

First Nations Development Institute 2004 Annual Report

Building Strong, Healthy, Culturally Vibrant Native Communities





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Photo: Alicia Bell Sheeter

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

December, 2004

Dear Friends,

I feel a sense of awe and deep gratitude as I reflect on the extraordinary opportunities First Nations Development Institute has had to enhance the well being of Indigenous communities over its 25-year history. On behalf of the board, staff, and constituents of First Nations Development Institute, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks for the sustenance that you have provided to make possible our critical efforts to improve lives in creative, concrete, and sustainable ways. As we enter our 25th Anniversary year here at First Nations Development Institute, we have a great deal to be proud of—and tremendous challenges yet to be addressed to build the thriving, culturally sound Indigenous communities we seek. We are putting together our best ideas and energies to ensure our effectiveness in the years to come, and I believe this may well be the most productive year yet for our organization.

First Nations' **Eagle Staff Fund** and related grantmaking efforts surpassed \$11 million this year, making the organization one of the most significant sources of philanthropy in Native American communities after only 10 years of issuing grants. An estimated 40,000 people have directly benefited from First Nations programs in the last 10 years alone. Our **Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative** (NAFSI) provided financial and technical assistance of over \$450,000 to eight grantees this year, and hosted the second comprehensive **Native Food Summit**, bringing together Native food growers, chefs, health care practitioners, NAFSI grantees, and others in an energetic series of workshops and plenary discussions to address pressing issues and share best practices in Native agriculture and food systems renewal.

We are proud of how our publications utilize the high-quality research produced by our **Native Assets Research Center** to identify and promote best practices and provide practical guidance. This fall, First Nations rolled out its highly acclaimed **Food Sovereignty Assessment Tool**, which provides a rationale and how-to guide for Indigenous peoples to regain control over their food systems. With over 200 copies distributed by request in its first weeks of production, this tool is helping to lay the groundwork for improved health, economic empowerment, and enhanced cultural identity in communities nationwide.

Our new **Earned Income Tax Credit Workbook**, developed to augment our **Building Financial Skills for Families** curriculum, has been very well received, and we predict that the number of related convenings and trainings will grow as the initiative gains momentum over the next year. We have leveraged considerable support from government and foundation partners to conduct a major **Individual Development Accounts (IDA) initiative** to help committed communities and individuals learn about saving, building capital, and making long-term investments.

First Nations grew out of a philosophy that information and education are the seeds of power to make change. In that vein, we have engaged dozens of projects in a **Native Youth and Culture** initiative this year that have helped support our objective of preserving Native culture and encouraging Native youth to become our future leaders. We have assisted community partners to complete everything from promoting healthy lunches in Native schools to reintegrating troubled youth back into their communities by teaching them to respect their natural resources and heritage through stories and teachings of their elders.

First Nations' programs are working across the board to support the organization's overall mission. The **Nonprofit Capacity Building** initiative continues to assist both emerging and expanding Native organizations to successfully navigate their transitions. Our **Strengthening Native American Philanthropy (SNAP)** program has provided a new resource to support a philanthropic culture in Native communities by developing the www.NativeGiving.org site. Our International program, **First Peoples Worldwide**, is working to provide Indigenous peoples with the tools to quantify and secure control of their lands and assets and stop asset-stripping by outside interests. In May, First Nations participated in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, holding meetings in and around the Forum and meeting with tremendous support from our international advisors and constituents.

First Nations continues to receive tremendous support and praise from an ever-expanding circle of communities. This year, First Nations was recognized among the **world's most outstanding Social Entrepreneurs** by the *Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship*. The Schwab Foundation has sought out practical, results-oriented innovators working to help impoverished individuals and communities become agents of change and self-determination, using innovative business and revenue models to stimulate social inclusion. First Nations' work in facilitating entrepreneurship within Indigenous communities made it the only U.S. organization selected among the 15 groups honored this year.

This year we have begun intensive planning to develop comprehensive initiatives to enhance community control of assets, helping to consolidate and focus First Nations' direction for the years to come. Our new **Native American Asset Watch** program will become the main vehicle for our more advocacy-driven, asset based approach. This project will spearhead First Nations' efforts to identify and model best practices in cultural and environmental preservation in Native communities. Our **grantmaking and technical assistance** will focus on supporting grassroots community efforts to restore community control over Native assets and support conservation and cultural revitalization goals. Our **research** functions will identify legislative barriers in Native environmental protection and preservation and provide supporting information regarding asset control, market valuation, etc. Our **outreach, advocacy, and communications** work will leverage our research and evaluation of projects in order to gain widespread support from government, foundation and community organizations for our work. An **international** component to this effort will work to develop innovative ways for Indigenous peoples to support and influence conservation, biodiversity, and their own economic development efforts in their territories.

