



PARTNERSHIP WITH  
**NATIVE AMERICANS<sup>®</sup>**  
2019 Impact in Review

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**Our Mission:** Serving immediate needs. Supporting long-term solutions.

**Our Vision:** Strong, self-sufficient Native American communities.

**Purpose:**

Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans living on remote, geographically-isolated and impoverished reservations. We collaborate with our reservation partners to provide consistent aid and services for Native Americans with the highest need in the U.S.

**Impact:**

PWNA respects the self-determined goals of the tribes and measures impact through our partners. Our work centers around improving life on reservations and developing community partners who can drive social change in nutrition, education, health and emergency response. As communities become more effective, they help create social change and in turn move us toward our vision.

Founded in 1990, PWNA is the only Native-serving charity to work in hundreds of tribal communities year-round. Our service area is concentrated in nine priority states and encompasses Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Navajo and other underserved reservations. We connect outside resources directly to reservations and provide material aid, education, capacity building and community-based services.

Cover painting: "Prayer Circle"  
(witnessing drumming from above)  
by David Haff (Delaware Tribe of Indians)




## A Message From Our President

Over the past year, Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) advanced its mission for social good and made tremendous progress in paving the way for a strong 2020. While I'm new to the operational side of the PWNA family, the resilience and collaborative spirit that drives this organization is immediately apparent, and I'm honored and humbled to be a part of that.

PWNA had an incredibly successful 2019 implementing new program initiatives, such as expanding our work in emergency preparedness, conducting an awareness campaign on the realities of disaster aid for reservations, and convening Native youth for a food summit in South Dakota and a legislative forum at the Arizona State Capitol. We rounded out our busy year with a landmark partnership and the launch of a public service announcement series with legendary actor Wes Studi of the Cherokee Nation. These accomplishments are a testament to the tremendous efforts of our stakeholders, both inside and outside of the organization.

This year, we're proud to be celebrating 30 years of serving Indian Country – and we couldn't be more grateful for those who've allowed us to come this far and will continue to help us carry out PWNA's mission for years to come. We look forward to celebrating this milestone throughout 2020 by highlighting the dedication of our program partners, the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our staff and volunteers.

We remain focused on increasing awareness and supporting social change for Native Americans. By working together, we'll continue to champion strong, self-sufficient Native American communities.



With gratitude,



Joshua Arce, CEO/President



Today's Native youth are tomorrow's tribal and community leaders. Unfortunately, Native American students face systemic barriers to attaining a quality education. Many schools, such as those that are operated by the Bureau of Indian Education under the U.S. Department of the Interior, are underfunded and underperforming, facing high turnover and disrepair. This contributes to Native American students having the lowest high school graduation rates. Besides a cornerstone of self-sufficiency, education is also a crucial factor in addressing the social and economic challenges facing the reservations PWNA serves. And yet, only 13 percent of Native Americans have a college degree.

For the 5th consecutive year, PWNA hosted the Native Youth Know (NYK) Forum at the 24th Annual Indian Nations and Tribes Legislative Day in Arizona, as part of its 2019 efforts to create long-term change. This yearly forum at the Capitol was established by PWNA, in collaboration with the Arizona Governor's Office on Tribal Relations, as a special

initiative to give Native youth living in reservation, urban and rural communities an opportunity to network, foster intertribal collaboration and promote positive change. More than 100 students from across the state came together to focus on Indigenous foods grounded in self-identity, language preservation and culture.

Immediate financial support is also crucial for education. Last year, PWNA's annual Backpack Drive equipped more than 20,000 students at 68 reservation schools with the essentials they needed to be successful in the classroom. The Backpack Drive is supported by PWNA's American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) program and helps provide thousands of students with backpacks, notebooks, pencils and other items. The average fuel cost for delivering supplies to a single school on a reservation PWNA serves is about \$135, so funding for transportation is critical.

Funding for post-secondary education scholarships is also critical. Through AIEF, we review approximately 1,000 applications each year and award undergraduate and graduate scholarships to Native American students across the U.S., paid directly to the college or university they attend.

The AIEF Scholarship Committee convened in Worley, Idaho in 2019 to review applications and discuss strategies to increase awareness of funding opportunities for Native students, including working with the American School Counselor Association. PWNA received support in 2019 from the Walmart Foundation to purchase laptops for incoming college freshmen, in addition to matching scholarships by the Dougherty Foundation, the California Endowment Fund and more.



The group awarded a total of 121 scholarships for the 2019-2020 academic school year, including 13 scholarships to four-year undergraduate students and 18 scholarships to graduate students. More than 90 percent of scholars completed the 2018-2019 school year and five scholars who had previously received AIEF's first four-year scholarships also graduated in 2019.

This year also marked the completion of PWNA's first all-female cohort of the Four Directions (4D) Strong Native Women program. The 4D program champions professional education and is designed to assist promising leaders in Indian Country. This inaugural cohort of 11 women boosted their knowledge and skills to better serve their communities, while also focusing on the importance of self-care.

As part of the greater 4D program, a group of mentors from PepsiCo Foundation supported cohort participants, offering them an opportunity to work alongside individuals who've already made a significant impact in their communities. The mentorship opportunity created positive bonds for all involved and ignited conversations around time management skills, encouragement and financial aid.

