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Honga : the leader, v. 04, no. 01

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

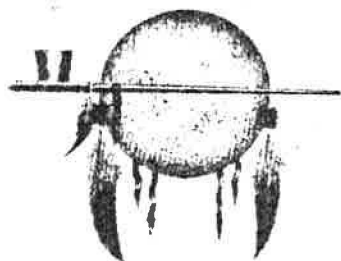
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HONGA

"THE LEADER"

VOL. IV - No. 1

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

JANUARY 1981

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We would like to welcome and thank all the readers of our Indian Newsletter which is published monthly.

Since our last newsletter went to press, there have been some very interesting activities in our Nation, State, city and reservations involving our Indian peoples. Through the efforts of the American Indian Center staff and board of directors, we shall keep you abreast of these ongoing activities as they occur on a monthly basis.

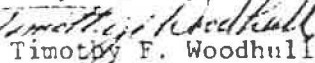
Starting this new year off is our SEDS Department developing plans and strategies to apply for and attract County, State and Federal monies to construct a new American Indian Center for our Indian community. Also to implement numerous management systems to enhance efficiency and effectiveness for our Center.

The American Indian Center and Orphan Aides are happy to announce the forthcoming "Traditional Spring Dance" scheduled for March 21, 1981. All Indian organizations, clubs and Indian community members are cordially invited to attend and support our Tuesday night meetings, held every week at 7:00 P.M.

The Indian CETA Program will be starting in early February. All those wishing more information, please contact Mr. Clyde Tyn-dall, Administrative Assistant.

Remember, this is your Indian Center, we encourage you to make it work for you.

Respectfully,


Timothy F. Woodhull
Executive Director

Member, Nebraska Indian Commission



VICTOR DANIELS ACCEPTED AT BOYSTOWN

Under the auspices of the American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., Victor (12) youngest son of Teresa Crispin of 1611 Castelar has been accepted at Boystown, one of the most famous of all schools for boys in the world. Boystown is noted for providing a quality education and turning out young men of the finest caliber. These men usually go on to serve and contribute to the betterment of their community. We are sure Victor will become an outstanding student and citizen and we at the American Indian Center wish him the very best!



WORDS FROM OUR ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM DIRECTOR By Nate J. Parker

Several weeks back a traditional Native American Church Ceremony was conducted by Mr. Joseph Kemp and Family in their home. This two day Prayer Session was sponsored by the American Indian Center Alcoholism Program in behalf of it's Indian clients. The last half of 1980 marked the first time that Cultural Religion and Prayer Therapy became a regular part of our client treatment plans. The Program has turned to our Indian Religion as one of the vital answers for our people desiring total abstinence from alcohol.

We witness too many problems in our lives today because we have drifted from our traditional ways taught to us by our Elders. The year 1980 has seen many of our Indian people fall prey to drinking and alcoholism. Let us fight back and begin to win this war in 1981. The A.I.C. Alcoholism Program wants you to step forward. If you or a loved one is in search of sobriety and a better way of life, you should contact an Al-

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could hurt the nutritional well being of our community.

It is very important that the Indian community contact by phone or letter our United States Representatives. The Representatives need to be told how important the food stamp program is to the nutritional well-being of our community. For more information contact the American Indian Center.

Addresses & Phone Numbers:

Sen. Edward Zorinsky 221-4381
Sen. J. James Exon 221-4365
Cong. Hal Daub 221-4216

All located at Fed. Bldg., 215 N. 17th St., Omaha, NE 68102.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY OF 1980.

By Ellan Cunningham

On December 24, 1980 the American Indian Center held a Christmas Party for the kiddies. There was an estimated 178 children that attended the Christmas festivities. We held a Christmas Carol Singing Contest with groups of five. Each group sang their favorite Christmas Tune and the best singing rendition received a five (5) dollar prize. Other activities included a Raffle between youngsters 9-14. Seventeen special gifts were given to the lucky winners.

Last, but not least, the Main Event featured a surprise visit from Santa Claus. Santa handed each child a present and a big bag of candy.

So until next year my friends, hope you all had a joyous and very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

SANTEE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM VISITS OMAHA.

On December 12, the Santee Sioux Basketball Teams (Boys' Varsity, Boys' Jr. Varsity, and Girls' Varsity) came to Omaha to play Omaha Brownell-Talbot High. The Boys' Varsity Team and Coach spent the night before the game at the American Indian Center's Halfway House. It is seldom the Indian Center is able to host athletic teams from the reservations and Mr. Nate Parker, Program Director of the Halfway House went out of his way to assist the team in whatever way he could to insure their stay was a comfortable relaxing one. We were happy to extend a helping hand to these young Ambassadors of Good Will. We wish them well in their coming Basketball Season and hope for many wins.

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coholism Treatment Center. Your concern and inquiries will be held in the strictest confidence. This will indeed be your first step forward.

