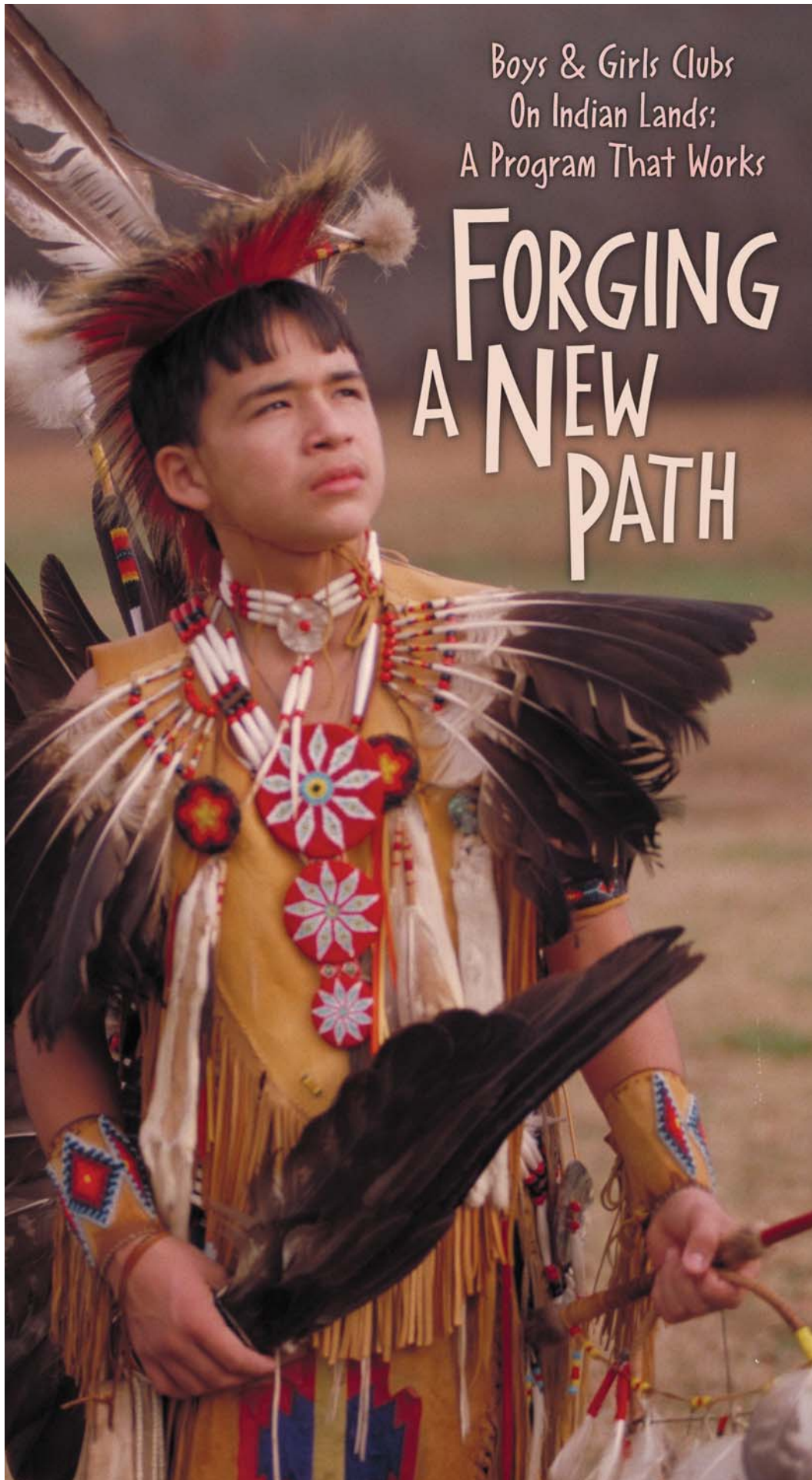


Boys & Girls Clubs  
On Indian Lands:  
A Program That Works

# FORGING A NEW PATH



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## Boys & Girls Clubs on Indian Lands: A Program That Works