As we work to strengthen and consolidate our program efforts, we have spent several months returning to our roots and strengthening our team. Our **new projects, direction, and staff** reflect our dedication to supporting a strong First Nations' team and offers insight into the more advocacy-driven atmosphere that we have begun to cultivate and will continue next year. In support of our expanded scope of work, we recently launched a new **individual donor campaign**, and have begun a serious focus on our sustainability with a major gifts initiative to solidify and permanently stabilize First Nations' work with an **endowment fund**. We have enhanced our outreach and communications strategy, and look forward to **Silver Anniversary celebrations** to mark the organization's accomplishments and highlight grantee successes. These coordinated efforts stand to significantly strengthen our impact in the next 25 years to come.

Our mission has been revitalized, our work is focused, and First Nations has positioned itself well to perpetuate this positive trend with a team that can continue to grow and build on past successes. Confident in my team and our strong foundation, my intention is to see First Nations through a celebratory 25th year, launch our new projects, and retire as President of First Nations in December of 2005. Of course, I plan to remain close to the organization, supporting its ongoing development efforts from a continuing position on the organization's board of directors. I hope you will join me in encouraging this transition of leadership, and welcoming Mike Roberts as the new President of FNDI. Mike is a member of the Tlingit tribe of Alaska and an experienced venture capitalist who has served as staff or board leadership with FNDI for nearly 13 years. I have tremendous faith in his ability to use his considerable leadership skills to strengthen the organization over the years to come.



I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2005, as we rejoice in all that we have accomplished and honor all of those who have made the past, present, and future work of First Nations Development Institute such a positive force in Native communities across the nation and around the world.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Rebecca Adamson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Rebecca L. Adamson
President and Founder

OUR MISSION & VISION

First Nations Development Institute (FNDI) has been working for 25 years to build strong, healthy, culturally vital Native communities throughout the U.S. and around the world. FNDI has pursued an overall mission of assisting Indigenous peoples to control their own assets and build the capacity to direct their economic futures in ways that fit their cultures, using tools of direct technical and financial assistance. The organization works to holistically address Native communities' desire to tap financial, natural, physical, and institutional assets as well as human, social, and cultural capital in sustainable and appropriate ways throughout the United States and beyond.

FIRST NATIONS' MISSION:

Assisting Indigenous peoples to control their own assets & build the capacity to direct their economic futures in ways that fit their cultures, using tools of direct technical and financial assistance.

First Nations engages directly with Indigenous communities by grassroots outreach to rural and reservation-based populations to provide direct technical and financial assistance where requested. By working on-site, we are able to identify the true needs of Native communities and assess how best to adapt our tools and programs to meet their needs.

As a Native-led community development organization, we have unique insight and access into the communities we support. Our vast network of both Native and non-Native allies and partners working in conjunction with our diverse staff enables us to bring a multitude of views and comprehensive strategies to our day-to-day activities and overall organizational direction. Our unique and holistic philosophy guides our work to create comprehensive, adaptable, and cross-cutting initiatives that bring together the skills of our entire team to educate, advocate, and capitalize for Native communities.

EDUCATE - First Nations has consistently worked to identify the root issues that have caused double-digit unemployment, troublingly low life expectancy, epidemic levels of diabetes, cancer, and youth suicide, destruction of Native languages and traditions, and a range of other factors that have prevented Indigenous communities in the U.S. and worldwide from thriving. The organization has also worked to evaluate the range of models that are positively or negatively affecting the livelihood of Native communities. This approach guides our fieldwork, helping us to identify effective tools and strategies to begin to fill gaps in services and economic infrastructure, identify and address barriers, and support a range of activities aimed at providing sustainable opportunities and community control of key resources. Our comprehensive research institute - **Native Assets Research Center (NARC)** - supports these efforts with concrete data identifying the systemic problems and concerns surrounding the control of assets. In 2002, NARC established the **Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative**. Identifying the key role that food systems play in securing the health and well being of communities, FNDI established the Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative to address these issues and hosted the first ever Native Food Summit, bringing together participants from the federal government, Native agricultural and health organizations, businesses, and foundations in an effort that has since become a biannual undertaking. Through our **LEAD** program, First Nations is working to ensure that a new generation is being mentored in Tribal organizations to ensure the strength of the Tribal nonprofit sector in for generations to come.



ADVOCATE - First Nations has worked to provide lawmakers with the information necessary to formulate better policies impacting Native communities in the United States and around the world. FNDI spearheaded the work of the **Indian Land Tenure Working Group**, and took on the baseline research that fueled the famous Indian Trust case of **Cobell v Norton**. In 1997, First Nations established an international initiative – **First Peoples Worldwide (FPW)** to duplicate its empowering models for Indigenous communities beyond U.S. borders. Since its launch, FPW has prompted the creation of the first Indigenous social screen in guidelines for socially conscious investment principles. As a result, Indigenous peoples' concerns now rank number three on the list of priorities for socially responsible investing. In addition, FPW has supported the creation of an Indigenous fund at the World Bank and promoted international philanthropic interest in Indigenous causes, projects, and initiatives.

