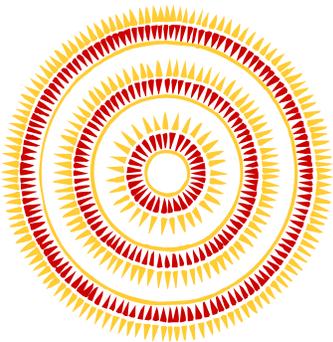


American Indian Institute
Report 2008



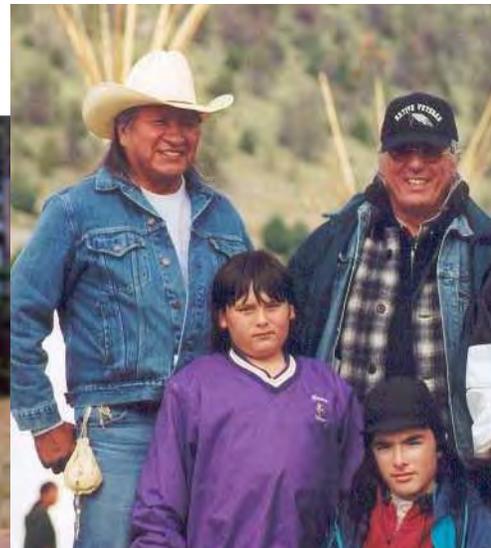
Mission

The mission of the American Indian Institute is to perpetuate the ancient wisdom and cultural heritage of North America's Native people, and to promote a greater understanding of that wisdom among all people. The Institute achieves its mission by serving as the administrative agency and support source for the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, a coalition of grassroots spiritual leaders from Indian nations throughout North America.

Vision

The American Indian Institute recognizes traditional Indian wisdom as an endangered human resource that is relevant to today's world and that holds keys to our common survival. Looking seven generations into the future, we see a world in which the values and traditions of indigenous people are respected for the wisdom they hold for the Earth and all its peoples.

We pursue this vision by supporting the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth as it teaches, motivates, and celebrates traditional Indian peoples today. We act as facilitators of gatherings of traditional peoples, promoters of healing of Indian communities, and supporters of efforts to educate non-Indians about the wisdom and harmony inherent in the traditional indigenous worldview.



Report from the Chair

To the good friends and supporters of the American Indian Institute we send our greetings and sincerest thanks for all you did to help make 2008 a year of many blessings for us. As you will see in the pages of this report, the Two Circles (American Indian Institute and Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth) are stronger than ever and doing more meaningful work than ever both within Indian Country and with members of the larger society. We are pleased to make this report to you, and welcome your comments or questions.

One of the fundamental reasons for the longevity we have enjoyed thus far as a non-profit organization (we were founded in 1973) is our unique organizational structure – the Two Circles. One Circle is the American Indian Institute, the 501(c)(3) organization that provides funding and administrative support for the other Circle, the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, a grassroots group of traditional Native Elders and leaders from throughout North America. The latter circle is all Native; the former circle all non-Native, including staff, trustees and supporters of the Institute. The elliptical area of overlap of the Two Circles is where the activity occurs.

This structure was put in place by the Elders at our inception 35 years ago. They took inspiration from the ideals of the treaty of the Two Row Wampum Belt (Kas-wen-tha) proposed by the Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) people during their first encounters with Europeans so long ago - a treaty of peace, respect and peaceful co-

existence. The two rows of purple beads, surrounded on the belt by white beads, symbolized the two nations of people in separate vessels traveling down the river of life together, side by side, in mutual respect and non-interference.

