

IMAGEN™



Indigenous Adolescent Girls'
Empowerment Network

LOGO BY SYM

GIRL SOCIETIES IN INDIAN COUNTRY UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

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AGENDA


- Native prayer
- IMAGEN overview
- Announcements
- Presentations
- Questions and answers
- Wrap-up

PHOTO: VLADIMIR BADIKOV, VOICE OF AMERICA




SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

- ForGood Fund
- Marty Jeiven
- Jerry Cunningham Family
- The Ford Foundation
- NoVo Foundation (2017-2019)



Kepiihcihi
Pilamaya
Nitsiniiyi'taki
Wado
Yakoke
Miigwech





WHAT IS A GIRL SOCIETY?

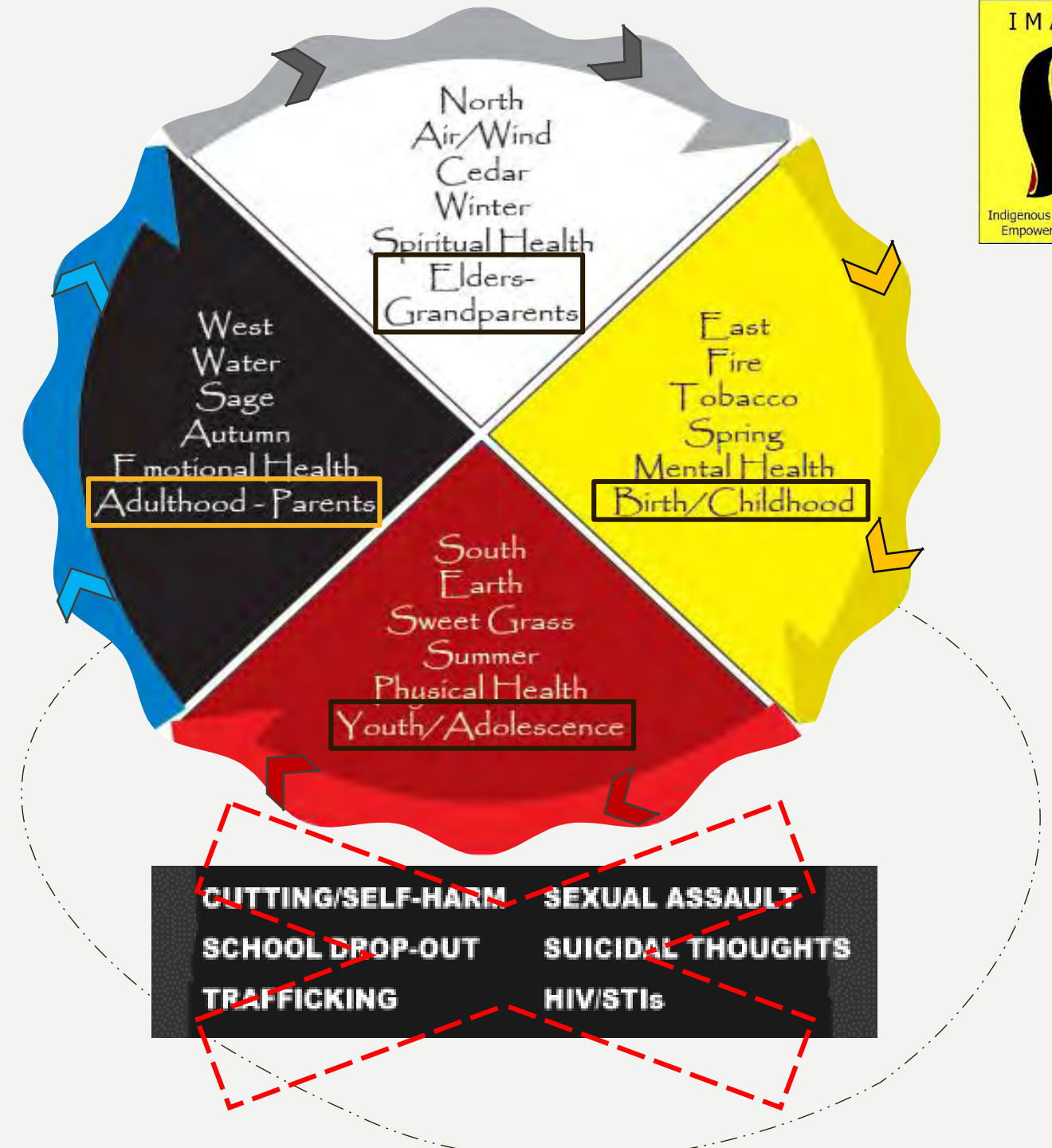
- **Girls' talking circle**
 - To relax, bond, play, learn
- **2 adult mentors + pre-teen / teen girls**
- **Offered consistently**
 - Same day & time each week
- **Location girls can easily get to**
 - In EACH community (not just tribal capitol)