CAPITALIZE - Through First Nations' **Eagle Staff Fund**, our main grantmaking vehicle, the organization has become one of the largest sources of giving in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, operating a donor-advised fund that has provided critical targeted financial support to grassroots entities making a difference in rural and reservation-based Native communities. Organizations we support fill major gaps in their communities by providing health care, retirement plan options, homes, small business opportunities, and other social services. Our grantmaking team utilizes a culturally appropriate *Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool* to create tailor-made technical and financial assistance plans for every potential grantee. Our grants and technical assistance efforts support a range of key functions in communities nationwide. These include supporting housing, education and retirement programs by building *Assets for the Future* through individual development account programs and supporting Native community development financial institutions through the **Little Eagle Staff Fund**; working to help Native youth grow and prosper in a safe and educational environment and providing substantive support for cultural preservation and revitalization of traditions through our **Native Youth and Culture Fund**; building nonprofit capacity to support these initiatives locally and on the ground through our Eagle Staff Fund, our main grantmaking vehicle.

**EAGLE STAFF FUND CELEBRATES
10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY**
380 Grants for a total of over \$11 Million
**First Nations Development Institute now
ranks among the largest providers of
private philanthropic resources to Native
American communities in the US.**



Photo: Hank Wille

In 1999, First Nation realized the need for a lending arm to support community financial institutions and micro enterprises. **First Nations Oweesta Corporation (FNOC)** was launched as a subsidiary corporation to provide community development financial institution training and technical assistance, investments, and financial education training to Native communities, organizations, tribes, and individuals. Oweesta was able to build on First Nations long term successes with organizations like the Lakota Fund. Five years after its inception, FNDI launched the first ever micro-enterprise peer-lending fund on a reservation. **The Lakota Fund** has provided approximately 500 loans valued at nearly \$2,000,000 overall; provided training to more than 250 entrepreneurs; and provided marketing services to more than 1,500 arts and crafts micro-entrepreneurs.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD – FIRST NATIONS 2004

SOWING THE SEEDS OF RESTORED NATIVE AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH

There are many exceptional stories to tell of the grassroots impact of our efforts, and we have selected several from the past year to highlight the very real effect on quality of life that First Nations programs and grants to community partners are having nationwide.

One of our most eagerly received programmatic approaches since its inception in 2002 has been our **Native Agriculture and Food Systems Initiative**. With the support of major partners like the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, we have successfully provided both financial and technical assistance to eight grantees with total funding of \$451,777 this year. In addition, we held our biannual conference – **The Native Food Summit 2004: First Food Nations**. We were able to welcome over 150 participants to the Summit representing Native organizations, governments, foundations, and nonprofits. All participated in workshops that presented nutrition techniques, agricultural initiatives, and our newest publication and technical assistance tool, the **Food Sovereignty Assessment Tool**. The culturally appropriate *Tool*, developed by our in-house research center, assists communities in identifying barriers and opportunities in the areas of health, economic development, and cultural revitalization as they relate to food and agriculture. The Summit received extensive media coverage, with editorials and articles appearing in the Milwaukee Sentinel Journal, the Denver Post, and the Washington Post.



Native Chefs Nephi Craig, Loretta Barret Oden, and Victor Zamora at the Native Food Summit 2004.

Photo: Mary Annette Pember

The **Aloha 'Aina Health Center**, a Food Summit participant and First Nations' grantee, is working to help Native Hawaiians retain cultural knowledge about agricultural traditions, increase community health through better diet and nutrition, and control the overall health and value of the land through organic agricultural practices and improved land stewardship. Founded in 2000, Aloha 'Aina began hosting a handful of adolescents who were having difficulties in school. Today, their ingenuity has prompted an

Chickaloon Native Village is building agricultural capacity and community cohesion through a sustainable food system that offers access to healthy, organic vegetables all year-round.

entire food system initiative which supports numerous families in taking charge of the quality of food that they put on their tables. It also provides culturally relevant educational support for the underlying cultural and nutritional value of healthy, organic, traditional foods. In the past two years alone, Aloha 'Aina has worked closely with 55 families and is currently working to establish ongoing healthy lunch programs in local schools.

First Nations grantees are also taking advantage of local knowledge and initiative. With First Nations support, the **Chickaloon Native Village** in Alaska is building a four-season greenhouse, which will serve its 250 registered village members and nearly 2,000 Alaska Natives and other individuals who live in their community. The entire local community will now benefit from a self-created, sustainable food system that offers access to organic vegetables year-round.

The greenhouse will also serve as a site for research, study, and experimentation with growing grains and other vegetables in sub-arctic temperatures. Additionally, the site acts as a classroom space and will be used collaboratively by the Village's education and health departments. By design, the building itself teaches about ecological building design, renewable energy, organic gardening, Native plant propagation and community food systems. It has supported collaboration between the local health department and the Alaska Native Medical Center in designing nutritional guides and educational materials about traditional healing plants.

