

Dreamcatcher News

Native American Center Project

Native American Center Open House

January 2010
Volume 1, Issue 1



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A new Native American Center has opened at 303 Roberts Street-Lower Level in Fargo, ND 58102. This grant was written by Cultural Diversity Resources (CDR) due to the increasing needs of the Native American Community that CDR was experiencing. Native American clients served each year has increased at CDR and the staff needed more help to meet the needs.

A federal grant from the Administration of Native Americans was written and the purpose of this grant is to provide effective leadership, mentorship, education, advocacy, and guidance to accomplish community goals in the Native American community. The grant is focused on Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS).

Fargo Mayor Walaker spoke at the Open House on December 22, 2009 about the continuing needs of the Native American Community and was glad to see the efforts put forth to establish this new center. Yoke-Sim Gunaratne, Executive Director of Cultural Diversity Resources spoke of her experience working with the Native American community. The Open House had over 60 people come and visit to meet the staff and enjoy refreshments. Many people were from the Native American community or were from area businesses in the Fargo-Moorhead community. Some traveled 150 miles to enjoy the celebration.

The Native American Center Project is focused on healthy, positive living that helps find resources and referrals in the community. The center will be focusing on tribal outreach such as enrollments for reservations or help with accessing

resources such as housing, education, culture and a place to go to for help. We are a one stop place for people that are looking for support or just a place to socialize. We offer free computer usage for people that looking for work, resume creation, email and just wanting to learn computer skills on your own. We do have the resources in the community so people can access computer classes that are taught in a class setting.

Currently, we are working on recruiting volunteers to be involved in our Non-Profit Management and Financial Management trainings that will ensure the long term success of the Native American Center.

Multi-tribal Mural: Many nations helped in this effort

Well-known, local Native American Artist Kenneth Greywind, from the Spirit Lake Nation, drew the design for the mural that was drawn and painted on the wall at the Native American Center. He spent many hours drawing the multi-tribal design that would represent the many nations that we serve and the families, individuals or elders that we have walk through our doors every day.

Ken Greywind advised volunteers from the Fargo Indian Education Program in painting after the mural was drawn on the wall. Many volunteers spent over 50 hours on the mural to make the design and colors stand out. The students painted a strip of Dakota designs on the right side, while an Ojibwe design was painted to the left of the main mural design.

The medicine wheel in the mural is a multi-tribal to all nations.

Its meaning can be found that it represents spiritually the balance or the circle of life.

The middle of the mural has a father, mother and child that represent the heart of life. Our families mean the world to our culture and we do not turn our back on our own. No matter where we were raised, on the reservation or in urban areas, we all carry the same value of family is important. The drawing is also multi-tribal and if you look at it carefully, you will see that in the designs.

Students, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers worked on this project to get it done. Many hours were spent on details and lots of socialization. It was a treat for everyone to get together to socialize and watch a white wall turn into a beautiful creation of Native American artwork.



Local Native American Artist Kenneth Greywind working on the mural

Fargo-Moorhead Indian Education Winter Gathering

Fargo-Moorhead Indian Education Programs worked together to put on a Winter Gathering for K-12 students on December 12, 2009. The event was held at the Moorhead High School Cafeteria in Moorhead, MN. There was breakfast with Santa and storytelling by JT Shining Oneside from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The families played Bingo for a variety of prizes from DVD's, Toys and gift cards. It was a great event and many families attended the event.

This event is held every year for the students of Fargo-Moorhead Indian Education programs to spend time together so the families get to know one another. The children spent lots of time laughing and talking to Santa about what they wanted for presents.

Parents and caregivers and students spent time to get to know one another and makes long lasting friendships that will ensure long term success in school and after school. Many children were really happy and played in the hallways or went outside to spend time together. The parents all expressed the need to have more events so they could socialize.



Native American Center Staff



Jeremy Syverson, the Project Coordinator was hired on November 09, 2009 to coordinate the activities and day to day operations of the Native American Center Project. He is an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe in Economic Development and Human Resources. Jeremy has a Bachelor's degree in Human Resources from the University of Minnesota- Morris. He has an extensive work history working with grants and the Native American Communities in Minnesota and now North Dakota.

