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Dear NICWA members, sponsors, donors, and friends,

On behalf of the board, staff, and partners of the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), welcome to our fiscal year 2017 annual report. While this publication is a requirement of maintaining our nonprofit status, the production of an annual report also serves as an opportunity to take stock of our work, share our lessons learned, and celebrate our successes. Especially for an organization like ours that's relentlessly focused on our mission and all of the important work we have yet to accomplish to improve outcomes for Native children and families, the larger agenda and daily to-do list are always full of the next tasks to work on. In this context, it's especially important to step back and reflect on what we do.

We're happy to share this recap of a handful of our projects as well as important upcoming dates, like our training institutes and annual conference. This calendar recounts elements of our programming that address child maltreatment. As you've likely heard us say: child maltreatment can happen anywhere and impacts everyone. To avoid maltreatment, NICWA builds the capacity of tribes to prevent child abuse and neglect by addressing the underlying factors, many of which are related to structural risk: poverty, parental/caregiver substance abuse, and untreated mental health issues. Other factors include historical trauma and the loss of positive parenting traditions. Reducing these factors helps prevent maltreatment. Unfortunately, maltreatment does occur, so NICWA also provides support to the tribal systems that are there to help children and families (like child welfare, family support and social services, substance abuse treatment, law enforcement, and courts) and helps tribes deal with the negative consequences of child maltreatment: trauma, loss, and family disruption. The correct implementation of the Indian Child Welfare Act is also key to reducing the trauma that children and families experience when child welfare systems intervene in their lives. When well-meaning helping systems do damage to families, NICWA provides resources and support to tribes to help families heal from the consequences of their interaction with the system. Our approach to child welfare seeks to ensure child safety through fostering safe families and supportive communities by building on family and cultural strengths.

We appreciate the opportunity to share our accomplishments on behalf of Native families and children with you and are excited to see where our work takes us this next year, celebrating our 35 years of service to Indian Country.

With gratitude,

Members:

Brad Earl

(Nez Perce descent)

Sarah Kastelic, PhD, MSW (Alutiiq)

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## Tribal Capacity Building

In late 2013, the Suquamish Tribe began a multi-year process to redesign its child welfare program. Concerned tribal members and tribal administration leaders wanted the tribe to move away from an approach that too often added layers of trauma for families instead of solving the underlying problems. Starting with a program review by National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), Suquamish initiated a tribal child welfare redesign initiative. The tribal council then appointed the Suquamish Tribal Child Welfare Committee in early 2015 to guide the redesign. The committee, working with NICWA, drafted a charter to govern its role and to describe an integrated approach to child safety. Suquamish management revised job descriptions and invested in expanded staffing, training, community awareness, and consultation. Morrie Black Eagle, Deputy Executive Director of the Suquamish Tribe, presented on a panel to the NICWA 2017 conference, "We are beginning to achieve lateral integration across our child - and family - serving programs to make sure Suquamish children are safe and that child welfare is strengthening families." The Suqu<mark>amish Tribal Child Welfare Program</mark> now aims its services at early identification of problems and supporting families to address safety concerns. While child protection remains a vital element, the program has transformed the way it works with families to avoid unnecessary out-of-home placements.

nicwa.org/child-abuse-and-neglect



National Indian Child Welfare Association

# JANUARY

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	Champion for Native Children Applications Due	10	11	12	13
14	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (obs.)	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	3 4 10 11 17 18	1 2 5 6 7 8 9 4 12 13 14 15 16 11 19 20 21 22 23 18	



### Our Membership

As a national, member-based, nonprofit organization, NICWA's membership consists of a variety of professions, including social workers, Indian child welfare specialists, lawyers, tribal court judges and staff, adult adoptees, and foster parents/youth. Our membership is nearly 900 tribes, organizations, and individuals working to make change across Indian Country. This year, NICWA developed toolkits to help members be active advocates and asked members to get involved by engaging on social media, identifying allies and community resources, and building

relationships with decision makers. We also launched a recruit-a-member rewards program to encourage members to help NICWA grow. "I've met countless committed 'workers' and lifelong friends. Whether social workers, advocates, lawyers, court personnel, or educators, there is clearly a dedication to Indian child welfare amongst members," shared Julia (Bunny) Jaakola, LSW, MSW, LGSW, coordinator, Behavioral Health Department, Human Services, Fond du Lac Reservation (retired 2017). Due to committed members like Bunny, we had record-

breaking member participation in our monthly memberonly webinars, use of our e-bulletins, and involvement at our annual conference. Over 250 members attended the membership reception and annual meeting, where we honored Jill Kehaulani Esch, Esq., as our 2017 Member of the Year. We are proud of our members, who improve ICWA awareness and compliance every day!