First Nations' **Indigenous Aquaculture program** held a national convening hosted by the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy that brought together over a dozen experts from around the country to talk about Native aquaculture issues and to support dozens of aquaculture projects. National media covered the convening, and *Aquaculture Magazine* even led with the convening as the cover story of their publication.

The initiative is currently leveraging contacts from the aquaculture world to create an Indigenous Network. The Network will work to increase support for the protection of water resources, rivers and lakes in order to ensure tribal support for healthy water supplies and environmentally

friendly fishery procedures. The First Nations' team is impressed by the growing momentum in the Native aquaculture sector as well as by the ambitious initiatives that are quickly becoming major revenue generators for Native communities. The potential for economic development is clear and First Nations is actively seeking partners to continue supporting these initiatives.



Jared Hammond at the Wampanoag Oyster Farm at Menemsha Pond, Martha's Vineyard, MA.
Photo: Rob Garrison, Director of Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah

PRESERVING NATIVE CULTURE

Through our **Nonprofit Capacity Building Initiative**, we have been able to support a selection of Native nonprofits working to augment and increase the ability of their operations. We worked closely with One Fire Development Corporation on their efforts to revitalize the **Cherokee National Historical Society**, which supports the Cherokee Heritage Center and the Cherokee Heritage Pottery operations. The Cherokee National Historical Society was founded in 1963 with the mission to preserve the history and culture of the Cherokee people – past present, and future. Together, all three organizations conduct vital education and preservation activities related to Cherokee cultural history. The pottery in itself serves as an exciting opportunity for Cherokee members to practice and earn revenue from their traditional craft. In 2003, the Cherokee Heritage Center welcomed over 100,000 visitors that came to see permanent exhibits telling the history of the Cherokee, and inviting reflection on the history of U.S. relations with Native peoples in this nation—particularly in chapters such as the terrible struggles faced by the Cherokee and other tribes in the Trail of Tears. The Center currently supports 39 employees and provides crucial education to a broad base of visitors.

FIGHTING HUNGER IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

The **Oneida Pantry Emergency Network** opened in 2000 to meet the needs of the 52 percent of Oneida tribal members who are living below poverty according to the Census 2000. First Nations has provided support to help this successful organization to develop self-sufficiency by launching an endowment campaign. Members of the Pantry have been working with tribal leadership for months to lay the groundwork for this effort from First Nations' initial support. With an endowment, the Pantry plans to continue providing vital services including raising the self-esteem of low-income tribal members by recruiting them to volunteer to work at the Pantry and teaching nutrition and budgeting classes.

CULTURAL EDUCATION FOR NATIVE YOUTH



Tlingit youth in Alaska displaying blankets.

We are proud to be supporting both the education of Alaska Native youth and the preservation of their culture by supporting the **Ya Ne Dah Ah School** of Chickaloon Village in Alaska. The Ya Ne Dah Ah serves as a prime example of the type of projects we support through our **Native Youth and Culture Fund**. The school has created an education curriculum that addresses mainstream subject areas taught exclusively in the Athabaskan language. The school promotes elder interaction with students to ensure the transfer of traditions through the generations. Possibly the best example of the dedication of the village itself to the school is the employee giving plan in which employees of the school may donate a portion of their salaries back to the school – all employees have volunteered to participate. An Alaska Anchorage Daily News article reported that, “Nothing the tribe does is as important as running its school. Polls of tribe members place education and cultural preservation as the top priority.”



Mary Ann Morris and students from the Little Singer Community School in Birdsprings at a Food Workshop.

Photo: Hank Willie, Diné Community Foods Project

LOW INCOME COMMUNITIES GROWING STRONG

The **Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation (HCCDC)** is a nonprofit lending and community development organization that serves the population of Thurston County, Nebraska, and Native American communities throughout the state of Nebraska. HCCDC has become an alternative lender and technical assistance provider whose goal is to empower a targeted limited resource group of people and to advocate on their behalf. With support from First Nations, the organization is working to expand its community outreach, increase the level of financial skills of Native American clients, and provide expanded opportunities for business development in their community.



Photo: Alicia Bell Sheeter



SUPPORTING A CULTURE OF GIVING

First Nations' **Strengthening Native American Philanthropy (SNAP)** initiative has provided a superb new resource for both grantseekers and grantmakers. Our NativeGiving.org site facilitates a culture of giving and philanthropic activity within the community, offering appropriate information and resources to both donors and grantseekers. A clickable U.S. map on the site provides an extensive database of grantmakers and grantseekers by state, with information on the range of ways they are supporting social justice. First Nations is continuing to expand the scope of the site as well continuing our regional **Wisdom of the Giveaway** conferences and other education and outreach activities to increase awareness of and access to mainstream philanthropic monies by communities that need it most, and increasing opportunities for sovereign approaches to charitable giving by tribes.

