

Operation Firefly: Bringing Our Relatives Home

Asia Gilbertson-Black Bull-Ina/Sicangu Lakota/Korean/Youth Leader/Tokala Peer Mentor/SYC Member/College Student

Troy Allen Lafferty-Oglala/Sicangu Lakota/Youth Leader/Lacrosse Player/Tokala Peer Mentor/SYC Member

Malorie Arrow-Sicangu Lakota/Teen Advocate at WBCWS/Tokala Peer Mentor/SYC Member/Youth Leader

LeToy Lunderman-Ina/Community Member/Advocate for the People/Project Coordinator at WBCWS

Sunrise Black Bull- Ina/Unci/Community Member/Advocate for the People/Project Coordinator at WBCWS

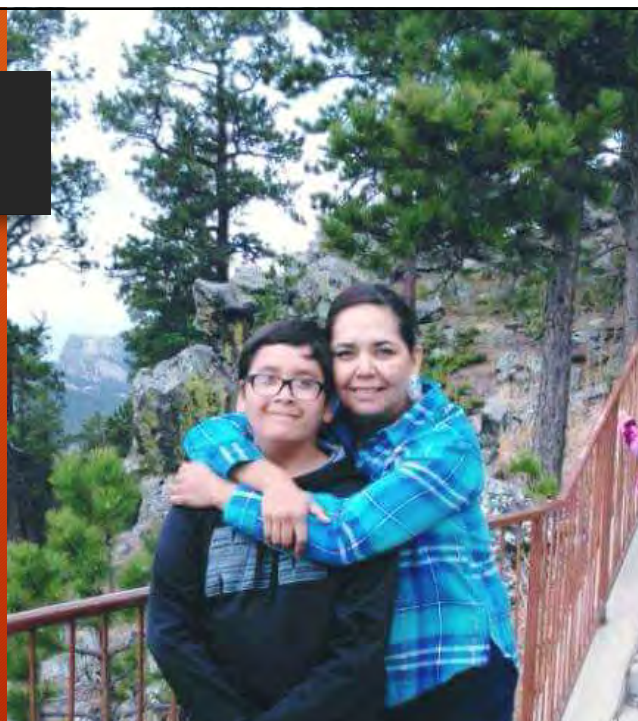
The youth of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate- Burnt Thigh Nation

- Wopila to our youth for your strength, vision, passion and understanding what it takes to heal ourselves and helping others find hope along the way.
- This is the beginning of their way of re-writing history



Troy and LeToy

- **Troy Allen Lafferty**
- Enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe
- From HeDog Community on the Rosebud Reservation
- 15 yr old Sophomore at Todd County High School
- Active member of Sicangu Youth Council since April 2015
- Tokala member for 4 years
- Attends Upward Bound Summer Enrichment Program at USD
- Certified to teach Traditional Lakota Games
- Member of the Sicangu Thunderhawks Lacrosse Team
- His goal is to become a positive male role model for youth here on the reservation.
- **LeToy Lunderman**
- Enrolled member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe
- From HeDog Community
- Proud mother of three....Sheighla Dreamz, TaiLee Pearl, and Troy Allen
- Been an advocate for the last 7 years, working in several different positions with WBCWS



Malorie Arrow

- I'm 19 years old
- I'm the Teen Advocate at White Buffalo Calf Women's Society
- I was a mentor for the Tokala Inajinyo Suicide Prevention Peer Mentoring Program since I was 13 years old and graduated from the program when I graduated from Todd County high school in 2016
- I am also apart of the Sicangu Youth Council that started in April of 2015



Asia Gilbertson-Black Bull

- 17 years old
- Korean/Lakota
- Mother of 1 ½ year old son
- Freshman College Student at Sinte Gleska University
- Involved in Tokala Inajiiyo Suicide Prevention Peer Mentoring Program for 5 years
- Involved in Sicangu Youth Council from birth of group April of 2015
- Passionate about making our reservation a safer place for my son and 7 Generations ahead.



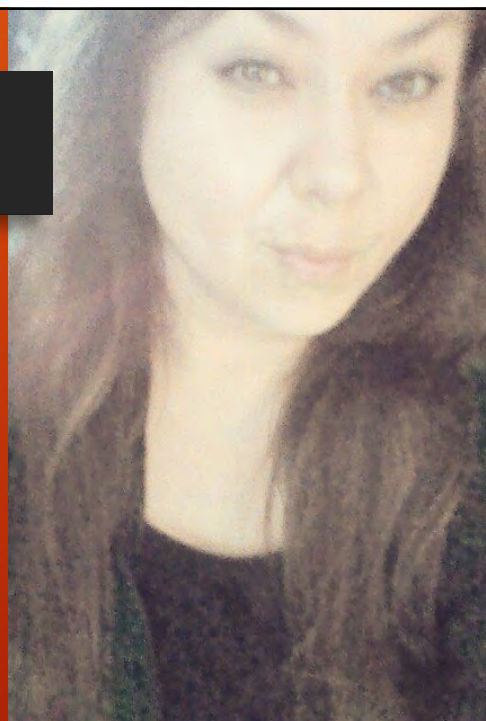
Micah Lunderman

Enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe
 From the He-Dog Community
 33 years old
 Proud mother of 3 (17, 7, 4)
 Community Health Specialist for COPE/Partners in Health
 Over 10 years working with youth on the Rosebud
 Co-Founder of Sicangu Youth Council
"I continue to be a good relative to support and encourage our youth to build themselves from within"