Though our Agency would like to see more success than failures in our program, our records and experience of the past year remind us strongly that we must increase our efforts. Our services must become better known and accepted by our Indian community who are struggling for sobriety. Throughout the past year we have seen Program and Service Improvements in the following:

- I. Inpatient Treatment
- II. Outpatient Counseling
- III. Halfway House Operations
- IV. Client Referred & Placement

The Alcoholism Program staff and other officials have also planned support activities to the client which include Religious opportunities, Social and Recreational activities and various Educational Field trips. It is our intent to offer to the client every reason and opportunity to quit drinking and to win this often fatal battle. Join our efforts now. Your views and suggestions may help us provide better quality service to our Indian people. Help us get the word out in 1981, Alcoholism and all its related problems are not to be ignored, to do so represents failure for those who might turn to us. Today, there is no where to hide, the problem is real and we must work together to seek solutions and methods to wipe out alcoholism, drug abuse and sniffing.

The A.I.C. Alcoholism Program has come along way, we have served many of our people and we look forward to the challenge of 1981. Our schedules include traditional monthly Sweat Lodge Ceremonies and Quarterly Native American Church Services. We will combine our Cultural and Traditional methods with the non-Indian practice of "AA" as each of us search for the best answers to achieve total sobriety. I urge you to learn more about our Program and its services, it is truly a Program for the People. It is a Program to be proud of, understand it and help us make it work so others may live. I wish each of you a Happy New Year and that 1981 will bring all of us rich blessings and strength from the "Great Spirit."

With respect,

Nate Parker

Nate Parker, Alcoholism Program Director

INDIAN CULTURE SPEAKERS AVAILABLE
By Joan Garey

The American Indian Center would like to welcome our two volunteer speakers, Gwynn Nugent and Glenna Slater. They have been speaking on historical and contemporary American Indian Culture and Tradition. If you know of any interested parties who would like to have these two ladies speak on American Indian subjects, please contact the Indian Center.

OMAHA TRIBE GIVEN GRANTS FOR EDUCATION (World-Herald Bureau)

Washington - The Omaha Indian Tribe has received two federal grants totaling \$208,495 for improving Indian education, the U.S. Education Department announced.

The tribe, based in Macy, Neb., has received \$120,837 for a parent-child preschool education program and \$87,658 to improve educational services for Indian adults.

A.I.C.O. PROGRAM STATISTICS FOR FY 80 COMPLETED.
By Clyde Tyndall

The American Indian Center's Final Client Services Intake Statistical Report has just been finished for Fiscal Year 1980. This report is for all programs for the past year from October 1979 to September 1980. It should be noted that a few of the programs did not start in October 1979, however A.I.C.O. bases it's Fiscal Year from October to September of the following year. These statistics give us an accurate perspective of just how we are serving the Indian community.

FY 80 Client Statistics:

	<u>clients</u>
AICO Alcoholism Program	467
Emergency Crisis	185
Legal Services	194
Health Recruitment	79
Health & Nutrition	831
Adult Basic Education	7
Youth Services	175
Standing Bear	516
Total Clients Assisted	2,454
Total Services Provided	2,028

Often one service was provided for more than one client, e.g., transportation for six clients. This explains services being counted as lower than clients.

POW-WOW NEWS By Raymond Wells

There will be a fund raising dance for Kelly Grant at Macy, Neb. January 24. Kelly is a trumpet player and plans to tour Europe later this year. The dance is open to the public. The Orphan Aides Club has received a Special Invitation to this dance. For further information contact Mitchell Sheridan in Macy at (402) 837-5381.

A Pow-wow will be held at Flandreau, SD January 31. There will be no prize money, just general dancing. Another pow-wow will be held at Marty, SD February 21, 22. This will be similar to the one at Flandreau. For further information on these pow-wows, you can contact the Indian Center at 344-0111.

CHILI DINNER HELD AT A.I.C.O., DEC. 18.
By Joan Garey

A fund raising Pot-Luck Dinner was held by the UNO students and Urban Indian Culture Club at the American Indian Center. Proceeds went to help pay for the Omaha Pow-wow. Everyone enjoyed themselves and about one-hundred (100) hundred people showed up for the dinner.

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING SITE AT THE AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER.
By Sue Armstrong, Douglas Health Department

Are you high? Do you know your blood pressure? High blood pressure is a widespread, serious problem that contributes to hundreds of thousands of deaths each year. High blood pressure is known as the "Silent Killer", since it has no symptoms. Estimates are that 1 out of 7 Americans have high blood pressure - even higher in minority populations. Find out your blood pressure at the Omaha-Douglas County Health Department sponsored High Blood Pressure Site at the American Indian Center of Omaha, January 13, from 1 P.M. to 8 P.M. Later dates will be annouced.

Of special interest to the Indian community: during the January Omaha Pow-wow held recently, 79 people took their High Blood Pressure Tests and only 4 had high elevation readings. Thank you all who participated in the tests!

If your reading is high, and you are not able to pay torsee a doctor, the Douglas County worker will arrange to have your fee paid through social services.