



An Open Letter to Concerned Retailers

The information you are about to read is unfamiliar and shocking to many Americans, yet sadly true. As a regular patron of your store, I am asking that you please take the time to read it.

Hundreds of thousands of Native American people were removed from their traditional way of life, homelands and resources on which they relied, displaced as a result of westward expansion. This history and continuing oppressive policies have now placed many tribal communities in the pathway of hunger, joblessness and geographic isolation, making food insecurity and lack of access to healthcare and education an everyday issue on the reservations PWNA serves.

This is coupled with the reality that Native Americans endure one of the highest rates of impoverishment in the U.S. In fact, Native American households are 400 percent more likely to report not having enough to eat, compared with other U.S. households. Nutrition-related disease rates are high, with Native Americans suffering from the highest prevalence of diabetes in the country and nearly twice as likely to die from diabetes as other Americans. Lack of funding and geographic isolation, paired with western education systems that fail Native students, contribute to the reality that many Native students have trouble moving on to college, and this leads to lifelong hardships in self-sufficiency and wellness.

Realities on the Reservations

- Native Americans endure a legacy of healthcare disparities, leading to disproportionate disease rates for diabetes, cancer, tuberculosis and infant mortality.
- About 90,000 Native Americans are homeless, and 40% of reservation housing is considered sub-standard.
- Many Navajo residents have to travel 40 or more miles to a grocery store and haul their water supply.
- 23% of Native families experience low food security, meaning reduced quality, variety, or desirability of food intake for a healthy life.
- Up to 70% of Native students drop out of high school and only 13% earn college degrees.
- Up to 35% of Native children live in poverty, and 29% of employed Native Americans live below poverty level.
- Suicide rates for Native Americans between the ages of 15 and 24 are 3 times the national average — and the second leading cause of death for their age group.

To learn more, visit www.nativepartnership.org or download this information about reservation realities and funding facts: <http://www.nativepartnership.org/reservationrealities5>. I hope you will feel like I do and want to do something about this.