# American Indian Cancer Foundation

Annual Report 2015



# Greetings,

The dream of the American Indian Cancer Foundation began in 2009 when a group of American Indian leaders recognized something new was needed in our communities to address the high rates of cancer among American Indians and Alaska Natives. The founding board of directors worked together for two years to develop a mission, incorporate as a 501c3 and secure funding to hire employees to make



this dream a reality. Today, we have 16 employees and 10 funded programs working to eliminate American Indian cancer burdens through education, prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support.

In our first annual report, we highlight 2015 to share how far we've come. We are thankful for our funding partners, who have trusted us and invested in innovative Native-driving cancer solutions for our communities. This trust and investment has made a real and positive impact in Indian Country. Whether you partner with us on a project, volunteer at Powwow for Hope, shop our online store, donate, or engage with us on social media-you are making a difference!

We are incredibly proud of the work that's been accomplished by our talented employees and Board of Directors. Our commitment comes from decades of public health experience in Indian Country and a desire to contribute in effective and sustainable ways. Our passion comes from our personal experiences with cancer among people we love. Our contributions at the American Indian Cancer Foundation allow us to make a difference.

Your support is making a difference! Let's end cancer in Indian Country together!

Sincerely,

**Chairperson AICAF Board of Directors**Pelagie "Mike" Snesrud, PHN *Dakota* 

Lelagia Sherred

Kris Rhodes

**Chief Executive Officer** Kris Rhodes, MPH Bad River and Fond du Lac Chippewa

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# Mission

To eliminate the cancer burdens on American Indian families through education, prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support.



Cancer is a frightening diagnosis for anyone, and there are significant cultural implications and strategies that are needed for under served and disparate populations like American Indians. AICAF is improving the way we understand cancer in Indian Country and is moving toward reducing cancer disparities."

Donald Warne, MD

Oglala Lakota American Indian Public Health Resource Center North Dakota State University

# The American Indian Cancer Foundation has grown rapidly since 2009 and we've accomplished so much. Here are some of our highlights.

AICAF is incorporated as a 501c3.

AICAF's first funding comes from the American Cancer Society and Indian Health Service to address colorectal cancer screening.

2010

2009

The Board of Directors is organized by founders Dr. David Perdue (Chickasaw) and Jackie Dionne (Turtle Mountain Chippewa).

# **Founding Board of Directors**

Joanna Bryant, Shakopee Mdewakanton Dakota
Jackie Dionne, Turtle Mountain Chippewa
Michael A. Goze, Ho-Chunk
James Lien, Sicangu Lakota Rosebud
Jessica Ryan, Brothertown Nation
Jo-Anne E. Stately, White Earth Ojibwe
Howard D. Valandra, Sicangu Lakota Rosebud
Laura Waterman Wittstock, Seneca

# 2011

Kristine Rhodes is hired as Executive Director; she hires initial staff of Anne Walaszek (White Earth Ojibwe), Joy Rivera (Haudenosaunee) and Dr. Perdue (Chickasaw).

AICAF partners with tribal health systems across Minnesota and Wisconsin on cancer issues and solutions.

Internal systems, the AICAF brand and logo are developed. The website and social media are launched.

New funding expands efforts to address commercial tobacco addiction, breast cancer awareness and support tribal comprehensive cancer program evaluation to help establish evidence for American Indian specific cancer control programs.

Outreach leads to 100+ completed colonoscopies in Minnesota.

The first annual Powwow for Hope: Dancing for Life, Love & Hope offers cancer survivors and caregivers a place to come together for community healing. Funds raised by individuals, teams and silent auction directly support AICAF's work.

With new partnerships, AICAF extends its reach to national audiences.

AICAF grows to six employees (including student interns)!

2012

HPV immunization offers new opportunities for cancer prevention; AICAF holds focus groups to gather community input to develop educational materials about the vaccine.

Additional educational resources are developed, including tobacco cessation and colorectal cancer, to support awareness and outreach among tribal partners across the US.