*"I have opened up myself and my inner confidence, learning how I'm important to myself and regaining my knowledge and willingness to open my heart to strangers. Regardless of my trials, I was able to get back on track with loving myself."*  
 – 2019 4D all-women cohort graduate from New Mexico

*The Hechinger Report – September 2019*  
*"According to Partnership with Native Americans, only 17 percent of American Indian students are able to continue their education after high school, facing a number of challenges the average student does not encounter. Native youth are much more likely to attend high-poverty schools than their white peers, leading them to be underprepared for college. There is a severe lack of educational funding in tribal communities and [geographically] a lack of connection with other educational opportunities."*

*CNBC – September 2019*  
*"While more than 60% of high school students in the U.S. attend college, only 17% of American Indian students go on to [begin] higher education, according to Partnership with Native Americans."*

**Education Realities:**

- 35% of Native American children are growing up in poverty, and up to 61% live in low-income households.
- Poverty is closely tied to lower educational attainment and literacy rates.
- College is not free for all Native Americans or paid for through treaties with the tribes.
- Only 17% of Native students who finish high school begin college.
- Only 13% percent of Native Americans graduate from college, largely due to funding barriers.
- The education system has long failed Native students, from boarding schools that began in 1860 to federal Bureau of Indian Education schools that today have the lowest academic achievement rate in the U.S.
- Students with a two-year degree will earn \$10,000 more a year, and those with a four-year degree will earn \$1 million more over a lifetime.

**Education Impact:**

- **20,313** students received school supplies and backpacks.
- **11,601** students received TOMS shoes.
- **8,723** students were supported through literacy partners.
- **121** scholarships were awarded to undergraduate and graduate students, many of them the first in their families to attend college.
- **49** AIEF scholars were aided by challenge grants, emergency grants, and laptops.
- **121** college students received mentoring and exam-time care packages, and along with their families, holiday gifts.

**Education Supporters:**

*Thank you for supporting Native American education:*

- Walmart Foundation
- PepsiCo Foundation, and PepsiCo RISE TOMS
- California Endowment Fund
- Dougherty Foundation
- Helen Roberti Trust
- M. Elizabeth Cason Fund of the La Crosse Community Foundation
- Brad Lemons Foundation
- AIEF Scholarship Committee

## Emergency Response for Tribes

Weather extremes and geographic isolation are immediate concerns for Native Americans, especially in recent years. However, word of a disaster in remote tribal areas is often slow to reach mainstream communities, resulting in delayed – or sometimes non-existent – emergency relief. PWNA mitigates these situations as a first responder for the reservations primarily within its nine-priority-state service area and engages in several partnerships and initiatives to help improve tribal relief efforts.

People living on remote reservations in the Northern Plains, for example, experience severe winter storms that often prevent access to necessities such as food, water and warmth. Qualifying for disaster aid in reservation communities is often difficult, so understanding both how to prepare for these conditions and access resources for relief is crucial. In early 2019, PWNA collaborated with Preparedness Matters to raise awareness about the realities



of disaster aid on the reservations and distribute copies of The Native Family Disaster Preparedness Handbook to emergency response partners in the Northern Plains. The handbook, along with newly created online resources for emergency preparedness, offer culturally relevant tips for reservation-based families and tribes on how to prepare for and respond to disasters.

PWNA also signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the American Red Cross to further support localized responses to blizzards, floods, hurricanes and other emergencies in reservation communities. Through this partnership, the two organizations will continue coordinating deliveries for immediate disaster response, as well as collaborating on safety initiatives and disaster preparedness planning with the tribes.

PWNA worked with the American Red Cross and trained partners from the Cheyenne River and Oglala Sioux, Crow Creek and Sisseton Wahpeton tribes to build emergency capacity in reservation communities, specifically in South Dakota where weather-related emergencies are common. This program, supported by Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies, included training on First Aid, CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) use, life skills, weather spotting and sheltering across eight communities. Individual tribal members (young and old) were also trained to be Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members, equipped with basic disaster response skills, including



fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations.

Several CERT trainees are now sharing the training with others in neighboring tribal communities, including CERT leader Harold Tiger from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Harold's role is critical as he's responsible for training 16 communities on a reservation that spans 3 million acres. While first responders make every effort to reach communities in need, Harold shared that weather often causes delays, so they rely on each other for assistance. Today, Harold is working with the Cheyenne River Youth Project to provide youth-specific CERT training. He's inspired teens to become certified in CPR and food handling so that they can be ready to help when disaster strikes.

PWNA also addresses seasonal needs, rotating winter readiness through different communities in the Plains and Southwest each year to mitigate associated costs. Even so, thousands of tribal citizens are impacted by PWNA's emergency services, from firewood and winter fuel vouchers for Elders to seasonal emergency kits with batteries, candles, water and nonperishable foods to supplies for shelters housing the aged, disabled, victims of abuse, or the homeless.