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA

### Boys & Girls Clubs of America at a glance

- ④ 4.4 million youth served annually
- ④ More than 3,700 Club locations
- ④ Over 200 Club locations on Native American lands
- ④ 44,000 trained professional staff
- ④ 172,000 adult volunteers
- ④ Clubs located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and on military bases worldwide

### Reaching Out, Providing Hope

Few aspects of American life are more distressing than the state of our first citizens, Native Americans. Poverty, at levels unthinkable in the world's richest country, causes problems and issues for Indians that can only be imagined. Where alcohol and drug abuse, tobacco use, and even starvation occur in other areas of the country, particularly in the inner cities, statistics show the impact is magnified dramatically on Indian reservations.

The situation is especially bleak for young people growing up on reservations and in communities in Indian Country. **These youth represent perhaps the most vulnerable, at-risk population in the United States today.** Every day, Indian children and teens are confronted by a host of risk factors for negative behaviors that can greatly detract from their healthy development. Poverty, alcoholism, lack of educational opportunities, and a general feeling of hopelessness are just a few of the challenges that Native American youth must deal with and conquer in order to become successful and productive adults.

For more than 140 years, the Boys & Girls Club experience has positively affected America's young people, with an emphasis on providing valuable programs and services to youth from the most challenging

economic and societal backgrounds. In fact, Boys & Girls Clubs of America's (BGCA's) mission is to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

Given the specific challenges facing Indian youth, reaching out to Native American young people is a natural fit with BGCA's mission. For the past decade, Boys & Girls Clubs of America has been establishing Boys & Girls Clubs in communities and on reservations in Indian Country, as well as on Hawaiian and Alaskan lands. Today, some 120,000

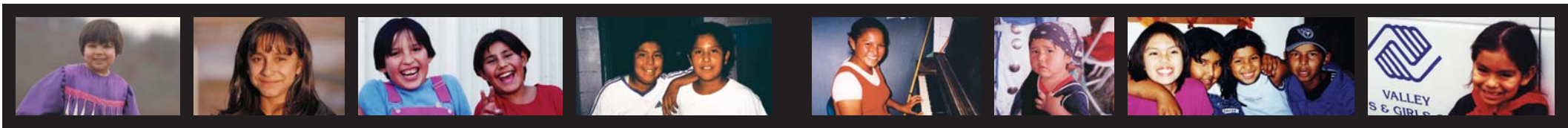
Indian youth are served by more than 200 Native American Boys & Girls Clubs in 24 states.

An independent evaluation confirms that Boys & Girls Clubs are already having a positive impact in this relatively short period of time. Data indicates that our proven programs and services are having a dramatic effect in terms of helping Indian youth resist drugs and alcohol, and premature sexual activity.

(CHEYENNE NATION EVALUATION REPORT,  
CHARLES H. ASP, PH.D.)

"The Boys & Girls Club model is the very best. It gets kids in touch with people who really care about them."

—Rick Robinson  
Boys & Girls Club of the  
Northern Cheyenne Nation



While this is great news, we must keep in mind that there are 1.4 million Native American children in the United States (*U.S. CENSUS*). Clearly, our work is far from over.

To date, much of our Native American outreach initiative has been supported by government funding. However, we know how risky it is for any Club—especially Native American Clubs—to rely on any single source of funding indefinitely. Given the positive impact that Clubs have already had on Indian youth, we want to ensure that each and every Native American Club becomes self-sustaining. The very last thing these young people need is to lose something that is

**“Every child has the potential to succeed.”**

—Emma Harris  
Boys & Girls Club of the  
Northern Cheyenne Nation

adding hope and consistency to their lives.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America is committed

to ensuring the long-term sustainability of our current Clubs and to establishing more Clubs to serve thousands of Native American children who could benefit from our services—but we need your help. Boys & Girls Clubs of America is inviting businesses, foundations, individuals, and government to assist us in guaranteeing that Clubs will always be there for our neediest kids. With your support, we will continue to

