OUR MISSION AND VISION:
Serving immediate needs, supporting long-term solutions for strong, self-sufficient Native American communities.
To Our Donors, Partners & Collaborators

ABOUT PWNA
As one of the largest Native-led and Native-serving charities in the U.S., Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) works with tribal programs across hundreds of tribal communities to support their self-determined goals and priorities. PWNA focuses on the most rural, geographically isolated and under-resourced reservations with the highest need in the U.S.

Regardless of a tribal community partner’s focus (nutrition, education, health, etc.), our overarching goals are to help improve the impact of their programs and develop local leaders who can drive social change within their communities. PWNA takes a dual approach to serving Indian Country, responding to immediate needs by providing food, water and other essentials, while also supporting community-based projects that sustainably address the core symptoms of poverty and contribute to self-sufficiency.

By focusing our relief work on supplies and services that help address food insecurity, educational attainment for K-12 students and disaster relief, PWNA is providing immediate impact for tribal communities in the Northern Plains and Southwest.

By focusing our long-term solutions on higher education, food sovereignty and community health, leadership development and emergency preparedness, PWNA is helping our Native community partners build capacity and stronger communities.

PWNA believes that Native Americans have the power within themselves to build strong communities. They know the problems that challenge their quality of life and are finding solutions to them. As a trusted partner and resource, we build on local assets and bring together individuals, programs and outside resources for local engagement and outcomes. We share with our Native partners the hope that lasting change will follow for reservation communities, programs and citizens.

Joshua Arce
President/CEO

PWNA Service Area

9 priority states, and scholarships nationwide
Our Major Program Categories

Year-round, PWNA offers critical supplies and services to help our reservation partners address the multifaceted issues in their remote and impoverished communities. Working together, we incorporate immediate and longer-term needs linked to food and water, education, health, holiday support, animal welfare and emergency services, including disaster relief and disaster planning.

These major program categories mirror those in our annual report and form 990.

To distribute critical supplies and services to the reservations, PWNA maintains a fleet of trucks and our delivery drivers traveled approximately 168,500 miles in 2019 alone. PWNA staff also travelled thousands of miles to support tribal community distributions, training and other events.

The remainder of this report outlines 2019 impact and aid delivered by PWNA in collaboration with hundreds of tribal partners in nine priority states – and nationwide with college partners serving our scholarship students.
MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: FOOD & WATER

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

Situational Need: Low food security – insufficient food quality or variety for dietary health – is a key issue on impoverished reservations, fueling high rates of diabetes, obesity and other nutrition-related diseases when families must turn to less expensive but fatty and high-carbohydrate foods and meals devoid of fresh vegetables. Food hardship — the inability to afford enough food for you and your family — is also on the rise, especially in homes with children, according to a 2018 Food & Action Center study. The food hardship rate is 16-19% nationwide but 23% for Native families. A growing number of food banks lack enough food to meet demand, and now, rather than an emergency, food aid is a long-term solution for more and more families. This is certainly the case in many reservation communities, along with another hardship — contaminated water.

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

In 2019, PWNA’s year-round food services provided food access and immediate relief for about 50,352 people, including:

- Food pantry boxes that helped about 23,162 people
- Staple foods that helped senior centers/soup kitchens feed hot meals to about 11,698 Elders 5 days a week
- Emergency, breakfast and bulk food for about 3,947 people
- Holiday meals (Thanksgiving, Christmas) for more than 11,500 people in 56 communities

Taking a long-term view of food sovereignty and capacity building, PWNA continued supporting the Native American Food Cohort sponsored by Newman’s Own Foundation, working alongside other Native nonprofits to uncover possible enhancements of Native food systems. See also the Health section (page 5 of this report) for our nutrition train-the-trainer (T3) initiatives.
MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: EDUCATION

Related PWNA programs: AIEF

Situational Need: Education is a cornerstone of self-sufficiency and a key to addressing the chronic poverty and related challenges facing the reservations. High school dropout and graduation varies by community, and about 17% of Native students begin college. Contrary to public perception, college is not free for Native Americans, and Native students are often slow to ask for aid, believing college is not an option for them. Thus, only 13% of Native Americans hold a college degree – about half the rate of Caucasians.

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 through college.

To support higher education, PWNA awards scholarships through our American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) program. We select and mentor students who are often in the middle range of academic ranking and may not be considered by other providers despite their serious drive to graduate and help their tribes. Annually, 90-95% of AIEF freshman complete the academic-year.

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

In 2019, PWNA impacted K-12 education through:

- School supplies for approximately 20,313 students at 68 schools
- Literacy supplies to support reading and comprehension for more than 8,700 children
- TOMS shoes for more than 24,500 Native American students

In 2019, PWNA impacted Native college students and professionals through:

- Nearly $107,000 in scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students
- Nearly $26,000 in grants to tribal colleges and universities, impacting funding and retention for approximately 41 Native American scholars
- Laptops awarded to several first-year students, with support of the Walmart Foundation
- Graduation from our inaugural Strong Native Women Four Directions (4D) leadership development program by women from 7 Arizona and New Mexico tribes, with support of 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 geographically isolated reservations rely on limited Indian Health Services (I.H.S.) for medical care, but only 500 clinics serve the 574 federally recognized tribes (less than 1 per reservation), and transportation is an issue for many. Because this government-run health service is severely underfunded and understaffed, it focuses on health crises rather than preventive care. PWNA thus supports reservation programs providing preventative care, home health visits and health education for long-term impact, helping them address diabetes at epidemic levels, obesity even among youth, tuberculosis seven times higher than for other Americans, cancer-related disparities higher than any other minority group in the U.S., higher infant mortality and lower life expectancy for some Native men in the Northern Plains.