AICAF partners with local, national and tribal media to enhance outreach and build awareness in new ways.

AICAF grows to 15 employees!

2014

# 2013

New funding leads to new opportunities to work with tribes across Minnesota on healthy eating and health equity.

The Pink Shawls program, which brings together women to sew shawls and raise awareness about breast cancer, reaches nine tribes with 100 women sewing new shawls.

Colorectal cancer program staff complete visits with 350+ staff at 40 tribal health clinics across the Northern Plains, learning about the screening practices.

AICAF has grown to 10 employees!

# 2015

Music for Life, Love & Hope fundraising event at the House of Blues in Las Vegas features musician Kelly Jackson (Lac du Flambeau Chippewa) and a silent auction organized by Beyond Buckskin Boutique with the generosity of numerous Indigenous artists.

Indigenous Pink Day premieres as a nationwide media campaign to raise breast cancer awareness across Indian Country reaching more than 50,000 people.

AICAF's online store launches (Shop.AmericanIndianCancer.com). Proceeds support AICAF efforts to end cancer.

The Working Toward Health Equity report captured the conversations of 90+tribal health stakeholders on beliefs and strategies to address tribal health equity.

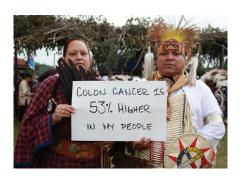
**TODAY,** AICAF continues to lead efforts to end American Indian and Alaska Native cancer burdens in collaboration with multiple partners.

# 2015 Projects











American Indian Community Conversations: AICAF convenes and facilitates community conversations to identify local cancer priorities and solutions.

American Indian Resources (AIR) for Tribal Health Equity Project: AIR works in partnership with American Indian communities in conversations and activity to engage, empower and educate communities for action and innovation through collaboration and policy, systems, and environmental change.

**American Indian Cancer Support:** AICAF provides support via phone, website, social media and hosts local support groups.

**Clinical Cancer Screening Network:** The network engages clinical teams to develop a tailored approach to progressively improve colorectal cancer screening rates by providing clinical systems support, educational materials and tools for patients and clinical teams.

Clinical Systems for Tobacco Addiction Treatment (STAT)/iQuits: STAT/iQuits encourages and supports clinic staff involvement in the assessment of smoking status and treatment of tobacco dependence by providing clinical system tools, health care provider education and convening regular meetings with clinical quality improvement teams.

**Community Cancer Screening Navigation Support:** AICAF cancer screening navigator offers education and outreach on cancer prevention and screening and promotes the benefits of cancer screening.

**Evaluation Support for Tribal Cancer Programs:** AICAF offers customized, participatory program evaluation support and expertise to American Indian cancer programs.

**Healthy Native Foods Initiative:** AICAF develops tools, resources and provides support designed for community food systems and programs with shared healthy eating goals within American Indian communities.

**Immunizations for Cancer Prevention:** AICAF develops and disseminates HPV educational materials and identifies effective HPV awareness strategies specific to American Indian communities.

**Pink Shawls Initiative:** Pink Shawls raises awareness about breast health in culturally specific ways at community events within American Indian communities. Pink Shawls provides breast health education and promotes programs that increase access to screening through coordination and use of available resources.

**Policies for Cancer Prevention:** AICAF works in partnership with American Indian communities to identify opportunities to utilize tribal sovereignty to improve policy, systems and environmental change for cancer prevention.

# Saving lives, identifying solutions, working for hope

### AICAF FOCUSES ITS EFFORTS IN THREE STRATEGIC AREAS:

Bring Attention to American Indian Cancer Burdens and Solutions

- Champion collaborations and partnerships that leverage community interest, resources, and investments
- Engage tribes and mainstream health organizations through presentations, exhibits, media and social media
- Host fundraiser and awareness events across Indian Country

Advance Capacity through Training, Technical Assistance and Resources

- Identify prevention and healing approaches based on tribal teachings, sovereignty and self-determination
- Develop and share model frameworks, training and resources for American Indian communities and health systems
  - Community education and outreach
  - Clinical systems innovations
  - Survivor support

Increase Availability of Reliable American Indian Cancer Data and Solutions

- Host community conversations to identify cancer priorities, barriers and solutions
- Collaborate to plan reality and community-based research
- Support evaluation of cancer prevention and screening efforts
- Develop and share relevant reports and presentations



# We accomplish this through support from program funders.

Thanks to the following funders who made 2015 investments in AICAF programs.

