SunRise Black Bull

- Enrolled Member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- Mother 1 daughter, Asia and grandmother to a healthy 1 year old grandson
- Working with youth for the last 15 years on the Rosebud
- Co-owner of Black Bull gym where we help build children's self esteem through physical activities in a strong collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Rosebud.
- Project Coordinator: White Buffalo Calf Women's Society; Wakanyan Ki Najin Pi-Standing up sacred again in creation program; addressing the needs for children with problematic sexual behaviors.
- Co-founder of Sicangu Youth Council along with Vikki Eagle Bear who is now a principle at He Dog Elementary. Marcella Medicine Blanket who is continuing the work at the Tiwahe Glu Kini Pi- Lakota based counseling services, Micaha Lunderman who is working at building stronger relationships within our Health care and introducing ACE's in addressing trauma and health outcomes. And all the active parents like LeToy and many others who support this movement including the Sicangu Oyate, leaders, .



Reclaim the fire

- Sicangu translates to "Burnt Thigh" as our ancestors ran through a prairie fire with the children wrapped in wet garments to protect them in order to survive, while elders knew they would not be able to make the journey helped wrap the children and place them in the arms of adults who will be able to run through the fire to reach the other side. The will to survive and protect the next 7 generations came at all costs necessary to preserve our way of life.
- This following video was created by youth on the Rosebud who want to reclaim their fire.

Wocikeye: Prayer

- Take this time for a moment of silence or prayer in your own way.
- Remember the ancestors who fought for us to survive.
- Remember all our relatives everywhere who need our prayers
- Remember Unci Maka- Grandmother Earth for she suffers from violence inflicted on her
- Remember our water and all creation for we are all related



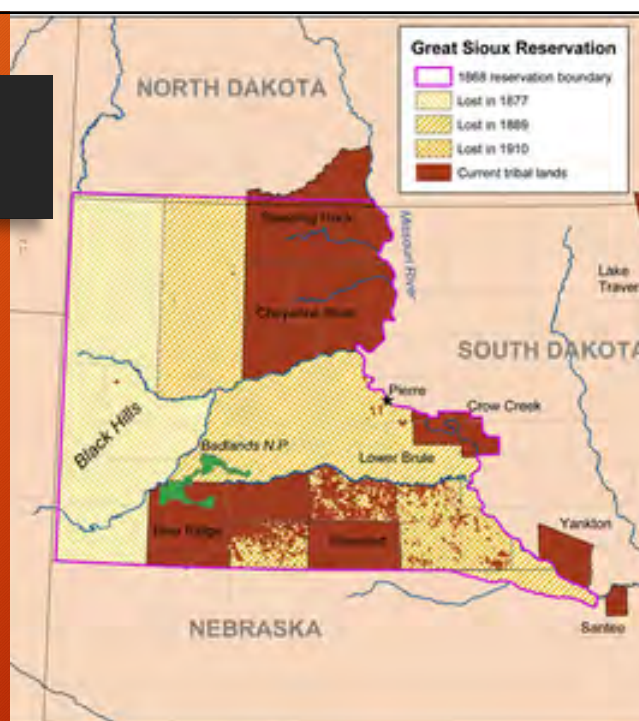
Understanding your local history will help you better understand where the root causes of the violence stems from.

Acknowledging what has happened to us historically is the beginning -SunRise

Here is a piece of our story.....

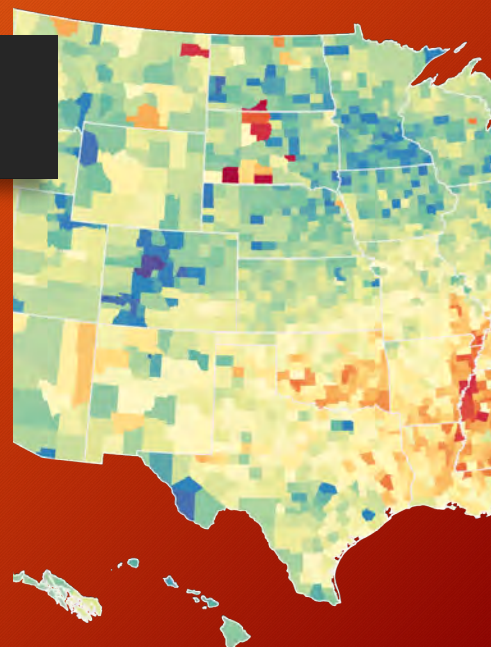
Rosebud Reservation:

- Rosebud lies in South Central South Dakota
- Population living on the reservation 17,000
- Average yearly income is incredibly low Rosebud Reservation remains in the top 10 poorest counties in America
- Unemployment rate estimated 80%-87%
- Todd County has been ranked one of deadliest counties in America, at least by one measure: where residents are most likely to die before the age of 75, which health experts consider premature death.
- Todd County life expectancy is 63 years old which will confirm the national data according to BIA stats.
- The new edition of *County Health Rankings* from the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute (<http://time.com/3757522/deadliest-counties>)



Reality of Adverse Childhood Experiences: And unresolved grief from historical and intergenerational trauma

- Life expectancy in the United States increased to 79.1 years in 2014, but not for Rosebud and other reservations in South Dakota
- Residents of counties in central Colorado can expect to live the longest
- Todd County is highlighted red indicating data states our life expectancy is one of the lowest in the country
- High doses of harmful stress brought on by effects lingering from historical trauma has cut our life expectancy by 20 years when compared to counties highlighted in blue
- <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/08/health/life-expectancy-by-county-study/index.html>



Bringing our relatives home: The beginning

- The Rosebud Sioux Tribe was one of the first tribes in the country selected to participate in the Defending Childhood Initiative to help raise awareness about children's exposure to violence.
- A youth group was born out of this Initiative The Sicangu Youth Council. And in April 2015 by the fate of a free Today's Native Leader Training held in Rapid City, SD a journey to healing was in the process and we all had no idea that these youth were about to answer the prayers of their ancestors.
- In July of 2015 during a 10 day visit to the United Nations Indian Tribal Youth Conference in Washington DC, the youth visited the Carlisle Indian School. The trip was intended to bring them first hand account of what happened to us historically. And it turned into a movement to bring them home and start a journey to healing.



Brief history:

Great Sioux Wars- to protect our way of life

1876 Last great victory at Battle of the Little Big Horn

1879 General Pratt opens up first boarding school in Carlisle, PA first children to arrive were all Lakota children

After Carlisle opened up 500 Boarding schools opened up across North America

Assimilation and Genocide

Unresolved Grief = Violent communities, dysfunctional families, high substance abuse,

Boarding School Era

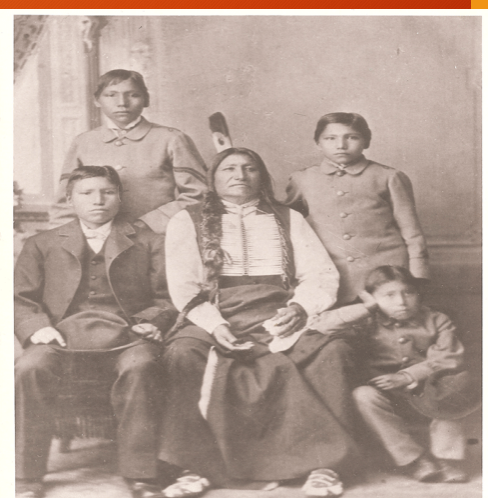
- The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was founded in 1879 by U.S. Army Captain Henry Pratt, who fought for the Union during the Civil War. He also took part in a variety of campaigns against the Plains Indians including the “Battle of the Washita”...where some 200 Cheyenne men, women and children were killed by the 7th Cavalry.
- Pratt’s goal at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School was to “kill the Indian...to save the man”.



Chief Spotted Tail (Sinté Glešká) with wife and daughter.



Spotted Tail- Sicangu Lakota Chief and his children at Carlisle Indian School 1880





First Sioux girls arrive at the Carlisle Indian Industrial School

1889

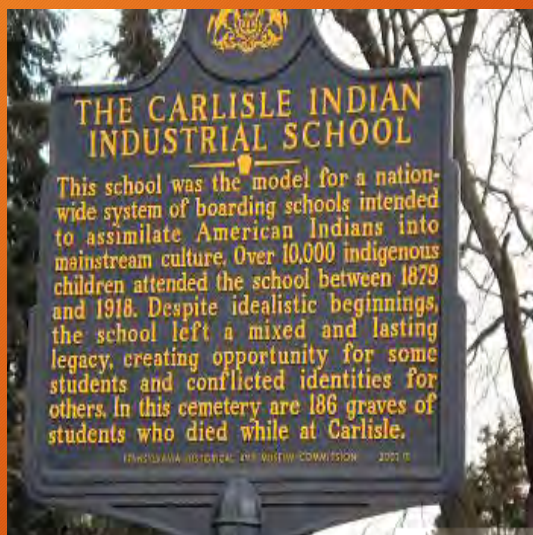


WOUNDED YELLOW ROBE HENRY STANDING BEAR CHAUNCY YELLOW ROBE

SIoux BOYS AS THEY ENTERED THE SCHOOL IN 1883.