*"Anytime you have an MOU, it connects people. PWNA has connections to the people we want to reach. It brings credibility and makes the possibilities real – here's what you can do for us and here's what we can bring."*

*– Joe Reiter, American Red Cross Disaster Program Manager for Central and Western South Dakota*

*"Cheyenne River's preparedness efforts have improved. A lot more residents are wanting to get involved – more people are stepping forward; they want to be part of [the solution] and are getting more educated... I am so proud of them. They are depending on themselves!"*

*– Harold Tiger, Community Emergency Response Team Leader for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota*

*Indian Country Today – January 2019*

*"When disaster strikes, PWNA responds quickly with disaster relief for tribal communities in need of supplies for displaced families. With recent grant funding, PWNA is also supporting long-term emergency preparedness in tribal communities, through training, networked collaboration and access to resources such as the [Native Family Disaster Preparedness] handbook."*

### Emergency Response Realities:

- 30 to 63% of people live in poverty on the reservations PWNA serves (varies by community).
- 40% of reservation housing is inadequate, and an estimated 90,000 Native Americans are experiencing homelessness.
- Impoverished communities are severely ill-equipped to respond when disaster strikes.
- Word of disaster in remote tribal areas is often slow to reach mainstream news, resulting in little to no outside aid during a crisis.
- Assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) often runs out before winter ends on the Northern Plains reservations.

### Emergency Response Impact:

- **25,084** people received hygiene, cleaning and other products at residential shelters.
- **2,182** Elders received winter and summer boxes with emergency supplies.
- **763** people engaged in emergency preparedness planning and/or training.
- **393** Elders received winter warmth (including firewood or vouchers for electricity or propane).
- **225** people received supplies following an environmental emergency.

### Emergency Response Supporters:

*Thank you for supporting emergency response on remote reservations:*

Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies  
 American Red Cross  
 FEMA (Federal Emergency Mgmt. Agency)  
 National VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster)  
 Preparedness Matters – Vincent Davis and Sean Scott  
 Matthew 25: Ministries  
 Latter-Day Saint Charities  
 Blusource  
 Feed the Children  
 Center for Disaster Philanthropy

Access to quality food is a daily concern for the reservations PWNA serves. Many reservations are also designated “food deserts” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, devoid of fresh fruits and vegetables and with full-service grocery stores often an hour’s drive away. Most reservation communities have food banks, many of which are partners of PWNA, yet the rising demand still creates challenges for an adequate food supply. Overall, this means less access to healthy foods and high rates of nutrition-related diseases, such as diabetes and heart disease.

PWNA has helped address immediate nutritional needs for thousands of Native Americans and established services that offer long-term solutions to food insecurity. Food has always been embedded in all aspects of Native American life – ceremony, family, community, medicine, language and well-being. Today, PWNA is investing in initiatives that help reservation communities spark a return to healthy indigenous diets through increased access to natural foods within their local environment and education around nutrition and food preparation.

PWNA collaborated with several Native American chefs to host six Train-the-Trainer (T3) workshops in 2019, through support from Newman’s Own Foundation. More than 70 individuals in communities from the Southwest and Northern Plains learned how to cook healthy, traditional Native American dishes using easily accessible ingredients – and some participants foraged for the ancestral foods that were used to teach the classes.



Red Shirt is a small community on the northwestern corner of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where the nearest full-service grocery store is 40 miles away. The Elder nutrition center serves hot meals in a congregate setting five days a week, despite limited local shopping. Nine individuals in the community participated in a two-day T3 program to learn about gardening and foraging, food preservation and healthy cooking with local food sources and indigenous recipes. Molina Parker, a Lakota artist who lives on the edge of the Badlands, was among those who participated in the training. Molina took on a catering job for a film crew on the reservation

several months later and fed 15 people two meals a day for a week. Molina credits the T3 training for helping her change the way she works in the kitchen.

PWNA had previously helped establish several multi-year gardening projects on reservations in the Southwest, such as the Nalwoodi Denzhone Community in eastern Arizona. The 80-acre former tree farm is now tended by at-risk youth from the San Carlos Apache Nation. With support from PWNA, they have harvested hundreds of pounds of produce through their community garden and greenhouse, while educating their youth about gardening, nutrition, food production and life skills. The community also launched a farmer’s market for local business owners to showcase their goods and created a commercial kitchen that can be used for cooking demos and food preparation.

PWNA hosted the second Native Youth Food Sovereignty Summit in the sacred Black Hills near Rapid City, South Dakota. Program partners, T3 alumni previously trained by PWNA and staff mentored students from five Northern Plains tribes on wellness, nutrition and Native traditions.

Each of the meals provided during the summit emphasized healthy food choices inspired by traditional indigenous ingredients. The students learned about life celebrations, foraging, sugar, portion control and traditional storytelling and participated in an Indigenous-style cook-off.

Similarly, PWNA highlighted the Native food movement at the 2019 Native American Cultural Celebration at the Museum of Native American History (MONAH). Mark Ford, major gifts and partnerships director for PWNA, co-presented alongside indigenous food activist and natural foods chef Felicia Cocotzin Ruiz. Felicia is a medicine maker and her work is deeply rooted in the healing properties of earth medicines.

On a more immediate level, PWNA delivered food year-round to partners in remote communities, such as senior centers that prepare hot meals and emergency food boxes for Elders as well as food pantries that serve a growing number of families in tribal communities.

