Center School has been moving in exciting directions in the past year. Since the inception of our Garden Project, our curriculum and program have dramatically affected the enthusiasm and participation of our students in positive ways. The key is culturally appropriate educational pedagogy. This means teaching and learning in ways that Indigenous people have taught and learned for hundreds of thousands of years.

Imagine a school that teaches its students in ways that are compatible with how they prefer to learn. We are transforming the school experience, making it less like an assembly line and more like a nest from which adults emerge. The key is making our educational program experiential. As one experienced educator has put it, “We have to have faith that there is learning in experience.” Our faith grows as we work and live with our students and see young people growing into responsible, confident adults before our very eyes.

There is no better feeling than what comes from knowing that our work here matters and then seeing success.

We are learning that things that nurture positive experience, like emphasizing the critical importance of relationships and making our lessons and curriculum part of a cohesive whole (read “interdisciplinary”) are essential components of a successful Indigenous educational program. There is a genuine sense of community that makes being here enjoyable.

Additionally, reclaiming our languages and culture helps students in the journey of self-discovery and creates some inner peace in an often troubling world.

I would like to thank our students, their families, our staff and Board of Directors and all of our community partners and funders who continue to be an integral part of the Nawawaye Center School community. Without your help, material and otherwise, we would not exist.

Miigwitch/Pidamaye ye do/ Yakoke (Thanks),

Joe Rice, Executive Director
Nawawaye Center School
### Staff

Mary Cullen, Lead Teacher  
Ethel Bruce, Office Manager  
Frederick Fisher, Security/Men’s Health  
Vicki Bruce, Security/Attendance  
Pat Welch, Women’s Health  
Elayna Cabral, Family Engagement  
Jamie Barton, Language arts  
Matthew Byrnes, Mathematics  
Mike Hueth, Social Studies  
Jim Lorenz, Sciences  
Quentin Brown, Facility, Maintenance  
Wendell Pemberton, Maintenance  
Joe Rice, Executive Director

### From Collaborating Agencies

- Indigenous People’s Task Force  
- Joy Rivera  
- Migizi Communications  
- Tedi Grey Owl, PSPP  
- Graham Hartley  
- Cindy Ward, Science  
- Division of Indian Work  
- Louise Matsen, Pregnancy Prevention  
- Minneapolis Public Schools  
- Kim Galloway, Special Education  
- Native American Community Clinic  
- Lydia Caros, Connie Norman, Judy Day, Shannon Fahey  
- Healthy Nations Program  
- LeMoine LaPointe, Director

We would like to thank Christine Sanguinet from the Metropolitan Federation of Alternative Schools.

We value our partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools and wish to thank Mary Barrie and Diane Glawe for their assistance.

### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td><strong>Property and Equipment – Net</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$247,541</td>
<td>$155,882</td>
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#### Liabilities and Net Assets

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Liabilities:</strong></td>
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<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Capital Lease Payable</td>
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<td>Accrued Salaries</td>
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<td>Accrued Vacation</td>
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<td>Capital Lease Payable</td>
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<td><strong>Net Assets:</strong></td>
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<td>Unrestricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$247,541</td>
<td>$155,882</td>
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### Gifts and Grants July 2008–June 2009

- Martha and Brewster Atwater Foundation  
- Beverley Foundation  
- H B Fuller Foundation  
- General Mills Foundation  
- Florence Golod  
- Headwaters Foundation, Fund of the Sacred Circle  
- Nell Hillsley  
- Robert Jibben  
- McKnight Foundation  
- Minneapolis Kiwanis Club  
- Minnesota State Arts Board  
- Park Nicollet Foundation  
- Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation  
- Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
- James R. Thorpe Foundation  
- Owen and Muriel Turnlund  
- Two Feathers Fund, St. Paul Foundation  
- UCARE  
- Greater Twin Cities United Way  
- Archie D. and Bertha H. Walker Foundation  
- WCA Foundation  
- The Frederick and Margaret L. Weyerhauser Foundation  
- Lauren Weck  
- Winona La Duke / Honor The Earth

*Na-way-ee, Center School, Inc. 2008-2009 Annual Report*
Cultural Enrichment:
Continuous improvement of the Ojibwe language program, enhanced by Native cultural experiences that include drumming, sweat lodges, language classes (for students and adult learners) and participation in other ceremonies.