# Strategic priorities

Our mission is ambitious. We address many types of cancer with varying causes and across the spectrum from prevention to survivor support among a population already facing tremendous inequities. There is no time to stop and admire the problems. We need to establish evidence on what works within the realities of American Indian and Alaska Native communities, with a focus on cultural and community strengths.

AICAF leadership examined the national landscape for gaps and opportunities and developed strategic efforts that can have the greatest impact on cancer burdens for American Indians and Alaska Natives. We consider our three strategic priorities as our roadmap for success.

# Strategic priority 1: Bring attention to American Indian cancer burdens and solutions

- Champion collaborations and partnerships that leverage community interest, resources and investments
- Engage tribes and mainstream health organizations through presentations, exhibits, media and social media
- Host fundraiser and awareness events across Indian Country

### National Outreach

Our work reaches multiple audiences through presentations and exhibits at national meetings and events. We engage tribal health programs and potential partners to bring new resources into tribal communities. In 2015 we participated in over 20 events in more than 14 states with tribal partners across all regions of the US.



### Social Media

A strong online presence is important to our mission. Our online networks allow us to engage partners and reach tribal communities across the country, allowing us to disseminate resources developed from our office in Minneapolis. Our ever-growing networks on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn increase each year.

AICAF is making a difference in American Indian communities by going directly to them for the solutions and key strategies to create change for the optimal well-being of our people."

CoCo VILLALUZ

HIDATSA/ASSINIBOINE/CHAMORRO

CLEARWAY MINNESOTA

# Strategic priority 2: Advance capacity through training, technical assistance and resources

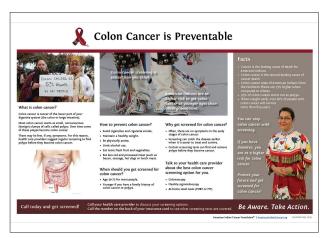
- Identify prevention and healing approaches based on tribal teachings, sovereignty and self-determination
- Develop and share model frameworks, training and resources for American Indian communities and health systems
  - Community education and outreach
  - Clinical systems innovations
  - Survivor support

# **Culturally Tailored Materials**

Our culturally tailored education and outreach materials make a difference by sharing information that is relevant to American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Educational materials are developed with community expertise in mind. Our cancer education resources and outreach materials are available online and featured in our quarterly e-newsletter.

# **Technical Assistance on Policy**

Policy, systems and environmental change are important means of creating sustainable cancer solutions. The American Indian Cancer Foundation engages with tribal leaders to encourage consideration of health in policy recommendations to take action to prevent cancer. AICAF is leading by example with a wellness policy for the workplace and community events. The policy focuses on healthy eating, physical activity, and rejecting commercial tobacco while respecting traditional tobacco. Policy examples are available on our website.



### **Technical Assistance for Clinics**

We believe that communities possess the wisdom to discover their own effective cancer solutions but are often looking for resources and support. We offer technical assistance to clinics and tribal health programs. This takes the shape of inter-tribal learning networks, webinars, toolkits and targeted resources. These innovative support systems improve capacity of direct service providers to create sustainable solutions that benefit people today and future generations.