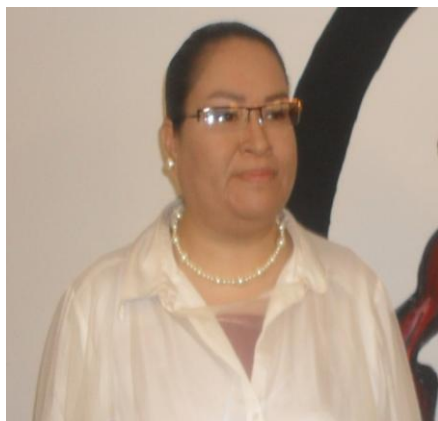
Jeremy Syverson- Project Coordinator

jsyverson@culturaldiversityresources.org



Elverna Vilas, an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe was hired on November 09, 2009 as a Project Assistant. She has been an active Native American Community member in the F-M area and had worked with Daughters of the Earth on issues concerning Native American women. Elverna currently attends Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Moorhead, MN. She is working on a Liberal Arts Associates degree and pushed back her graduation date to the winter of 2010 so she can pursue her work at the Native American Center Project.

Elverna Vilas –Project Assistant Ext. 209
evilas@culturaldiversitysources.org



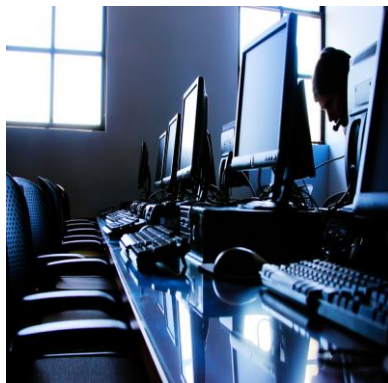
Francine Mad Plume, Blackfeet/Lakota Sioux is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes had joined the staff on January 04, 2009 as the second Project Assistant. Francine has attended Flandreau Indian School in Flandreau South Dakota, Sinte Gleska University located on the Rosebud Reservation. Francine then continued on to Haskell Indian Nation University in Lawrence, Kansas where she lived until moving back to North Dakota three years ago. She wants to finish school and go into Paralegal program, for now she is following her other passion of Project Assistant at the Native American Center. Francine recently started attending Advocate training at the Rape and Abuse Crisis Center with Elverna. We both strongly feel it will only add to the support we offer at the Center.

Francine Mad Plume – Ext. 210
fmadplume@culturaldiversityresources.org

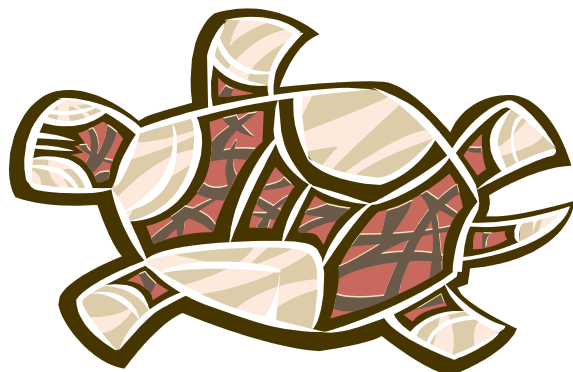
Future Happenings

Personal Financial Literacy classes

will be held Thursday evenings from 6-8:30, March 04, 11th, 18th, and 25th at the Cultural Diversity Resources. The topics included are Personal Banking, Understanding Your Credit Report, 7 Habits of Financially Healthy People and Budgeting for long-term success.



Multi-Cultural Families Program will have classes starting in March. We are excited to get started and have partnered with Minnesota Extensions, Indian Education of Moorhead, Fargo and West Fargo. If you are interested please contact the Native American Center to sign up for classes.



United States 2010 Census

2010 Census will be in office starting March 19 to April 19 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4pm and Friday at 5-8pm at our Cultural Diversity Resources located upstairs, if you need help filling out a Census questionnaire or need any further information regarding the 2010 Census. You may also go to 2010census.gov for online information.