Through our **Leadership and Entrepreneurial Apprenticeship Development (LEAD)** program, First Nations is also working to ensure that a new generation of leadership is mentored in Tribal organizations to ensure the strength of the Tribal philanthropic and non-profit sector in for generations to come.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND LENDING

First Nations Oweesta Corporation (FNOC), a subsidiary of First Nations Development Institute, has worked to develop a range of lending and financial education initiatives for Native communities nationwide. **The Lakota Fund** is one example of a community financial institution that was built with First Nations' support. Located on Pine Ridge Reservation, it was the first Native financial institution to appear in the Dakotas, and has had a tremendous impact on savings, lending, and small business development. FNOC played a pivotal role in securing tribal language in the legislation which established Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs), and has been deeply involved in helping Native communities throughout the nation to put CDFIs into place. FNOC has also engaged in continued advocacy to ensure that Native communities continue to have this important option for community development. In addition to its lending and CDFI development efforts, FNOC has provided financial education training to nearly 500 individuals from Native communities across the country since 2001. The training begins with the basics of how to balance a checkbook and develops to introduce the full range of financial skills needed to open a business. Visit FNOC's new website at www.oweesta.org.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION CHANGING DESTINIES

Our recently published ***Building Native Communities: An Introduction to the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)*** workbook provides an easy-to-follow introduction to this important tax credit opportunity. First Nations held a meeting at the Annie E. Casey Foundation with officials from the Federal Reserve Bank, the IRS, the Administration for Native Americans, and the Center for Social Development to develop plans for the 2004 tax year, including issues related to raising awareness of the benefits of the EITC among lenders and other key stakeholders in Native communities.



Dr. Sarah Dewees and friends at a successful IDA workshop.

A successful Northwest area Individual Development Account (IDA) convening was held in November in Seattle WA in conjunction with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

Additionally, First Nations assisted ***Wind River Development Fund*** (WRDF) in their primary program focus of providing access to capital for entrepreneurs and small businesses on or near the Wind River Indian Reservation. Although they have only been operating for approximately seven months, WRDF has already achieved a number of its initial goals. An eight-week business-planning curriculum designed to address Reservation-specific issues has been developed, and 14 students have completed the course and written business plans. Two financial education courses have been conducted, \$160,000 has been lent to small businesses, over 30 reservation entrepreneurs have received individual business counseling, and many critical alliances and partnerships have been established. Earlier this month, WRDF was named the U.S. Small Business Administration's 2004 Minority Small Business Advocate Champion for a six-state region.

Wind River Development Fund has conducted two financial education courses, lent \$160,000 to small businesses, provided individual business counseling to over 30 reservation entrepreneurs, and established many critical alliances and partnerships – in just seven months of operations.

Also in support of financial education and financial management solutions, First Nations supported a convening on ***Asset Building in Oklahoma: Opportunities for Native Communities*** in Norman, Oklahoma, in late January 2004, in partnership with Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity and the Cherokee Nation. Participants from the local community engaged in a discussion of asset building policies, focusing on saving programs for their housing and retirement needs. A similar event was held in Phoenix, Arizona, at Native American Connections, a Native nonprofit, in mid June 2004. Over 70 community members attended the event, including local federal officials.

ADVOCATING FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

First Nations launched its international department, **First Peoples Worldwide** (FPW), in 1995 in an effort to apply its innovative approaches in an international context to improve the circumstances of Indigenous peoples. One example of FPW's approach to economic justice in a global context was the organization's successful efforts to advance socially responsible investment criteria that uphold Indigenous peoples rights. By approaching the investment community directly, First Nations was able to begin to motivate change in a community that has been notorious for violating Indigenous rights – corporations. Now Indigenous peoples rights have been ranked number three on the list of top priorities for corporate responsibility within the social investment community. First Peoples Worldwide continues its efforts by



Maori dancers performing.

Photo: Jason McCarty

researching and sharing its findings on best practices in Indigenous community development, supporting field initiatives such as the launch of the first Aboriginal foundation in Australia and land rights education of the San people in Sub-Saharan Africa. In addition, First Peoples is ready to launch a new Asset Allocation Mapping project in South America, which will provide the analytical tools and data gathering processes for Indigenous peoples' communities to inventory their assets, identify how they are being used and who is in control of these assets, and begin a process of returning assets to community control for effective and sustainable stewardship.