nicwa.org/membership



National Indian Child Welfare Association

# **FEBRUARY**

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12	2 13 4 5 6 7 9 20 11 12 13 14 5 27 18 19 20 21	18 T F S 1 2 3 8 8 9 10 15 16 17 22 23 24 29 30 31		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	President's Day/ Family Day (Canada)	United Nations World Day of Social Justice	International Mother Tongue Day	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			



# Cultural Competency

NICWA is excited to partner with the Center for Adoption Support and Education (CASE) on the National **Adoption Competency Mental Health** Training Initiative (NTI), a project funded by the federal Children's Bureau. This five-year project is developing an online curriculum for two audiences, child welfare workers and mental health clinicians. This curriculum addresses the mental health needs of children who are in adoption, customary adoption, and guardianships. NICWA is providing consultation and guidance on the curriculum content to help make sure issues related to tribal children are sufficiently addressed. NICWA has reviewed each module and provided suggestions along the way. We are also securing direct feedback from some of our members who have agreed to provide feedback as pilot users. Debbie Riley, executive director of CASE, says, "NICWA's command of the clinical issues regarding American Indian and Alaska Native children, including attachment in extended families and the importance of cultural identity development, is exceptional. NICWA's contribution is making the curriculum richer for everyone."

nicwa.org/foster-care-adoption



National Indian Child Welfare Association

# MARCH

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SATURDAY
	S S M T W T S 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	20 21		Member of the Year and Wisdom Circle Scholarship Applications Due	2	3
4	5	6	7	8  Early-Bird Deadline for NICWA Annual Conference	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Daylight Savings Time Begins						St. Patrick's Day
18	19	First Day of Spring World Social Work Day	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	Good Friday Passover Begins at Sundown	31



### **Annual Conference**

NICWA's 2017 Protecting Our Children Annual
Conference at the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians
conference center continued the tradition of
Native youth sharing their lived experiences and
perspectives. A panel of six local Native youth
currently involved in the child welfare system shared
personal stories and discussed their experiences.
Participants gained a deeper understanding of
their foster care system experiences, the needs

of youth, and how to best support them and help them thrive. One conference attendee said that "the youth expressing their feelings and insights opened my eyes to a lot of things." Overall, our 2017 conference was a huge success with a recordbreaking 1,241 participants. In addition to the youth panel, social workers, attorneys, and child welfare providers attended workshops on ICWA basics, cross-cultural skills, the successes and challenges

of practicing child welfare in an urban setting, and suicide prevention. Attendees bolstered their skills while networking with fellow Indian child welfare advocates, a unifying and powerful experience for those who work in isolated communities.

nicwa.org/conference



#### National Child Abuse Awareness Month



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter April Fool's Day						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
36th Annual Pr	16 otecting Our Children's Co	17 nference, Anchorage, AK,	18  April 15–18 NICWA To	19 aining Institute, Anchorag	20 ye, AK, April 18–20	21
22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30			\$ M 4 5 11 12 18 19 25 26	1 2 3 6 6 7 8 9 10 13 13 14 15 16 17 20	May 2018  M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 12 14 15 16 17 18 19 21 22 23 24 25 26 28 29 30 31



### Technical Assistance

Cherokee Nation is a tribal Systems of Care community that is in its fourth grant year. NICWA provides technical assistance as part of our community development work. During their tenure they faced many challenges, such as a change in leadership and program capacity building. NICWA was instrumental in helping the community overcome these challenges by utilizing the community's strengths and focusing our assistance on areas such as systems design, sustainability planning,

mental health training, care coordination approaches, family involvement leadership, peer-to-peer support, and most notably, encouraging youth-involved leadership through groups like the Cherokee Youth Motivating Others through Voices of Experience (M.O.V.E.). Youth M.O.V.E. is a growing national movement that asserts that youth are experts in their own lives, that they have important things to say and contribute, and that they can be catalysts for change. Juli Skinner, associate director of Cherokee Nation's

Helping Everyone Reach Out (HERO) Project, remarked that "systems work is not easy and changing systems is even less easy. Add that to a change in key leadership positions and you have a very big hill to climb. However, with the help of NICWA we not only overcame our challenges but used this opportunity to improve our Systems of Care work, which I believe made us a better Systems of Care community."

nicwa.org/childrens-mental-health



#### National Foster Care Month



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 2018  S M T W T F  1 2 3 4 5 6  8 9 10 11 12 13  15 16 17 18 19 20  22 23 24 25 26 27  29 30	21	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9  NICWA 2019 Conference: Call for Artists Due	Children's Mental Health Awareness Day	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	International Day of Families Ramadan Begins at Sundown	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28  Memorial Day	29	30	31	3 10 17	M T W T F S 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 11 12 13 14 15 16 18 19 20 21 22 23 25 26 27 28 29 30



