

Hollow Moon Bear

by Jacob Maurice Johns,
Akimel O'otham (Gila River Pima)
PWNA 2019 Native Art Contest Winner

PWNA IMPACT REPORT BY THE NUMBERS

2018

Championing hope for a brighter future in remote and under-resourced Native communities

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OUR MISSION AND VISION:

Serving immediate needs, supporting long-term solutions for strong, self-sufficient Native American communities.

TO OUR DONORS, PARTNERS & COLLABORATORS

To Our Donors, Partners & Collaborators

ABOUT PWNA

As one of the largest Native-led charities to work in hundreds of tribal communities across 9 priority states, Partnership With Native Americans supports some of the most rural, geographically isolated and under-resourced areas of the U.S., in the ways each community identifies as priorities.

Regardless of a reservation community partner's focus (nutrition, education, health, etc.), our goal is to help improve the impact of their programs and develop local leaders who drive social change within their communities. We use a dual approach, responding to immediate needs by providing food, water and other essentials, while also supporting community-based projects that sustainably contribute to self-sufficiency and help end the cycle of poverty.

By centering our relief work on supplies and services that help address food insecurity, K-12 educational attainment for students, community health and emergency response for natural disasters, PWNA is providing immediate impact for tribal communities with the highest need in the United States. Long-term solutions are vital too – yet only viable if they are identified by our reservation partners and help build stronger communities. For instance, Native community partners turn to PWNA for community investment support, capacity building and training services that promote food sovereignty for sustainable food access, health and wellness; leadership development and emergency preparedness planning.

Our service model ensures we build on local assets and bring together individuals, programs, and outside resources for local engagement and empowerment. The Native Americans who live and work in the communities we serve have the solutions to the problems that challenge their quality of life. PWNA is a trusted partner and resource to lift up their efforts, and we share with our Native partners the hope that lasting impact and social change will follow.

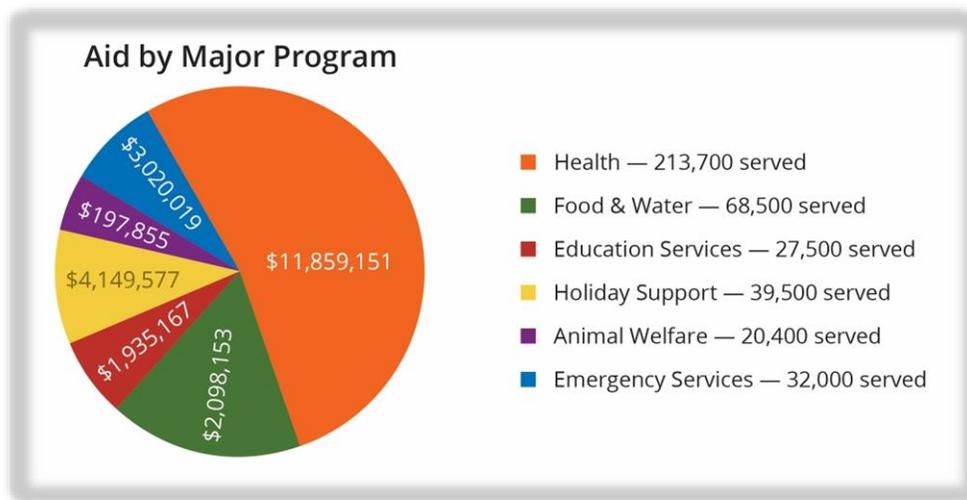


Robbi Rice Dietrich
President/CEO

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

Our Major Program Categories

Year-round, PWNA offers diverse programs to help address the complexity of needs on the reservations we serve by working together with our reservation partners. Our support spans their immediate and longer-term concerns relating to food and water, education, health, holiday support, animal welfare and emergency services including disaster relief. These major program categories match those presented in our annual report and form 990.



To distribute these essential products to reservations throughout the year, PWNA trucks and staff traveled nearly 230,000 miles in 2018.

