

NORTHERN PLAINS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOSHUA ARCE, PWNA PRESIDENT & CEO



Greetings Program Partners!

As we bid farewell to 2024 and welcome the promise of 2025, we find ourselves in a season of transformation and renewal. The changing weather and colder months remind us of the beauty in change and the excitement of new beginnings.

This time of year is perfect for reflection and preparation. As we gather with loved ones and celebrate the holidays, we have the opportunity to recharge our spirits and strengthen our bonds. These moments of togetherness and gratitude will pave the way for a bright and prosperous new year.

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering partnership and support. Your feedback and insights are invaluable to us, and we eagerly anticipate hearing about your spring initiatives. Together, we will continue to create impactful programs and achieve remarkable success in the coming year.

From all of us at PWNA, we wish you and your communities abundant blessings and joy as we step into the next year with hope and enthusiasm.

Warm regards,

Migwech!



PWNA President & CEO
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Partner Spotlight

“ I was just blown away by what was sent. I didn't know the types of items that would be provided or what to really expect. The personal hygiene, the laundry soap, and household items have just really helped our vets. ”

– Jeanie Beartusk, Northern Cheyenne Reservation/Lame Deer, MT



Jeanie Beartusk is the Veterans Coordinator at Northern Cheyenne Veterans Affairs located on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Lame Deer, Montana. Her program assists veterans with scheduled appointments, transportation, a talking circle, and suicide prevention services. They also coordinate with a Veterans Service Officer who helps vets obtain discharge papers, enroll in VA benefits, and coordinate their annual Summer Block Party event that is open to all districts.

Jeanie and the Veterans Affairs program have worked with PWNA since early 2023. They use the Healthy Living service to provide an environment for improving mental, emotional and spiritual wellness for their veterans. Jeanie is most surprised by the types and quality of incentive products that PWNA sends. She says then when the veterans receive their bag of PWNA items, their eyes and faces light up. “It’s really special to see.” She wishes more Tribal programs knew about PWNA.

Jeanie helps 159 veterans on the reservation and takes time to join them in the talking circle, listening to the stories and experiences they share. She is very thankful for what PWNA brings and will do anything she can to help their veterans. Thank you, Jeanie, for your service to your community!





“ Food sovereignty is such an important aspect for communities, especially in low-income areas. ”

Alexandria Fancher, SWO Vice Chairwoman, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, Agency Village, SD



“ PWNA is helping the Hualapai Tribe set foundations for the future generation by assisting in re-discovery of Tribal Food Sovereignty and how it can play a vital role in our tribe’s continuity and resilience. ”

Cheyenne Majenty, Tribal Council Member, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, AZ

PWNA teamed up with Feeding America on a pilot project called Natives Prepared, which involved five Tribal Nations throughout the country. This project combines food sovereignty with emergency preparedness, aiming to ensure Tribes have a food access plan before disaster strikes. Our Long-Term Solutions (LTS) teams in the Northern Plains and Southwest are working with two of the five Tribes: the Hualapai Tribe in Arizona and the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation in South Dakota.

The Plains partner, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, led by Tribal Vice Chairwoman “Lexie” Fancher, began operationalizing their 2023 Gaps Analysis, Food Access Map, and Action Plan at the beginning of 2024. These efforts outline an enhanced path towards food sovereignty and emergency preparedness. Vice Chairwoman Fancher, supported by SWO Emergency Management and the SWO Dare teams, oversaw the project and she secured an additional \$10,000 grant through PWNA’s 2024 Community Investment Project. The Feeding America and PWNA funds supported the development of a new 7-acre garden in Agency Village, SD and the first harvest, including traditional squash, was shared with Elders and the community. Subsequent resources, including classes and materials, will be provided through SWO’s new Food Sovereignty & Security Program.

Since 2023, the Natives Prepared project has allowed PWNA to provide intensive capacity-building to both Sisseton-Wahpeton and Hualapai Tribes. Most recently, PWNA’s Long-Term Solutions team hosted an Indigenous Foodways Tour for both Tribal teams, visiting key Plains food sources across two states. Tours of Feeding South Dakota, Sisseton’s Buffalo Herd, Tado Tipi, SWO Fish Hatchery and Orchards, Dream of Wild Health Garden (Hugo, MN), and a traditional foods experience at NATIFS Indigenous Labs (Minneapolis, MN) were all part of a whirlwind three-day tour. PWNA also funded two SWO DARE workers in attending Thunder Valley’s Liberation Summit, as well as funding SWO Tribal Executive Tina Jennen’s participation in the 2025 Intertribal Agricultural Council Conference alongside Hualapai representatives. Both projects are already increasing the visibility of food access during disasters, as well as enhancing their collaborative relationships between Tribal Nations.



