



KNOWLEDGE RESPECT
COURAGE GENEROSITY

2008-2009 Annual Report

Na-way-ee, Center School, Inc.

Our Mission: Providing transformative education,
grounded in indigenous life-ways and love of learning.

Letter from the Executive Director

Halito,

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



One of our 2009 Graduates and Family.

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



Title I Meeting

continue to be an integral part of the Nawayee Center School community. Without your help, material and otherwise, we would not exist.

Miigwiitch/Pidamaye ye do/ Yakoke (Thanks),

Joe Rice, Executive Director
Nawayee 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 Huerth, *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

	2009	2008
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 106,269	\$ 27,978
Accounts Receivable	3,092	2,891
Grants Receivable	65,000	57,500
Prepaid Expenses	5,862	5,721
Total Current Assets	180,223	94,090
Property and Equipment – Net	67,318	61,792
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 247,541	\$ 155,882

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 13,050	\$ 10,095
Line-of-Credit	16,610	24,464
Notes Payable	–	1,301
Capital Lease Payable	–	2,901
Accrued Salaries	3,227	3,227
Accrued Vacation	11,520	14,238
Total Current Liabilities	44,407	56,226
Notes Payable	–	–
Capital Lease Payable	–	–
Total Liabilities	44,407	85,104
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	105,662	29,156
Temporarily Restricted	97,472	70,500
Total Net Assets	203,134	99,656
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 247,541	\$ 155,882

Gifts and Grants July 2008–June 2009

Martha and Brewster Atwater Foundation
 Beverly 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

Center School Achievements

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



Our Garden Mural phase 2

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.



Outside of Bear Butte Lodge

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.

Community Leadership

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.

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 Indige-



Shirleen on the summer bike expedition

nous 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.



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.

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