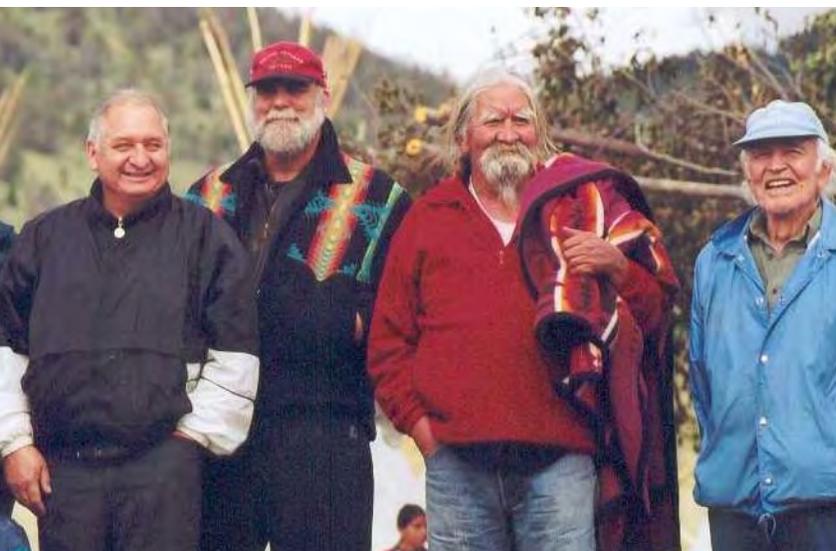
Like the Two Rows, our Two Circles represent respect for the dignity and integrity of the other culture and stresses the importance of non-interference. The teaching in this structure is that we don't have to *be like each other*, we just have to understand and respect each other and work in mutual cooperation toward shared goals.

At this time, the Traditional Circle is reaching out to the non-Indian Circle desperately seeking our mutual cooperation in the protection of Earth and all life on it. At our *Ancient Voices Cross-Cultural Forum* last September, the Elders said, "We ask you to stand with us and support our songs and ceremonies in defense of E Te No Ha, Mother Earth – and we ask each of you to join us as messengers and runners for Earth."

In these uncertain times - symbolized by the specter of global climate changes - meetings of the brightest minds from both cultures are more valuable than ever, and offer hope for reconciliation between cultures and reinvention of a better way forward together.

We thank the many supporters who make the work of the Two Circles possible, and are looking forward to our continued work together.

Steve Browning
Board Chair
Tucson, Arizona



Lac du Flambeau Reservation Elders and Youth Council

The annual Elders & Youth Council constitutes the continuation of an ancient practice of joint council among the most respected traditional Indian Elders and spiritual leaders from across North America. It is the only time when such an extensive assemblage of Indian Elders gathers together in a spiritual body to strengthen traditional values and to consider from the spiritual perspective issues involving and affecting indigenous people and the larger society. It is a time of prayer, of focusing on the young people, and of remembering the teachings of the Old Ones, the ancestors.

Since members of the Traditional Circle are scattered throughout North America, the Councils represent a time of re-commitment to the purposes and objectives of the group, and a time to receive reports and new information as a basis for determining priorities for the coming year, to assign tasks and responsibilities, to bring the combined experience and strength of the Circle to bear upon local problems and issues.

Our 31st annual Elders & Youth Council was successfully hosted by the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa (Ojibwe) at Was-Swa-Goning, the Lac du Flambeau Reservation, in Northern Wisconsin, July 24-29, 2008. More than 300 Native delegates, including youth of all ages, and families, attended the Council from some 50 Indian nations from throughout North America.

“Before European influence came to our country, our Indian nations came together in this type of gathering – to exchange knowledge, share stories, exchange food and seeds, to make laws and treaties, and for young people to inter-marry within nations. This is what happened here at the Council. We came together and shared things. Part of our historical training is we still think we are enemies with one another. Healing can’t start until we come together again as Indian people.”

- A local Ojibwe woman

“Our great nations were built on our ceremonies of thanksgiving for Earth. We must ensure that all our people pay attention to our ceremonies and languages. Our Native languages contain many instructions about how to survive. We need to work with the natural world like we have always done, through ceremony, dance, prayer, meditation, and gatherings like this one.”

- A Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) Faithkeeper



Traditional Youth Leadership Initiative

Indian youth are our hope for the future, and their welfare is a central concern of our organization. Our Traditional Youth Leadership Initiative supports traditional Native leaders in their communities as they endeavor to pass their heritage, eye-to-eye, breath-to-breath, to their young people.

