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Honga : the leader, v. 06, no. 08

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.
TO THE INDIAN COMMUNITY OF OMAHA

On behalf of the AICO Board of Directors, I would like to inform the Indian community about a circumstance concerning the recent election. A majority of the Board voted that proper procedures were not followed according to the Nepotism Provision of our Constitution By-laws. Consequently, on August 27, 1983, a re-election will be held at Hanscom Park. Those who wish to know more about this new election should contact AICO's Administrative Offices, where petitions for Board candidacy are also available. The deadline for filing petitions is 5:00 P.M., on August 26th.

Also, I would like to encourage the members of our Indian community, especially those who are interested in becoming board members, to get involved with their Indian Center. Please remember to cast your ballot in our upcoming election on Saturday, August 27th.

Finally, I feel that if the Indian community would contribute its time, effort, experience and support, the American Indian Center of Omaha could be an Indian center of which we could be proud. That is one of our goals for the future.

Respectfully,

Violet Gladfelter
President Board of Directors
American Indian Center

-----PLEASE VOTE-----

SOCIAL SERVICES

Basic emergency services, such as medical assistance, temporary shelter, clothing, transportation, utility assistance, and infant supplies, are still available to the Indian community through referrals only. In addition, Food Stamp assistance, General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, ADC, and Veterans' Assistance information is also provided. Clients requesting assistance will be required to fill out a basic referral form and a telephone call will be made to the appropriate agency to insure that all clients receive assistance.

BOARD ELECTION

Please note that the election for three new members to serve on the AICO Board of Directors will be on August 27 (Saturday), from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon, at the American Indian Center, 613 South 16th Street. At 12:00 Noon, the election site will move to the Hanscom Park Pavilion at 2000 Park Avenue, and will be at this location until 8:00 P.M.

Community members can register and vote until 8:00 P.M. on August 27th. This is to insure that more community members are given the chance to vote.

Keep in mind that you must have been a resident of Omaha for at least six months before you can register to vote, and you must be at least eighteen years of age.

---PLEASE VOTE---
For Native Americans, grassroots fundraising means the revival of our traditional way of life in which the members of the community were united in helping each other. In the past, we were willing and able to help anyone in need, without being asked. It was a part of our character to make certain that everyone in the community had what he needed. We would get together to build a house, harvest the fields, or provide necessities for those who had lost their belongings. This made us self-sufficient. There was no need to pay insurance premiums, for the community was our security.

Unfortunately, the introduction of federal money into our communities brought the destruction of this way of life. The tribal councils and urban Indian Centers became responsible for doing everything from distributing funds to providing social programs. This changed the structure of the community by shifting responsibilities away from the community members themselves. People began to put a dollar value on their skills and were no longer willing to give freely of their time. Eventually, the sense of mutual sharing and support was lost, and we were no longer able to take care of one another.

Now, just as we have become so dependent on government funds, these funds and the programs they support have been severely cut, creating hardships for people who have no other means of support. But something good could come out of it. We could now see this as an opportunity to revive the sense of community responsibility and involvement that was once very strong. Grassroots fundraising, which can consist of such projects as raffles, auctions, concerts, bake sales, marathons, handgames, frybread sales, dinners, and ad books, is one way to retrieve our community spirit.

It will take hard work, time, commitment and planning, but grassroots fundraising will help to make us strong and self-reliant because we will be able to use our most creative ideas. Further, we won't have to cater to the whims of outside agencies in order to receive the money we need. And, equally important, we won't have to worry about losing our projects because funds have been cut back, as has happened under the Reagan Administration.

Grassroots fundraising is a means of giving us hope for the future of the community. It will help us to hold onto our values, promote our dreams, and learn to work together once again. With grassroots fundraising, we have a chance to create the kind of future, both for ourselves and our children, in which we would like to live.

Editor's note: The preceding article was reprinted from NATIVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY December 1982. In view of the cutbacks (or outright elimination) of Federal funding for urban Indian programs, the editors strongly believe that AICO and the entire Indian community in Omaha must engage in "grass-roots" fundraising, if our goal of self-sufficiency is to be achieved. As the article suggests, "grass-roots" fundraising truly gives us the opportunity to control our own destiny. If you have any ideas for fundraising projects, or if you would be willing to help in any way, please get in touch with us.

CETA EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

The Lincoln Ceta Program has been in operation since February. The Omaha Outreach Office of this program is located on the first floor of AICO's Administrative Offices at 613 South 16th Street. The requirements for the program are:

1. You must be Native American, and have your birth certificate, enrollment form, and enrollment card number.

Continued on Page 3
2. You must be economically disadvantaged and fit income criteria.