Neighborhood-based Girl Society

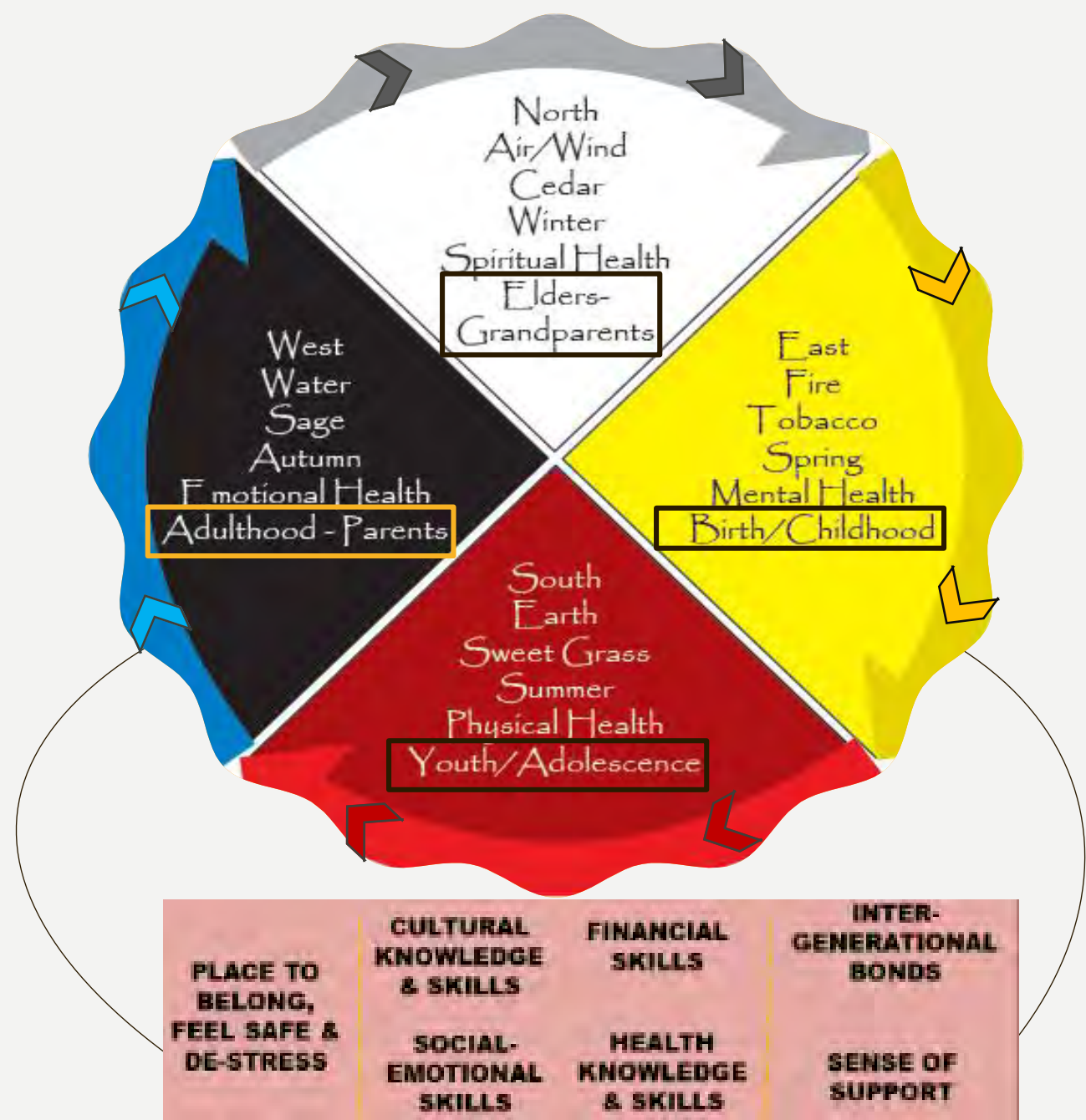
Why Girl Societies?

Beyond crisis response



Why Girl Societies?

Towards a preventive approach



HOW IS IMAGEN DIFFERENT?

- **Restore pre-colonial Native female support systems**
 - **Sacred lifeways**
 - **Inter-generational bonds**
 - **Plus skills for the modern world**
- **Gender-specific focus**
- **Suite of tools**
 - **Planning, implementation, assessment**
- **Sovereign determination of content**
- **Continuous technical support**

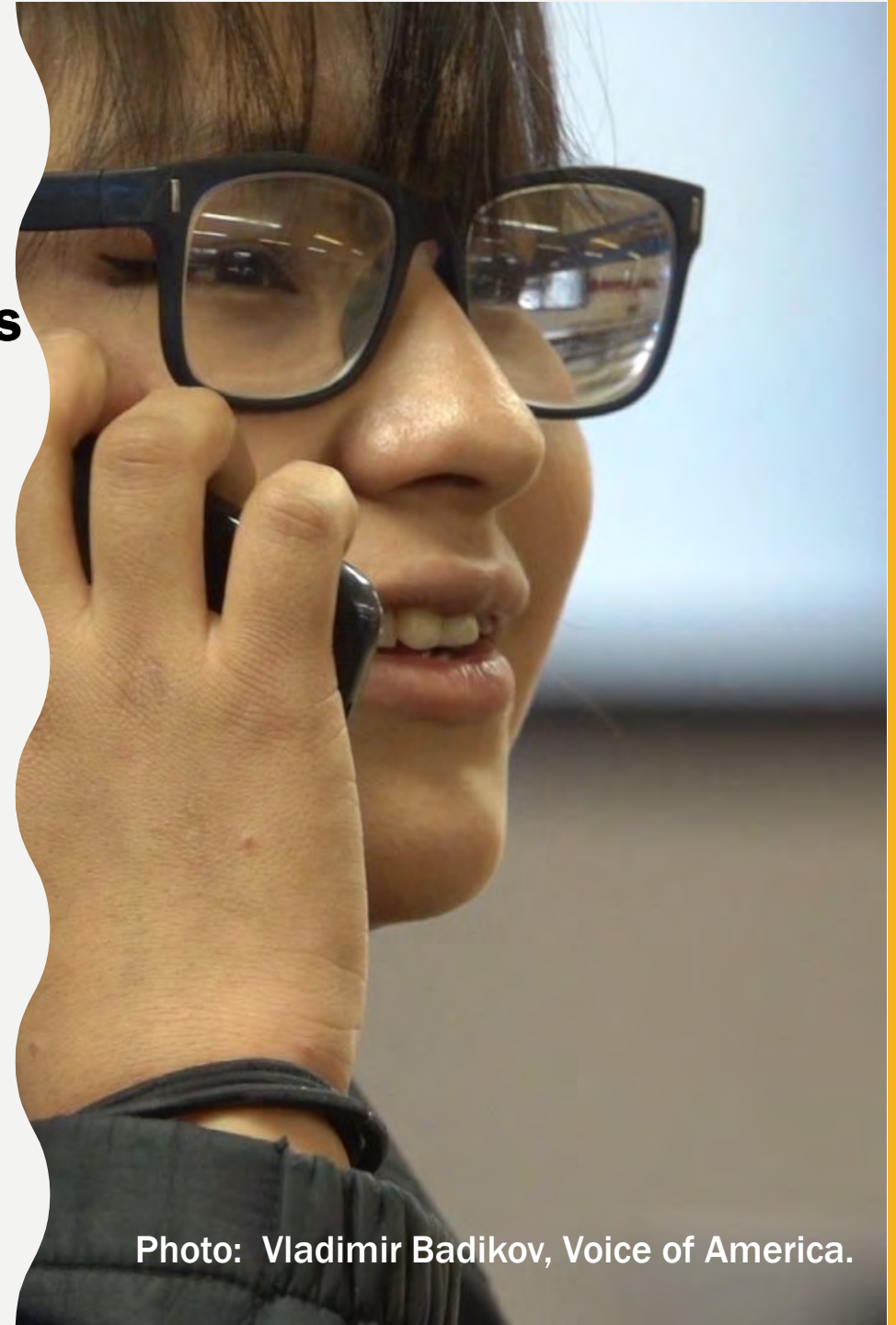


Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America.