*“We are definitely grateful for PWNA and the grant we were awarded in 2016. The funding really helped spark our community garden program that continues to grow each year. Since then, we have been able to establish additional partnerships and collaborations for the sake of agriculture education and food sovereignty in San Carlos.”*

*– Bryce Barnes, board president for the Nalwoodi Denzhone Community on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation in Eastern Arizona*

*“Newman’s Own Foundation has been a proud supporter of Partnership With Native Americans since 2012, and they play a significant role in our [foundation’s] Native American Nutrition Cohort. Their focus on Native American youth has been particularly valuable in helping young people learn the importance of good nutrition and access to fresh produce and healthy foods.”*

*– Faith Fennelly, grants manager for Newman’s Own Foundation in Connecticut*

*Grocery Dive – January 2019*

*“New York City sponsors Green Carts, which are similar to the city’s famed street food vendors but stock produce. In Indian Country, mobile markets have also attempted to help residents gain access to healthy foods, per Partnership with Native Americans.”*

### Native Food Realities:

- 23% of Native American households live with food insecurity.
- Obesity impacts 31% of Native children by the age of 4, primarily due to inadequate nutrition.
- More than 173,000 residents of the Navajo Nation rely on just 13 grocery stores spread across 75,000 square miles.
- Native American families are 400% more likely to report not having enough to eat.
- Many reservation communities are considered food deserts – devoid of fresh fruits, vegetables and other healthy whole foods.
- Indigenous communities are less likely to have access to safe drinking water.

### Native Food Impact:

- **23,162** Native American families received food delivered to our pantry partners.
- **11,698** Elders received meals through our senior center food service.
- **11,545** people participated in holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- **3,947** Elders received emergency food boxes or breakfast foods.
- **571** people received training on nutrition and healthy cooking through our Train-the-Trainer workshops.

### Native Food Supporters:

*Thank you for supporting food access and Native American food sovereignty:*

Newman’s Own Foundation  
 Matthew 25: Ministries  
 Latter-Day Saint Charities  
 Blusource  
 Feed the Children  
 Felicia Ruiz Cocotzin (*the Kitchen Curandera*)  
 Sean Sherman (*the Sioux Chef*)  
 Chef Inyan Eagle Elk  
 Chef Nephi Craig  
 Chef Karlos Baca  
 Chef Tina Archuleta

## Healthy Native Communities

Native Americans endure a legacy of healthcare disparities and high disease rates. One in four Native Americans also lives in poverty and the resulting emotional and environmental factors often contribute to poor health. Unfortunately, medical care in reservation communities is limited to that provided through Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics, which are severely underfunded and understaffed and primarily focused on crisis care. In environments like these, even the holidays can take a toll on health.

Community health risks can also arise from overpopulation of stray animals in reservation communities. The Navajo Nation alone has as many as 6,000 stray dogs and cats. Animals are an integral part of Native cultures, but many families cannot afford to care for the animals as they would like, resulting in stray animal bites, rabies and the spread of diseases. Even more alarming, border town inhabitants often dump unwanted animals on tribal lands, leaving them to wander the reservations homeless and hungry.

PWNA's Northern Plains Reservation Aid (NPRA) and Southwest Reservation Aid (SWRA) programs help support tribal programs that address preventative care, such as health screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, tuberculosis and cancer; immunizations; pre-natal care and more. Reservation partners who organize community health fairs, flu clinics and educational opportunities are also critical to the cause, along with community health representatives (CHRs) who serve as a lifeline to those who are elderly or homebound. Personal hygiene products and other items we provide help boost proactive tribal health programs.



Our Reservation Animal Rescue (RAR) program supports partners who rescue, rehabilitate and place stray or injured animals in foster care or forever homes. RAR also subsidizes low-cost spay/neuter and vaccinations and supports education on proper animal care. For the past three years, PWNA has partnered with the Tuba City Humane Society (TCHS) in Flagstaff, Arizona to address the high volume of strays on the Navajo Nation. TCHS is led by an all-volunteer group, and with RAR support, veterinary bills are no longer a constant concern and more than 1,200 animals have been helped since 2016.

Aside from year-round efforts to promote healthy living, PWNA's annual holiday services help our reservation partners spread cheer and positive engagement at times when many families are experiencing additional stress and disenfranchisement. PWNA and volunteers fill stockings with practical items to



meet immediate needs, such as emergency blankets and toiletries for Elders and games and markers for children. In some communities, PWNA sponsors a visit from Santa Claus to deliver the stockings himself. In 2019, he visited the Navajo communities of Shonto, Dennehotso and Window Rock.

*"[Without us and the support from PWNA], there would be no one around to continue the work – seniors would be home alone."*

*– Susie, manager of the Round Rock Senior Center on the Navajo Nation in Arizona*

*"Thank you for all your donations. Every little thing I get [for the holidays] is just a joy to my little family. And it lets me prepare for what's coming next."*

*– C.C., participant of the Wingate FACE Program in New Mexico*

*"The support of PWNA and Reservation Animal Rescue over the past three years has been crucial to our mission of rescuing and rehabilitating as many homeless animals as possible on the western Navajo Nation. We are grateful to have the support of this vital program so that we can continue our efforts and provide resources in our community – where the need is extremely high."*

*– Rose Z. Moonwater, partner from the Tuba City Humane Society in Flagstaff, Arizona*

*Bustle – October 2019*

*"Nonprofits often devote a lot of energy to fundraising, and every little bit of proactive help can go a long way... Partnership With Native Americans, according to its website, has been working with reservation partners for [25+] years. They support reservations through a long list of programs, which can be found on the group's website."*



### Healthy Living Realities:

- Diabetes did not exist for Native Americans until the U.S. mandated the reservation system and food commodities – today, they have the highest rate of diabetes in the world.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for Native Americans, largely from lack of access to healthy foods.
- Native Americans are more likely to have health problems from contaminated water.
- Overpopulation of stray animals is a health concern for some reservation communities, posing as much of a health threat to the residents as to the animals.
- Partners in impoverished reservation communities help spread holiday cheer among families who are financially stressed and unable to afford special meals, let alone gifts.