Training

The Ceta Program has fifteen (15) participants in training at Metro-Tech, O.I.C., and Northern Systems. On-the-job training is being offered at the Buffalo Printing Company. There were over 78 applicants who applied for training positions, but due to the lack of necessary funding we were not able to provide training for everyone.

Employment

The Employment Program has been referring prospective candidates to the Fireman's Fund Insurance Company. To date, four (4) have been placed in employment. If you are interested in finding a job, contact the Ceta Program. The Program receives a daily listing of openings from the Nebraska Job Service and other agencies.

TITLE IV INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWS:

To Indian Parents, Students and Community,

As many of you know, I became Project Director of the Office of Indian Education for Omaha Public Schools during October 1981. At that time this office was in the Department of Student Personnel Services, 3819 Jones Street, under the supervision of Dr. Rene Hlavac.

During October 1982, the new superintendent (Dr. Jack Taylor), moved our office to the Department of Instructional Services, 3219 Cuming Street, under the supervision of Dr. Craig Fullerton.

During the time this office was in the Department of Student Personnel Services, the only activity that was encouraged was evening Native American Arts & Crafts classes.

However, beginning in October 1982, this office has made the following major accomplishments:

- Indian Education moved to Instruction Dept. - October 7, 1982.
- Dr. Taylor addressed Indian Community - December 18, 1982.
- Parent Committee Training - April 9, 1983.
- In-Service Training for District Personnel - May 9, 1983.
- High School students visit UNL Campus - May 13, 1983.
- Senior Recognition Night - May 17, 1983.
- Parent-Student Field Day - June 24, 1983.
- Nine of sixteen seniors on to higher education - 1983-84.
- Staff gave sixteen cultural presentations to students and community - 1982-83.
- In-Service training for District Personnel by Indian professionals put in district Staff Development Manual - 1983-84.
- American Indian Studies Course at Tech High - 1983-84.
- Instructor for this course has attended the American Indian Curriculum Institute - June 1983; also has attended the Newberry Library Summer Institute for American Indian History - July 1983.

This office will continue to develop American Indian curriculum at all levels; provide in-service training for district personnel; provide workshops for Indian parents and students; promote higher education/career development; and advocate for hiring of American Indian teachers. A long-range goal is the development of a gifted and talented program for Indian students with an emphasis on the cultural realm.

Submitted by Fred Buckles, Director
OPS Title IV Indian Education Program
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The acquisition and renovation of the Kent Apartments (832-34 South 24th Street and 907-11 South 25th Street) remains the chief focus of the Community Development Department. The architectural firm of Bahr, Vermeer and Haecker is already at work on the plans for the renovation of the Florentine Apartment building (on 25th St.). AICO selected this firm not only because it has a long record of successful renovation projects, but also because it has on its staff the only Native American architect in Omaha. Mr. Wally Ashley, a Standing Rock Sioux, will serve as the primary architect for this project. Welcome on board, Wally!

The most difficult part of the project is, as always, the financing. The $1.4 million dollar price tag for this project means that it is AICO's most ambitious undertaking to date. With substantial support from the city's Housing and Community Development Department, AICO has been able to attract private investors to the project, and we are now half-way toward our financial goal. Presently we have several grant and loan applications pending. If these are approved we could begin work as early as this October. Keep your fingers crossed!

One thing we would like to ask of our readers is suggestions for a new Native American name for the Kent Apartments. We hope to have a little contest with prize money for the best name, so be thinking about it. We'll announce the details of the contest in next month's newsletter. In the meantime, if anyone wishes further information about the Kent Apartment project, please contact our Community Development Director, Brian Victoria, at AICO's administrative offices.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Based on a non-existing budget, AICO has created a Youth Activity Program, which includes the Free CETA Summer Youth and Handicapped Lunch Program. These programs began and were sponsored by AICO from the second week of June through the second week of July. Eventually we moved the lunch site to Mason School.

Brian Victoria, Clyde Tyndall, and myself all realized that by moving to Mason School, we would be able to serve more children, and this has turned out to be very true. The participation has increased fifty percent, bringing the total amount of children involved to 80 per day. We've served nearly 1400 lunches to date. Brian's fundraising efforts, phone calls to O.P.S. and the U.S.-D.A. Field Office at Lincoln, were very instrumental in making this all possible.

Following the daily lunch, the children have a recreation period. Mr. Jerry Parks and the City Parks Department have given me their full cooperation in the form of schedules and equipment for the remainder of the summer. Swimming is also included, and swimming dates and locations will be posted at the lunch site.

Clyde Tyndall also made a welcome contribution. The City of Omaha consented to his request to pay insurance coverage needed at Mason School, including both Liability and Personal Injury. The City is funding the Indian Child Welfare Program, of which Clyde is director.