21st Annual Woodlands and High Plains Traditional Pow- Wow

Saturday

April, 10, 2010

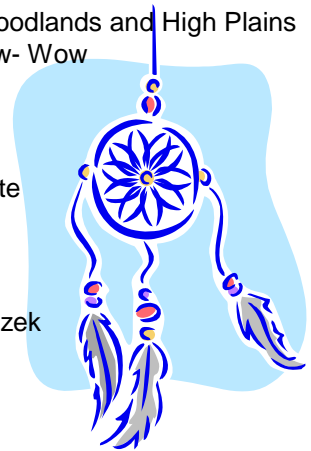
Minnesota State

University

Moorhead MN

Campus- Nemzek

Field house.



Tri-College Students Free Admission with College ID.

Grand Entries: 1pm and 7pm

Adults 19-45 yrs - \$3

Children 6-18 yrs - \$2

Seniors 55 & over, Children 5 & under- free

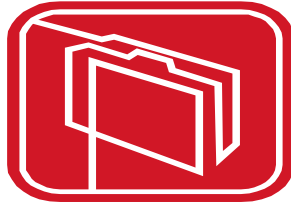
For all these upcoming events please call the Native American Center at

701-365-0832

You may also contact one of the staff by email

Future Happenings

We will have our first Leadership Training in March with First Nation Training Institute. Topics for the training are Organizational Development, Strategic Planning, Program Development and Program Implementation. Please contact our office to complete an application for the classes.



Community Partners

Who are they and what do they do?

The Community Partners help the Native American Center by coordinating, assisting, educating, advocating, referring, and recruiting participants. We have 11 Community Partners so far:

1. Fargo Native American Commission
2. Daughters of the Earth
3. Fargo Indian Education
4. Moorhead Indian Education
5. Clay Social Services
6. Cass Social Services
7. Drug and Alcohol Centers
8. White Earth Reservation
9. MN CEP
10. Three Affiliated Tribal Council
11. White Earth Tribal Council

With all these eleven distinctly separate organizations involved in ongoing project decisions and support we offer many benefits to our tribal members.

Rural Minnesota CEP, Inc.

Your Future Is Our Business
715 North 11th Street, Suite 302
Moorhead, MN 56560

218-287-5060

www.rmcep.com

Rural Minnesota CEP is one of the Community Partners that we work with. CEP has also worked with Cultural Diversity Resources for 10 years providing on the job training for clerical and administrative assistants. Both Elverna Vilas and Francine Mad Plume were referred by CEP and have been hired on as Project Assistants for the Native American Center. CEP also provides services based on eligibility to: Dislocated workers, Youth, Adults, Older workers, and MFIP Recipients.

You may go on the Website for more detailed information and the history of CEP. It is there mission to provide quality workforce services that meet our customers' needs. Our customers are individuals, employers, and those who fund our services.

Native American Center
303 Roberts Street N.
~Lower Level~
Fargo, North Dakota 58102
Phone: 701-365-0832
Fax: 701-365-0834

Toll Free: 1-888-365-0832



www.culturaldiversityresources.org

Seven Surrounding Tribes

The Center will serve a target population of at least 4,000 Native Americans from Fargo in Cass County, ND and Moorhead, Clay County, MN. However, the Center will also serve an even larger number of Native Americans migrating in and out of the surrounding tribal reservations within 350 miles. The population in Minnesota includes-White Earth Band of Ojibwe (19,241), Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe(8,876), Red Lake Band of Chippewa (11,300), in North Dakota it includes-Three Affiliated Tribes(9,500), Turtle Mountain Band of Ojibwe (29,161). Spirit Lake Dakota Nation (5,927), and Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate (11,300) which altogether accounts for 99,588 Indigenous people among a fairly homogenous Scandinavian and German population of 195,684 in the Red River Valley region.

White Earth Band of Ojibwe

White Earth Reservation is located in Becker, Clearwater and Mahnomen counties in north central Minnesota. It is the largest reservation in the state with 8 communities. Created in 1867 by a treaty between the United States and the Mississippi Band of Chippewa Indians, it is one of the seven Chippewa reservations in Minnesota. Called “Chippewa” in the United States and “Ojibwe/Ojibway” in Canada, the White Earth tribe prefers to call themselves “Anishinabe” meaning the “the People”.

Although the White Earth Anishinabe no longer live as their ancestors did, they have kept alive their tribal heritage. Almost every aspect of their present-day life has been strongly influenced by their past.