# Strategic priority 3: Increase availability of reliable American Indian cancer data and solutions

- Host community conversations to identify cancer priorities, barriers and solutions
- Collaborate to plan reality- and community-based research
- Support evaluation of cancer prevention and screening efforts
- Develop and share relevant reports and presentations

There is a lack of data on American Indian and Alaska Native health issues and even less on evidence-based strategies within American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Much of our work is focused on advocacy and efforts to identify and share resources to fill these voids. We have several research and evaluation programs with academic partners to contribute to the evidence base. Before relevant community-centered data and solutions can be developed, the problems must first be addressed through meaningful conversations with Native communities. Examples of this type of



research include the Improving Northern Plains American Indian Colorectal Cancer Screening Project Report and our Working Toward Health Equity report.

# Powwow for Hope™ Dancing for Life, Love & Hope

Since 2012, thousands of people have come together on this special day. Powwow for Hope is an annual community fundraising event that honors loved ones who have battled cancer or are fighting cancer and provides an opportunity to learn more about cancer prevention and resources. It is also a time to come together and create a place of healing. This day brings us together to share a healthy feast, model active living, reject commercial tobacco and celebrate spiritual teachings.

For more information, visit: PowwowforHope.org



Many teams and individuals come together to plan, fundraise, dance and volunteer at Powwow for Hope. In 2015, 38 teams with more than 100 people collectively raised \$40K.

# 2015 Fundraising Teams

Team Lester Drift
Too Legit To Quit
Cante' Wast'e
Gizigaagin Nokomis
American Indian Magnet School
HCMC Cancer Center
"Giiwedinaash" North Wind
Twisted Balloons
Saint Paul EHDI
Team Donna
Round Brown Crew
Team Muriel "Community" Thompson
Team Rivera

Metropolitan State University
Hope Stars
Bois Forte Pink Ribbons
Team Ivy Vainio
Minneapolis American Indian Center
American Indian Family Center
Woman for the Cure
DIW Two Steppers
Team Buckanaga
Takoda Prep
Team Sharing Hope
Indigenous Peoples Task Force
Ta Ta Terrifics

NACC-ians
Team Goze
Fond du Lac Tribal &
Community College
KKWE Niijii Radio
Dream of Wild Health
U of M - TC Natives
Team Esperanza
Remembering Pat Mellang
Commod Squad
Team Vivian Rosebear
Bdote Learning Center
Nawayee Center School

# Thanks to our 2015 sponsors!





















































The disheartening fact is that cancer affects us all -- be it personally, or someone close to us. It is encouraging to know that beyond the love and care of family and friends, there are avenues of support through the American Indian Cancer Foundation. This organization is bringing attention to Native cancer burdens with solutions-oriented education and awareness, which helps to improve the lives of all American Indian families."

ERNEST L. STEVENS, JR.

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

Chairman, National Indian Gaming Association

# **Financials**

# January 1st-December 31st, 2015

A	S	S	e	t	S

Cash	\$76,391
Grants receivable	\$258,496
Contracts receivable	\$164,476
Other receivables	\$4,524
Prepaid expenses	\$8,120
Inventory	\$1,841
Total current assets	\$513,848
Grants receivable, long-term	\$294,000
Property and equipment	\$10,158
Security deposit	\$4,775
Total assets	\$822,781

## Liabilities

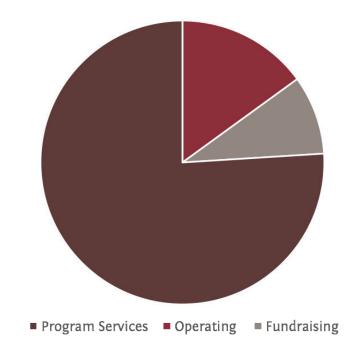
Accounts payable	\$5,846
Accrued expenses	\$31,236
Total current liabilities	\$37.082