## National Partnerships

First Kids 1st—Every Child is Sacred is a national collaborative of Native organizations that stand with our Native youth to create the conditions for a stronger generation today and tomorrow. NICWA and its partnersthe National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Education Association, and National Indian Health Board—encouraged tribal communities to hold family and community events focused on the prevention of child abuse and neglect during National Child Abuse Prevention Month last April. Child abuse and neglect can be prevented when communities work together to acknowledge and support healing and well-being in children and families. NICWA provided resources for communities to sponsor events that create awareness about abuse, promote prevention, and connect families to essential services, and highlighted the efforts of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation. Gil Vigil, president of NICWA's board of directors, shared, "I am proud that we partner in a project that empowers and lifts up our young people, where we create the conditions where children can thrive. It is our collective responsibility to serve all children across Indian County."

nicwa.org/first-kids-1st



#### LGBT Pride Month



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	SATURDAY
1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 13 14 15 16 17 18	5 1 2 3 4 1 12 8 9 10 11 1	T F S 5 6 7 2 13 14 9 20 21			1	2
}	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	NICWA Train  NICWA Regulations  2nd Anniversary	13 ning Institute, Portland, OR	14 June 12–14	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19	20	First Day of Summer National Aboriginal Day (Canada)	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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Hurt, Johnna

Hawthorne, Paulie

Hutchason, Maggi Iannone-Walker, Mary Iceman, Shay Inez, Shawnee Iron Shooter, Stephanie Irwin, Jon Irwin, Lori Ivan, Elizabeth Jackson, Earl Jackson, Richard Jacobson, Tessa James, Adrienne James, Tina Jauregui, Jasmin Javier, Roberta Jefferson, Denise Jenkins, Darlene John, Tina Johns, Amy Johns, Willie Johnson, Brandi Johnson, Lou Johnson, Mary Johnson, Nora Johnson, Suzanne Jones, Anderson Jones, Carrie Jones, Cat Jones, Chandria Jones, Ellen Jordan, Lynnette Jordan, Norman Jozwiak, Frank

Juarez, Carmen

Juarez, David

Judd, Darrin

Jumper, Moses June, Dennis Kakkak, Gena Kane, Lee Anne Kanuho, David Kanuho, Suzanne Kasabian, Alian Kato, Chiharu Kava, Melissa Kaye, Nia Kazhe-Garcia, Sherry Keeswood, Gina Kelly, Erica Kemper, Carolyn Kendrick, Margaret Kenton, Loranda Kicking Woman, Louann Kiele, Tracy Kihega, Andrea Kincaid, Elizabeth Kinequon, Dexter King, Cecila King, Lawrence

Kingbird, Wenona

Komardley, Teresa

Krzywicki, Laura

Kulbida, Michael

LaGou, Candace

LaPiere, Jonelle

LaRance, Gary

LaRoque, Resa

Larsen, Rebecca

Lasater, Cortney

Lara, Stacey

Landriani, Kelvina

Klippert, Sonya

Le, Loc Ledoux, Virginia Lee, Alisa Leemhuis, Patricia Leff, Cathryn Lenzi, Patricia Leonard, Kyle LePak, Jessica Lewis, Charmeika Lewis, Melvin Lightning, Brooke Lilley, Imogene Lindgren, Harmony Lippe, Hannah Little Dog, Sarah Littlejohn, Valarie Lloyd, Todd Lochman, Natashia Logan, Linda Long, Allison Loomis, Josephine Lopez, Christina Loretto, Vera Lorina-Mills, Elizabeth Lovato, Otis Love, Linda Lozano, Stephanie Lucero, Kristin Luna, Melanie Lussier, Rhonda MacIvor, Madeleine Made, Estomina Madsen, Amy

Magoosh, Joellyn

Maillet, Kiana

Lavell, Tawanish

Mainville, Donna Mainville, Kevin Malagon, Exenia Maldonado, Kevin Maloney, Samala Malumaleumu, Joann Mann, Sybil Manness, Kathryn Manson, Brigette Mantovani, Claudio Marcantel, Candi Marshall, Stephanie Martin, Marie Martin, Patricia Martin, Sharlotte Martine, Kandis Martinez, Kendra Martinez, Samantha Matte, Paul Matte, Virginia McAdoo, Amanda McCleave, Christine McConnell, Sarah McCormick, Tara McCovey, Allyson McCovey, Sharon Mcelwain, Dawn McGarry, Traci McGeshick, Andrea McGeshick, Gertrude McGeshick, Melissa McGinnis, Robin McKay Bryson, Katie McLaughlin, Anne

McMillen, Allison

McPerryman, Melody

Medacco, Spring Medicine Blanket, Marcella Melendez, Maritza Merrifield, Joel Merritt, Natalie Metcalfe, William Michaud, Pam Miller, Billy Minehart, Paul Mochin, Lucy Montour, Brooke Moore, Gina Moore Simpson, Elizabeth Morceau, Linda Moreno, Viviana Morgan, Mary Morin, Violet Morones, Karen Morrison, Judy Morrisseau, Judy Morton, Leslie Moses, Keith Moses, Lola Mueller, Kristina Mungua, Mary Jane Murphy, Deborah Nason, Pam Nate, Amelia