THREE YEARS LATER.





Operation Firefly:

- Months after the visit to Carlisle when discussions were starting to get intense with the US Govt. this video came to restore hope and remind everyone why we wanted to bring them home.
- Malorie Arrow refers to the fire fly as friend and we later make the connection that one of the relatives that are buried in Carlisle is Lakota youth “Friend Hollow Horn Bear”
- “We Love you” - *Sicangu Youth to relatives left at Carlisle*

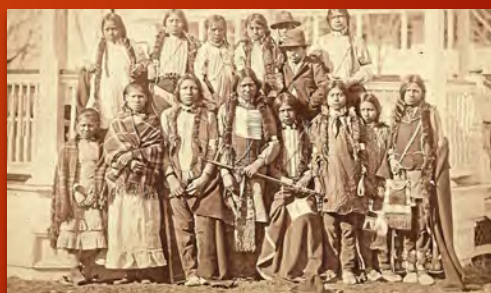
Impact of Historical Trauma on Youth

- Our ancestors experienced trauma at boarding schools.
- Everything they knew changed
- They learned negative behaviors and passed them onto their children
- And without intervention
- It was passed on to the next generation
- And the cycle continues
- Struggle with identity
- Poverty
- Violence/Domestic/Sexual Assaults
- Broken homes
- Depression
- Suicidal ideations/attempts/completions
- High Drop out rates
- Involvement with judicial system

Journey to Healing

Northern Arapaho

- 15 year old Little Chief and English name Dickens Nor
- 14 year old Horse English name Horace Washington
- 10 year old Little Plume English name Hayes Vanderbilt remains did not match and the two unidentified remains were placed back into the ground. One being a teenage male and other being unidentifiable age and sex



Healing through our Lakota Ceremonies

- **Wopakinte**-Purification of mind, body and spirit using sage, sweet grass, cedar with the assistance from an elder female or male. Taking them into inipi (sweat lodge) and wiping them down with sage. This removes the spiritual residue from the individual who has experienced with trauma.
- **Nagi Kicopi- Ceremony for "Calling the spirit back"** when one experiences Tawacin Sagya Wokakije (serious emotional suffering), they may have suicide ideations or wanting to kill him/herself and be severely depressed. It can be a result of Nagi Cola Qunye (loss of spirit) which can result in having no sense of purpose, inability to maintain close relationships and constant psychic pain. Performing a Nagi Kicopi will reunite the mind, body and spirit back together.
- **C'aswic'a Tunpi Wic'ohan - Lakota Naming Ceremony-Spirit name giving:** strengths one identity and sense of self. The Lakota spirit name is usually given soon after birth and anchors the baby to this physical world, because they are so close to the spirit world the baby can easily turn around and go back. A person can have more than one name, sometimes given in adulthood to mark a particular achievement. The Lakota spirit name usually reflects an ancestor's courageous deed or reflects a path in life desired for that person.
- **Inipi-purification ceremony** in lodge where rocks are heated and water is poured on them. Everything has a spirit, rocks, water, fire. Spirit of rocks are considered grandfathers, they are called on the help "wipe away" the negativity.
- *We understand that not everyone is familiar or practices traditional ceremonies: we do not want to offend anyone or force one to participate in the ceremonies. If you would like us to contact the local priests/pastor/lay reader so they may offer spiritual prayers and healing we will accommodate to your family's needs and beliefs.*

Hmuya Mani (Walks With Roaring) and Sina Ilikcu Win (Takes the Robe Woman)

Leksi Rick Two Dogs & Tuwin Ethleen Iron Cloud-Two Dogs

Assisted the RST Defending Childhood Initiative in creating this document and is to be shared with all programs and individuals.



SICANGU YOUTH COUNCIL AND TOKALA INAJINYO SUICIDE PREVENTION PEER MENTORS

- *OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN
OF DESPAIR A STONE
OF HOPE- Dr. MLK*