It is through this program that traditional values are reinforced and strengthened within Indian communities, bringing Native K-12 boys and girls together with their most respected Elders/teachers in traditional settings away from the distractions of everyday life. It creates a visible and participatory program within communities that bring Elders, youth, and families together, creating tomorrow's traditional Indian leaders.

The Traditional Youth Leadership Initiative is active with Native youth on many fronts within Indian Country. The activities and camps within these programs follow seasonal patterns established millennia ago by ancestors and used today by Elders to teach spiritual and cultural lifeways of the people.

Programs are on-going in Montana at the Flathead and Crow Reservations, at Gila River in Arizona, and at Tulalip in Washington State. We continue to lay foundations for Youth Initiatives in other Indian communities including Diné (Navajo) in Arizona, and Tuscarora in New York State.

"To share our mental, physical, emotional and spiritual understandings is life-long learning for our Salish cultural life-ways. Through this project we preserve the integrity of who we are as a Salish people for today and the generations to come."

- Arleen Adams, Salish Project Coordinator

"People in the larger community are seeing that something positive is being done here and they are starting to come out. We need to help the youth here find some peace in their hearts."

- Bennett Lyons, Gila River Project Coordinator



Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum - Flathead Reservation

The principal objective of the *Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts* Forum Series is to fulfill a mandate of Traditional Circle Elders: "help us get the message of the Elders out to the larger society and get dialogue started across cultures." The essential elements of the Elders' message include:

We are destroying Earth and the life on it.

Through war, genocide, and street crime we are killing each other because of race, ethnicity, religion and greed.

The indigenous voice, ancient and proven, takes a holistic view of both environmental and social destruction. It is a spiritual voice unencumbered by religious dogma. It is not parochial or selfish, and can be a saving factor in meeting the issues that threaten the world.

Held on the fertile grounds of the Flathead Reservation in Montana, the 2008 *Ancient Voices* Forum was hosted by the Salish, Kootenai, and

Pend d'Oreille tribes who have shared common hunting and gathering grounds east of the Continental Divide in Montana since beyond memory. Forty five non-Indian guests, ten Elders and leaders of the Traditional Circle, and several dozen local tribal members gathered for three days of prayer, understanding, healing, and unity.

The objective of the 2008 *Ancient Voices* Forum was a cross-cultural exploration of our common spiritual relationship with Earth, to recognize who we are within the natural world, and to think about our disconnection from the sacred qualities of Earth. The Forum provided a venue for two disparate cultures to collectively make the past visible, then to begin to see the way forward together.

The three keynote speakers this year were Tom Porter (Mohawk), Oren Lyons (Onondaga), and Danny Blackgoat, on behalf of his aunt Pauline Whitesinger (Diné).



“As long as we live and we’re walking, Creator’s there. And so, when our Creator finished the world he said, ‘All I want to hear every day, is for you, my children, just to say thank you, and I will be happy.’ And so, to the Creator, we say ‘Thank you’, and our mind is agreed.”

- Tom Porter, Mohawk Elder, Thanksgiving Address

“I have been changed by the honest stories in this safe place that you have shared with me. I believe that’s why we have been asked to come here. Your story is my story. I didn’t know that. Your history is my history. Our future is our future together. Now I must tell others what you have told me. That’s my commitment.”

- Forum Participant

“The praying ceremonies around the fire in the fresh early morning were very powerful, assembling all participants in the spirit of sharing, respect and fraternity. This same spirit animated the group during all the workshops, speeches and exchanges and lead to the success of the Forum.”

- Forum Participant

The strongest overall sense I felt from Flathead is that what is next for all of us—and approaching at a more greatly accelerated rate than we know—is leaping past the earthbound understanding of life that involves the Earth and people. We non-natives must affect within ourselves the spiritual transformation that allows us to comprehend and embrace the essence of Indian values.