WHO YOU'LL HEAR FROM TODAY

Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America.

IMAGEN COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND AWARDEES (MARTY JEIVEN GIFT)



- **Gift cards of \$500-\$1500 per group**
- **To group mentors, not minor girls**
- **IMAGEN announced, vetted, provided contact information to donor**
- **Donor procured and mailed gift cards**

1. Browning School District #9 (Montana)
2. Fort Belknap Girls' Society (Montana)
3. Keweenaw Bay Indian Community Niimigimiwang Transitional Home (Michigan)
4. Diné WE CAN (Arizona)
5. Washoe Tribe of NV & CA - Juvenile Probation Program
6. Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Alaska
7. Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc. (New York)
8. Where All Women Are Honored (S. Dakota)
9. Matriarch, OKC & Tulsa (Oklahoma)

10. Bad River Tribe (Wisconsin)
11. Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
12. Tinokwe Foundation (Oklahoma)
13. Sacred Shawl Society/ Wild Horse Butte Community Development (S. Dakota)
14. Oglala Lakota Children's Justice Center (S. Dakota)
15. Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition
16. Blackfeet Mask Makers (Montana)
17. Blackfeet Manpower Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program (Montana)
18. Hopi Tewa Community Movement (Arizona)
19. Native Youth Arts Initiative (Utah)
20. Wiconi Wawokiya, Inc. (Crow Creek, S. Dakota)
21. Yerington Paiute Tribe Education Department

IMAGEN GIRL SOCIETY 2019 PROGRAM GRANTEES



- **Applications scored by a panel of 7 indigenous female reviewers**
- **Awards of \$7,000-\$40,000**
- **Training workshops + fortnightly technical support**

1. Oklahoma City Indian Clinic (Oklahoma)
2. 100 Horses Society (South Dakota)
3. Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (Minnesota)
4. Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation (South Dakota)
5. White Buffalo Calf Women's Society (South Dakota)

POST-WEBINAR HAPPENINGS



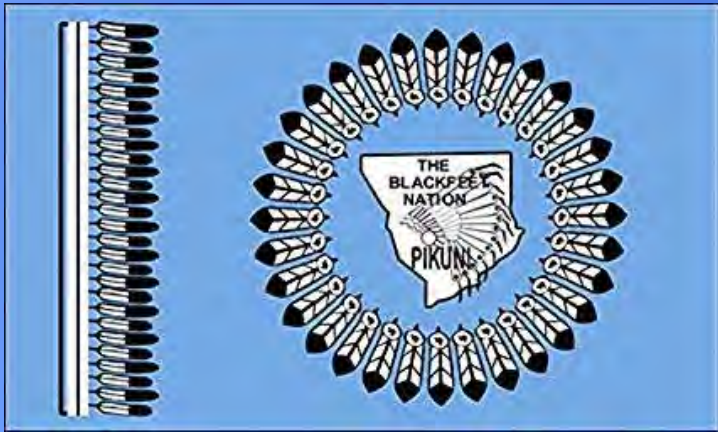
Photo: Vladimir Badikov, Voice of America

- Round 3 of COVID-19 response funding
- October 20 webinar
 - IMAGEN COVID-19 response in Indian Country
- Resource materials
 - Native Girls' Resilience Card Deck
 - Native Girl-Focused Financial Education Module
 - Native Girls' Life-skills Guide
 - Girl Society "How To" Manual
- Training webinars



COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND AWARDEES

Photo: Josephine Wagner (Browning, Montana)



Nikki Hannon, Director
PCOP/Homeless/Foster Care
Liaison, Browning Public Schools

āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p
Blackfeet "we help each other"



Blackfeet Nation, Browning, Montana

- Very Rural & Isolated
 - Blackfeet Reservation is 1.5 million acres
 - Population appx 12,000
- Limited Access to Resources
 - 98% free and reduced lunch
 - 37% poverty rate



Browning Public Schools'

āisspoōmmoōtsiiyō•p

Blackfeet "we help each other"



IMAGEN COVID-19 crisis response fund: How we help during a pandemic

*purchased essential items for young mothers, their children and other young girls experiencing homelessness to create Wellness kits

*include baby hygiene items (ie. oral health care. Shampoo, wipes) and feminine hygiene items, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner

*created the opportunity to continue to build **RELATIONSHIPS**





WICIJANA OYADE

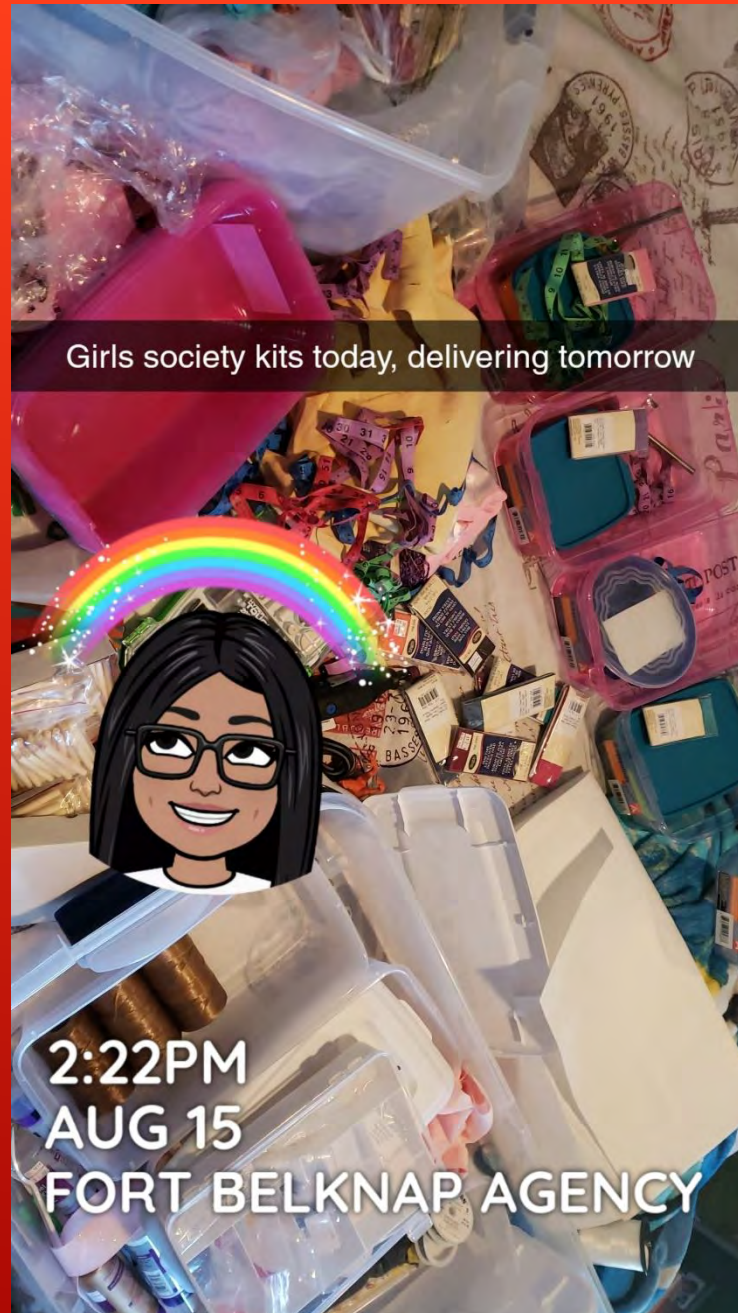
(WE-CHEE-JAH-NUH OH-YAH-DAY)