### Net assets

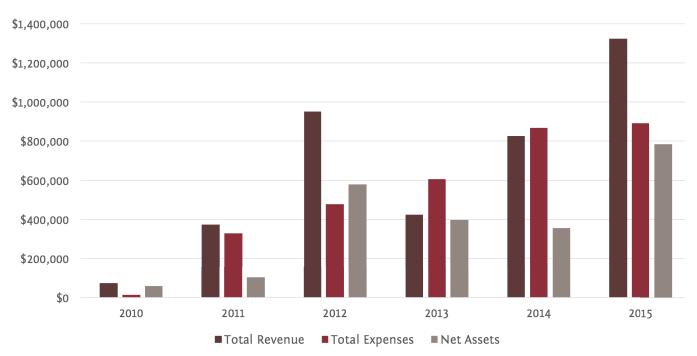
Total liabilities & net assets	\$822,781
Total net assets	\$785,699
Temporarily restricted	\$539,309
Unrestricted	\$246,390

# **Functional expenses**

Program services	\$639,359 (76%)
Operating	\$129,023 (15%)
Fundraising	\$70,409 (9%)



# History of AICAF annual income & expenses (2010-2015)



# 2015 Volunteers and donors

With much gratitude, we thank everyone who has donated their time, energy or funds to our cause.

### Volunteers

Andrew Adams III\*\* Bret Benally Thompson\*\* Jason Braveheart\*\* Glen Dopp Mary Fairbanks\*\* Mark Fox\*\* Margo Gray\*\* Brian Heart Joe McDonald\*\* Samuel A. Moose\*\* Kalina Newmark\*\* Pelagie "Mike" Snesrud\*\*

### Music for Hope

Carly Hare Kelly Jackson Jessica Metcalfe Sam Olbekson Jim Ruel Loris Taylor

### Powwow for Hope

Sohail Akhavein Brian Arthur Jennifer Arthur Laiel Baker-DeKrey Alexandria Balster Frank Barto Charissa Blue<sup>3</sup> Richard Boswell Brandie Buckless\* Aaron Burnette Steve Campos Yasmine Campos Daanis Chosa Donald Clark Ethan Clark Kathy Clark Troy Clark Alicia Connor Karen Connor James Cross Miziway Desjarlait Rich Downs Amanda Dionne Mary Beth Elhardt Karlee Fellner DeAnna Finifrock lean Forster Elysia Gallo Scott Gallus Mike Goze Elizabeth Graves Stephanie Graves Kathryn Guimaraes Jessica Harjo\* Russell Harjo Carol Hill-Kennedy Wendell Hoaglund Denise Houle David Isham Robert Jones Chandra Iovner George Kennedy Shana King Val LaFave Dave Larsen Maggie Lorenz Tina Murphy Kalina Newmark\*\*

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Becky Henricks

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Jessica Metcalfe

Meggan McCann\* Geni McDaniel Joe McDonald\*\* Dick McMullen Annie McWilliams-Dallas Tai Mendenhall Randy Miranda Patricia Michaels Maggie Montgomery Dana & Joe Montgomery Warren Montoya Terry Mason Moore

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Noya Woodrich

Richard Wright

Bethany Yellowtail

Jeffrey & Pamela York

Crystal Worl

Jared Yazzie

Dan Young

Kate Theisz

American Indian Magnet School Benihana Birchbark Books and Native Arts Calhoun Beach Framing Great Lake Indian Fish and Wildlife **Growing Blue Flowers** Haskells Inc. Isham Family Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel Leech Lake Band of Oiibwe Lili Salon Spa Mall of America Midtown Global Market Migizi Ikwewag Minnesota Historical Society Minnesota Historical Society Press Minnesota Lynx Minnesota Timberwolves Minnesota Twins Baseball Minnesota Vikings

Mystic Lake Casino National Indian Health Board Nawayee Center School Northland Visions Pilgrim Drycleaners, Inc Prairie's Edge Casino The Raptor Center Red Stag Supperclub Red Thunderbird Natural Foods Seward Co-op

Sheraton Minneapolis Midtown **Shooting Star Casino** 

Tanka Bars

Wine and Canvas Minneapolis Wooley's Restaurant

& Numerous Anonymous Donors!

\*Staff \*\*Board Member

Sandra Newton

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Melanie Plucinski\*

### 2017 AICAF Staff

Kristine Rhodes, MPH, Chief Executive Officer Fond du Lac and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa

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