PROVIDING TIMELY INFORMATION ON ISSUES IMPACTING NATIVE COMMUNITIES

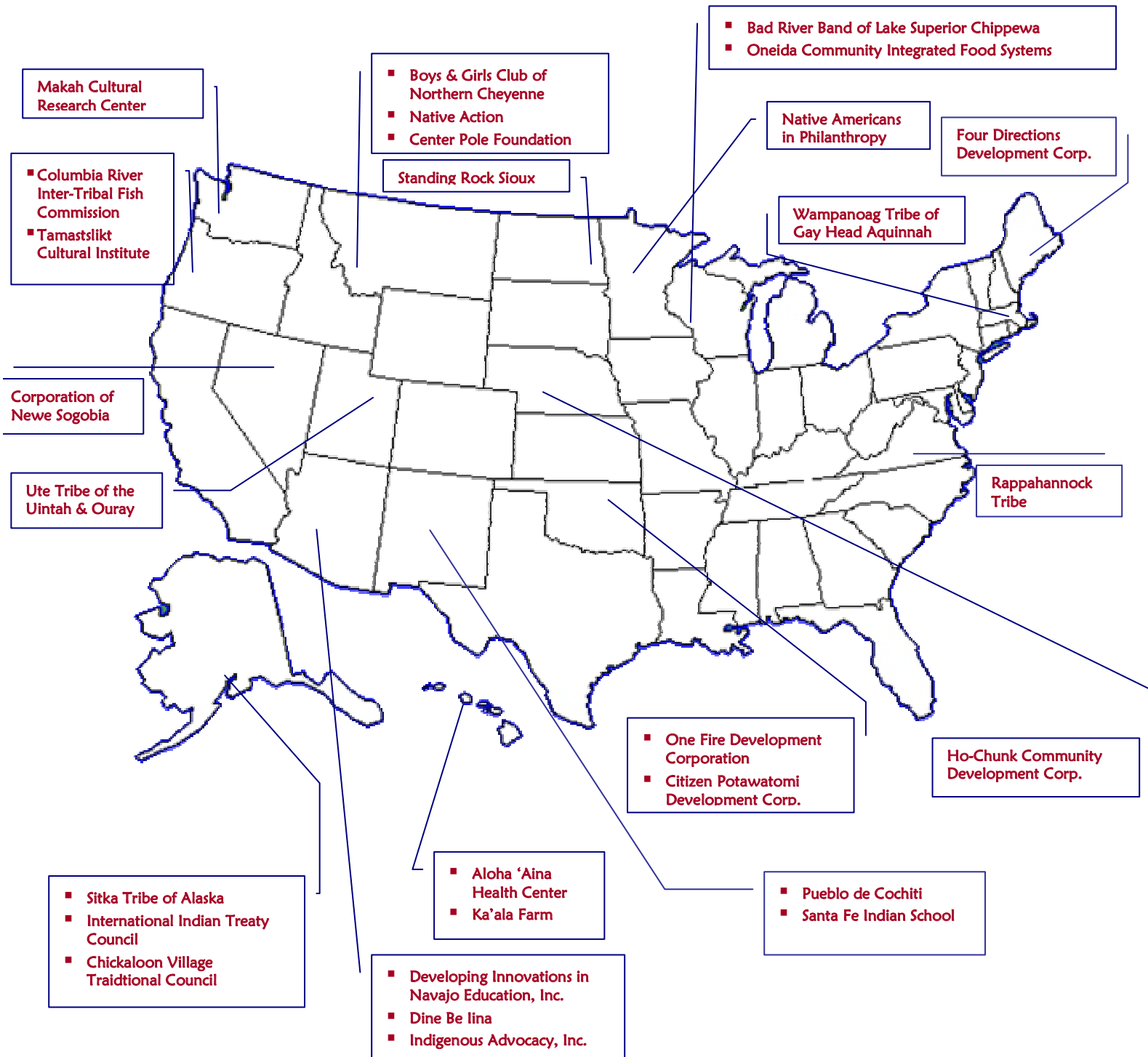
First Nations communicates with policy makers and works to reach the general public regarding economic issues impacting tribal nations. In 2004, First Nations also continued publication of the ***Native Americas Journal***, supporting a well-respected source for independent thought on issues impacting Native communities. The winter 2003 issue emphasized topics important to tribes in the state of California, and also focused on last year's gubernatorial election. The spring 2004 issue reported on events in Indigenous communities located throughout the entire Western hemisphere; targeting human right violations, land rights issues, and economic development concerns. Overview articles on Latin American Indigenous peoples provided a glimpse into the daily lives of Indigenous peoples and their struggles. The summer 2004 issue was a particular success, touching on nutrition and food system concerns and launched in tandem with First Nations' Native Food Summit 2004 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Fall/Winter issue focuses on social justice issues. The journal convenes and coordinates a network of Native writers, organizing an editorial hub that has disseminated hundreds of original articles on important Native issues since 1995.



Photo: Alicia Bell Sheeter

2004 GRANTMAKING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

First Nations has offered financial and technical assistance 30 rural and reservation based Native communities in this calendar year alone totaling \$989,128. We offer heartfelt thanks to our grantees nationwide whose ideas and drive actively promote change in their local communities.