Fort Belknap Girl's Society

FUNDING-PURCHASES

We purchased:

- Trade Cloth for masks/face covers and over the shoulder purses to hold masks in
- Cotton Material for masks and face covers, elastic, bias tape
- Shawl fringe for new members
- Beads, Bone pipes, wire, metal clasps for necklaces



Girls society kits today, delivering tomorrow

2:22PM
AUG 15
FORT BELKNAP AGENCY

STAY AT HOME KITS

- DELIVERED SAFELY TO 8 GIRLS
- 5 GIRLS WORKING ON RIBBON SKIRT OR SHAWL TO COMPLETE BEFORE RECEIVING A KIT

The materials were put into the kits along with previously purchased materials for the girls' kits

Once the kit is finished they will have:

- 1 Mask
- 1 Trade Cloth purse
- 1 bone and bead necklace
- 1 beaded bracelet
- 1 pair dentalium earrings (older girls)



GETTING TO WORK!



Older cousin HB beading on her personal hat with a mix of the kit beads and her own personal beads



Younger cousin TW made masks out of cotton material and her own sewing machine

- ▶ Follow us on Facebook!!
- ▶ <https://www.facebook.com/Fort-Belknap-Agency-Girls-Society-111698176879421/>

FACEBOOK PAGE LINK



IMAGEN GIRL SOCIETY 2019 PROGRAM GRANTEEES

Photo: Aimee Pond, Mary LeBeau



MISS

Empowering and Investing in Indigenous
adolescent girls



Oklahoma City Indian Clinic

Vision

- “To be the national model for American Indian health care.”

Mission

- “To provide excellent health care to American Indians.”

Core Values

- People First, Quality, Integrity, Professionalism



- ▶ OKCIC is a private, non-profit organization
- ▶ OKCIC has a patient population of 20,000 (6,000 pediatric) from over 200 federally recognized tribes
- ▶ They are served by 220 professionals, representing specialties throughout each department -- Medical, Dental, Optometry, Lab, Radiology, Pharmacy, BRAID, STAR, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Health Promotion Disease Prevention (Wellness Center)

Creation Story

- ▶ The epidemic of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls led to the idea and creation of our girl-centered program. The program is entitled MISS, a name given in homage of MMIWG.
- ▶ The motivation to create this program comes from the need to take action by protecting, empowering, and giving knowledge to our girls in order for them **to not only live, but thrive in today's society.**
- ▶ Being in an urban area, our girls face the threat of being affected by higher rates of violence, while also facing the challenges of misrepresentation in the data collection of MMIWG in urban areas.
- ▶ Target age group: 12-16
- ▶ Future plans to include younger age groups (9-10 yr. olds)

Intentions

- ▶ In an effort to promote safe and healthy lifestyle choices, we have created an intentional girl-centered program. Girl-centered protective asset programs have been shown to help girls in different parts of their lives (IMAGEN Network)
- ▶ The areas that have been impacted include: having greater self-esteem, lower chances of experiencing sexual assault, better school performance, more health knowledge, and enhanced life planning skills (IMAGEN Network)
- ▶ MISS recognizes the issues, challenges, and realities of Indigenous adolescent girls, and provides tools for well-being
- ▶ This is one step in setting the foundation to healthy Native women and communities

MISS Fall 2019

- ▶ 4-week after school program
 - ▶ 4:30 pm-5:30 pm
- ▶ Weekly lessons:
 - ▶ Self and Cultural Awareness
 - ▶ Guest speaker: Amberly Proctor Miss Indian Oklahoma 2019-2020
 - ▶ Activity: MMIW key chain
 - ▶ Communication and Relationship Skills
 - ▶ Guest speaker: Kyla Molina
 - ▶ Activity: Dream catcher
 - ▶ My Body, My Health
 - ▶ Discussion: Feminine health, STDs, Family Planning resources at OKCIC
 - ▶ Activity: Feminine hygiene bag
 - ▶ Safety and Well-Being
 - ▶ Guest speaker: Anthony Whitebird, CPT
 - ▶ Activity: self-defense



MISS Spring 2020

- ▶ Age group: 11-16
- ▶ 6-week after school program
- ▶ Weekly lessons:
 - ▶ Passage into Womanhood
 - ▶ Guest speaker: Enedina Banks
 - ▶ Activity: Indigenous coloring
 - ▶ My Identity
 - ▶ Activity: Family tree and origin stories
 - ▶ Healthy Coping and Relationships/Suicide Awareness
 - ▶ This class was canceled due to weather
 - ▶ Indigenous female role models
 - ▶ Guest Speaker: Amber DuBoise-Shepard, Mabee-Gerrer Museum of Art
 - ▶ Activity: Painting project
 - ▶ My Social Media—self image and cyber bullying
 - ▶ Activity: IMAGEN Cards
 - ▶ Safety and Well-being
 - ▶ Guest Speaker: Anthony Whitebird, CPT
 - ▶ Activity: Self-defense class



