



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 1, 2023

Media Contact:
communications@aicaf.org

AMERICAN INDIAN CANCER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES FIFTH ANNUAL CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS LIFE CAMPAIGN

*Learn about life after a cancer diagnosis during National Cancer Survivor Awareness
Month this June.*

SAINT PAUL, MN - The [American Indian Cancer Foundation](#) (AICAF) is dedicating June to honoring Native cancer survivors during our national [Celebrate Indigenous Life](#) (CIL) campaign! [Cancer is the leading cause of death among Native women and the second leading cause of death among Native men.](#) We invite everyone to wear lavender on Thursday, June 22, 2023 for CIL Day. Our CIL campaign aims to honor, support, and raise awareness of Native cancer survivors. Because this national campaign happens on a digital platform, community members can participate from anywhere!

This year AICAF is recognizing two CIL campaign advocates, Kimber Hand (Cochiti Pueblo) and Stephanie Bolman-Altamirano (Lower Brule Sioux Tribe-Lakota/Three Affiliated Tribes- Hidatsa), who will be sharing their cancer survivor stories and connecting with relatives across Indian Country throughout the month of June.

“I am honored to be asked to share my personal story with a community of relatives. I take the role of Campaign Advocate very seriously and intend to use this platform to shout my experiences while remaining hopeful that I am actively participating in elongating our existence. Staying up-to-date on wellness and preventative checkups, being in-tune with your body, knowing the red flags, and early detection are collectively imperative to the preservation of our heritage,” said Hand. “The Celebrate Indigenous Life Campaign reminds me that I am important. My roots run very deep and even though cancer wreaked havoc throughout my body and life, it gave me more courage and humility that I may have missed out on, otherwise. For that, the many truly amazing people, experiences, and opportunities, like this, that the c-word has brought into my life, I will be eternally grateful.”

-MORE-

AICAF will host numerous activities throughout June, including [Virtual Cancer Survivor Support Circles](#) and a [Community Conversation](#) series hosted by Native cancer survivors.

[Are You A Warrior?](#) AICAF is seeking photos from our Indigenous cancer warriors for our CIL campaign! Send us your photos at health@aicaf.org. You can also help support and celebrate survivors by sharing our social media posts or creating your own using our CIL social media [toolkit!](#)

Don't forget to use the hashtag [#CelebrateIndigenousLife](#) so we can see how you are raising awareness! We also encourage you to tell your friends, family, and coworkers about our campaign and ask them to wear lavender to support cancer survivors in Indian Country.

We hope you will join us in raising awareness of Indigenous cancer burdens, uplifting the voices of our community, and celebrating the strength and resiliency of survivors everywhere. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [subscribe to our newsletter](#) for more information on upcoming events and new resources!

Donate

[A gift to AICAF](#) helps us strengthen our programs, build larger campaigns, and provide more resources to families across Indian Country. While grants and contracts fund specific projects, generous donors like you play a vital role in making this work happen!

About the American Indian Cancer Foundation

AICAF is a national Native-led and Native-governed non-profit organization established to address the tremendous cancer burdens faced by Native people. AICAF strives to be a partner trusted by tribes and organizations, working toward effective and sustainable cancer solutions based on cultural teachings and wisdom.

###