**FORGE A NEW PATH  
IN INDIAN COUNTRY.**

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## A POPULATION IN NEED

Native American youth are at a higher risk of substance abuse, suicide and teen pregnancy than **all** other groups in the United States:

- ⌚ “Compared to the total U.S. population, Native Americans (American Indians and Alaska Natives) have higher prevalence rates of drug abuse, heavy cigarette use, alcohol dependence, and the need for drug abuse treatment.” (*SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION*)
- ⌚ Indian youth are more likely to die from accidents, homicide and suicide than youth in the general population. (*U.S. CENSUS*)
- ⌚ Native youth, ages 15-19, have the highest suicide rate of any racial group in the U.S. (*CDC 2005*)
- ⌚ Forty-five percent of Indian mothers have their first child before the age of 20. This is true for only 24 percent of the general U.S. population. (*U.S. CENSUS*)

On one reservation, local law enforcement, accustomed to arresting a new crop of 17-year-olds for alcohol use on a regular basis, reports that arrests have declined considerably since the Boys & Girls Clubs opened.

from “A Guide to Starting  
Boys & Girls Clubs in Indian Country”

For youth who live in public housing and who have access to a Boys & Girls Club, the influence of Clubs is manifested in their involvement in healthy and constructive educational, social and recreational activities.

From an independent evaluation by  
Dr. Steven Schinke of Columbia University

- ⌚ Gangs are prevalent on American Indian reservations. In 1997, tribal police reported 75 active gangs in the Navajo Nation alone. (*SAVE THE CHILDREN*)

Similarly, Native American youth lag far behind the national average in terms of **education**:

- ⌚ Only 52 percent finish high school, versus the national average of 88 percent
- ⌚ Only 17 percent go to college with a mere 4 percent graduating, compared to the national enrollment rate of 66 percent and graduation rate of 35 percent
- ⌚ Only 2 percent go to graduate school (*NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS*)

The situation is even more grim for the 406,000 Indian youth who live on reservations (*ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION*) in terms of:

## ...housing

- ⌚ 14 percent have no electricity on reservations (1.4% general pop.) (*U.S. DOE*)
- ⌚ 20 percent have no indoor plumbing (1% general pop.) (*U.S. DOE*)

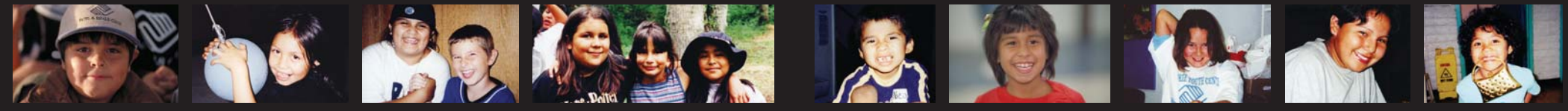
## ...health issues

- ⌚ Alcohol mortality is 510 percent greater than all other races combined
- ⌚ Tuberculosis mortality is 533 percent greater than the U.S. general population
- ⌚ Diabetes mortality is 189 percent greater than the U.S. general population
- ⌚ Homicide is 61 percent greater than the U.S. general population (*THE INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE 2006*)
- ⌚ Fetal alcohol syndrome is 3 times higher than for other Americans (*SAMHSA*)

## ...and income

- ⌚ 19% of children have no parent in the labor force (*ANNIE E. CASEY*)
- ⌚ 32 percent of Native American children live below the poverty level (*ANNIE E. CASEY*)
- ⌚ Average unemployment rate is 46 percent and is 80 percent on some reservations (*CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE*)

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## A PROGRAM THAT WORKS

Boys & Girls Clubs offer positive alternatives to youth who are surrounded by negative influences, showing them how to live successful and productive lives. Clubs provide children and teenagers with safe havens where they can explore their potential and enhance their futures. Through creative and constructive programming, trained and dedicated Club professionals strive to develop the complete person by offering young people the leadership and guidance so often lacking in their lives.