Virtual MISS Summer 2020

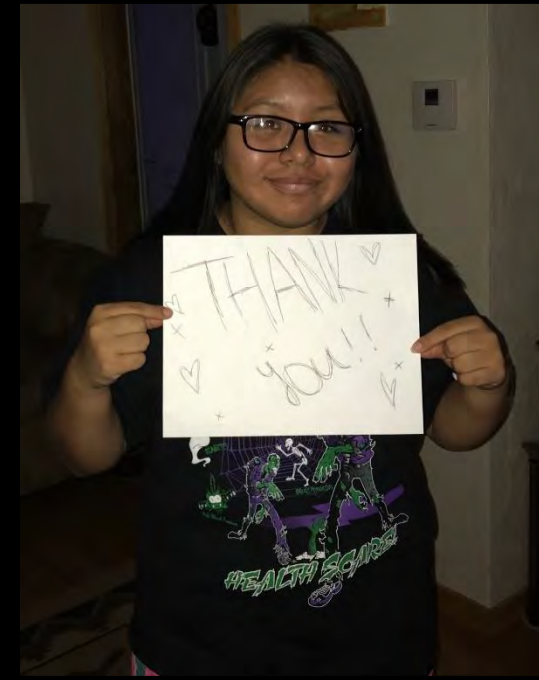
- ▶ Age group: 11-16
- ▶ 5-week virtual meetings
 - ▶ 6/11-7/16
- ▶ Wellness Kits created with IMAGEN COVID-19 Response funds
- ▶ Weekly lessons:
 - ▶ Mental Wellness/Self-esteem/Journaling
 - ▶ Guest speaker: OKCIC therapist Kyla Molina
 - ▶ Activity: Chickasaw pinch pots with clay
 - ▶ Three Sisters Planting
 - ▶ Activity: potting Three Sisters seeds
 - ▶ Medicine Bundle teachings
 - ▶ Guest speaker: Courtney Reeder, CPT
 - ▶ Activity: Lavender-sage smudge stick
 - ▶ Safety and Physical Activity
 - ▶ Activity: Resistance band stretching
 - ▶ Healthy Cooking Demonstration
 - ▶ Activity: Baking multi-grain muffins



Planning for the Future

- ▶ Cultural revitalization, Indigenous fashion and design
 - ▶ Developing and supporting creativity and arts in adolescent girls
 - ▶ Positive coping mechanisms to support health and wellness
- ▶ Cultural and Traditional Practices
 - ▶ Projects will include: introduction to sewing machine use, creation of **applique' designs, loom work/beadwork for earrings, 3-stranded necklace, simple shawl creation and fringing, final project of creating ribbon skirts**
- ▶ Nutrition Education Lessons
 - ▶ Discuss the history, traditional farming practices, and importance of growing our own, traditional crops. Activities will include building personal pots of a vegetable (tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers) and a corn husk doll.
- ▶ Jr MISS- 9-10 year olds

Thank You!



MISS Video



100 Horses Society

12 years of hosting išnáthi alówanpi The Becoming a Woman Ceremony

Thirteen years ago three grandmothers brought back the Becoming a Woman Ceremony to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation. The ceremony is held once a year for four days, girls and women that go through the ceremony become members of the Society.

The 100 Horses Society was created with the purpose of retaining the ceremony for future generations.

2020 is the first year we have not hosted the ceremony.



Small beginnings for 100 Horses Society

- Monthly meetings were for girls and women to prepare for ceremony.
- Meetings were held usually in the community of Eagle Butte at the home of Unci Sandy.
- Supplies were out of pocket expenses until we applied for a small grant through our tribe in 2017 to help purchase supplies.
- Equipment for ceremony belonged to the Grandmothers or were donated to the Society.



Wíkħóškalaka Iglúwitayapi

Gathering of Young Women

IMAGEN™



Indigenous Adolescent Girls'
Empowerment Network

New Beginnings for 100 Horses Society with IMAGEN

- Society Monthly meetings are now gatherings of girls and young women that we call **Wíkhóškalaka Iglúwitayapi**.
- Gatherings can be held in the outlying, underserved communities within CRST boundaries by reimbursing mileage to an Elder Mentor or Society Member to host and share the teachings of womanhood.
- Now more girls and young women can learn about their Lakota culture and how Lakota womanhood is a part of them.
- We were able to purchase video equipment to host virtual gatherings which now include girls that would like to participate and learn.

