



Women of Nations Eagle's Nest

February 2017 Newsletter



February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM)

Teen dating violence (TDV) is defined as a pattern of abuse or threat of abuse against teenaged dating partners, occurring in different forms, including verbal, emotional, physical, sexual and digital. TDV occurs across diverse groups and cultures.

If you or a loved one needs assistance, please reach out to the National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline:

www.loveisrespect.org

1-866-331-9474

Or text "LoveIs" to 22522

Every year, approximately 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner. Many teens that experience teen dating violence do not report it because they are afraid to tell friends and family. Unfortunately, 3 in 4 parents have never talked to their children about domestic violence, making it difficult for teen victims to reach out. Dating violence can have negative effects on mental, emotional and physical health. Teens who are victims are more likely to experience symptoms of depression and anxiety, engage in unhealthy behaviors such as abusing drugs, alcohol and tobacco, or exhibit anti-social behaviors and think about suicide.

In light of these alarming facts, every year during the month of February advocates join efforts to raise awareness about dating violence, highlight promising practices, and encourage communities to get involved.

Executive Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

We want to thank everyone who came and supported the benefit concert at the beginning of month! We appreciate all your support and donations to the shelter. We all had a wonderful time and feel we met our goal of generating a great deal of awareness to end violence against women and children.

A couple of "Thank You"s are in order for our partner organizations that have helped us get a great start to this New Year. We have collaborated with Jewish Family Service of St. Paul on a domestic violence brochure to help Jewish Family Service clients recognize what domestic violence is and what resources are available. Our new partnership with Sprockets at the Good Neighbor Center will be providing tutoring services for our children. We have completed our first week there and the children here have nothing but wonderful things to say about their services. Also, thank you to Cradle of Hope and the Diaper Bank for helping out with the needs of the many expecting mothers here at the shelter. Indigenous Women's Life Net at Minneapolis American Indian Center has been co-advocating with us which has been a tremendous help to our Native clients who access services in Minneapolis. We also would like to thank our current University of Minnesota volunteers for starting off great their first weeks. They are a wonderful addition to our current staff.

Pilamaya/Miigwech, Della Plume

Inside this issue:

Native American TDV Statistics	2
Eagles 34 Benefit Concert	3
3rd Annual Women Memorial March	4
From the Staff Lounge	4
Community Events	5

Native and Alaskan Native Youth Statistics*

*Statistics can be found at <http://nativelove.niwrc.org/statistics/>

- More than 40% of Native children experience two or more acts of violence by the age of 18.
- 25% of Native children that are exposed to violence have PTSD at a higher rate than that found in US soldiers returning home from Afghanistan.
- A 1992 Minnesota youth study found that 92% of Native American girls who reported having sexual intercourse have been forced against their will to have sex.
 - 62% of the girls in the previous statistic reported to have been pregnant by the 12th grade.
- Teen dating violence rate among high school students in Alaska's Native communities was 13.3 percent, compared to the national average of 9.8 percent.
- Alaskan high school students were more likely to have been physically forced to have sexual intercourse in their lives than other U.S. student demographic (10.1% versus 7.4%).
- Native Americans are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races.
- Nearly half of all Native American women have been raped, beaten, or stalked by an intimate partner.
- One in three Native women will be raped in their lifetime.
- On some reservations, women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than the national average.

May the stars carry your sadness away,
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,
May hope forever wipe away your tears,
And, above all, may silence make you strong.

Chief Dan George



Eagles 34 Hosts Benefit Show to Raise DV Awareness

Jon Murphy, the bass guitarist for the local Minneapolis band, Floods, decided to organize an event to raise awareness about domestic violence and to benefit a local organization working with victims of domestic violence. His motivation was that more and more friends of his were disclosing their experiences of domestic violence and sexual assault and as a survivor himself, felt that these are current and relevant issues that he needed to address and spread more awareness about.

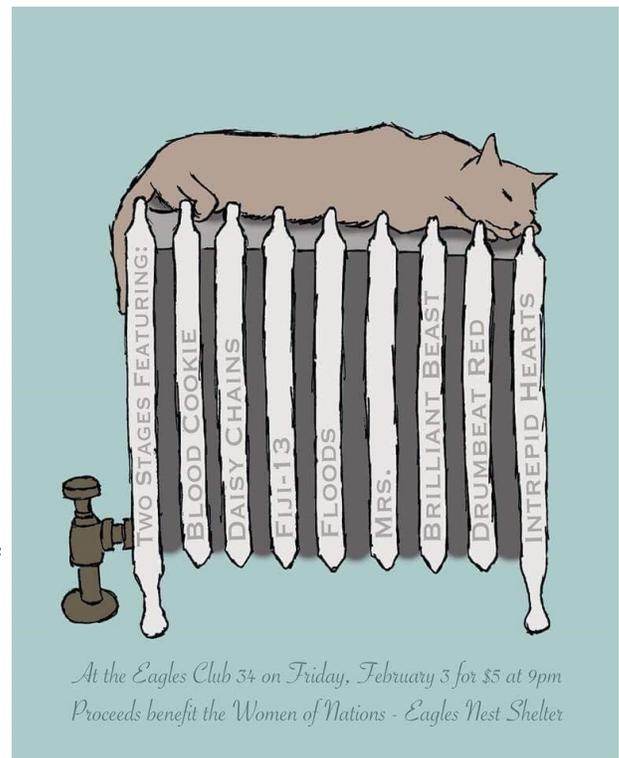
As a local musician, he was able to recruit seven local bands, in addition to his own, to perform a benefit concert. A local chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Eagles #34, generously offered to host the concert, giving the bands two separate stages to perform on. Jon reached out to his community to determine which nonprofit the show would benefit and after many recommendations, decided on Women of Nations. Some of the many reasons why he chose WON is because we are Native American-focused and use many traditions and cultural practices, but do not impose religion on our clients. In addition, we work with transgender individuals as well as sex trafficking victims, refugees and survivors of sexual assault.