The remainder of this report outlines PWNA's impact and aid in 2018, delivered through and in collaboration with hundreds of program partners in hundreds of tribal communities across the Northern Plains and Southwest regions of the United States, and nationwide for our scholarship students.

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: FOOD & WATER

Related PWNA programs: NPRA, SWRA, NAA, NRF, SWIRC and SNRF

Situational Need: Food insecurity – the lack of consistent access to enough food for a healthy, active life – is a key issue on the impoverished reservations in our service area, fueling high rates of nutrition-related diseases such as diabetes and obesity as families turn to less expensive but fatty and high-carbohydrate foods and plates often devoid of fresh vegetables. Food hardship — the inability to afford enough food for yourself and your family — is also on the rise, especially for homes with children, according to a 2018 study by the Food & Action Center. The national food hardship rate is 16-19%, compared to 23% for Native American families, and most food banks lack enough food to meet demand. This is certainly the case for many families and food banks on the reservations PWNA serves, along with another hardship — contaminated drinking water.

PWNA Impact: The purpose of PWNA’s Food & Water services is to ease food insecurity by supporting local access to healthy foods and food sovereignty among Native Elders, children and families on the reservations.



In 2018, PWNA’s continuous food deliveries supported immediate impact and food sovereignty, providing for about 68,500 people, including:

- Food pantry boxes that helped about 32,070 people
- Staple foods to senior centers/soup kitchens that fed about 15,159 people 5 days a week
- Emergency, breakfast and bulk food for about 5,327 people
- Produce for about 2,110 people in 6 communities and cooking/canning classes for 109
- Holiday meals for thousands in 50+ communities for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter
- Garden support with over 1,250 people, including community investment projects on Rosebud, Rocky Boy, Pine Ridge, Navajo and Jemez, with Walmart Foundation support
- Taking a long-term view of food sovereignty, PWNA joined the Native American Food Cohort sponsored by Newman’s Own Foundation, working alongside other Native nonprofits to uncover possible enhancements of Native food systems.

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: EDUCATION

Related PWNA programs: AIEF



Situational Need: Education is one of the most important cornerstones of self-sufficiency and quality of life, and a key to addressing long-term poverty and other challenges facing the reservations PWNA serves. High school dropout rates range from 30 up to 70% (varies by community). About 17% of Native American students begin college, and only 13% complete college. Contrary to public perception, college is not free for Native Americans, but Native students are often slow to ask for aid, believing college is not an option for them. Thus, non-Native students are more likely to achieve a college degree.

PWNA Impact: The purpose of PWNA's Education services is to increase resources for Native American education, and support access and retention of Native students from pre-kindergarten to college.

By addressing immediate and long-term educational needs, PWNA helps partner schools/colleges motivate students and improve retention, in 2018 aiding Native American students through:

- School supplies for approximately 15,630 students in grades K-12
- Essential supplies to support literacy for about 11,000 children on 15 reservations, motivating reading and supporting comprehension
- Nearly 34,000 pairs of TOMS shoes and boots for students

To support higher education, PWNA awards scholarships through our American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) program to students with mid-range academic ranking but serious drive to graduate college and serve their tribal communities. The academic-year completion rate of AIEF scholars is 90-95%, considerably higher than the national average and backed by individualized mentoring of students with a track record for overcoming challenges.

To support leadership development, PWNA provides training through our Four Directions (4D) service for emerging leaders who want to make a greater contribution to their communities.