- Forum Participant



New Headquarters Building

In late 2008 the American Indian Institute initiated a \$500,000 Capital Campaign to complete the acquisition of and make needed renovations and upgrades to a permanent headquarters building in Bozeman, Montana.

A magnanimous lead gift of \$230,000 from a long-time Trustee, and follow-on gifts of \$20,000, made it possible for the American Indian Institute to purchase a very special, ideally located, turn-of-the-century property in Bozeman to serve as our first-ever Institute Headquarters.

The acquisition of a permanent headquarters building will usher in a new era for the American Indian Institute. It has long been a priority for Bob Staffanson, the Institute Founder and President, to address this most basic necessity for permanence and long-term perspective.

A permanent headquarters will add important dimensions to our credibility, productivity, and long-term perspective. The new location will serve as the visible nerve center of "Two Circle" cooperation and will be a repository for books, writings, transcripts, film, photos, and memorabilia from the "grassroots traditional movement" in Indian Country dating back to the 1960s.

The new headquarters building will give tangible evidence to the Institute's commitment to its mission of reconciliation and restitution for the traditional indigenous peoples of North America.



Thanks to the Many Who Helped in 2008

Individuals

Julianne & Andrew Anderson
Phyllis Bock & Robert Nichol
William & Judy Brodsky
Steve & Judy Browning
John Case
Janet Clark
Michael Clow
Carol Charnley
Andrew Coslor
Virginia Coyle
Barbara Cumnard
Barbara & Gene Croisant
Laurence de Bure
Marilyn DeKleer
Charles & Judy Gibbon
Stone Gossard
Mirkalice & Robert Gore
John Grim & Mary Evelyn Tucker
Nina Harrison
Meri Jaye
Diane Jergins
Anne & Kirk Johnson
Judy Kahrl
Bergith Kayyali
Nancy Kittle
Everett & Mary Lensink
Judy & Ron Libertus
Ralph R. Majak
Bruce McAdam
Gail McDonald
Roger & Margot Milliken
Sandra & John McInnis
Rory Millson & Linda Rodd
Virginia Mudd & Clifford Burke
John & Krista Neis
Cindy Owen
Barbara & Gary Roberts
Forum Participants
Helen Schwickrath
Dale Scott
Bettina & Claudio Secchi
Rena Shulsky
Lisa & Mark Smith
Howard & Marlies Terpning
Beatrice Weyrich

Foundation/Corporation

American Indian Ritual Object Repatriation Foundation
Aurora Foundation
The Bay and Paul Foundations
Charles Engelhard Foundation
Christensen Fund
Fieldstone Alliance
Ford Foundation
Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation
Gallatin County Community Foundation
Incomindios Switzerland
Institute of International Education
Kalliopeia Foundation
Robert A Kutz Foundation
Malama Foundation
Montana Community Foundation
Nike USA
Sylvan & Ann Oestreicher Foundation
OneFamily Foundation
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
OP & WE Edwards Foundation
John & Sophie Ottens Foundation
Pechanga Band of Mission Indians
Philanthropic Collaborative
Ringing Rocks Foundation
Ruth Danley & Enoch Moore Charitable Trust
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Seventh Generation Fund
T. Boone Pickens Foundation
Tides Foundation
Triskeles Foundation
Wheatley Law Firm
World Spirit Forum
Yale University
Zoot Enterprises

In-Kind Contributions

Anderson ZurMuehlen & Co., P.C.
Archer Construction
Comma-Q Architecture
Garcia & Associates
Nike USA

Volunteers

Cody Campbell
Kris Campbell
Janet Clark
Paul Jeffery
Alan Kesselheim
Anders Lewendal
Beth Pfaff
Lisa & Mark Smith
Dennis Steinhauer
Marilise Tronto