Many people assisted with the promotion of the show. Jennifer Catties, local Minneapolis resident and cat lover, designed the flyer, Radio K allocated air time for an interview with WON staff member, Charlie Nelson, and countless others shared the event through social media.

The benefit show was a huge success. Over 250 people showed up, many with in-kind donations for our clients or monetary donations and all with smiles and words of support for the staff members who were tabling. In-kind donations included winter coats, clothing, feminine hygiene products, diapers, pillow cases and toiletries. Many people brought in donations on behalf of friends and family members who were unable to attend, another testament of how thoughtful and supportive this community is.

People excitedly moved from stage to stage as the bands continued to perform through the evening. Many people stopped by the WON table to get additional information about services that are available for victims and to see in what other ways they can support. By the end of the night, almost \$1,600 had been donated and over \$1,500 worth of supplies had been collected.

This benefit show was an amazing event that showed the impact that one person can make in a community. Jon Murphy created the opportunity for many people and organizations to show their support for victims of domestic violence. Keep an eye out for future events that he organizes as they are sure to be for a great cause and will be just as energized and positive as this one was.



Women of Nations would like to thank Jon and everyone who was involved and supported this event!

3rd Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's March

On Tuesday, February 14, women will march in solidarity to honor the lives of Indigenous women who have been murdered and who have gone missing in the United States and Canada. The march originated in Vancouver Canada in 1991 and three years ago women in Duluth and Minneapolis began marching too.

The march will begin at 11 am at the Minneapolis American Indian Center. Survivors of domestic violence, advocates and service providers, family members of women we have lost and allies are encouraged to come and march for our beloved sisters. Indigenous women make up a disproportionate number of lives lost to violence and are likely to be killed by an intimate partner.

This Valentines Day, we march to honor our relatives and to bring compassion and awareness to our community. We march in solidarity to say that we aren't going to take this anymore because the lives of our sisters, mothers, aunts, daughters, and grandmothers matter.



From the Staff Lounge

Chee Vang, Case Manager

I was born and raised in Minneapolis, MN. My parents are from Laos and came to USA after the Vietnam war for a better future. I have six brothers and three sisters. I recently got married to my high school sweetheart in July 2016. I am also starting my new chapter of motherhood with my first pregnancy.



I got my Bachelors in Human Services with a focus in Violence Prevention and Intervention at Metropolitan State University. Before working at WON, I was a Senior Youth Advocate at a teen group home called "Life Haven". I worked closely with youth ages 16-18 and helped them with life skills, parenting skills, advocacy and case management. I was a support system for these young mothers because most of them didn't have a positive support system or have a healthy environment to raise their child. I started working at WON in January 2015 and it has steered me into the right career. I've always seen myself working with women/girls and empowering them when I was in college.

One day, I hope to give back to the Hmong community and help Hmong women/girls. The Hmong culture brushes a lot of things under the rug like, Domestic violence, Sexual Assault, Rape, etc. due to fear of family shame and bringing the family name down. I hope to educate the Hmong community and create a safe space for women/girls who are going through those tough time, and let them know that their voice matters. I hope to break this silence one day. When I am not at work I like to spend time with my husband, family and friends. I also like to workout, cook and shop.

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Women of Nations provides culturally specific emergency services and support to all who have experienced trauma and domestic, sexual, and dating violence and empower Native American communities to put an end to all forms of violence through education and prevention services.

Please visit our website @ <http://women-of-nations.org/>

February Community Events

February 7 & 21, 5:30-8pm (Supper provided)
Family Education Diabetes Series
DIW St Paul
1671 Summit Ave, St. Paul, MN

February 10, 6-8pm
Saint Paul Indian Education Sweetheart Powwow
American Indian Magnet School
1075 East Third Street, St. Paul, MN

February 14, 11am-2pm
3rd Annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women's March
Minneapolis American Indian Center
1530 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN

February 18, 3pm
Native Skywatchers Workshop
Mille Lacs Indian Museum
43411 Oodena Dr, Onamia, MN

February 23, 10am-12pm
Healing Historical Trauma
Minneapolis American Indian Center
1530 E Franklin Ave, Minneapolis, MN

*February in Ojibwe is Namebini-giizis
or Sucker Fish Moon.*



*It is the time the suckerfish took pity
on the Ojibwe.*