2004 GRANTEES

Individual Development Accounts (IDA)

Wind River Development Fund - FT. Washaskie, WY - \$15,000
Implement the first IDA program in the state to assist Native participants to develop culturally relevant savings goals, including home or business ownership.

Leadership and Entrepreneurial Apprenticeship Development (LEAD)

One Fire Development Corporation - Colcord, OK - \$53,189
Convene Native nonprofit leaders to identify institutional approaches to nonprofit leadership development and training.

Native Agriculture & Food Systems Initiative

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission - Portland, OR - \$82,048
Enable tribes in the Columbia River Basin to better utilize treaty fisheries.

Developing Innovations in Navajo Education, Inc. - Flagstaff, AZ - \$76,959
Increase the productivity and profitability of local farms and improve community health and safety through enhanced nutrition programs.

Aloha 'Aina Health Center - Kane'ohe, HI - \$8,350
Increase board capacity and do strategic planning for an organic farm to school cafeteria program to facilitate improved health and land stewardship.

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council - Chickaloon, AK - \$81,600
Construct a four season, environmentally friendly greenhouse to provide the community with fresh produce year round and a research and education facility for arctic farming.

Corporation of Newe Sogobia - Austin, NV - \$80,920
Increase the value of the pine nut by creating a profitable enterprise, which will in turn help to justify a return of land illegally seized from the tribe by the federal government.

Santa Fe Indian School - Santa Fe, NM - \$41,900
Provide a summer agri-science program for youth from 5 Pueblos.

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah - Aquinnah, MA - \$77,000
Increase revenue from the Wampanoag Aquinnah Shellfish Hatchery, retain Tribal land and water rights, and ensure the environmental health of Tribal property.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe - Fort Yates, ND - \$3,000
Purchase a used tractor for community garden project and community use.

Native Nonprofit Capacity Building

Four Directions Development Corporation - Orono, ME - \$24,000
Improve FDDC credit policies and practices to strengthen deployment and management of both financial and human resources.

One Fire Development Corporation - Colcord, OK - \$30,000
Conduct an organizational assessment of the Cherokee Historical Society, realign the organization to better achieve its mission, and improve leadership capacity.

Rappahannock Tribe, Inc. - Indian Neck, VA - \$30,000
Build capacity in acquisition of resources and increase diversity of resource base.

International Indian Treaty Council - Palmer, AK - \$25,000
Increase the political voice of Indigenous peoples, leverage institutional resources to boost outreach, save traditional knowledge, and conduct capacity-building workshops.

Native Action - Lame Deer, MT - \$30,000
Publish a 20-year report, launch a website, establish an endowment fund for college internships, and conduct strategic planning to diversify research and policy work.

Native Americans in Philanthropy - Minneapolis, MN - \$15,000
Develop website and membership database for effective, widespread communication.

The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin - Oneida, WI - \$29,240
Increase and diversify the resource base of Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems and work toward creation of a bio-regional food system.

General Eagle Staff Fund Grants

(33 items)

Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa - Odonah, WI - \$8,000
Launch Gitiganing Youth Garden to help engage youth in cultural heritage, retain traditional knowledge, bridge generations, and combat diabetes.

Potlatch Fund - Mountlake Terrace, WA - \$1,000
Support Potlatch Fund 2004 Gala Event.

Little Eagle Staff Fund

Ho-Chunk Community Development Corp. - Walthill, NE - \$37,200
Increase capacity to market financial products and services, financial skills of clients; and organizational sustainability by enhancing business lending.

Citizen Potawatomi Comm. Develop. Corp. - Shawnee, OK - \$30,000
Create and capitalize a loan loss reserve for the Commercial Lending Program to mitigate loan portfolio risk.

Native American Hunger Program

Boys & Girls Club of Northern Cheyenne - Lame Deer, MT - \$25,000
Create a Healthy Lives for Kids Coalition for diabetes prevention, food education, and fitness, and fund and sustain the B&GC Feeding Program.

Native Youth & Culture Fund

The Center Pole Foundation - Crow Agency, MT - \$20,000
To support the A Wa Ku Leh, the Little People's Trading Post, an arts entrepreneurship and financial literacy project.

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council - Chickaloon, AK - \$20,000
Teach Ahtna Athabascan language and culture, mainstream academics, and Tribal government and law through the Tribe's Ya Ne Dah Ah school.

Developing Innovations in Navajo Educ., Inc. - Flagstaff, AZ - \$20,000
Carry out Navajo Beauty Way Program with youth to share traditional knowledge, respect for elders, and a sense of responsibility for actions.

Dine Be lina, Inc. - Teec Nos Pos, AZ - \$10,000
Provide support for traditional life ways of Dine sheep herders and textile artists and host an educational Sheep Camp for youth.

Indigenous Advocacy, Inc. - Kayenta, AZ - \$13,529
Retain traditional knowledge and build youth understanding of Dineh values.