Nava, Julian

Neglaska, Ann

Neidich, Kevin

Nelson, Tera

Ness, Jeanette

Nieto, Teresa

Nicholson, Buffy

Newgren-Isaacson, Donna

Nilsen, Jeremy Nittoli, Vanessa North Cloud, Beaver Notah, Harrelson Obie, Merris Obie, Teresina Obregon, Silvia O'Grady, Crystal Ohman, Matt Olague, Emanuel Old Elk, Ann Oldman, Arnella Olney, Jeanne Olujic, Joe Omeasoo, Perry Orrantia, Rose Ortega, Kay Osceola, Moses Osceola, Tina Otipoby-Herbert, Lisa Pablo, Elizabeth Pablo, Jason Palmer, Samantha Paquet, Susan Paquin, Tai Parada, Gwendolyn Parisian, Sarah Patterson, Ruth Pendergrass, Doug Perala, Krista Peralta, Maureen Perez, Jacqueline Perez, Joe Perez, Tracy Peters, Clara Peterson, Gary

Peterson, Yvonne Peyvandi, Shawn Philbrick, Alizabeth Phillips, Holly Phongsavath, Alison Picard, Kathy Pico, Anthony Platz, Shayne Plumer, Joseph Polanco, Mayra Powell, Donald Pratt, Henrietta Pretty On Top, Dee Pryor, Stanley Puhuyaoma, Ortencia Purcell, Matt Quaha, Laura Quam, Rebecca Quintana, Donna Quitugua, Carmela Rammelsberg, Jessica Ramon, Sharon Ramon, Vangie Ranger, Elizabeth Raphealito, Jerrilisa Redd, Todd Reer, Lynn Rembert, Suzette Requilman-Bowden, Michelle Reyes, Andrea Rice, Marina

Michelle Reyes, Andrea Rice, Marina Richey, Pamela Riley, Beverly Riley, Regina Ringinger, Melissa Robicheau, Karen Robles, Alicia Rodriguez, Jillian Rodriguez Andrew, Sylvia Rogers, Griselda Rondeaux, Crystal Rooney, Sherrie Rose, Carol Rose, Laurie Round Stone, Mark Rousseau, Lorraine Rowley, Joy Roybal, Edward Rucker, Valerie Rundles, Dottie Russ, Cassie Russell, Rebecca Ruvalcaba, Frances Sahota, Puneet Salazar, Cloyce Salinas, Erika Salois, Emily Matt Samuelson, Carol Sanchez, Julia Sanchez, Ryan Sanderson, Cheryl Sandoval, Jimel Sarracino, Donalyn Sasakamoose, Lisa Satepauhoodle, Pamela Saul, Lovina Saupitty, Monica Saylor, Rachel Schaeffer, Wendie Schneider, Rhonda Schott, Laura

Schubert, Tina Scott, Charlotte Scott, Matthew Scott-Carter, Vesta Segodi, Delphine Severns, Tristin Sexton, Tara Shackelford, Nicole Shaishnikoff, Cheyanne Shapiro, Lauren Sharp, Christopher Shendo, Fleta Sherril, Jim Shingoose, Raymond Shircel, Erik Shomo, Jennifer Shopteese, Carol Shue, Felecia Shustek, Barbara Sierra, Amanda Silk, Jay Silva, Robert Silveira, Virge Simon, Janelle Simon, Janis Simonson, Lori Simpson, Annette Simpson, Elizabeth Simpson, Isan Sinclair, Lorraine Sisson, Torey Skenandore, Jodie Smith, Alisha Smith, Angel

Smith, Darcy

Smith, Kayla

Smith, Kimberly Smith, Kristeene Smith, Lynnette Smith, Marwin Smith Goering, Emily Sochay, Steven Soffoi, Catherine Soholt, Jody Sommer, Shannon Spang, Robyn Spence, Bernadette Spencer, Alton Spencer, Roger Sproul, Lara Steele, Kevin Stensgar, Danielle Stevens, Tammie Stevens, Theresa Stiller, Linda Stoner, Kelly Stoner, Melissa Storm, Susan Stover, Katie Strohauer, Tamara Strong, Darchelle Strongman, Debra Sullivan-Jackson, Mia Sutton, Beverly Swinney-Griggs, Arianne Syria, Melissa Taggart, Sean Taylor, Dana Taylor, Emily Tecumseh-Williams,