### Healthy Living Impact:

- **138,198** people received incentive items for completing health education and home care visits.
- **24,508** people received incentive items for attending community events such as health fairs or flu clinics.
- **20,513** Native American Elders and children received gifts through our holiday services.
- **2,814** animals benefited from nearly **15,000** pounds of supplies provided to our RAR partners.
- **371** animals received spay/neuter services through our RAR partners.

### Healthy Living Supporters:

*Thank you for supporting healthy communities for the people and the four-leggeds:*

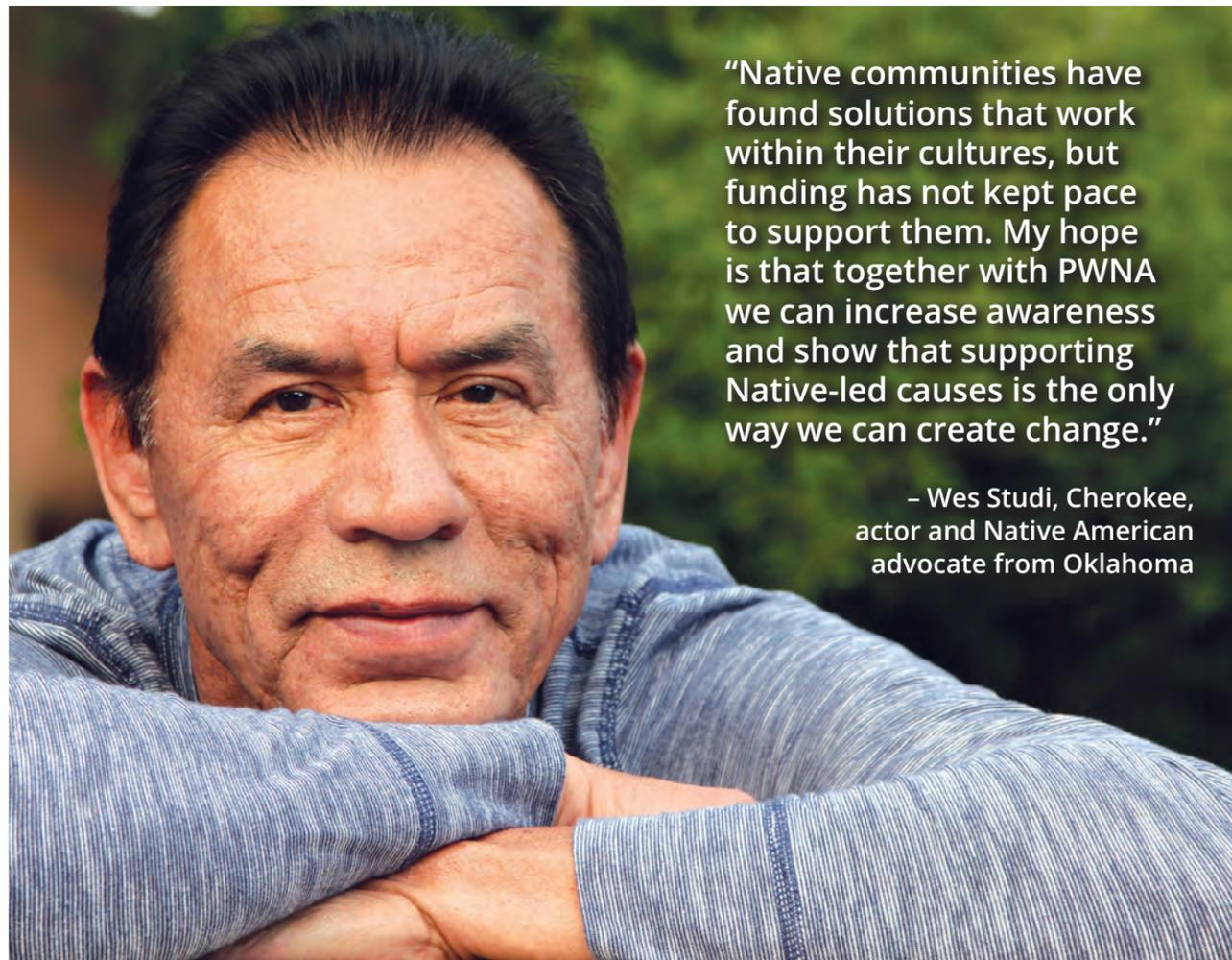
Matthew 25: Ministries  
Latter-Day Saint Charities  
Blusource  
Feed the Children  
Regent Products

## Public Awareness of Indian Country

Misconceptions by the public have plagued Native American communities with limited resources and funding for centuries. Many people believe the U.S. government meets the needs of Native Americans under existing treaties — including free housing, healthcare, education and food, as well as freedom from taxes and distribution of government checks every month. The reality is that many federal treaty obligations are unmet and almost always underfunded – and nearly every treaty has been broken by the U.S., leaving many Native families to struggle economically.