Boys & Girls Clubs of America has developed an array of comprehensive programs designed to nurture young people's talents, self-esteem, and drive. Boys & Girls Clubs provide programs and services in five key areas:

- 🌀 Character and Leadership Development
- 🌀 Education and Career Development
- 🌀 Health and Life Skills
- 🌀 The Arts
- 🌀 Sports, Fitness and Recreation

Boys & Girls Clubs of America's emphasis on serving youth from challenging economic and societal backgrounds has led us to establish Clubs in especially hard-to-reach areas, including public housing facilities.

When we began our public housing initiative in 1986, many said it couldn't be done. Today, nearly 500 Boys & Girls Clubs serve more than 150,000 youth in public housing developments nationwide. The Boys & Girls Club

program is clearly working in these communities. An independent study found significantly lower rates of juvenile crime and drug activity in public housing sites with Boys & Girls Clubs than those without Clubs.



### OK IN OKLAHOMA

**In Pryor, Oklahoma, the Boys & Girls Club of Green County has made a profound difference in just five short years. When the Club first opened—in an old feed store—five kids showed up. Today, more than 2,000 young people are benefiting from the Boys & Girls Club experience.**

*"We would have a lot more problems in our community if the Boys & Girls Clubs were not here."*

—Mayor H.W. Jordan—

**Moreover, Virginia Holmes, Principal of Washington Elementary School, boasts that a mere three years after the creation of a Club, her school's academic achievement average went from the lowest to the highest of the area's four elementary schools.**

*"Boys & Girls Clubs helped my students. That was the only difference I could see, because everything else was consistent."*

—Virginia Holmes—  
Principal of Washington  
Elementary School

Moreover, the study found the mere presence of Clubs had a positive impact on the entire community, not just the youth who live there.

Since the first Club opened its doors in 1860, millions of young Americans have benefited from belonging to a Boys & Girls Club. There are an estimated 5 million living Club alumni worldwide. Many former Club members have gone on to become leaders in a wide range of professions and fields.

A 1999 study by Louis Harris & Associates found that Boys & Girls Club alumni have very strong feelings about their individual Club experiences:

- 🌀 80 percent said Club staff helped them learn right from wrong;
- 🌀 95 percent indicated the Club was the best thing available in their community; and,
- 🌀 52 percent said participating in the Club "saved my life."

## A DECADE OF SUCCESS

In 1992, Boys & Girls Clubs of America had a dream. Why not take the proven system of Boys & Girls Clubs to Native American youth? What would prevent us from transporting all we have learned in our decades of experience in inner-city and rural America to Native American reservations, to try to intervene on behalf of our children of Native American descent? If 52 percent of our alumni across America said the

Club saved their life, why couldn't we save the lives of Indian children?

By combining our unique blend of paid professional staff, proven

programs that work, and affordable and available tools for intervention, we were sure we could positively

impact the lives of American Indians. Because Boys & Girls Club programs have proven to be so successful with other at-risk populations, we knew that we could make a positive difference for the young people living on Indian reservations.

## AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT WE HAVE DONE

By partnering with tribal governments and local communities, our ambitious undertaking has blossomed into a growing, vibrant network of more than 200 Native American Boys & Girls Clubs in 24 states. Every day, some 120,000 Native American Club members participate in productive activities with the support of positive adult role models. Encouragement to be successful has replaced the cycle of poverty and hopelessness that so many face.