**BIRTH OF THE SICANGU YOUTH COUNCIL- TODAY'S NATIVE LEADERS
TRAINING- RAPID CITY, SD APRIL 2015**



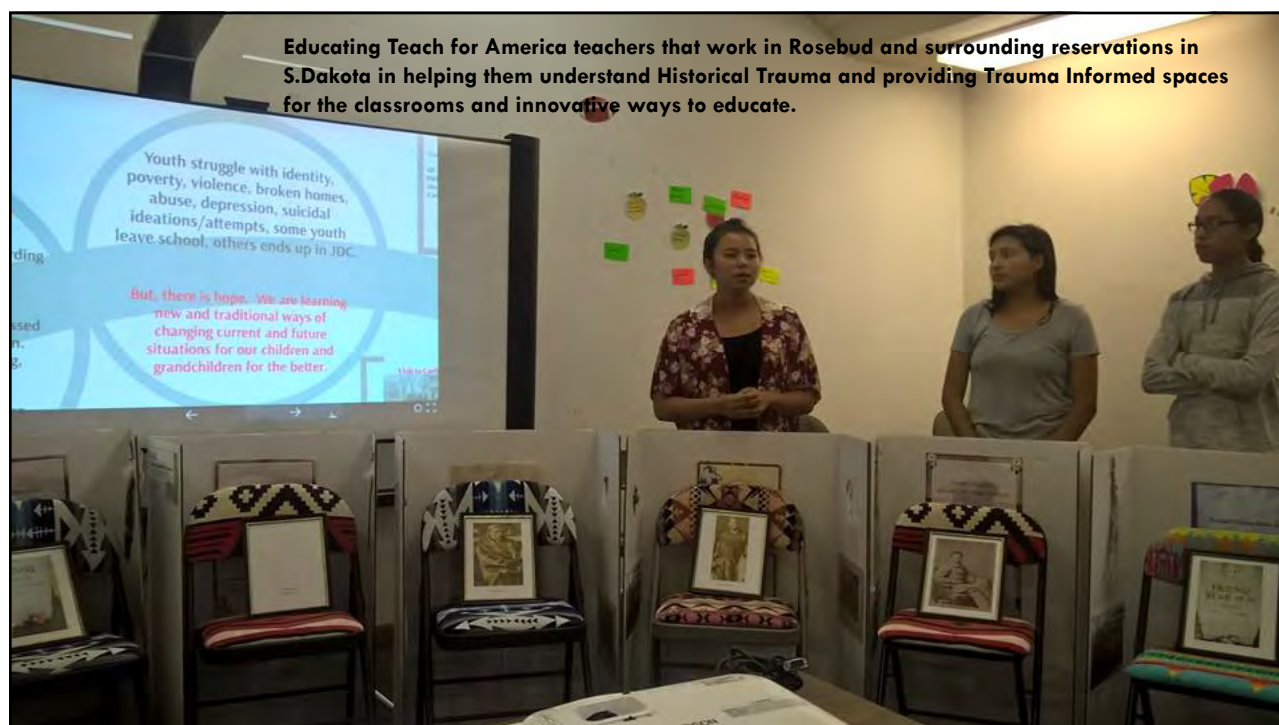
**SICANGU YOUTH ATTENDING U.N.I.T.Y UNITED NATIONS INDIAN TRIBAL
YOUTH CONFEECE, WASHINGTON, DC JULY 2015**