Brian's fund drive resulted in contributions from the Bird Foundation and Columbus Park businesses, plus a contribution of toys from Ex-cell Novelties on South 24th Street.

We thank you, the Native American community, for allowing your children to participate in the activities that we have provided for them.

Please remember that our program will continue until Friday, August 26th at Mason School, 1010 South 24th Street. We serve lunches from 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. I sincerely hope all of our Indian children can participate in this program.

Respectfully,
Wayne R. Webster
AN APPEAL FROM WARREN DITTRICH

Dear Indian Community:

This letter is a direct appeal to the Indian community of this country. The help I need is a donation of your time, to sit down and write a letter on my behalf to: Quin Denvir, California State Defender, 107 South Broadway, Suite 9111, Los Angeles, California 90012-4655. The phone number is (213) 620-5402.

I am an Anishanabi/Bohemian skin, presently in Folsom Prison. I was arrested on April 12, 1982, for the April fifth shooting death of a LaPuente California man. I was tried and convicted. At sentencing, the judge stated, "I believe there is a reasonable doubt as to whether or not the defendant personally used the firearm, and pursuant to 1181.6, I will strike the enhancement found for personal use." Under California law, a jury found me guilty of second degree murder with personal use of a firearm. The trial judge modified the jury's verdict, saying, in fact, that I did not commit the crime, and has a theory I am an accessory. Yet I am the only person, to date, ever arrested, charged, and convicted of the crime. I had no co-defendants but myself. I know how Leonard Peltier feels.

I am presently appealing my conviction, and the State Public Defender's Office is assigned to assist me on appeal. After several discussions with the Indian brothers here at Folsom Prison, about the quality of legal assistance they received from various court-appointed lawyers, they urged me to seek outside help if I expected another chance in the courts. So upon sound advice, I would like you all to take a few minutes to sit down and write Mr. Quin Denvir, and let him know he and his colleagues are under the watchful eye of the Indian community of this country to see that his office represents me to the fullest of its professional capacity. If researched, prepared, and presented properly, my case will be granted another trial.

I am not guilty. But I am poor, with no defense funds behind me, nor hope of attaining the big bucks it would require to hire a high-power appeals attorney. I am somebody. I am a human being willing to fight for my freedom and not let myself be regarded as just another case. I am imploring you to please give me some assistance in my plight. Your few minutes to write expressing your concern for me can literally save me many years of wasting in prison for a crime of which I am not guilty. When you write, refer to the People vs. Dittrich. My appeal will go to court in August or September, 1983, due to crowded courts in the L.A. area.

"May the Great Spirit watch over us all."

MeQuetch,
Warren A. Dittrich
P.O. Box C 60819
Represa, CA. 95671

People vs. Dittrich
2nd Crim. #44099

Buffalo Printing Company

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FOUR WINDS ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM

The Four Winds Alcoholism Program of the American Indian Center of Omaha is a 60-day primary residential treatment program for Native American women and men who are experiencing problems in their lives due to the use/abuse of alcohol and other chemicals. A primary residential treatment program provides structured intensive therapy to treat the client's alcoholism. This is accomplished by improving the clients' physical condition, helping the clients learn about alcoholism and helping the clients to recognize, accept, and change their lifestyle. In this article, we wish to describe the program briefly by explaining the facility, the clientele, the staff structure and the treatment schedule.

The Four Winds Alcoholism Program facility is located at 2383 Larimore Avenue in Omaha. We occupy the bottom two floors on the eastern side of the building which also houses the St. Gabriel Center and the NOVA Therapeutic Community. Our facilities include bed space for 14 inpatient residents, a recreational area, a combination classroom/dining room, a kitchen area and administrative offices.

We receive clients from the Omaha, Winnebago and Santee reservations of Nebraska, as well as from the reservations in South and North Dakota. In addition to these areas, we receive referrals from Omaha, Lincoln, Scottsbluff and other locations, both in-state and out-of-state. We provide treatment services to both male and female clients. Their ages range from adolescents to the elderly.

The staff of the Four Winds Alcoholism Program is comprised of six full-time staff members. The positions are Program Director, Administrative Assistant, two alcohol counselors and two weekend/weeknight managers. There is twenty-four hour staff coverage at the facility, seven days a week.

The treatment program uses a dual approach to treatment. The program utilizes the conventional treatment modalities and education on Native American culture and traditions. The treatment schedule consists of at least five group sessions daily, four days a week. These sessions include, but are not limited to, the following: Education on the emotional, physical, medical, social and psychological effects of alcohol/alcoholism; education on the Alcoholics Anonymous philosophy and traditions; education on communication and coping skills; education on Native American traditions, culture, values and beliefs; nutritional education; and spiritual counseling. There are half-a-day-a-week of recreational therapy and one morning a week devoted to small group discussions on various topics. Spiritual activities are provided for the clients to attend, and these include traditional Native American spiritual activities, Native American Church meetings, as well as Christian Church services. There are closed Alcoholics Anonymous meetings on Monday and Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M.