All-Purpose Wipes

Lemon Lime Diet Soda

Nail Polish Remover

Battery-operated Spa Brush

Hand Sanitizer

Latex-free Gloves

Disposable Gloves



Service Highlights

2025 PWNA Delivery Calendar can be downloaded from the [Program Partner website](#).

The Healthy Living service is PWNA’s most frequently requested offering because it aligns well with many of the Tribal organizations in our service area. Organizations that encourage people to participate in continuous education and/or engagement activities to support self-improvement, personal growth, and improved wellness may request the Healthy Living service.

Healthy Living is an incentive-based service, meaning that people who participate in health/wellness education or engagement earn an incentive. PWNA hopes that partners using these incentives can increase participation rates as well as the ongoing involvement of community members in their programs.

To be a Healthy Living Program Partner, your organization must provide health education or engagement in at least one of three ways:

- 1-on-1 Education must occur in an office setting, such as WIC appointments or mental health counseling sessions
- Home Visits occur when education is provided in the home.
- Classes occur when multiple people engage around education or a health activity at the same time

Each Healthy Living request must include a health education or engagement component that improves quality of life, along with the time frame of the engagement (weekly, monthly, etc.). As the incentives are distributed, the Program Partner must collect signatures from each participant and include those signature sheets when turning in your report.



SAVE THE DATE

Coming early in 2025: A new Community Investment Project (CIP) offer to support Indigenous Foodways. Watch for updates!

- ✓ **AIEF Scholarship Deadline – April 4th.** Undergraduate and Graduate scholarship applications are now open for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters/quarters. Click the hyperlink for eligibility requirements. (Deadlines: March 1st to earn an extra point | Final Deadline: April 4th)
- ✓ **PWNA 2025 Delivery Schedule** will be in your January delivery packet. You may also download the calendar at the Program Partner website. PWNA will not be delivering by “regular” zones in January; we will be sending you delivery notifications by email or a phone call. If you do not receive a notification, please call our office. We will return to a normal zone delivery schedule in February.
- ✓ **School Supplies Requests** will be accepted starting February 3.
- ✓ **March 8-12th** | AIHEC (American Indian Higher Education Consortium) Annual Student Conference – Rapid City, SD <https://www.aihec.org/event/2025-aihec-student-conference/>
- ✓ **March 19-21st** | SD Public Health & Preparedness Annual Forum: "Ready, Respond, Recover: Strengthening Health for Every Emergency" – Oacoma, SD
- ✓ **March TBD** | Tribal Emergency Manager Convening Focus Group – Location: TBD
- ✓ **May 27-29th** | Great Plains Tribal Emergency Management Summit – Location: TBD
- ✓ **Daylight Saving Time** begins Sunday, March 9th, remember to turn your clocks forward one hour!



*** REPORT DEADLINE REMINDERS ***

Due 30 days after delivery:

Healthy Living
Community Events
Food Pantry

Due 90 days after delivery:

Standard Food
Residential
Animal Welfare



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

135,616

MILES DRIVEN

1,867

SHIPMENTS

2,102,630

LBS OF SUPPLIES

1,204

SERVED THROUGH ANIMAL WELFARE

45,849

SERVED THROUGH HEALTH SERVICES

14,388

SERVED THROUGH EMERGENCY SERVICES

14,811

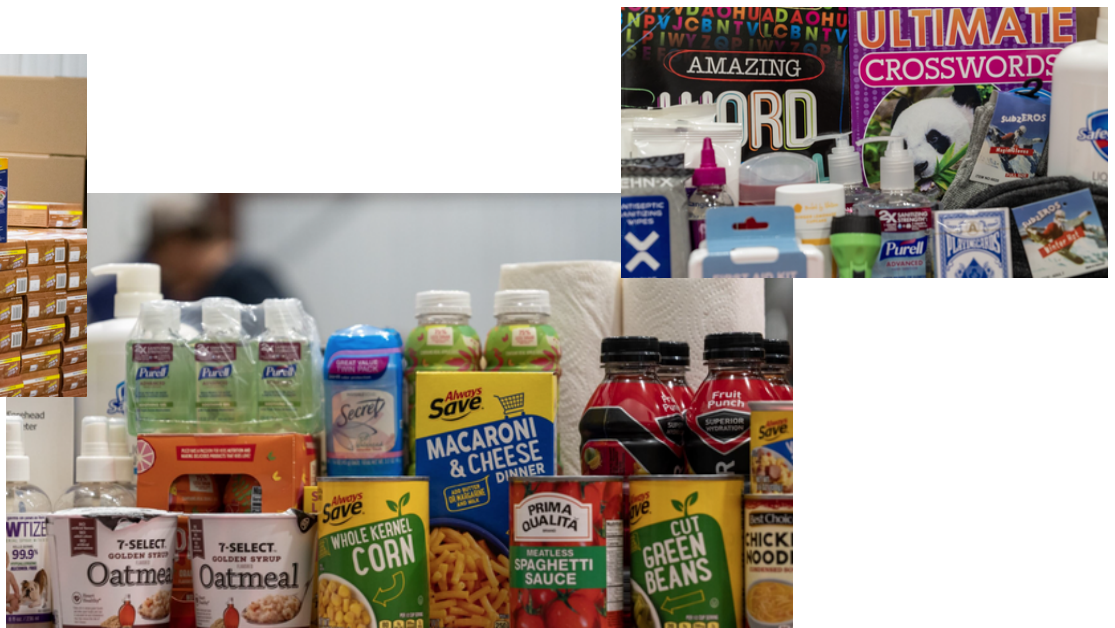
SERVED THROUGH EDUCATION SERVICES

54,862

SERVED THROUGH FOOD SERVICES

Partnership With Native Americans would like to thank you for your valued partnership. We look forward to a strong, lasting relationship with your organization.

If you need help with Material Services or Long-Term Solutions, please call us at (866) 556-2472 or (605) 399-9905.



EDUCATION UPDATE



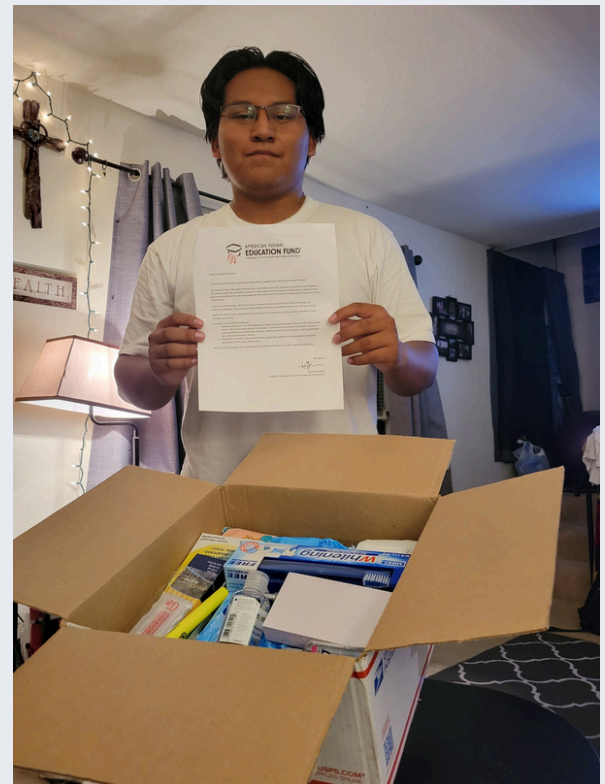
- Our American Indian Education Fund (AIEF) team welcomed a new Higher Education Coordinator, Anna Turi, who will be working out of our Rapid City, SD office.
- To ease AIEF scholars through exams, each 2024-2025 scholar received a Holiday care pack, as well as a holiday gift for small children and siblings who live with them.
- A few AIEF scholars received valued mentorship through our collaboration with Synchrony Foundation, as part of our scholarship advisory support.

Undergraduate and Graduate scholarship applications are now open for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 semesters/quarters. Click the hyperlink for eligibility requirements. (Deadlines: March 1st to earn an extra point | Final Deadline: April 4th)

If you have any questions about AIEF scholarships, please email aief@nativepartnership.org or call (866) 866-8642.

Thank you for the care package for me to get a great start in college. This package helped me with the essentials... This was an unexpected gift, and I am grateful that all of you took the time to put it together and get it out to me before I left for college. I will have a great start with having my needs met with your help.

– Rome W., Navajo AIEF scholar



CONTACT US

PWNA only delivers needed goods and services. We want to ensure the products we send fit your needs. If they do not, please call us so that we may better serve you.

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Crofton | January 9, 2024