PWNA made a concerted effort to change those perceptions in 2019, securing a three-year partnership with legendary actor Wes Studi. Wes is a Cherokee-American who has long advocated for giving attention to the critical disparities that Native nations face in the U.S. As part of his new outreach partnership with PWNA, Wes starred in a public service announcement (PSA) series aimed at educating the public by dispelling the myths.

The five-part Realities Video Series with Wes Studi includes an accurate portrayal of life on the reservations and dispels long-held myths that continue to impact Native communities today. Studi discusses history and treaties, education dreams and disparities, and casino economics, as well as the lack of charitable funding for Native communities, some of which mirror developing countries with lack of Internet, clean water and adequate housing. The video series has received more than 10,000 views to date and can be viewed for free online at [NativePartnership.org/PSA](http://NativePartnership.org/PSA).



The partnership and video series were announced by Wes and PWNA at a press conference during the third annual Native American Cultural Celebration hosted by MONAH in Bentonville, Arkansas. MONAH recognized the occasion with Wes as one of the highlights of its yearly celebration. Following the announcement, PWNA also hosted a private reception for Studi in Los Angeles to celebrate his Honorary Oscar achievement from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, with the support of Paramount Pictures.



*Cowboys & Indians Magazine – October 2019*  
*“Meanwhile, Studi has collaborated with the national nonprofit Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) for a new series of public service announcements highlighting realities on reservations and the need for giving. The five-part series addresses widely held misconceptions of Native American people, history, and funding. In it, Studi discusses history and treaties, realities on the reservations, education dreams and disparities, casino economics, and the lack of charitable giving for Native causes and communities, some of which mirror third-world conditions.”*

### Public Awareness Realities:

- Many people believe Native Americans receive significant government aid, such as free housing, education and healthcare – but that’s often not the case.
- Casino revenue is not a solution either – only 15% of tribes in the U.S. prosper from gaming.
- Lack of jobs and funding for social services due to broken treaty promises has created economic hardships and social inequities in Indian Country.
- 29% of employed Native Americans still live below the national poverty level.

### Public Awareness Impact:

- 5 videos were produced with actor Wes Studi to raise awareness about the realities of life on the reservations.
- 41 news stories were garnered in 2019 to raise awareness of reservation realities and the need for our work.
- More than 550,000 views were generated on our website.
- More than 37,000 engagements were inspired by our social shares.
- Quality of life was improved for 250,000 Native Americans.

### Public Awareness Supporters:

*Thank you for supporting awareness of realities on the reservations:*

Wes Studi  
 Paramount Pictures  
 Museum of Native American History  
 Baerclaw Productions  
 Institute of American Indian Arts  
 Picuris Pueblo  
 Kewa Pueblo

### Take Action:

- Raise awareness of reservation realities by referring people to PWNA.
- Share on social media the need to increase giving for Native American causes.

[www.nativepartnership.org](http://www.nativepartnership.org)

@PWNA4hope



## Thank You to Donors

### Many Hands, One Mission.

This past year, we addressed the most pressing needs of our reservation partners and supported community-led projects for long-term, sustainable impact. PWNA was fortunate to have the heartfelt support of approximately 250,000 individual donors who care about quality of life for Native Americans. We are grateful for our "Circle of Friends" members who make monthly gifts, and our "Heritage Circle" members who've chosen to leave behind legacy gifts in their wills for our organization.

We also recognize the support from our in-kind donors and community partners who are aware of the economic realities on the reservations we serve, along with growing collaborative support from other humanitarian organizations.

We sincerely thank each of our supporters for believing in our mission and championing hope for the Native American people who count on us every day to help their communities. Your generosity and care allow us to provide the right goods to address immediate needs and the right services to support sustainable solutions. Together with you and our program partners, we improve the lives of a quarter of a million Native people a year.

