

Help families *stay together.*



November 2015

Dear Friend of NICWA,

Seven years ago, Allie and her husband decided to become foster parents. They understood that their local community desperately needed licensed Native parents. Within two weeks of making their decision, they met a three-month-old, Riley, who changed their lives and reaffirmed their belief that when the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) is followed, it has a positive impact for children and their families. **By sending your gift today, you will help 567 tribes defend against current attacks on ICWA and keep families together.**

Children thrive when ICWA is followed.

Chief Judge Allie Greenleaf Maldonado is a citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians in northern Michigan and a member of the *mshiikenh* or Turtle Clan. She is also the mother to a beautiful, vibrant seven-year-old boy who attends Montessori school with his sister, tests in the top five percentile in math, has the reading level of a high school student, and loves fishing.

Riley is active in the Little Traverse community and a citizen of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. His life with his adoptive family includes gathering blackberries and raspberries on tribal lands in the summer, visiting the tribe's fall encampment, participating in November ghost suppers, celebrating Tribal Sovereignty Day, and one of his most recent favorite activities—learning how to shoot a bow and arrow.



Riley thrives because he remained close to his family and community.

Riley thrives because he remained close to his family and community. Born in Reno, Nevada, to his young biological mother, Riley immediately became part of the child welfare system in a state that worked hard to follow ICWA by reaching out immediately to the tribe upon identifying his tribal affiliation.

"Everybody needs to feel that they belong," shared Allie.

ICWA ensures that tribes are able to determine a home that will provide the best care for their member children. Since Allie and Riley come from sister tribes and share the same clan, the tribe felt theirs was an appropriate placement when his immediate family was unable to care for him. This prioritization is crucial as it keeps Native children connected to their families and culture—a child welfare standard ideal for *all* children.

"Indian tribes are lucky, as we have a rich and deep history. People are better for it, to know their history," Allie reflected in thinking about her community. **She believes that all people need to feel that they belong, and the most effective pathway to this goal is by keeping families together.**

ICWA is under attack.

But due to current attacks on ICWA, families and communities may be torn apart. Opposition comes from private adoption attorneys and agencies and anti-tribal groups who all have a financial stake in its demise. Five lawsuits have been filed in federal district courts over the last several months—all with the goal to weaken or overturn this effective and meaningful federal law.

NICWA continues to play an essential role in this fight by continuously updating and rallying Indian Country, engaging in social media campaigns, organizing ICWA experts in crafting a unified litigation and public education strategy, and providing materials and support to numerous tribes, organizations, and individuals.



Ogichidaa: modern day warrior defending Native children.

Ogichidaa is an Odawa word that means “warrior,” and that is the first word Allie mentions when she talks about NICWA and our defense of ICWA. “You are protecting the future of tribes, our right to exist, and our right to be sovereign. You are protecting our right to pass on our culture to our children, and our future.”

We hope that you will make a gift today towards our work defending ICWA and help keep families together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah F. Kastelic".

Sarah Kastelic, PhD
Alutiiq
Executive Director

P.S. Your gift will have immediate impact by protecting children through our defense of ICWA!



NICWA

National Indian Child Welfare Association

5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300 • Portland, OR • 97239 • (503) 222-4044 • nicwa.org

To make a secure online donation or to become a member, visit our website at
www.nicwa.org/help or Facebook/NativeChildren

Help families stay together.



Yes! I want to help NICWA defend ICWA and keep families together with my gift of:

- ☐ **\$500** Guarantees 10 pages of congressional testimony advocating for the needs of children and communities, making your voice heard by policymakers in Washington D.C., and throughout the country.
 - ☐ **\$250** Ensures coverage of 20 calls from families across the nation seeking advice on how to retain custody of their children and navigate child welfare systems.
 - ☐ **\$120** Funds staff time to record and upload a podcast on emerging issues and resources in Indian child welfare.
 - ☐ **\$60** Provides the resources necessary for NICWA to link two tribal communities to critical capacity-building information and resources.
 - ☐ **\$35** Helps our communication team to coordinate and produce an ICWA defense social media campaign.
 - ☐ **Other:** \$ _____
-

In addition to your gift above, consider joining as a member or renewing your membership to remain informed of our progress defending ICWA:

- ☐ **\$50** *Abalone* is NICWA's **entry level membership** that keeps you up-to-date and engaged on our work through webinars, e-newsletters, quarterly magazines, and more.
- ☐ **\$100** *Turquoise membership* includes all of the above plus access to our library and additional discounts on ICWA online training and conference registration.

Thank you for helping NICWA defend ICWA and keep families together with your gift of \$ _____!

(Please include total from other side.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp Date: _____ CVV Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Billing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ I authorize NICWA to *bill my credit card on the 15th of each month or quarter* (October, January, April, and July), as indicated here: ☐ *Monthly* ☐ *Quarterly*
or

☐ Please charge a *one-time gift* to my credit card.

☐ I've *enclosed my check* made payable to NICWA.

☐ My *gift is in honor/memory* (circle one) of: _____

☐ I would like to *learn more* about how to *support NICWA through workplace and legacy gift opportunities*.

Your stamp
helps keep
families
together.

National Indian Child Welfare Association
5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97239

*Thank you for helping
families stay together!*



National Indian Child Welfare Association
5100 SW Macadam Avenue Suite 300
Portland, OR 97239

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Portland, OR
Permit No. 567



*Help keep families **together!***