



THE NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

Native American Community Board
Annual Report 2010-2011

A Message from the CEO –

It has been an honor to serve the Native American Community Board and its programs over the past 26 years, first as a Founding Mother, then the Executive Director and now as the CEO. NACB has been faced with challenges that have made us stronger as an organization and as a community. We confronted extreme racism when we went to open our shelter for women and children fleeing from domestic violence and sexual assault. During a public hearing for a zoning variance allowing our shelter to move from one side of the street to the other, the State's Attorney of Charles Mix County said, "As I see it Indian people are Godless, Jobless, Hopeless, Lawless ... and a mongrelized society living solely on the outskirts of Western society..." The zoning variance was denied and the case went to Federal Court. One year later the Women's Lodge (our shelter) opened. When Native people trying to vote in local elections to support Native candidates running for City Council and County Commission positions were turned away at the polls and prevented from voting, the organization called in the ACLU to address the situation. A successful lawsuit, *Blackmoon vs. Charles Mix County*, was filed in Federal Court resulting in voter protections and Federal oversight of elections. NACB has stood with the community, helped organize civil disobedience in times of injustice and has often been the center for social change.

Over the years, NACB's organizing has protected the reproductive rights of Indigenous women, documenting the issues, doing public education, coalition building and taking our case to the United Nations, resulting in policy change being added to bills that become law. The impact of our work has improved service and the health and well being of Native women and their families.

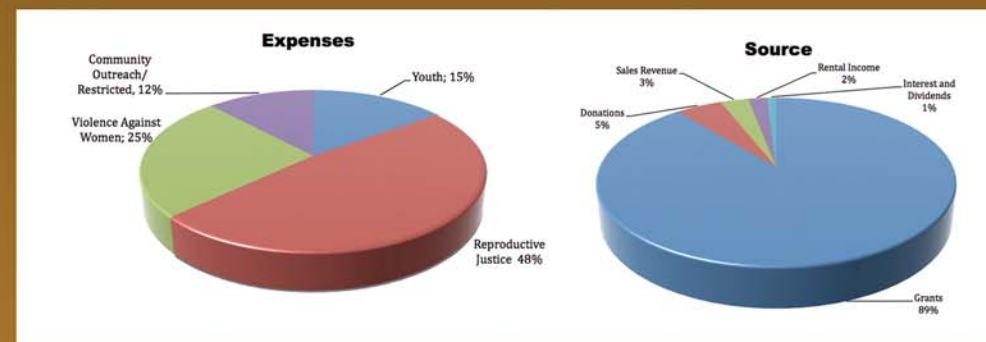
In 2003 we released *The Indigenous Women's Health Book, Within the Sacred Circle*, the first Indigenous women's health book done by and for Indigenous women.

NACB works to preserve the history and culture of the Yankton Sioux Peoples through the preservation of old documents, tapes of Native music, interviews, and photos and through the Dakota language preservation programming.

In January of 2011, our newest endeavor, KDKO 89.5 FM went on the air. KDKO will address social issues and provide important information and announcements to our community. KDKO will air Dakota language programming, musical programs and public service announcements that bring awareness of violence against women, reproductive health, drug & alcohol prevention, environmental issues, and much more to our communities.

We will meet the challenges we are presented with as we continue to provide services and solutions for our communities.

Pidamaya,
Charon Asetoyer, CEO



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"Working For The Rights of Indigenous Peoples Through Social Change"

THE NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER



MISSION

The Native American Community Board is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization that incorporated in 1985 in Lake Andes, South Dakota on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. The NACB works to protect the health and human rights of Indigenous Peoples pertinent to our communities through cultural preservation, coalition building, and community organizing around issues of reproductive justice, environmental justice, the prevention of violence against Native women and

by providing direct services while working toward safe communities for women and children at the local, national and international level.

HISTORY

In 1988 the NACB open the Native American Women's Health Education Resource Center (NAWHERC) located in Lake Andes, South Dakota to house most of the programs of the organization. In 1992 the NACB opened the Women's Lodge, a shelter for women and children fleeing from domestic violence and sexual assault. In 2008, the NACB opened Eve's Place – transitional housing for women and children in transition from domestic violence and sexual assault and in 2011, the NACB hit the radio airways when we went on the air with KDKO 89.5 FM, a Native radio station also located in Lake Andes, South Dakota. We have worked hard to become the leading pathfinder in the country addressing Indigenous women's rights while preserving and protecting our culture.

The Native American Community Board supports social change and self-determination, through advocacy, community education, information sharing and services.

PROGRAMS

Reproductive Justice: NACB brings Native women together through the Roundtable process to document their concerns and impact of Federal Indian policy on our lives. Congress, the United Nations, the World Health Organization, universities and policy institutes have used our reports to bring awareness of the reproductive justice issues facing Indigenous women.