Sicangu Youth Council, Washington D.C



Youth at the Historic Society in Carlisle, PA

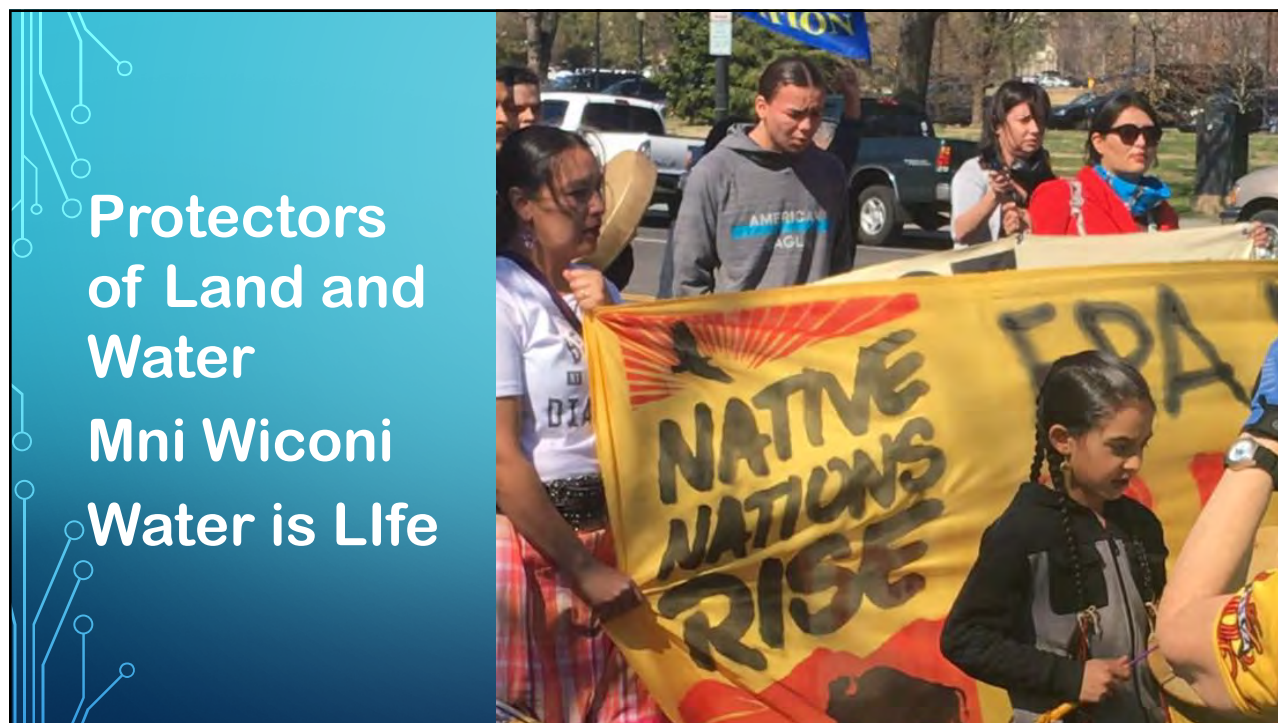




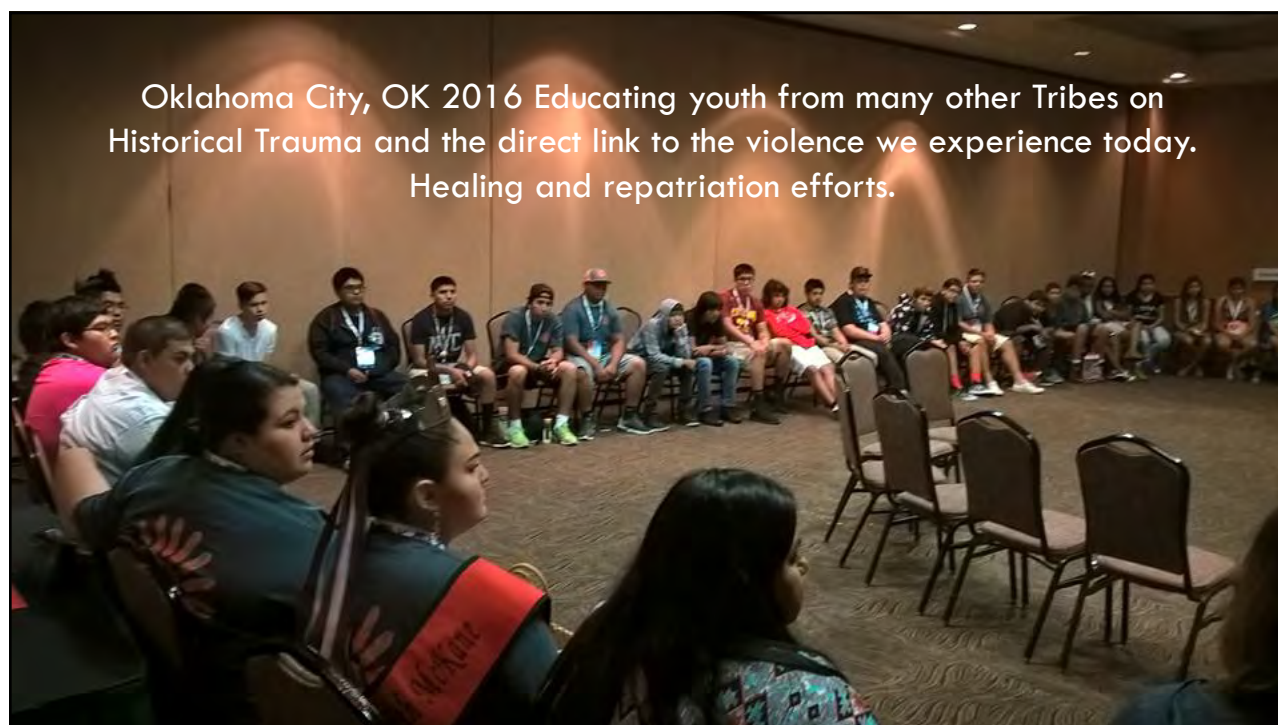
HELPING AND SHARING THEIR VOICES AT STANDING ROCK-MNI WICONI



TAKING A STAND IN STANDING ROCK –SEPT. 2016



Protectors
of Land and
Water
Mni Wiconi
Water is Life



Oklahoma City, OK 2016 Educating youth from many other Tribes on
Historical Trauma and the direct link to the violence we experience today.
Healing and repatriation efforts.