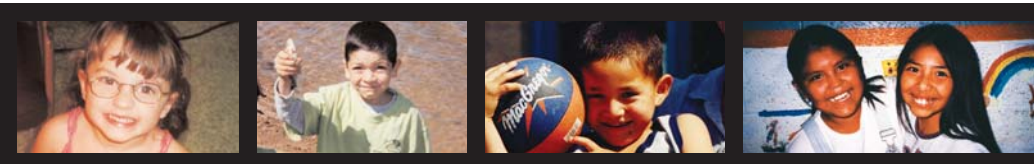
(WWW.NACLUBS.ORG)

One of the most important things Native American Clubs do is provide

*"Kids are what it's all about. They are our future."*

—Denise Ballard  
Cherokee Youth Center  
Boys & Girls Club





a space for their young members to explore the richness of their tribal heritage. Activities such as canoeing in Maine, traditional Cherokee dancing in North Carolina, and teepee painting in South Dakota exist side by side with alcohol and drug prevention programs, homework help, and other traditional Boys & Girls Club programming.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Clearly, Boys & Girls Clubs are having a significant, tangible, and positive impact on youth living on Native American lands. But our work is far from over.

That's why we need your help. First, we need your help to ensure the long-term sustainability of existing Clubs on Native lands. Sustainability in areas with little industry, little business, and few wealthy people to provide support is an ongoing and difficult issue. We

also need your assistance in establishing new Clubs in Indian Country so that more Native American youth can benefit from the important services and programs provided by Boys & Girls Clubs.

We are asking for specific funding for drug and alcohol programs (SMART Moves is BGCA's award-winning drug, alcohol, and pregnancy prevention program), Project Learn (BGCA's education enhancement strategy), and many other Boys & Girls Clubs of America programs that we know work.

We are also seeking funding to open new Clubs, hire and train staff, and work with tribal councils and governing bodies to ensure that Clubs on Indian Lands become self-sustaining.

Clubs on Indian Lands are now serving more than 120,000 young people. Considering there are 1.4 million Native youth who could use our services, we have a long way to go.

#### The Suicide Wall

One of the most dramatic and poignant stories comes from the tiny, remote village of Tyonek, Alaska. The community had been so devastated by alcohol and child suicide that the residents of the Alaska Native village wrote the names of the young victims on a Suicide Wall.

Since the Boys & Girls Club opened in 1993, however, not one new name has been added to the wall. Instead, names are being added to the Youth of the Month Wall, which recognizes positive contributions by the young people in the village.

Today, every youth in the village is a member of the Boys & Girls Club. Thanks to the Club, idleness and despair have been replaced by arts and crafts, community projects and educational programs.

Won't you help us

# FORGE A NEW PATH?

Boys & Girls Clubs on Indian Lands



## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP

The following examples highlight how dedicated funding toward our Native American Initiative will benefit Clubs directly.

### Endowment for Native Clubs

Opening a new Club on Native American lands costs an average of \$200,000. Your gift of:

**\$1 million**  
will help open 5 new Clubs

**\$600,000**  
will help open 3 new Clubs

**\$250,000**  
will help open 1 new Club

*Appropriate recognition for gifts will be provided.*

### For More Information

For additional information, questions, or to contact Boys & Girls Clubs of America about how you can assist Boys & Girls Clubs on Indian Lands, please visit the following websites or call the telephone number below:

[www.bgca.org](http://www.bgca.org)

[www.naclubs.org](http://www.naclubs.org)

1-866-NA CLUBS

### Specific Programming for Native Clubs

#### **\$1 million would provide:**

Diabetes prevention:  
14 grants @ \$40,000 each

Mentoring program:  
10 grants @ \$20,000 each

New Club Operations:  
6 grants @ \$40,000 each

#### **\$500,000 would provide:**

Diabetes Prevention:  
6 grants @ \$40,000 each

Mentoring program:  
5 grants @ \$20,000 each

New Club Operations:  
4 grants @ \$40,000 each

#### **\$250,000 would provide:**

Diabetes Prevention:  
3 grants @ \$40,000 each

Mentoring program:  
2 grants @  
\$25,000 each

New Club Operations:  
2 grants @  
\$40,000 each



