropy
  - IEN-WMAN Mining Mini-Grant
  - Urgent Action Fund

### 185 Individual Donors
Individual donors gave $69,881 in 2021!

“Participation in Native Justice Coalition events taught me that this is a movement of the heart more than the mind.” Renee Gralewicz, Brothertown Indian Nation, Elder, Peacemaker Waking Women Healing Institute, Education Outreach
In 2021, the Native Justice Coalition saw tremendous growth in programming and funding. Our revenue increased by 212%, totaling $362,631 in 2021.

Individual contributions increased 300% between 2020 to 2021, from $23,044 to $69,881.

Similarly, funding from grants increased from $147,550 to $292,750 reflecting a 198% increase.

In both 2020 and 2021, the largest portion of our funding was devoted to programming (78% in 2021).
EVENT POSTERS FROM 2021. NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE REPRESENTATION OF EVENTS HELD.