

## **E-NEWSLETTER | WINTER 2009**

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### **Dear NACA Member**

We hope you enjoy this newsletter; it is one of the benefits of your membership in the Native American Children's Alliance.

## **NACA UPDATES**

### **NACA Helps Sponsor Indian Nations 2008 Conference**

"Strengthening the Heartbeat of all our Relations" was the theme for The 11th National Indian Nations Conference held in Palm Springs this past December.

NACA was proud to be one of the sponsors of this well attended event that brought nearly 800 participants from all across Native American/Alaskan Native communities. This conference is sponsored by The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the Tribal Law and Policy Institute. It was held on the Agua Caliente Reservation in Palm Springs California. NACA provided a workshop on Native Child Advocacy Centers where Lisa Thompson, Board President shared her experiences in starting and operating the child advocacy center she oversees in Ft. Thompson, SD. She was joined by other NACA Board members, Corrine Sanchez, and Margaret Henry Hayes who also shared their experiences and advice on implementing successful advocacy programs.

### **Cross-Mentoring Multidisciplinary Training for Native Communities**

"Reconnecting the Circle: Towards Ending Child Sexual Abuse in Indian Country" was the theme for NACA's Annual Cross Mentoring training held in December on the Agua Caliente Reservation. This all day training event provided participants with valuable information on starting and maintaining effective multidisciplinary teams. Diane Payne introduced a powerful video, produced by her organization Tribal Law and Policy Institute, "Pathway to Hope: Healing Child Sexual Abuse" that provides a perspective from adult survivors of child sexual abuse. It is a community-based tool available to Native communities who want to set standards that promote safety for children and hold offenders accountable.

Roe Bubar, consultant and former child advocacy director along with Lisa Thompson, Board President and director of a Native CAC in South Dakota facilitated group discussions on the challenges and opportunities that face tribal communities as they form multi-disciplinary teams.

Multidisciplinary Team Training offered in Albuquerque, New Mexico. NACA was pleased to team up with the BIA office in Albuquerque to provide a two-day training on developing effective multidisciplinary teams. Representatives from the Pueblos gathered together to learn about MDT's and to begin exploring what model would be most effective to serve the diverse Pueblos. Brenda George of the Western Regional Child Advocacy (WRCAC) helped facilitate this two day event and provide information on the training and technical assistance resources available to these communities as they move toward developing an MDT that can serve their children. Corrine Sanchez, NACA Board member and founder of the Brave Voices, provided her expertise on MDT development. NACA will continue to provide on-going support to these communities.

## **NOTABLE NOTES**

Board member, Arlana Betteyloun received a Victims Advocacy Award which was presented at the Indian Nations conference in Palm Springs this past December. Arlana was honored for her work in Indian Country for advocating for the protection and rights of children who have been abused. She is the Director of the CASA Program in Pine Ridge South Dakota and is also developing a Child Advocacy Center. Arlana serves as the NACA board secretary and is a strong advocate for children on both the local and national levels.

NACA's Board Vice President Corrine Sanchez was recently selected to participate in Bridge to Change for Indigenous Women. This one year leadership skills building program is designed for Indigenous women working to end violence against Indigenous women and children. Twenty women were selected to be Bridge Partners. This exciting program will begin with a retreat in Minnesota in March where women from the United States Native communities, Australia, Canadian First Nations, New Zealand, and Kenya will meet for the first time and form a supportive network to one another as they continue to work on eliminating violence in their communities.

NACA's Executive Director Linda Logan was also selected as a Bridge Partner. Bridge to Change is a program of the Partners for Women's Equality non-profit organization based in Minnesota with the philosophy that change occurs at a grass-roots level. They focus on International partners who work with or for those women or with the children who may become marginalized.

### **HAPPENINGS**

NACA will join tribes and other organizations from across the country to co-sponsor the 27th Annual Protecting Our Children conference for the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA). This popular conference will be held April 19-22, 2009. The host hotel is the Peppermill Resort in Reno Nevada. To register for the conference go to [www.nicwa.org/conference](http://www.nicwa.org/conference). To get the special hotel rate of \$84.00 call before March 23. This year's workshops will feature innovative strategies to effectively meet the needs of

our children and families through strong collaborations. NACA will present a workshop and have an informational booth in the exhibit hall.

## **Funding Opportunities**

### **Bank Of American Neighborhood Excellence Initiative**

The Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, Bank of America's signature philanthropic program, recognizes nonprofit organizations and individuals working to improve their communities. The focus is on areas such as education, community development and/or neighborhood preservation, arts and culture, and health and human services. The Initiative's Neighborhood Builders category provides grants of \$200,000 each to two nonprofit organizations working to promote vibrant neighborhoods in each of the Bank's 45 markets. The Local Heroes category provides grants of \$5,000 each to nonprofit organizations selected by each of five recognized individuals in the targeted markets. Applications and nominations must be submitted online by June 30, 2009; early submission is encouraged. Guidelines for both categories are available on the Bank of America website: [www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com).

### **Fellowships for Activists of Color Alston Bannerman Fellowship Program**

The Alston Bannerman Fellowship Program, an initiative of the Center for Social Inclusion, is committed to advancing progressive social change by helping to sustain long-time activists of color living and working in the U.S. or its territories. The program honors those who have devoted their lives to helping their communities organize for racial, social, economic, and environmental justice. Fellows receive an award of \$25,000 to take sabbaticals of three months or more for reflection and renewal. The sabbaticals may be used to explore new interests, travel, relax, visit with other activists, or do whatever the Fellows think is necessary to prepare for their future work. Applicants must have more than ten years of community organizing experience and be committed to continuing to work for social change. Both paid staff and volunteer leaders are eligible for these fellowships. The application deadline is March 31, 2009. Application guidelines and forms are available on the website: [www.alstonbannerman.org](http://www.alstonbannerman.org).

### **Grants Assist Native Youth Programs**

#### **First Nations Development Institute: Native Youth and Culture Fund**

First Nation's Native Youth and Culture Fund supports projects that incorporate culture and tradition to address social issues such as drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, mental health, etc. Funded projects should focus on one or more of the following priority areas: preserving cultural and/or spiritual practices, beliefs, and values; engaging both youth and elders in activities that demonstrate methods for documenting traditional knowledge, practices, and/or beliefs; increasing youth's capacity to lead through integrated educational or mentoring programs; and increasing access to cultural customs

and beliefs through the use of appropriate technologies as a means of preserving tribal language, arts, history, or other culturally relevant topics. Instructions for developing letters of interest, which are due February 27, 2009, are available on the First Nations website: [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org).

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