In 2018, PWNA's education services impacted Native students and professionals through:

- Scholarships of \$111,000 to undergraduate and graduate students
- Grants of more than \$32,600 to universities and tribal colleges to increase tools and funding and support retention of 138 Native students
- Nearly \$34,500 in leadership training for 24 women, including a special "4D Strong Native Women" cohort supported by the PepsiCo Foundation

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: HEALTH

Related PWNA programs: NPRA, SWRA, NAA, NRF, SWIRC and SNRF

Situational Need: The people PWNA serves on remote and isolated reservations rely on limited Indian Health Services (I.H.S.) for medical care. These clinics are often long distances away – only 500 clinics serve the 573 federally recognized tribes – and lack of transportation is a major impediment to health care. Because this government-run health program is severely underfunded and understaffed for the population and need it was intended to address, I.H.S. focuses on healthcare crises rather than preventive care. In response to diabetes at epidemic levels, obesity even for youth, tuberculosis seven times higher for Native Americans, more cancer-related disparities than any minority group in the U.S., higher infant mortality and lower life expectancy for Native men, PWNA supports reservation programs that address preventative care, home health visits, and health education initiatives for long-term impact. A long history of oppression has contributed to the limited view of opportunities many Native Americans envision for themselves and their families. Supporting self-determination and partners who require people to take part actively in community projects/services to receive materials and services from PWNA adds to individual and community well-being.

PWNA Impact: The purpose of PWNA's Health services is to support preventative care and health education initiatives of reservation programs serving tribal members, and to help them motivate involvement in healthy lifestyles and community service.

In 2018, PWNA supported healthy lifestyle programs and community activities for approximately 213,700 people, including:

- 156,732 participants in health events or other projects hosted by our reservation partners to increase community involvement in schools, elderly services and wellness initiatives
- About 30 new moms as participants in pre- and post-natal care, parenting and behavioral health programs, receiving baby baskets full of essential products
- About 468 partners who conducted health screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, tuberculosis and cancer; education classes on diabetes prevention, healthy nutrition and heart health; youth education such as suicide awareness and prevention; health appointments for immunizations, hospital post-release and medication monitoring; and home visits with the homebound or those otherwise unable to access services
- About 261 participants from 22 tribes who trained with Native chefs on healthy cooking with locally available foods, a return to ancestral foods and healthy, indigenous diets through PWNA's Train-the-Trainer (T3) service, with support of Newman's Own Foundation and the Walmart Foundation
- About 632 people with healthy meals prepared by our T3 participants, who in turn have the potential to impact nutrition six-fold for nearly 3,800 people

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: HOLIDAY SUPPORT

Related PWNA programs: NPRA, SWRA, NAA, NRF, SWIRC and SNRF

Situational Need: Native American Elders and children on the reservations we assist are certainly aware of holidays celebrated across the U.S., but frequently their families cannot afford holiday gifts or celebrations. Up to 61% of Native American children live in poverty or low-income households, many of them raised by grandparents on fixed incomes such as social security. Poverty rates in the hundreds of tribal communities PWNA serves ranges from 38% to 63%.



PWNA Impact: PWNA's Holiday Support is designed to help our reservation program partners spread community cheer and involvement at times when many families may be experiencing more disenfranchisement and seasonal stress.

In 2018, PWNA's holiday services brightened the lives of about 39,500 people, including:

- More than 11,300 children and families through incentives and prizes during Easter, spring and other community gatherings planned by our partners
- About 14,547 delighted children who received holiday stockings, about 3,755 of them with a visit from Santa
- About 9,910 holiday gift bags for Elders, filled with practical items to meet immediate needs

In addition to spreading cheer and meeting practical needs, PWNA partners also used these and other events to promote skill-building and volunteerism across 22 Northern Plains reservations and 18 Southwest reservations.

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: ANIMAL WELFARE

Related PWNA programs: RAR

Situational Need: Animal welfare and the problems created by overpopulated and stray animals are immense for some reservation communities, including disease, animal bites, rabies and other safety concerns. Because of this, PWNA supports reservation programs that rescue/rehabilitate, spay/neuter and vaccinate animals of the reservation and educate communities on proper care of animals, enabling animal groups to care for more animals.



PWNA Impact: PWNA's Animal Welfare services are designed to support programs concerned with animal welfare and related human health risk in tribal communities.