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

In 2019, PWNA supported healthy lifestyle programs and community involvement for approximately 151,023 people through:

- Hygiene and health supplies to motivate 138,198 participants in health screening or education hosted by our tribal partners to impact schools, elderly services and wellness
- Baby baskets for new moms in pre-and post-natal care, parenting and behavioral health
- Supplies to help nearly 400 tribal partners conduct regular health screenings for diabetes, high blood pressure, tuberculosis and cancer; classes on diabetes prevention, healthy nutrition and heart health; youth education on suicide awareness and prevention; health appointments for immunizations and medication monitoring; and home visits with the homebound or others unable to access services, including about 173 who conducted community-wide events such as flu clinics and language preservation

With support of Newman’s Own Foundation, PWNA also continued its Train-the-Trainer (T3) nutrition service, impacting healthy Native nutrition through:

- 6 T3 classes conducted by Native chefs who emphasized healthy meals made with ancestral and locally available foods
- 72 new T3 trainees who can prepare healthier meals for Elders on remote reservations
- 415 people from 8 tribes served at a public meal demo by the T3 trainees – and they in turn have the potential to impact nearly 2,500 more people (about six each).
MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: HOLIDAY SUPPORT

Related PWNA programs: NPRA, SWRA, NAA, NRF, SWRC 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 festivities. Poverty rates in the hundreds of tribal communities PWNA serves ranges from 38% to 63%. 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.

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 2019, PWNA's holiday support brightened the lives of more than 20,500 people, including:

- Holiday stockings for approximately 13,241 delighted children
- A visit from Santa with holiday stockings for 1,250 children
- Holiday gift bags for approximately 6,022 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 20 Northern Plains reservations and 15 Southwest reservations.
MAJOR PROGRAM CATEGORY: ANIMAL WELFARE

Related PWNA programs: RAR

Situational Need: The problems created by overpopulated and stray animals are immense for some reservation communities, including animal welfare as well as disease, animal bites, rabies and other safety concerns. Few veterinarians are accessible or affordable to those living in geographically-isolated reservation communities. Native families cherish the animals but are often forced by a limited budget to choose between food and gas.

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

To enable animal welfare groups to care for more animals, PWNA provides support through our Reservation Animal Rescue (RAR) program. We partner with programs that rescue and rehabilitate, spay/neuter and vaccinate animals of the reservation or educate communities on proper care of animals.

In 2019, PWNA supported immediate animal welfare and long-term community health concerns through:

- $40,000 in grants for spay/neuter of approximately 371 animals, countering overpopulation and community health risk across Navajo, Hopi, Omaha, Fort Peck, Wind River and Cheyenne River reservation communities
- Nearly 15,000 pounds of supplies to assist RAR partners with rescue, rehab and/or placement of stray and injured animals
- 30 shipments of supplies to support animal rescue on 5 reservations
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 assists is often harsh, giving rise to a wide range of environmental disasters such as floods, forest fires, blizzards, ice storms, tornados and hurricanes – or contamination of the local water supply. In addition, 90,000 Native Americans are homeless and 40% live in sub-standard, overcrowded housing, with a typical wait time of three years or more for tribal housing. PWNA is a reliable first responder, quick to respond when disaster relief is needed by the tribes.

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 natural disasters or other emergencies 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 2019, PWNA emergency services helped approximately 28,647 people through:

- About 17,000 pounds of MREs, bottled water, hygiene kits and other essentials for a Pine Ridge flooding and a Fort Apache extended power outage
- Supplies for 25,084 residents at shelters for the aged, homeless, disabled and abused
- Winter fuel for about 393 Rosebud, Northern Cheyenne, Zuni and Navajo Elders
- Winter and summer emergency kits for about 2,182 people, providing Elders across 9 tribes and 4 pueblos 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

In addition, with support of Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies and a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Red Cross, PWNA supported emergency preparedness through:

- Supporting emergency preparedness planning and asset mapping to build tribal readiness to respond when disaster strikes across 8 remote communities on the Pine Ridge, Crow Creek, Cheyenne River and Lake Traverse reservations
- 20 emergency response trainings with 336 participants, focused on CPR, AED, CERT (community emergency response team) and more
Situational Need: The living conditions in the remote and geographically-isolated reservation communities that PWNA serves are comparable to those found in the developing world. Amidst the rich culture and unity of tribal communities, many Americans miss the fact that poverty and hardship are often the norm. Stereotypes and misconceptions also exist, fueling false speculation that Native Americans receive special government entitlements such as free housing, health care and education under the status of treaties – a factor in low charitable giving for Native causes.

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

In 2019, legendary and award-winning actor Wes Studi partnered with PWNA to develop a five-part PSA series to help break misconceptions about Native people, history and funding. We announced the release at a joint press conference, promoted it online and aired a condensed version on PBS, reaching about 44% of U.S. households.

PWNA also launched a disaster preparedness campaign to raise awareness about the differences in disaster aid for reservation communities, with downloadable resources for Native families.

Overall, in 2019, PWNA achieved a potential of 362 million impressions (reads, listens, views), sharing public education about current realities on the reservations whether through news stories, press releases, radio, TV, social media, videos, our website and blog, or donor events.

For more information about PWNA's public education, impact and response to needs in Native communities, we invite you to read our 2019 Annual Report or to contact us by email or phone.
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Now in our 30th year, PWNA continues to be a go-to resource for solutions-oriented philanthropy in Native American communities.

The most important thing PWNA provides is hope.