Ka'ala Farm, Inc. - Wai'anae, HI - \$20,000
Involve elders in youth programs for cultural ed. and leadership development.

Makah Cultural and Research Center - Neah Bay, WA - \$18,999
Operate a cultural foods youth program to teach traditional food harvesting and, preparation and increase access to healthy snacks for youth and elders.

Pueblo de Cochiti - Cochiti Pueblo, NM - \$11,500
Share traditional and Western knowledge related to the river environment that is central to the community and strengthen Native language skills for youth.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska - Sitka, AK - \$20,000
Document and ensure retention of cultural knowledge and tribal traditions and leverage traditional knowledge to increase tourism dollars.

Tamastslikt Cultural Institute - Pendleton, OR - \$19,914
Create interactive media tools for youth language and traditional stories.

Ute Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray - Ft. Dushesne, UT - \$10,780
Teach, model and implement traditional land management policies and practices through the application of spiritual practices, beliefs and values.

Total Grants for 2004 : \$989,128

2004 SUPPORTERS

ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum
Akwasasne Museum
Alaska Federation of Natives
American Express Foundation
American Friends Service
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*Thank you for
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grateful to all who
make our work
possible through
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Peace Pole - Moon

Photo: Jason McCarty

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PUBLICATIONS, RESOURCES, & EVENTS OF 2004

NATIVE FOOD SUMMIT 2004: FIRST FOOD NATIONS. This conference demonstrated that there is tremendous potential for developing food related economies in Native communities that can have a range of benefits, including reviving traditional foods and agriculture, invigorating cultural systems, and improving diet and health.

BUILDING NATIVE COMMUNITIES: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT. This workbook, produced to be an addendum to the Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families financial education workbook, provides an easy-to-follow introduction to the EITC.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY ASSESSMENT TOOL. This published technical assistance tool is designed to assist communities in performing a community food assessment. It includes information about the local food system, exercises to examine the economic impact of agricultural assets, and information about the cultural significance of local agricultural traditions.

FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES. This paper adapted the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Economic Success Framework to Native communities and examined issues related to family economic supports, workforce investment, and community investment in rural reservation-based and other Native communities.

SOCIAL JUSTICE DATABASE. FNDI researched and compiled information on over 100 Native-controlled social justice nonprofits for *NativeGiving.org*, a new website launched by First Nations to facilitate philanthropic giving to Native social justice nonprofits.

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY: CDFIs IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES. Drawing on the earlier evaluation report for the F.B. Heron Foundation, our research staff coordinated the production of a research paper on Native community development financial institutions.

NAFSI GRANTEE CONVENING BOOK. This convening book includes technical assistance materials related to media, communications, community food assessment, fundraising, and evaluation.

ASSET BUILDING IN OKLAHOMA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES. This convening was held in Norman, Oklahoma in partnership with Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity and the Cherokee Nation. Over 35 participants engaged in a discussion of asset building policies, including IDA programs, in their communities.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE GRANTEE CONVENING. A convening of NAFSI grantees was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin, at the Oneida-owned Radisson Hotel from May 27-28th. Grantees received training on First Nations' approach to evaluation, the Elements of Development, Food Sovereignty Assessments, grantwriting and fundraising, and media and communications. Grantees toured the Oneida Community Integrated Food Systems project on the reservation.

ASSET BUILDING IN ARIZONA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR NATIVE COMMUNITIES. This convening was held in Phoenix, Arizona, at Native American Connections, a Native nonprofit. Over 70 people registered for the event. Participants engaged in a discussion of asset building policies, including IDA programs, in their communities.

COORDINATING AWARENESS OF THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES. First Nations coordinated a planning meeting in June, 2004 at the Annie E. Casey Foundation offices to address plans for the 2004 tax year, including issues related to raising awareness of EITC in Native communities, with attendees from the Federal Reserve Bank, the Internal Revenue Service, the Administration for Native Americans, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Center for Social Development.

BUILDING TRIBAL ECONOMIES - NORTHWEST AREA and ST. LOUIS CONVENINGS. Sessions on Individual Development Account (IDA) creation and related opportunities were held in Seattle WA in conjunction with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and at Washington University in St. Louis.

EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT WORKSHOPS. A workshop on the EITC was held at the annual meeting of the National Congress of American Indians to provide an opportunity for tribal leaders and advocates to better understand the importance of this tax credit to fueling Native economies.

NATIVE AQUACULTURE NATIONAL CONVENING. The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy hosted a First Nations convening which brought together over a dozen people from around the country to talk about Native aquaculture issues. A press release from this convening was covered in national press and a cover story was written about the convening in Aquaculture Magazine.

LEADERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURIAL APPRENTICESHIP DEVELOPMENT (LEAD) CONVENING. A LEAD convening was hosted by the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City in May, bringing together Native nonprofit leaders to identify institutional approaches to nonprofit leadership development and training.