Tour Universities with youth to expose them to endless possibilities as often as possible

YOUTH RECRUITING OTHER YOUTH TO BE A PART OF THE CHANGE





SPENDING TIME TEACHING OTHERS COPING SKILLS THROUGH THEIR ART



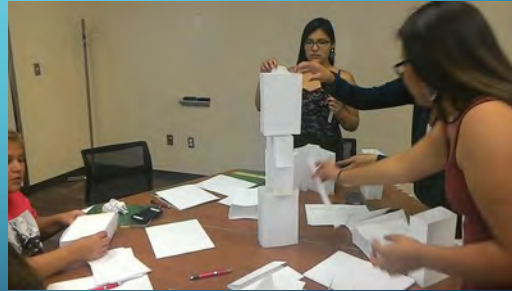
ENCOURAGING YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN POSITIVE ACTIVITIES



PICKING TRADITIONAL FOODS AND MEDICINES



YOUTH ENCOURAGING EACH OTHER



CREATOR GAME- LACROSSE: COACHING BOYS INTO MEN





SHARING TALENTS AND DANCING TO RECLAIM THEIR POWER



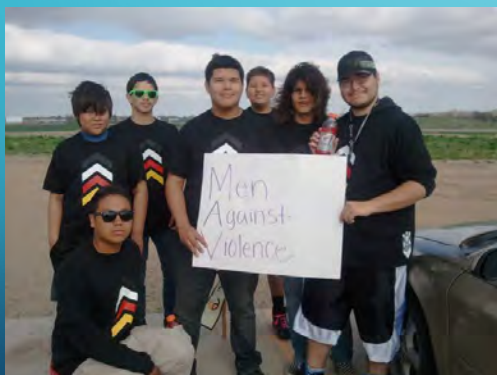
SUPPORT LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND
VOLUNTEER WHEN YOU CAN
BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF ROSEBUD



EDUCATING OUR YOUTH AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY YOU CAN WILL
MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE. CREATE TEACHABLE MOMENTS WITH
EVERY LIFE LESSON



ENGAGING MEN TO END ALL VIOLENCE
CREATE YOUNG MEN GROUPS THAT HELPS
PROMOTE HEALTHY MASCULINITY



BE RESPECTFUL TO EVERYONE YOU ENCOUNTER,
THEY REMEMBER THE WAY YOU MADE THEM FEEL



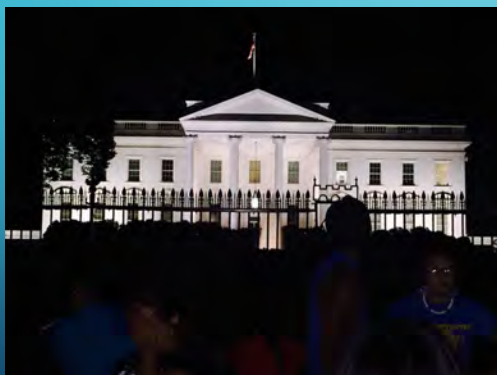
STAYING CONNECTED TO OUR WAY OF LIFE



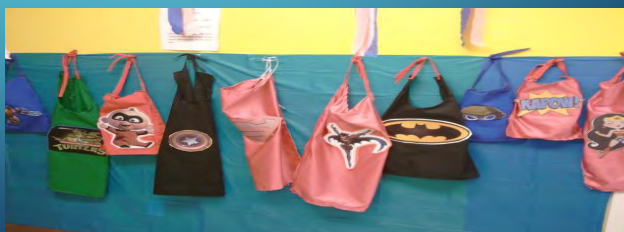
ENCOURAGE YOUTH AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO LEARN ABOUT TREATY RIGHTS



TAKING THEM TO PLACES THEY NEVER BEEN BEFORE



GET CREATIVE AND FIND WAY'S TO HOST FAMILY AND YOUTH EVENTS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES. - HE-DOG SUPERHERO NIGHT



TEACHING YOUTH TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY GIVING THANKS DINNER FOR THE OYATE.



CHILDREN TEACHING US TO BE A GOOD RELATIVE NO MATTER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.



SHOUT OUT TO YOUTH STANDING UP EVERYWHERE

ROSE WHIPPLE, A 16-YEAR-OLD RISING JUNIOR AT HARDING SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, STARTED ORGANIZING IN THE TWIN CITIES AREA AFTER HEARING ABOUT THE DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE PROTESTS. SHE IS ALSO PART OF THE SANTEE DAKOTA AND HO-CHUNK TRIBES, WHICH MOTIVATED HER TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THIS CAUSE. NOW ROSE, ALONG WITH A TEAM OF 12 OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE (ALL UNDER 25 AND MANY INSPIRED BY THE [DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE PROTESTS](#)), IS WORKING TO STOP LINE 3.



COLLABORATION IS IMPORTANT: IT LITERALLY TAKES A COMMUNITY

Learning to work together as a community is important and sharing resources to create opportunities for shared community events that promote healthy lifestyles

Create a "Society of Care" where all programs that are stakeholders come together under one shared goal and work to create a unified message, referral process and policy change on a systemic level to reflect a Trauma Informed care practices.

WOPILA

- Rosebud Sioux Tribe
- RST Alcohol Treatment Program- Marcdia Eagle Bear
- Tokala Inajinyo Suicide Prevention Peer Mentoring Program
- Tribal Historic Preservation Office- Russel Eagle Bear, Peter Gibbs and staff
- And many other supportive programs and community members who believe in our youth and want healthy communities.
- NIWRC for allowing us to spread a message of hope

WHO CAN YOU CONTACT?