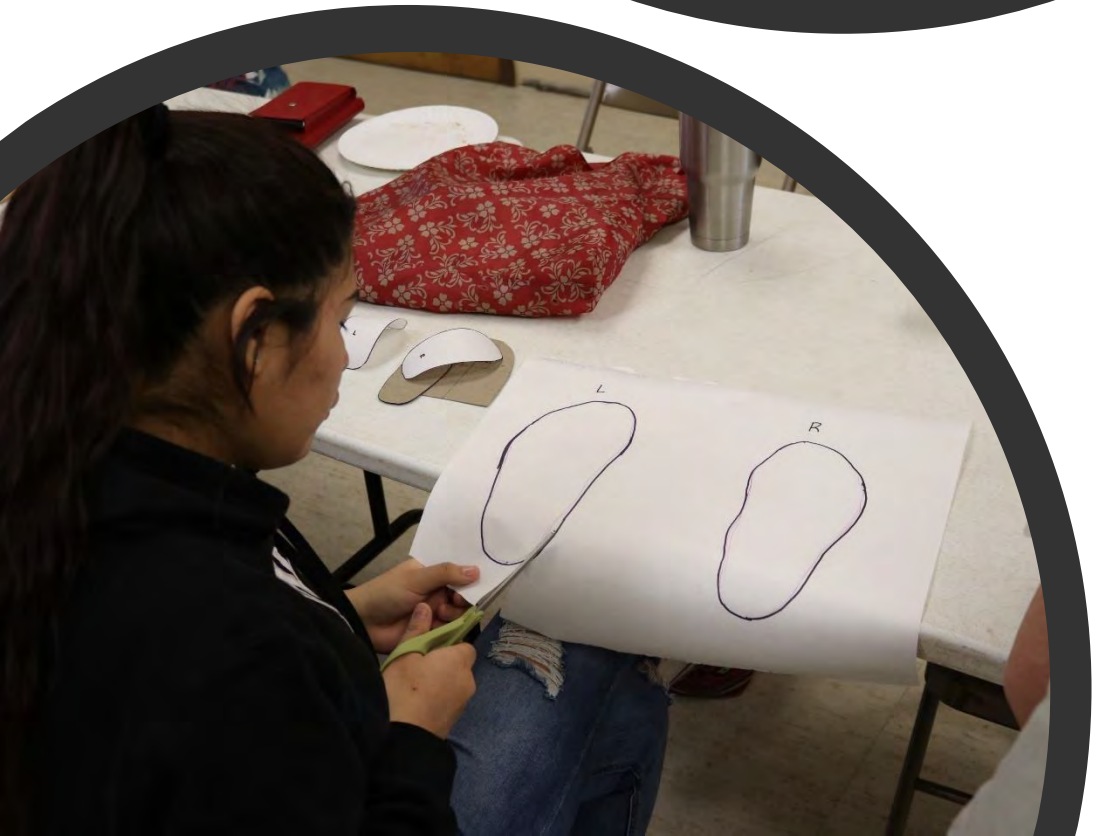
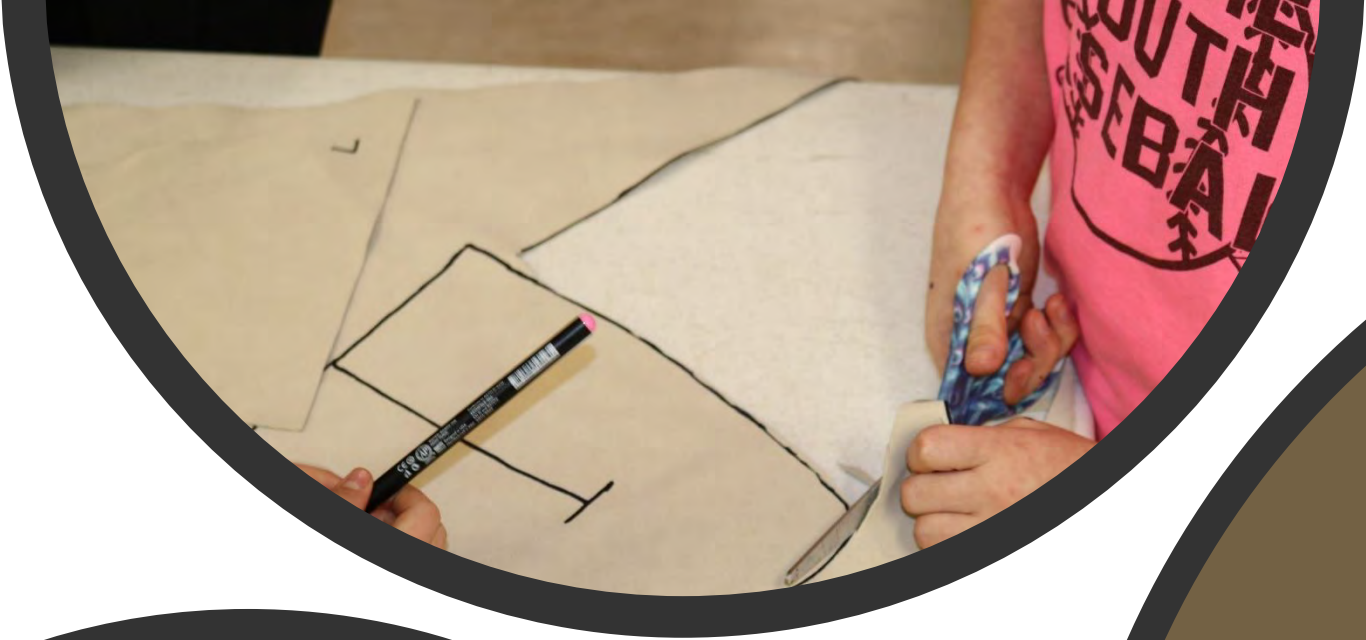


Gathering of
Young women.

Wíkħóškalaka Iglúwitayapi

Some activities that 100 Horses Society provides

- Cultural crafts; moccasin making, sewing, beading, quillwork,
- Ceremony dress making
- Traditional foods and medicines, identification, culturally harvested and preserved
- Lakota womanhood teachings including traditional roles of women and men
- Shared knowledge of ceremonies and etiquette
- Shared knowledge of prayers and songs
- Field trips to cultural sites
- Storytelling
- Creating and sharing cultural education videos



Wíkhóškalaka Iglúwitayapi

Gathering of Young Women



Choke cherry processing with Unci Sandy



Processing traditional foods and medicines with Unci Sandy.

Some challenges we have faced.

- We are always challenged with South Dakota weather at the beginning of the year, snowstorms had us rescheduling some of our Wíkhóškalaka Iglúwitayapi.
- Due to Covid-19, we couldn't hold face to face, group gatherings in the communities.
- We learned there is a major lack of internet connect ability for our girls to attend some of the virtual gatherings that were held.



IMAGEN COVID-19 response funding helped 100 Horses Society to gift our young women with smudge kits which included an abalone shell, sweet grass, cedar, and sage.




A top-down view of various beading supplies. On the left, there are several strands of beads in white, dark red, black, yellow, and red. A pair of red-handled scissors is at the top. In the center, there's a needle and thread package with a yellow thread spool. On the right, there are more strands of beads in red, black, blue, and white. A pair of silver-handled scissors is at the bottom right. A small clear plastic bag is also visible.

IMAGEN COVID-19 response funding
has also helped in gifting our
Wíkhóškalaka Iglúwitayapi attendees
with the necessary beading supplies
to bead their moccasin tops.

IMAGEN™



Indigenous Adolescent Girls'
Empowerment Network



IMAGEN COVID-19 response funding helped 100 Horses Society to provide some of our young women with a quarantine kit.



Thank you ❤️❤️ @medinaluvalot



Our 50-year story

- 100 Horses Society will be a non-profit, continuing to host the Becoming a Woman Ceremony and welcoming new Society members every year.
- **Wíkhóškalaka Iglúwitayapi** will be held daily in all 21 communities within CRST Boundaries. Cheyenne River will have a strong network of girls, young women, women and Elder women supporting, fostering, and encouraging each other's unique talents and gifts, helping to make their families and communities stronger.
- The myth of not being related is dispelled, because we are, by sharing the family trees of all our women and reconnecting our Tiospaye.

Wopíla Tanka
to the IMAGEN team for your part in
planting the seeds for our 50-year story
and for guiding us on our journey to
foster more empowered, supported, and
resilient women on CRST.



Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe



Indigenous Adolescent Girls'
Empowerment Network
(IMAGEN)
Girls' Groups



Location and reservation boundaries

Reservation lands shown in green and located throughout east central Minnesota.

The main government center located on west side on Mille Lacs Lake.