For more information regarding the Four Winds Alcoholism Program, please write to the following address:

FOUR WINDS ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM
3483 Larimore Avenue - Suite 2
P.O. Box 11490
Omaha, Nebraska 68111

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE

Congress enacted the Federal Indian Child Welfare Act on November 8, 1978 (P.L. 95-608) to establish standards and procedures to safeguard the "best interests" of the Indian child and the security of the Indian family unit. The act reinforces the authority of tribal courts over custody proceedings involving Indian children. It also requires consideration of cultural and social factors in the placement of Indian children.

An important part of this act is that Indian children living off the

Continued on Page 7
reservation, for example in Omaha, can fall under the jurisdiction of the tribal court in which the child is enrolled or eligible for enrollment. This simply means that instead of the District Court or State Court having jurisdiction, the tribal court can hear the case and decide the matter of placement. Furthermore, the Act provides a preference for the placement of Indian children, beginning with the Indian child's extended family. This is important, because rather than have an Indian child placed with a non-Indian family, the child can be placed with one of the family members.

The American Indian Center of Omaha Indian Child Welfare Program offers services in:

1) Family assistance opportunities with the purpose of stabilizing Indian families through basic services.

2) Counseling and treatment services for Indian families.

3) Legal counseling and representation to Indian families who are involved in tribal, state and federal child custody proceedings.

4) Professional services to assist courts in disposition of domestic relations and child welfare matters.

5) As a child placement agency, certifying and utilizing Indian foster homes.

6) Insuring that adoptive placements of Indian children are made with Indian tribal members.

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The American Indian Center of Omaha Indian Child Welfare Program is in need of Indian foster parents. If you are interested, call Clyde Tyndall at 344-0111, or come in for a visit.

VIETNAM VETS FORM GROUP

With the assistance of the Veterans Outreach Center of Omaha, a group of Indian Vietnam Veterans have been organizing themselves into an Omaha chapter of the Vietnam Era Veterans Inter-tribal Association, based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The basic plan is to incorporate the group as a non-profit organization with the purpose of raising funds for indigent families in need. One of the main fund-raising activities of the group will be through the Gourd Dance Ceremony, under the auspices of the Gourd Society of Nebraska.

The society will be composed of Indian Vietnam Veterans from the local Omaha area. If you are a Vietnam Veteran of Indian descent and are interested in becoming a member, contact either Wayne Webster or Clyde Tyndall at 344-0111.

CAPITAL FUNDS DRIVE UNDERWAY

As many community members are aware, AICO initiated a Capital Funds Drive earlier this year. The purpose of this drive is to retire the debt on AICO's current facilities and support the continued growth of Buffalo Printing Company. The total goal of the drive is $260,000. To date we have raised $121,300, or nearly one-half of our goal. Of the money raised so far, $96,300 has come from local corporations or their subsidiary foundations, and a personal contribution of $25,000 came from the former building owner, Mr. Joe Tourek.

We are very grateful to all those who have donated to our drive. Because we are still more than $135,000 short of our goal, however, we would also like to appeal to our readers for their support.

Please remember, AICO's facilities belong to Omaha's entire Indian community. Any donation, no matter how small, will be deeply appreciated. Please send your tax-deductible donation to American Indian Center of Omaha, 613 South 16th Street Omaha, Nebraska 68102-3107.
AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA INC.

613 South 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102-3197
(402) 344-0111

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 6
Omaha Tribal Bingo at Macy Community Center in Macy, Nebraska, starting at 2:00 P.M. Grand prize is $5,000. For reservations, call (402)837-5207.

August 8-9
Joint Meeting of Nebraska Indian Tribes and Nebraska Indian Commission, Nebraska State Office Building Conference Room 2A-B, Lincoln, Nebraska.

August 11-14
153rd ANNUAL OMAHA TRIBAL POW-WOW at the Omaha Reservation in Macy, Nebraska, located 30 miles south of Sioux City, Iowa on Highway 73 and 75 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska on Highway 73. There will be cash prizes, a free barbeque buffalo feed, athletic events, etc. For more information, call: 402/837-5381.

August 18
AICO Board of Directors Meeting, 613 South 16th Street Omaha, Nebraska, beginning at 7:00 P.M.

August 27
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc., Board of Directors Election at Hanscom Park Pavilion, 2000 Park Avenue. (See article)