Health and Wellness
Growing our Healthy Choices Program that provides exercise, health instruction and screening services to Na-way-ee students. A collaboration with Migizi Communications, the Native American Community Clinic, the Indian Health Board, and others, the program is designed to reduce the incidence of diabetes and other diseases among Native youth.

Our girls (and now boys) programs include classes, enrichment opportunities and individual mentoring. These combined efforts are part of our Children of the Seventh Fire program.

The very popular and successful gardening program became the focus of our summer school, improving attendance dramatically since it started in 2006.

Student Success
Two Nawayee students participated in the American Indian Science and Engineering Society national Science Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Attendance improved by 5% over the previous year and for the first time our ADM (Average Daily Membership) corresponded to our stated enrollment goal of 55 students.

Two students graduated and 13 earned enough credits to prepare them to graduate next year.

Organizational Growth
Working with Kim Van DerWall, the board wrote a new mission, vision and values statement that better reflects our current practice and describes our goals.

With new staff and renewed energy, we hired a new language arts teacher and reconfigured staffing so that we now have a full time Indigenous Health Coordinator to oversee both Healthy Choices and the Children of the Seventh Fire Programs. New board member Deatrick LaPointe runs the White Bison (men’s sobriety) program at DIV.

Launch of school-sponsored lunch program that provides healthy meals

New positions to support our students: Establishment of Women’s Health Coordinator as full time position and addition of Family Engagement Worker position

Volunteers from Philadelphia Farms, the University of Minnesota Medical School and Golden Eagles supported our students by helping out with the garden and other projects.

The Cambridge Group, contracted by the Minneapolis Public Schools, wrote a highly complimentary evaluation of the school, praising the cultural programming for improved outcomes and noting strong staff/student relationships.

Building Improvements
New windows and carpeting, upgrades to heating and security systems, new computers for computer lab

Completion of Phase Two of our student mural; 15 students helped two community artists design and paint a mural depicting the four directions on our south wall above the garden.

Construction of fencing and flower boxes for our garden and decorative picnic table for our garden. 

Strengthened through a strong Native and community network, Center School continued to grow and innovate during the 2008-09 year:

Expanded student opportunities for outdoor field trips that included canoeing, orienteering, rock climbing and an exercise program that include basketball, weight training, biking and yoga.

Two Nawayee students and our Lead Teacher participated in the NAALA (Natives, Africans, Asians, Latinos and Allies) conference that engaged both Native American and Irish students in Wicklow, Ireland.

Center School coordinates the Phillips Indian Educators (PIE) network, which brings together educators who work in public, charter and alternative schools that serve Native American students. The school launched the PIE website with best practices posted and a list for communication among teachers. This year, we have posted new curricula, resources and biographies of local Native American leaders. Use of the site continues to increase.

As part of our work with PIE, staff and board members actively participated in Memorandum of Agreement discussions with the Minneapolis Public Schools. Our goal is to work with the District to create better educational environments and outcomes for all Indian students.

The very popular and successful gardening program became the focus of our summer school, improving attendance dramatically since it started in 2006.

A sample from our Fall Harvest
Board of Directors 2008-2009

Thank you to our board of Directors for their support and guidance during the last year.

NANCY BORDEAUX
Director
Indigenous Women’s Life Net
Minneapolis American Indian Center

ANDREA CARLSON
Graduate Student

PAUL HEGRE
Teacher on Special Assignment
Minneapolis Public Schools

ROBERT JIBBEN
Director (ret.)
Metropolitan Federation
of Alternative Schools

DEATRICK LAPOINTE, M.A.
Division of Indian Work
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches

LEMOINE LAPOINTE
Director
Twin Cities Healthy Nations Program
Minneapolis American Indian Center

CECELIA MARTINEZ
Community Consultant

KAREN MCCALL
McCall Design, Inc.

OWEN TURNLUND, DIRECTOR (RET.)
Plymouth Christian Youth Center

LEMOINE LAPOINTE
Director
Healthy Nations Program

Na-way-ee, Center School, Inc.
2421 Bloomington Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55404