Living communities :

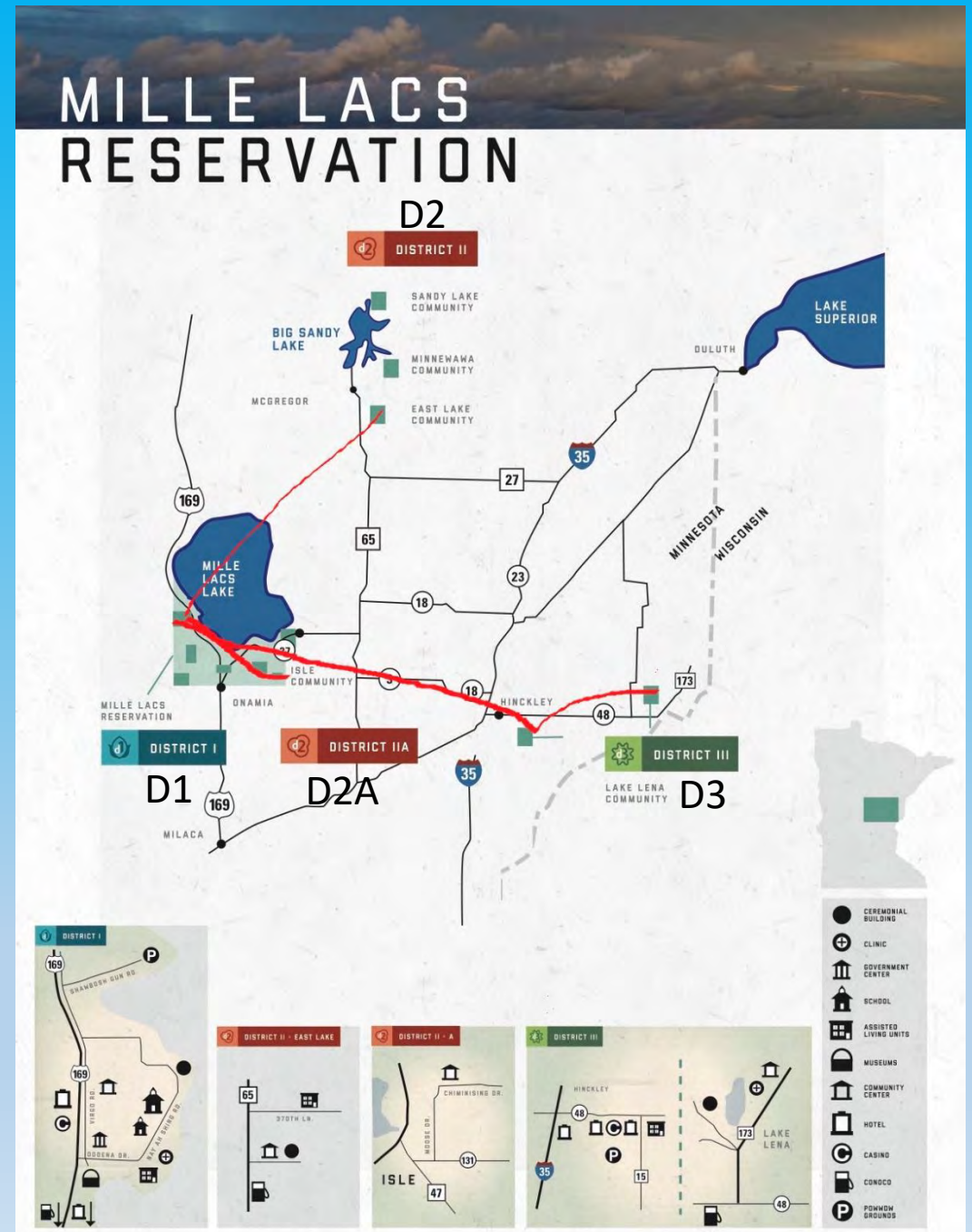
D1 - Mille Lacs (Onamia) – Main

D2 - East Lake - NE of Mille Lacs
– 54 miles

D2A - Isle - SE end of Mille Lacs
Lake – 20 miles

D3 - Hinckley – East of Mille Lacs
– 53 Miles

Lake Lena (Aazhoomog) -
Wisconsin Border off St.
Croix River – 76 Miles



• Minnesota Facts:

- 1.7% (**14,839**) school-aged children are Native American
- Native American graduation rate was 51% in 2019
- 75% (**11,125**) Native American children qualify for free and reduced lunches
- 15.3% of the children that entered out-of-home placements in 2018 were Native American
- **3, 465** Native American children were in out-of-home care in 2018

Why IMAGEN

Women are Sacred Conference 2018

Kelly's work with White Buffalo Calf Society

*This could work in our communities

*How do we do something like this

*Funding opportunity presented itself



Manoomin – Wild Rice



Group Dynamics

- Groups will be individualized to the community they are in
- Weekly meetings, but no prescribed weekly assignments or standardized curriculum
- Each group will be built around participants (age 12 – 16), youth leaders (age 17 – 21) and Elder Mentors also from the home community.
- Meetings will be focused on traditions, life skills (finances, cooking, fixing things, etc.) and 2 topics chosen by the participants on a rotating schedule
- Youth leaders, with the assistance of their Elder Mentors will be responsible for setting up the content chosen by participants

Youth Leaders

- Working with local schools to establish school credits for work done within the groups
- Small Stipend for meeting prep and groups led
- Elder Mentors to help with group: topics, cultural elements, and group dynamics



Elder Mentors

- Be present at group meetings
- Provide support to Youth Leader
 - Help with group projects
 - Assist with group dynamics
- Lead traditional teaching topics
 - Provide teachings
 - Find community members to provide cultural components



Staff Support

- Initial training w/ Youth Leaders and Elders
- Tracking documents and data from the groups
- Providing assistance with information and supplies for topics discussed by groups
- Virtual Meeting setup and delivery
- Attending group meetings and providing guidance
- Setup and Delivery of Band-wide group events



Difficulties with Programming

- COVID – 19
- Connecting w/people

Internet access – Youth, Elders and community in general

Planning virtual events w/limited access

Youth Leaders – taking on responsibility

Virtual connections vs. Human Connection

Thank you!