In 2004 we organized Native women to address the lack of Standardized Sexual Assault Policies and Protocols within the Indian Health Service emergency rooms. In 2007, we worked with Amnesty International to produce a report, Maze of Injustice, which shows the failure to protect Native women from sexual violence in the United States. With the help of a diverse coalition of Native American women's health and civil liberty organizations, along with Amnesty International, we put forth an Agenda to protect our health and Human Rights. In 2010, this work resulted in policy change and language mandating that Indian Health Service implement Standardized Sexual Assault Policies and Protocols being added to the Tribal Law and Order Act. It was signed into law by President Obama on July 29, 2010 in a White House ceremony.

Direct Services Assist Our Community With Providing Basic Needs.

The Women's Lodge is a shelter that provides a safe place for its residents. The program

works to end all forms of violence against women through community education, direct services and advocacy. Residents of the Women's Lodge are provided with shelter, medical referrals, court advocacy, legal referrals, transportation, support group, job search services, housing search and much more.

Community education is a big part of creating awareness and preventing violence against women. We take our message into the classrooms of the local schools each year. Students are integral to our work organizing the annual "Take Back the Night" walk in October. Students are invited to enter a poetry contest and write about domestic violence and the winning poems are read as part of "Take Back the Night" activities.

Eve's Place, our Transitional Housing project, opened in 2008 when the NACB purchased and renovated 4 units in Lake Andes for women and their children transitioning from the Women's Lodge to independence. Families that stay in Transitional Housing work toward independence while having access to the support services provided by the Women's Lodge.

Men's Re-education Group, also known as a Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) and taught by Richard Milda, are weekly classes that use an interactive curriculum with a strong cultural focus to intervene with and prevent domestic violence.

These groups give men opportunities to examine their roles and attitudes toward women and themselves. Discussion topics include: individual respect, fatherhood, and creating a future that is peaceful and nurturing for all.

Date Rape Prevention – Date rape and dating violence among Native teens is extremely high. It is crucial to begin dating violence prevention education early. NACB understands that both males and females are a part of the equation when it comes to various forms of partner violence and has developed a cultural specific curriculum, one for young Native males and one for young Native females to prevent date rape and other forms of dating violence. This curriculum is taken into the classroom or other settings to assist youth in identifying, preventing and understanding the dynamics related to dating violence. This curriculum is the first culturally specific curriculum developed for Native Youth and is being used by Tribes and Native organizations across the country.

Serving our People Through Education

Dakota Cultural Preservation Project – Year round we host programming and activities to preserve the Dakota culture and lifeways of the Ihanktowan People. The project preserves old Native music, oral history, photos and documents for future use by community members and other interested parties.

Dakota Language Immersion Program – For the past 12 years this program has convened a 6-week summer program to preserve the Dakota Language. Children 3 years of age and up have the opportunity to learn the Dakota language and culture in a classroom setting.

This program also documents the Dakota language and has one of the only interactive Dakota language websites where one can see and hear Dakota spoken by fluent speakers. In addition, Dakota language and stories are heard on webcasts at www.nativeshop.org

Environmental Project – We work to inform communities of environmentally friendly alternatives that can be incorporated into our daily lives. Recently we installed solar panels on our Transitional Housing units, did environmental assessments and converted to green living, energy saving fixtures, appliances and plumbing in each unit.

Our **Green Thumb** project planted over 2,000 Indigenous plants and trees such as chokecherry trees, wild plum bushes, river-bank grapes, currants and mulberry trees on land throughout the reservation communities for access to fruits often used in our ceremonies. Over time, pesticides and herbicides used by farmers have killed and poisoned many of our Indigenous plants and fruit trees. We also plant organic gardens to help provide a safe source of food.

Food Pantry Program

There is nothing worse than for a child to go to bed hungry. The NACB has had a Food Pantry for the past 15 years to help feed families that just do not have enough food to last to the end of the month. Last year we distributed 31,621 pounds of food from our pantry serving 987 children under the age of 18 and 1040 adults over the age of 18 for a total served of 2027 people.

Dakota Talk Radio - In 2009 Dakota Talk Radio went on the air, an Internet streaming radio station that includes interviews from around Indian Country, National Native News, Dakota Language Lessons, Violence Against Women Prevention Programs and Native Youth Programming. DTR has given community youth a platform to express themselves on the social issues facing them.

Dakota Talk Radio has been a training ground for both staff and community youth to prepare our newest endeavor - KDKO 89.5 FM, a community supported FM radio station broadcasting social change from Lake Andes, SD, "the heart of the Ihanktonwan Nation".