In 2018, PWNA supported immediate and long-term community concerns increasing the welfare of about 20,400 animals, supplying:

- 16 veterinary or animal welfare programs with supplies to assist in animal rescue and placement
- More than 10,000 pounds of pet food
- Nearly \$40,000 in grants for spay/neuter of 242 animals on the Navajo, Omaha, Fort Peck and Ponca reservations
- 40 shipments of supplies to help reduce animal health risk and related community health risk on 6 reservations
- Miscellaneous leashes, collars, toys, blankets and other essentials for thousands of animals

OUR MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORIES

MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: EMERGENCY SERVICES

Related PWNA programs: NPRA, SWRA, NAA, NRF, SWIRC and SNRF

Situational Need: The natural environment on the reservations PWNA supports is often harsh, giving rise to a wide range of environmental disasters such as floods, forest fires, blizzards, ice storms, tornados and hurricanes. PWNA is a first responder, quick to respond to tribes when disaster relief is needed. Some communities also experience acute or chronic contaminated-water emergencies. In addition, 90,000 Native Americans are homeless and 40% live in sub-standard, overcrowded housing, with a typical wait time for tribal housing assistance at 3 years or more.

PWNA Impact: The purpose of PWNA's Emergency Services is to provide disaster relief, seasonal support and critical supplies for reservation shelters, and to support tribal readiness to respond when disasters strike.

PWNA rotates our winter and summer readiness services to different communities in the Plains and Southwest to avoid creating dependency, but the level of need suggests increasing these services as funding permits. In 2018, PWNA emergency services helped 32,000 people through:



- Disaster relief supplies aiding about 3,184 people on the Blackfeet and Northern Cheyenne reservations
- Supplies to residential shelters for the aged, homeless, disabled and domestic abuse victims, aiding about 26,155 residents, and 72 children in foster care or other trauma
- Winter fuel for 175 Elders on the Rosebud and Navajo reservations
- Winter and summer emergency kits that equipped Native Elders with blankets, batteries, candles, water, nonperishable food and other items helpful during winter storms, and water, sunscreen, bug spray, fire extinguishers and other items helpful during summer heat, storms and outages, aiding approximately 2,450 Elders of the Cheyenne River, Lake Traverse, Rosebud, Standing Rock, Hopi, Navajo, and Tohono O'odham reservations, and the Santa Domingo and Pojoaque pueblos.

In 2018, PWNA also supported emergency preparedness for the reservations, through:

- Emergency response training for more than 650 participants
- Emergency relief kits distributed to about 531 community members
- Emergency planning support for 4 tribal communities, including certification training for about 195 participants, with support of Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and the American Red Cross

Public Education & Awareness

Situational Need: The living conditions in the remote and geographically-isolated reservation communities PWNA serves are comparable to those found in the developing world. Many Americans are unaware of the extent of poverty and hardship that exist in some Native communities. Misconceptions also exist, fueling false speculation that Native people receive special government entitlements such as free housing, health care and education under the status of treaties and this contributes to low charitable giving for Native causes. In fact, less than four-tenths of one percent of all charitable giving in the U.S. supports Native causes. PWNA is committed to bringing attention to these misconceptions, while generating a better understanding of Native cultures and reservation life and encouraging others toward support of the self-determined goals of Native communities.

PWNA Impact: The purpose of our Public Education and Awareness effort is to provide accurate information about Native American cultures and conditions on the reservations, as well as PWNA services and impact, while addressing persistent misconceptions that deter social equity and inclusivity for Native peoples.



In 2018, PWNA reached a potential reading, listening and viewing audience of up to 50 million people with public education about current challenges and realities on the reservations. We achieved this through a mix of news articles, press releases, radio interviews, social media, videos and relevant content on our [website](#) and [blog](#), as well as donor events.

For more information about PWNA's public education, impact and response to needs in Native communities, we invite you to read our [2018 Annual Report](#) or to contact us by email or phone.

Contact Us

Partnership With Native Americans
16415 Addison Road, Suite 200
Addison, Texas 75001-3210

Phone: 800-416-8102
info@nativepartnership.org
www.NativePartnership.org