Carmin

Tenorio, Esquipula

Tenorio, Jennifer Tenorio, Mary Tenorio, Virginia Tenute, Hillory Thaler, Kristin Thann, Nuk Tharpe, Susan Thomas, Aaron Thomas, Romajean Thomas, Trisha Thompson, Senora Thompson, Sue Tigertail, Mary Tipps-Webster, Tristan Topsky, Elaine Tsaipi, Charlene Tso, Crescentia Tunney Rogers, Tallerita Twining Blue, Elizabeth Uken, Valerie Ullrich, Jessica Urenda, Loretta Valeski, Kristin Vallo, Colinda Vallo, Marsha Van Zile, Marisa Vargas, Alexis Vargas, Doreen Vargas, Javier Venegas, Juanita Via, Buffy Villalba, Brenda Volkman, Jennifer Wahlen, Michael Wahnee, Brian

Wahwasuck, Arlene

Walsh, Niisha Walters, Kathy Waquie, Christine Washine, Natalie Watters, Charlotte Weasel Head, Marcel Weathersby, Julie Webb, Reycha Wesaw, Alex Wescott, Matthew Wesley, Phyllis Westing, Penny Weston, Deb White, Brenda White, Craig White, Vashti White Eagle, Gail White Eagle, Tamara White Horse, Nancy Whitecotton, Carrie Whiteley, Liana Whitney, Sara Whitworth, Brandelle Wilbur, Loreen Willer, Darlene Williams, Joni Williams, Shawn Wilson, Dawn Wilson, Jacqueline Wilson, James Wilson, Wesley Wind, Robyn Windego, Garry Windego, Verna

Walker, Orianna

Wind-Hummingbird, Kimee Winston, Kelly Wittmann, Sarah Wittmann, Susan Wolf, Barbara Wolfe, Stan Wood, Kristin Woodard, Richard Woods, Brenda Woods, Victor Worstell, Alexann Wreggitt, Carleigh Wright, Ted Wyasket, Floyd Yamate, May Yamutewa, Yvette Yang, Tse Yano, Atsushi Yazzie, Regina Yazzie, Wilfred Yliniemi, Diana Young, Charnette Young, John Youngman, Tessa Zobel, Melinda

#### Associate

Belcher, Vertis George, John Scibilia, Joe

#### Coral

Butzke, Carole

Capistrant, Heather Cavaliere, Angi Crofoot, Thomas Cross, Terry Dixon, Juana Esch, Jill Fleming, Sharon Giordano, Jo-Ann Givens, Fay Goodman, Denise Holder, Lea Ann Jones, Francine Leigh, Rovianne Main, Becky May, Jill McKenzie, Leola Prout, Jo Prue, Robert Schumacher, Brady Serdjenian, Tracey Shanker, Tamera Simmons, David Strommer, Geoffrey Teegee, Mary Tommie, Leoda Vigil, Gil

#### Turquoise

Bogert, Alice

Baldomaro Lucas, Cheryl Bentle, Laura Binneboese, Erin Black Feather, Robyn Blake, Christopher

Anderson, Beverly

Braden, Julie Castillo, Errlinda CrossBear, Shannon Day, Monica Day, Paul Dossett, John Draper, Janet Farmer, Carmen Fitzpatrick, Ruth Foxcroft, Debra Glenn-Rivera, Danielle Griffy, Robert Jaakola, Julia Kallen-Brown, Karen Kastelic, Sarah Keith, Jennifer Kindred, Kylie Lein, Laura Lindecamp, Robert Martin, Wesley Massey, Terrelene Matthew, Cori McCarthy, Mary Miller, Allison

Keith, Jennifer
Kindred, Kylie
Lein, Laura
Lindecamp, Robert
Martin, Wesley
Massey, Terrelene
Matthew, Cori
McCarthy, Mary
Miller, Allison
Miller, Nancy
Modecker, Lisa
Montoya, David
Museth, Jeri
Nimmo, Chrissi
Ninham, Jeanette
Powers, Phillip
Powless, Dale
Raining Bird-Hammond,
Shaneen
Rose, Ahniwake

San Miguel, Roban

Silva, Carol Silveroli, Nanette Skidmore, Genevieve Slater, Matthew Smith, Leonard Stewart, Nancylee Strong, Lois Templin, Mary Waisner, Renee

# Organizational Members

#### Sage

Association of Village Council Presidents Casey Family Programs-Arizona Casey Family Programs-Austin Casey Family Programs-Bay Area Casey Family Programs-Denver Casey Family Programs-Headquarters Casey Family Programs-Idaho Casey Family Programs-LA County Casey Family Programs-San Antonio Casey Family Programs-

. San Diego

Program services

Fundraising

Management and general

**Revenue Over Expenses** 

Net assets, beginning of year \$(146,139)

Casey Family Programs-Seattle
Casey Family Programs-Yakima
Poncho Coushatta Tribe of LA
State of Oregon -DHS - Child Welfare Administration
West Region Child and Family Services Inc.