- Contact Information:

- Kala Roberts

- Kala.Roberts@hhs.millelacsband-nsn.gov



Youth Leadership Development Initiative,
Thunder Valley CDC
Porcupine, South Dakota



WWHY Girl Society

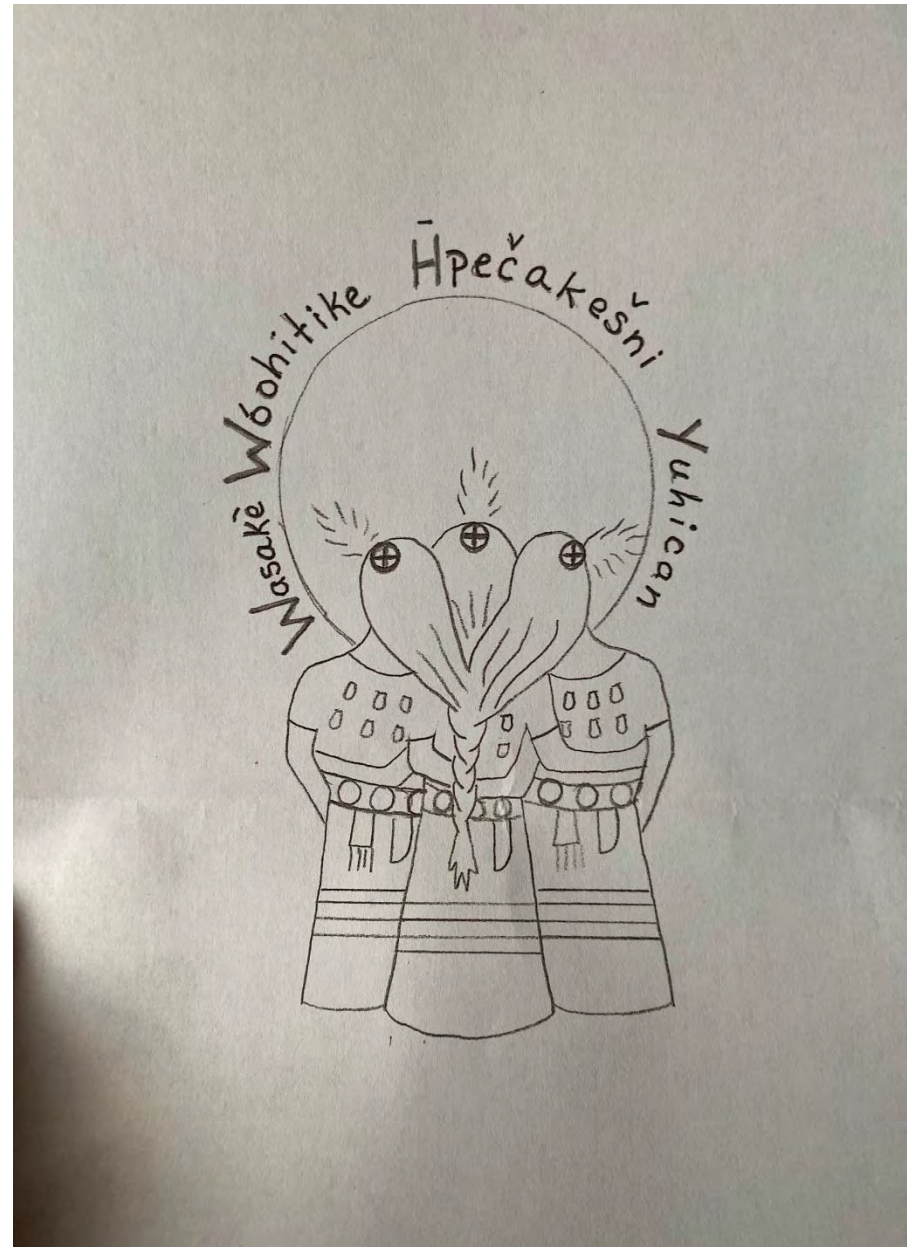
W- woohitike (bravery)

W- wowasake (strong)

H- hpecakesni (assertive)

Y- yuhican (awaken)

The mission of WWHY girls is to empower and support girls through mentoring in order for them to become strong, brave, and assertive Lakota Winyan through cultural awakening and education.



WWHY Girls Society Activities

- November Workshop
- 4 schools
- Virtual WWHY girls
- WWHY Girls Pen Pal program
- Girl society care packages
 - Art supplies, medicine pouches, masks, personal hygiene products



Challenges

- Transportation
- Virtual engagement/not having in person connectedness
- COVID-19 pandemic!!!



Whats next?

- Workshop
- Mentor recruitment
- Re-start up of past groups
- Work on major partnerships (OLC, schools, other similar programs)
- Continue virtual and pen pal program



Long Term vision

- **Consistent Girl Societies in every district**
 - Empowered girls and strong families
 - Strong role models for next generation
 - Self identity and self-esteem
- Support, mentorship, and guidance with IMAGEN



What has IMAGEN meant to girls & women in your community? What conversations has it spurred?

- **Inspired hope and created action plans with community members and increased partnerships**
- **Kept focused on women and girls**
 - Rich in culture
 - Community strengths
- Built partnership, resources, guidance
- **Proactive towards MMIW movement**
 - Girls see the need for self-protection/awareness
 - Risk factors
 - Life skills
- Parent /guardian involvement important
- Girls interested in self-esteem & bullying




WICINCILA SOCIETIES

By White Buffalo Calf Women's Society, Inc.



WICINCILA SOCIETIES OF THE ROSEBUD

6 COMMUNITIES: ANTELOPE, OKREEK, WHITE RIVER, PARMELEE, SPRING CREEK, ROSEBUD

- Our Wicincila Societies or girl groups ages 9-20
- To empower & strengthen our young girls and equip them with life skills as they become young adults.
- A safe place for all young girls to express themselves through culturally implemented activities.
- Encouragement to express what they are dealing with daily basis in our communities on the reservations.
- ENCOURAGEMENT, LIFE SKILLS, EMPOWERMENT, SAFETY.....
- LOTS TO LEARN FROM OUR ANCESTORS!!!!

CELLS PHONES

To help with connecting with our girls during this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. We will also donate 1 computer to each community for the girls as well!!



AS PART OF OUR RECRUITING, WE HAVE MADE PERSONAL HYGIENE GIFT BAGS FOR THE YOUNG GIRLS WITH LOTS OF INFORMATION ON COVID-19 & OUR RESOURCES AT WHITE BUFFALO Calf WOMEN'S SOCIETY.



WOKPA: SPIRITUAL TOOL KIT GIVEN TO EACH GIRL.



ACTIVITIES

- Learn teachings of our ancestors...how to make wasna, harvesting plants - timpsila, etc.
- Cultural Activities include beading kits (earrings, bracelets), skirt making...
- We did do timpsila picking, sage picking, how to make salve.....EXCITING STUFF!!
- ALL WHILE PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING due to the COVID-19. Remember to be safe & mindful of others!!

THANK YOU!



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