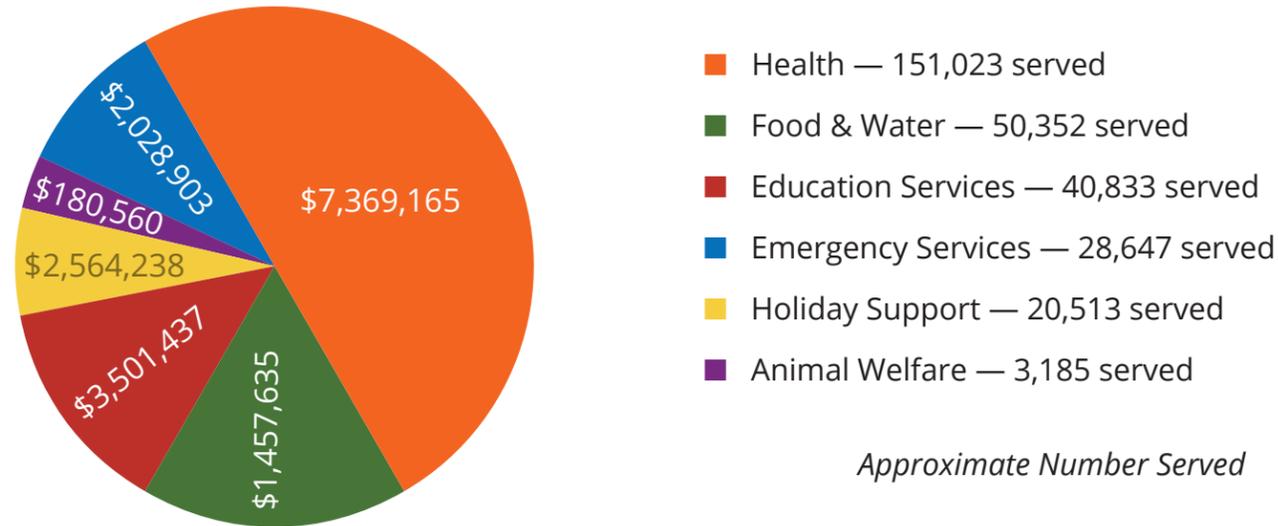
*"I've had the opportunity to work with PWNA as one of their many fundraising partners for several years. Since my first meeting with this group almost 30 years ago, the growth and spread of their message and mission has been nothing short of miraculous. I strongly believe this growth comes from the integrity and pride PWNA demonstrates when sharing their message of hope with the public. There are so many nonprofits today that attempt to guilt you into their fold, but PWNA educates and informs people of the realities Native Americans face in today's world. This is definitely a message to get behind and a mission to support!"*

*- Randy Pence, fundraising partner from Legacy Mail Management in Mount Pleasant, Iowa*

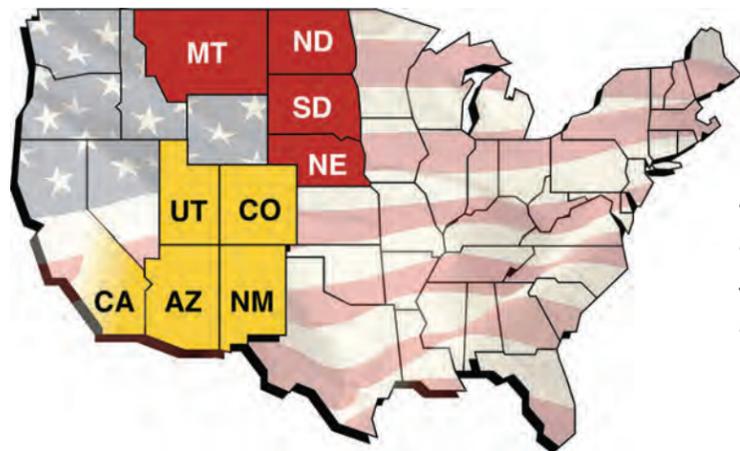


# Program Services

## Aid by Major Program



## Priority Service Area



Scholarships are offered nationwide and other services are focused in 9 priority states.

## PWNA Programs



To learn more, visit [bit.ly/PWNAprograms](https://bit.ly/PWNAprograms)

# Financials

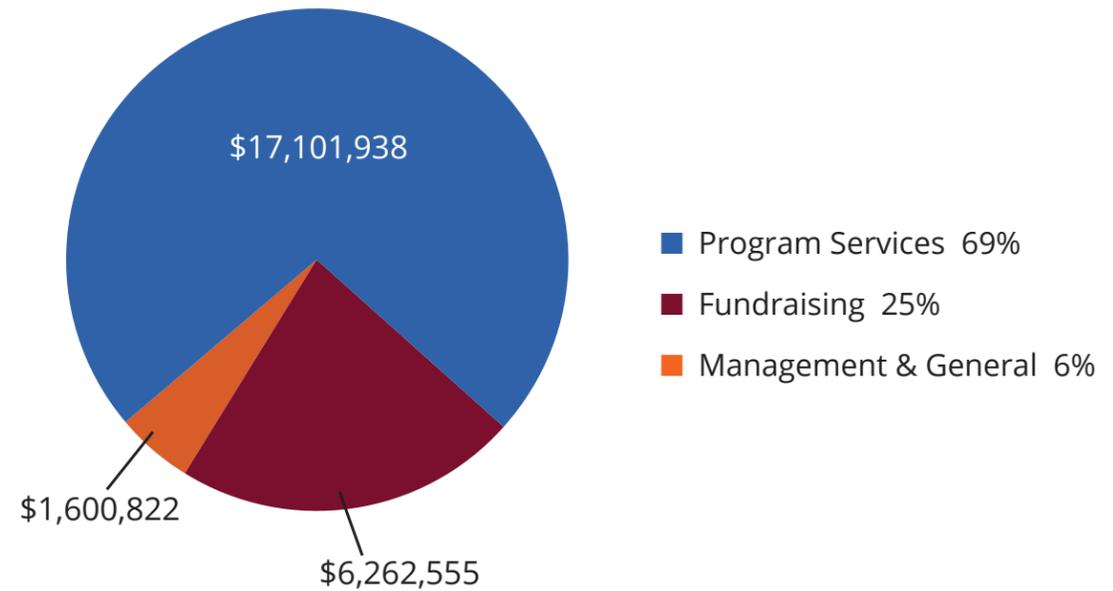
## Statement of Activities

Revenue	
Non-Cash Contributions	\$9,794,768
Contributions and Grants	14,042,852
Other Revenues, Net	239,816
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>24,077,436</b>
Expense	
Plains Region	7,884,455
Southwest Region	8,145,351
Education & Long Term Solutions	1,072,132
<b>Total Program Expense</b>	<b>17,101,938</b>
Management and General	1,600,822
Fundraising Expense	6,262,555
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>24,965,315</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$(887,879)</u></b>

## Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$2,732,504
Accounts Receivable	725,703
Inventory	8,358,850
Investments	72,567
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	267,975
Property & Equipment, net	5,414,208
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>17,571,807</b>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	397,435
Accrued Expenses	318,214
Deferred Revenue	134,015
Annuities Payable	994
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>850,658</b>
Net Assets	
Net Assets without donor restriction	15,995,776
Net Assets with donor restriction	725,373
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>16,721,149</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$17,571,807</u></b>

## Percentages Data



PWNA voluntarily meets all 20 Standards of Charity Accountability

 **Meet Joshua Arce**

**Introducing Joshua Arce,  
President & CEO**

PWNA announced the appointment of its new president and chief executive officer (CEO) at the end of 2019. Joshua Arce, a former PWNA board member, joined the organization following the retirement of PWNA's former chief executive Robbi Rice Dietrich.

Arce is a citizen of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and brings more than 20 years' experience in education management, social work and business development to PWNA. He most recently served as the first chief information officer (CIO) of Haskell Indian Nations University and spent the past 12 years advancing IT infrastructure and services to better meet the needs of its Native students.

Arce actively supports the advancement of Native communities and formerly served as a volunteer of the court-based Citizen Review Board and the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Board's Inclusion, Diversity and Equity committee, and Board member of the Citizen Review Panel of Kansas for child welfare.



*"I am both honored and thrilled by the opportunity to work for Partnership With Native Americans. The current board and staff have charted a path for success and positioned PWNA with the credibility and relationships to positively impact Native communities. I deeply appreciate their work and look forward to leading PWNA in this next chapter."*

*– Joshua Arce, PWNA headquarters in Texas*

 **Leadership**

**Meet Our 2020 Board**

The dedicated members of our Board of Directors administer the strategic direction of PWNA and govern our organization's management and finances. Each one of these individuals is passionate about improving the quality of life for Native Americans and generously volunteers their time and knowledge to help PWNA achieve its mission and vision with impact and integrity. Please visit [www.nativepartnership.org/directors](http://www.nativepartnership.org/directors) for more information on our governance team.

**OFFICERS**



**Christina Kazhe**  
Chairman

Attorney with expertise in tribal law, public policy, nonprofit leadership

Tribal affiliation:  
Navajo, Mescalero Apache



**Jackie Blackbird**  
Vice Chairman

Program manager with expertise in community partnerships, youth services, diversity and inclusion

Tribal affiliation:  
Gros Ventre and Assiniboine



**Ann Marie Woessner Collins**  
Treasurer

Executive vice president with expertise in finance, business development, economic sustainability



**Kevin Diepholz**  
Secretary

Retired business developer with expertise in international business, reservation realities

**OTHER MEMBERS**



**Nikki Pitre**

Program manager with expertise in Native youth development, program strategy, advocacy

Tribal affiliation:  
Coeur d'Alene



**Corey Mzhickteno**

Retired military professional with expertise in tribal business operations, governance, business upgrade

Tribal affiliation:  
Prairie Band Potawatomi and Citizen Band Potawatomi



**Raymond King**

Executive director with expertise in operations, financial management, and capacity building

Tribal affiliation:  
Assiniboine Sioux

## A Trusted Partner & Resource for the Reservations

PWNA ensures immediate impact by providing critical goods and services such as food, water and emergency supplies, while also supporting long-term solutions for nutrition, education and self-sufficiency. We involve tribal community members in the delivery of our services, challenging dependency and poverty while simultaneously supporting new resources and sustainable change in Native communities. This approach means our year-round network of reservation partners and their volunteers have a direct hand in improving the lives of those they care about most – those within their own tribal communities.

### Now in our 30th year, PWNA continues to be a go-to resource for solutions-oriented philanthropy in Native American communities through:

- ✓ Maintaining its commitment as a Native-led and Native-serving organization
- ✓ Partnering with program partners in hundreds of reservation communities to improve quality of life for 250,000 Native Americans each year
- ✓ Supporting the self-determined needs of individual communities through the delivery of goods, services and support specifically requested by our reservation partners
- ✓ Operating two 40,000 sq. ft. distribution facilities and driving 200,000 miles each year to deliver about five million pounds of high-need products and support tribal partners
- ✓ Earning Industry-level acknowledgements for donor confidence, including:
  - Accreditation by the BBB Wise Giving Alliance
  - GuideStar Platinum Exchange Member status with maximum transparency to donors
  - Ten years as a Top-Rated Nonprofit based on donor, partner and collaborator reviews
  - Ten years as an approved national charity for the Combined Federal Campaign



**The most important thing PWNA provides is hope.**

*Serving immediate needs, supporting long-term solutions in hundreds of tribal communities.*