#### Corporate

Carlton County Public Health & Human Services

#### Cedar

American Indian Child Resource Center American Indian Community Center American Indian Health & Family Services Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Region Cankdeska Cikana Community College Capacity Building Center for Tribes CO Department of Human Services -Child Welfare Copper River Native Association

Resource Center, Inc. Eckerd Kids Four Feathers Counseling Hope and Home Humboldt State University, Department of Social Work Native American Community Services Nebraska Families Collaborative Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition Nevada Division of Child and Family Services New York Council on Adoptable Children Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association Quinault Family Services State of Alaska Office of

Crazy Horse Memorial

Foundation

Denver Indian Family

Children's Services Surrounded by Cedar Child & Family Services University of Oklahoma National Resource Center for Youth Services

#### **Tribal Members**

#### Sage

Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Greenville Rancheria Meadow Lake Tribal Council Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Oneida Nation of Wisconsin Osage Nation Social Services Pauma Band of Mission Indians Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe, ICWA Program Seminole Nation of Oklahoma Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians

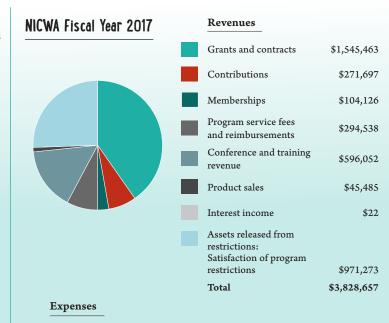
### Cedar

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indian Cedarville Rancheria Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Citizen Potawatomi Nation Enterprise Rancheria Hoh Indian Tribe Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Kialegee Tribal Town Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians Makah Nation Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma Nambe Pueblo Native Village of Port Lions Nisqually Indian Tribe Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community Ponca Tribe of Nebraska Pueblo of Pojoaque Pueblo of San Felipe Quinault Indian Nation Redwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians of California

Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska Sac and Fox Nation Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe Samish Indian Nation Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska Seneca Nation of Indians -Salamanca Susanville Indian Rancheria Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) of Massachusetts

Thanks to all our investors who make NICWA's mission possible!

Please note that every effort is made possible to ensure that our investor and member listings are an accurate account of all gifts made during our 2017 fiscal year and as such we regret any omissions or errors that may have occurred in assembling these lists. To make a correction or to request further information, please contact Kim Christensen, development director, at (503) 222-4044 ext. 123.



\$2,444,832

\$703,694

\$324,672

\$3,473,198

\$209,320



#### Youth Leadership

Supporting youth leaders is important for our communities. It provides young people with the skills to make change in their communities and to teach others how to do the same. NICWA has seen youth leadership grow in many ways. One of the Systems of Care grant communities, the Pascua Yaqui Tribe in Arizona, was the first tribal Youth M.O.V.E. national chapter. Since then, other Systems of Care tribes have started tribal chapters of their own. These chapters focus on mental health awareness and de-stigmatization of mental health issues as well as peer-to-peer mentoring. They hold events

such as Gathering of Native Americans and cultural exchanges with other tribal youth groups. Children's mental health awareness day has also been a great way for youth to create a family-friendly event that provides their community with information on the services that are available to individuals and families. "One of the ways NICWA helped with youth advocacy was through the continual focus on culture stressed by NICWA as a protective factor to reverse and prevent adverse childhood experiences," said Marlies White Hat, director of Sinte Gleska University's Tiwahe Glu Kini Pi (Bringing the

Family Back to Life), another tribal System of Care community. "This [focus] leads us to continue to evaluate what services we are offering and how we could provide more culturally protective services to children." NICWA's role is to help support this work by responding to the communities' needs. Over the last year, we have made resources available, such as toolkits, and offered trainings along with monthly check-ins.

nicwa.org/youth-engagement





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Canada Day	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			1 2 6 7 8 9 5 2 13 14 15 16 12 2 20 21 22 23 19	



# ICWA Compliance

NICWA is dedicated to ICWA compliance to ensure that Native children are only removed from their homes to foster care when absolutely necessary, and if removed, are placed with relatives or in their community—connected to family and culture. ICWA establishes criteria that states have to follow in child welfare cases where an Indian child is involved. These protections include receiving remedial services before children are removed and placement preferences with a relative if children must be removed. When ICWA is followed, communities benefit, because it helps families stay together. Native children who stay connected to their community develop a cultural identity and ethnic pride, perform better in school, demonstrate lower alcohol use, and experience higher social functioning. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Chief Judge and NICWA board of directors member Paul Day reflected "I love sharing with my family the process of our traditions, knowing that one day they will inherit my knowledge. ICWA helps make this possible for families." Last year, NICWA answered 1,030 ICWA-related requests for information totaling 12,020 minutes on the phone helping families in crisis navigate complicated child welfare and legal systems.