Barbara Landis- Cumberland Historic Preservation Office
blandis01@comcast.net (717) 418-2158 or (717) 323-0203

Russel Eagle Bear (new elected council rep for Black Pipe community you can leave message for both him and Peter Gibbs and they will return calls:

Tribal Historic Preservation Office: (THPO)

(605)747-4255

P.O. Box 809, Rosebud, SD 57570



**INFORMATION
WEBSITE**

Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center
 Archives & Special Collections
 Dickinson College
 P.O. Box 1773
 Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399
cisproject@dickinson.edu


<http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu>



**ARTICLES ABOUT REPATRIATION EFFORTS
NORTHERN ARAPAHO AND ROSEBUD**

- <https://www.indianz.com/News/2017/08/14/northern-arapaho-tribe-reclaims-remains.asp>
- <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/army-begins-unearthing-remains-of-children-killed-at-carlisle-indian-school-20170808.html>
- <http://listen.sdpb.org/post/rosebud-sioux-tribe-pursues-carlisle-repatriation>
- <http://www.belvoir.army.mil/ANMC/ReturnOfNativeAmericanRemains.asp>
- Google Repatriation efforts and you will find many other articles



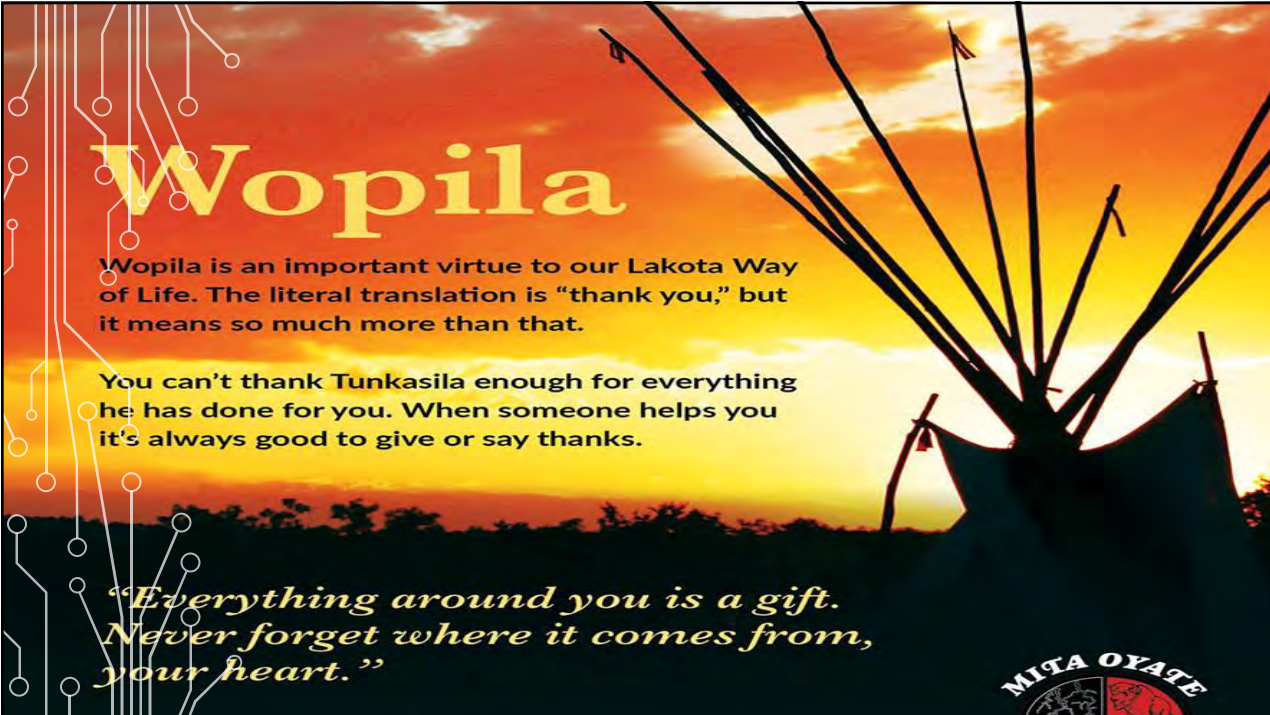


WHITE
BUFFALO
CALF
WOMEN'S
SOCIETY

605-856-2317

Sunrise Black Bull –
sunrise@wbcws.org

Letoy Lunderman-
letoy@wbcws.org



Wopila

Wopila is an important virtue to our Lakota Way of Life. The literal translation is "thank you," but it means so much more than that.

You can't thank Tunkasila enough for everything he has done for you. When someone helps you it's always good to give or say thanks.

*"Everything around you is a gift.
Never forget where it comes from,
your heart."*

MITA OYATE