Board, Advisory Council, Staff

Board of Directors

Steve Browning

Chair
Helena, MT & Tucson, AZ

Dale Scott

Co-Vice Chair
Scottsdale, AZ

Lisa Smith

Co-Vice Chair
Lincoln, MT

Nina Harrison

Secretary
Helena, MT & Oro Valley, AZ

Meri Jaye

Treasurer
San Francisco, CA

Robert Staffanson

Founder/President
Bozeman, MT

Tim Babcock

Helena, MT

Barb Croisant

Canyon Creek, MT & Carefree, AZ

Laurence de Bure

Tucson, AZ

Gail C. McDonald

Ft. Washington, MD

Advisory Council

Grant Abert

Hill Point, WI

Roger & Margot Milliken

Cumberland, ME

Kusumita Pedersen

Jamaica, NY

Ann R. Roberts

New York, NY

Harry & Hanneke Stassen

Schoten, Belgium

Staff

Robert Staffanson

Founder/President
Bozeman, MT

Eric Noyes

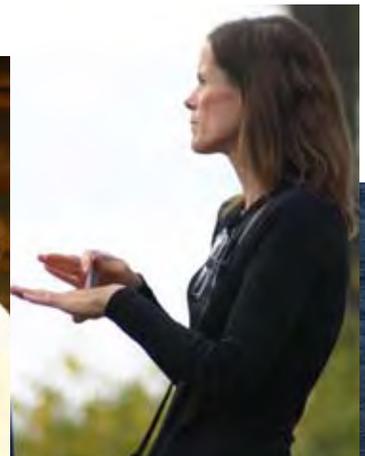
Executive Director
Bozeman, MT

Lisa Sutton

Director of Finance & Administration
Bozeman, MT

Galen McKibben

Consultant
Helena, MT



2008 Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position As of 12/31/08

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
General Account	\$ 106,233
Checking	9,987
Money Market & CD	365,945
Total Checking/Savings	<u>\$ 482,165</u>
Accounts Receivable	
Endowment Earnings Due From Montana Community Foundation (MCF)	40,693
Total Current Assets	\$ 522,858
Fixed Assets	
502 Mendenhall - real property	\$ 344,842
Equipment	49,420
Leasehold Improvements	9,024
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-57,113
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 346,173
Other Assets	
MCF Agency Endowment	\$ 726,468
Restricted Fund	489,486
Art Investments	140,325
Organizational Costs	1,246
Total Other Assets	\$ 1,357,525
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,226,557</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$ 591
Credit Cards	66
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 657</u>
Long Term Liabilities	
502 Mendenhall Property	\$ 95,424
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ 96,081</u>
Equity	
Temporarily Restricted Funds	
Restricted Fund	\$ 489,486
Temporarily Restricted Program Funds	323,051
Total Temporarily Restricted Funds	<u>\$ 812,537</u>
Unrestricted Funds	
Permanently Restricted Funds - MCF Agency Endowment	726,468
Net Income	371,721
Total Equity	<u>\$ 2,130,476</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$ 2,226,557</u>

Statement of Activities January through December 2008

Income	
Individual Donors	\$ 461,063
Corporate & Foundation Grants	486,967
Contributions - In Kind	48,515
Registration Fees/Publications/Products	19,367
Endowment Distribution - 2007	61,521
Interest & Dividend Income	72,950
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	-155,432
Rental Income	2,400
Total Income	<u>\$ 977,351</u>
Expenses	
Direct Program Expenses	
\$ 383,869	
General & Administrative Expenses	
Bank/Financial Advisor Charges	17,467
Consultants	24,024
Fund Development	3,284
Insurance	23,726
Commercial Building Insurance	1,687
Interest Expense - Mendenhall	1,424
Miscellaneous	175
Office Supplies	3,735
Postage and Freight	911
Printing & Publications	2,456
Professional Fees	7,590
Public Relations/Marketing	3,578
Payroll Tax Expenses	10,889
Payroll Expense	133,347
Rent	2,576
Taxes and Licenses	471
Telecommunications	3,439
Vehicle Expense	983
Total General Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 241,760</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 625,630</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 371,721</u>



American Indian Institute
P.O. Box 1388
Bozeman, Montana 59771
406-587-1002
aia@twocircles.org
<http://www.twocircles.org>