nicwa.org/families-service-providers nicwa.org/request-information



National Indian Child Welfare Association

# **AUGUST**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
July 2018  S M T W T F  1 2 3 4 5 6  8 9 10 11 12 13  15 16 17 18 19 20  22 23 24 25 26 27  29 30 31	7 3 14 2 3 4 5 0 21 9 10 11 12	T F S 1 6 7 8 13 14 15 20 21 22	1	2	3	4
5 Friendship Day	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Women's Equality Day						



# Training Institutes

In 2017, NICWA facilitated a three-day Working with Substance-Abusing Families training for 40 participants as part of the annual training institute schedule. The curriculum included identifying substance abuse; mobilizing and supporting treatment; alcohol, methamphetamine, and opioid abuse; and developing an effective system response through interagency collaboration. Throughout the

course of the training, participants learned skills and best practices in the field of Indian child welfare to positively impact children's well-being through interventions with substance-abusing families.

Additionally, individuals learned the integral roles that child welfare workers play and their opportunity to support treatment and culturally based programs with substance-abusing families. One participant

stated, "I learned a lot about the specifics for working with Native American families: history, expectations, and what they need to be successful." Over the last year we provided four training institutes covering four primary topics across the U.S. and reached 197 participants.

nicwa.org/training-institutes



#### Suicide Prevention Month

National Indian Child Welfare Association

# SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 13 14 15 16 17	1 2 3 0 11 7 8 9 10 7 18 14 15 16 17 4 25 21 22 23 24	T F S 4 5 6 111 12 13 18 19 20 25 26 27				1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Grandparent's Day  Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Awareness Day  Rosh Hashanah Begins at Sundown	World Suicide Prevention Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	NICWA Training Ins	19 stitute, Oklahoma City, OK	20 September 18–20	21	22 First Day of Autumn
23	24	25	26	27	28  Native American Day	29



### Celebrating 35 Years!

NICWA started out as the Northwest Indian Child Welfare Institute, which was developed in 1983 in response to the need for trained Indian child welfare workers in both reservation and urban programs following the passage of ICWA. The Institute was guided by a team of advisors, mostly from Northwest tribes. In 1987, recognizing the importance of having an organization serving Northwest tribal children and families, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians child welfare committee, Institute staff, and

tribes created the Northwest Indian Child Welfare Association (NWICWA). By 1992, tribes from across the country were seeking NWICWA's training and resources. Although the Association was regionally focused at that time, NWICWA never turned away opportunities for service, and our activities became increasingly national in scope. At the urging of our membership, in 1994 NWICWA changed its name to the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) to reflect our expanded reach. "We began,

hoping to create a national voice for our children and families. We have evolved into a mature, respected organization that is expected to lead on issues affecting our children and families. We couldn't have accomplished what we have without tribes, child welfare workers, and allies standing with us. Masi," shared founding board member Gary Peterson (Skokomish). NICWA celebrates our birthday this month, marking 35 years of service to Indian Country! nicwa.org/about



#### NICWA's Anniversary Month

National Indian Child Welfare Association

# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	NICWA's 35th Anniversary					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		X l		13 M		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			\ 8	Y W		
28	29	30	31	S M		November 2018 M T W T F S
				9 10 1		1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 15 16 17
			Halloween			19 20 21 22 23 24 26 27 28 29 30



### The Heart of ICWA

The multi-part digital storytelling series, The Heart of ICWA, features Native families sharing their stories of family upheaval, perseverance, and ultimately, resilience in the face of threats to their well-being. In this series, families shared their personal stories of what happens when the protections of ICWA are honored and the devastating consequences when the law is ignored. "The Heart of ICWA shares the strength and resilience of Native families and the power of culture to ground us in our identity and

give us a sense of belonging." said Robbie McGhee, NICWA board member and vice-chairman of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians. Since their release in the winter of 2016, the videos have been viewed by over 28,000 people via our YouTube channel. The videos play an important role in educating mainstream America about the history of unnecessary removal of Indian children from their families and the ongoing battle today to ensure that Indian children benefit from the protections of

ICWA. They have been shared in educational settings and used in tribal-state trainings. We are honored to have partnered with the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, award-winning director Karen Odyniec, and producer Milo Daemgen to produce these powerful films that have helped humanize Native families and communities and challenge the narrative of anti-ICWA media that casts tribal communities and Native families in a negative light.

nicwa.org/latest-news/#heart-of-icwa



#### American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

National Indian Child Welfare Association

# November

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
14 15 16 17 18 19		F S 1 7 8 14 15 21 22		1	2	3
4  Daylights Savings Time Ends	5	6 Election Day	7	8 ICWA's 40 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	9	10
11	12 Veteran's Day	13	14	Rock Your Mocs Day  2019 Annual Conference Call for Presentations Due	16	17  National Adoption Day
18	19	United Nations Universal Children's Day	21	22 Thanksgiving	Native American Heritage Day	24
25	26	#GivingTuesday	28	29	30	



### ICWA Defense Project

NICWA is proud to play a role in the ICWA Defense Project, a coalition that also includes the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), Native American Rights Fund, and ICWA Appellate Clinic at the Michigan State University College of Law. We came together to develop a coordinated response from Indian Country to ongoing attacks on this important law that protects Native children and families. NICWA provides Indian child welfare expertise, which informs the coalition's strategies, including litigation. We build broad coalitions of ICWA supporters and manage ongoing communication efforts. Over the last year, we fielded dozens of press inquiries and informed several media stories that provided a balanced and accurate picture of ICWA. We also produced and disseminated educational materials for practitioners and policy makers to help support those implementing ICWA and educate decision makers on best practices. NCAI's executive director Jacqueline Pata commented, "Defending the protections of ICWA is vital to Indian Country. NICWA's technical expertise in child welfare practice is invaluable to our coalition."

nicwa.org/icwa



National Indian Child Welfare Association

# DECEMBER

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November 2018  S M T W T F  1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16	January 20 S S M T W 3 1 2 10 6 7 8 9 1 5 17 13 14 15 16 1 3 24 20 21 22 23 2	T F S 3 4 5 0 11 12 7 7 18 19 4 25 26				1
2 Hanukkah Begins at Sundown	3	NICWA Training	Institute, New Orleans, LA	, December 4–6	7	8
9	10 United Nations Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Winter	22
23	New Year's Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28	29





# NICMY

National Indian Child Welfare Association

5100 SW Macadam Avenue, Suite 300 • Portland, Oregon 97239 Telephone (503) 222-4044 • Fax (503) 222-4007

## nicwa.org

twitter.com/nativechildren • facebook.com/nativechildren linkedin.com/company/nicwa



#### Dear Friends,

We are proud to share our work over this last year in the form of a 2018 calendar. As you see in our annual report, every dollar in our budget counts in keeping families together, because we know that when Native children are connected to their culture and community, they have better outcomes. Help kick off our  $35^{\rm th}$  anniversary year of serving Indian Country by giving a gift to NICWA to continue this life-changing work.

With gratitude,

Sarah Kastelic (Alutiiq)

Executive Director

P.S. Stand together for Native children and consider joining me in giving a gift to NICWA today.

Sarah J. Kastelic

# For a gift of membership to a friend, family member, colleague—or yourself, please fill in the following section:

Name		
Home Address		
City	StateZip	
Email	Phone	one)
	nicwa.org/donate • facebook/	nativechildren
Membership Level ☐ \$35 (Student/Elde	□ \$120 □ \$250 □ \$500 □ Other \$ er) □ \$75 (Abalone) □ \$100 (Turquoise) ::	□ \$200 (Coral)
Membership Level ☐ \$35 (Student/Elder This gift is in honor/memory (please circle one) of I would like to learn about recurring, workplace, a I've enclosed my check made payable to NICWA	er) \$75 (Abalone) \$100 (Turquoise)  and legacy gift opportunities.	□ \$200 (Coral)
Membership Level □ \$35 (Student/Eldee This gift is in honor/memory (please circle one) of I would like to learn about recurring, workplace, a I've enclosed my check made payable to NICWA Please charge my credit card □ Visa □ MasterCa	er) \$75 (Abalone) \$100 (Turquoise)  :	□ \$200 (Coral)
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Membership Level □ \$35 (Student/Eldee This gift is in honor/memory (please circle one) of I would like to learn about recurring, workplace, a I've enclosed my check made payable to NICWA Please charge my credit card □ Visa □ MasterCard Number: □ me on Card: □ This is a state of the circle of th	### ##################################	□ \$200 (Coral)  // Code:
Membership Level □ \$35 (Student/Eldee This gift is in honor/memory (please circle one) of I would like to learn about recurring, workplace, a I've enclosed my check made payable to NICWA Please charge my credit card □ Visa □ MasterCard Number: □ me on Card: □ me Address: □	er)	□ \$200 (Coral)  /V Code:
Membership Level □ \$35 (Student/Eldee This gift is in honor/memory (please circle one) of I would like to learn about recurring, workplace, a I've enclosed my check made payable to NICWA Please charge my credit card □ Visa □ MasterCard Number: □ me on Card: □ me Address: □	### ##################################	□ \$200 (Coral)  /V Code:

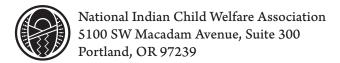
# On dehalf of the children and families we serve, thank you for your support.

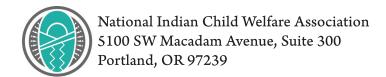
National Indian Child Welfare Association Protecting Our Children • Preserving Our Culture

# **NICMY**

Place stamp here.

Thank you!





2018 Calendar Inside

Stand together for Native children!