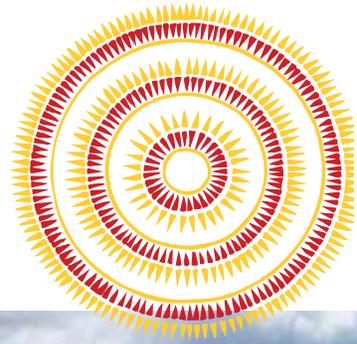


American Indian Institute Report 2010



Above All, Respect

The American Indian Institute and Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth continue along a wisdom guided journey into mutual respect; following the Elders' counsel that above all else, respect for self, respect for others and respect for Mother Earth must guide our lives.



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 Founder and President

To all of you who helped make 2010 an exceptional and in some ways pivotal year for our Two Circles, we offer our profound thanks. Let me give you a thumbnail report of our journey thus far.

Almost forty years ago we challenged five hundred years of conventional attitudes regarding the relationship between Native Americans and those who displaced them. Centuries of oppression and misunderstanding weighed on Native people. Attitudes of the larger society ranged from open antagonism to apathy. Seeing no serious effort to resolve this impasse beyond patchwork we proposed a radical new approach to the larger society: listen! Listen with open minds and hearts to the keepers of cultures built over eons. Listen with respect and honor. Listen to find the wisdom that sustained their people over time and still sustains them. Find in that wisdom elements of common humanity which we can join with ours in resolving ancient antagonism and guilt and build a new era of cooperation in combining the best of both worlds. We can no longer afford the antagonism of race and culture if we are to survive the challenges already here and on the horizon.

We took a message of respect, trust, cooperation and inquiry to key keepers of the indigenous heritage. From that came the Two Circles, the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth and the American Indian Institute (non-Indian), separate but connected with a commitment to a joint search for common ground in burying old hate and finding new ways to build understanding and cooperation. The results are unprecedented. Through Councils that are held in a different location each year the Circle has reached thousands of their people throughout North America changing lives with the renewal of traditional cultural and spiritual perspectives; a gift of ancient equilibrium to people who have lost it. Spokespersons singly and in groups have taken the indigenous message to all continents. Together the Two Circles have initiated cross-cultural dialogue and issued reports and communiqués. There is an "Ancient Voices" Forum and website. Tradition-based programs for youth and families have been held within Native societies. A heritage always in danger of being crushed under society's steamroller has been strengthened and its nourishment spread among forgotten people.

All of this built slowly and has reached a defining point. In 2011 we will have a new headquarters facility in Bozeman, Montana - symbolic of a new era for a proven program with new and promising horizons. We want to thank all who have helped us in this journey of four decades. We are grateful for your partnership in an enterprise under the public radar but unique in its transforming and creative capacity.

Bob Staffanson
Founder and President

"For almost ten years I have supported the American Indian Institute, whose sole purpose is to help indigenous elders from around the world get together for mutual support, teaching, and ceremony. The leader of the Institute is a white man who has dedicated his life to this work. His involvement has been to communicate a vision to funders and then stand back and let the elders work. For years he sat outside the gathering place as the elders met. The work was for them and their culture, not him. In wilderness rites of passage I have touched a profound connection with the natural world that seems similar to that which informs the work of the elders as they seek to care for their peoples, their traditions, and our Earth.

"Is the Institute effective? I assume so, because more elders come each year. What difference is it making in the world? I don't know, but I find it deeply satisfying to support the elders in maintaining their way of life. I, too, am sitting on the outside, supporting, following my heart, and trusting these tradition carriers to know what will serve them best."

Anonymous Benefactor

Elders and Youth Council

The Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth is a grassroots group of Elders, traditional leaders, and youth representing Indian nations from throughout North America. It is a living repository of ancient knowledge and wisdom - a circle of caretakers to protect the original indigenous ways of life, and to ensure its survival.

The Elders & Youth Council is their most important annual program. It 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 one of the few times each year 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 effecting indigenous people and the larger society.

The Council is a time for sharing oral history traditions of previous times, exchanging deep cultural stories, comparing ancient prophesies, and discussing Indian rights. Each year the Elders & Youth Council is held in a different location in Indian country.

The 2010 Elders & Youth Council was held at the Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation at *Hits With The Arrows* (Pryor Gap), July 27 - August 1, 2010. Joe Medicine Crow-High Bird and his extended family were the hosts. Medicine Crow and the late Tom & Susie Yellowtail hosted the first-ever Elders Council in 1977 at the Missouri Headwaters near Three Forks, Montana. The 2010 Council saw over 300 delegates in attendance from all areas of Indian country and from as far away as Guatemala.

"The Hopi message is a simple one: live a simple life, plant corn, continue the sacred songs, dances and ceremonies in the kivas and plazas, all to keep land and life in balance."

Tsinva, Greaswood Clan, Hotevilla Village, Hopi Nation



Traditional Youth Leadership Initiative

The American Indian Institute's Traditional Youth Leadership Initiative is our community-level work with Native youth and their Elders aimed at strengthening the foundations of cultural heritage. The essential ingredients to our youth programs are Elders, youth, and community.

The Elders are the holders of the living heritage; they are the healers, the seers, the spiritual leaders whose great gifts and strengths are used for the good of the people, the earth, and the future generations. It is through them that the cultural heritage will survive. For Elders and youth to come together around the culture, the unity and presence of the community is fundamental. The unity of family, clan, and community provides the context for inter-generational learning and growth.

The Traditional Youth Leadership Initiative develops systems of education designed to establish strong self-identity and confidence in Native youth, and to build internal strengths that allow successful living in

a complex world while retaining fidelity to an innate physical, cultural and spiritual heritage. The activities and camps, which run throughout the year, provide a cultural focus and framework at the age when drugs, drinking, and other troubling influences often begin to mesmerize reservation youth. In the long-term the outcomes hoped for with the program are cultural and spiritual development of Indian youth, and a resiliency in them that leads to positive life choices, and an integration of this spiritual and cultural wisdom into their lives and the lives of their families and their communities.

Current programs are under way in the Four Directions in these Native communities:

- *Bitterroot Salish, Pend d'Oreille, and Kootenai (Flathead Reservation)*
- *Apsáalooke (Crow) Nation*
- *Akimel O'otham, Gila River Reservation*
- *Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Six Nations)*

"We have to take our Indian children by the hand, and walk the good Red Road with them."

L. Bends, Apsáalooke



Ancient Voices - Contemporary Contexts Forum

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 2010 *Ancient Voices* Forum was a three-day gathering in Diné (Navajo) Country at the mouth of their sacred Canyon de Chelly. Prominent traditional Elders from the Four Directions gathered with members of the larger society in a cross-cultural exploration around the theme “Women’s Ways of Knowing.”

The 2010 *Ancient Voices* Forum brought together the Elders, Forum participants, and local Native community members, creating an opportunity for interaction around shared core values that built friendships across cultures, connections for advocacy, and new levels of understanding of the indigenous worldview.

“I came home from the Forum with a renewed understanding. It was in the opening talk by Louise McDonald that inspired my thinking: I can be a good example, to my children especially and to my friends and family around me; I can make a sincere effort to live the life and be the person that I would like them to emulate. And so that is what I am endeavoring to do with improved hope and clarity.”

A. Moore, Montana

“The Forum opened a lot of hearts. Many of us had tears in our eyes during the whole weekend. A lot of participants were very moved inside. This could only happen because the participants had a welcome by an open heart of the Elders.”

U. Ungerbeuler, Germany



Completing the Circle

American Indian Institute Headquarters Project 502 West Mendenhall Street, Bozeman, Montana

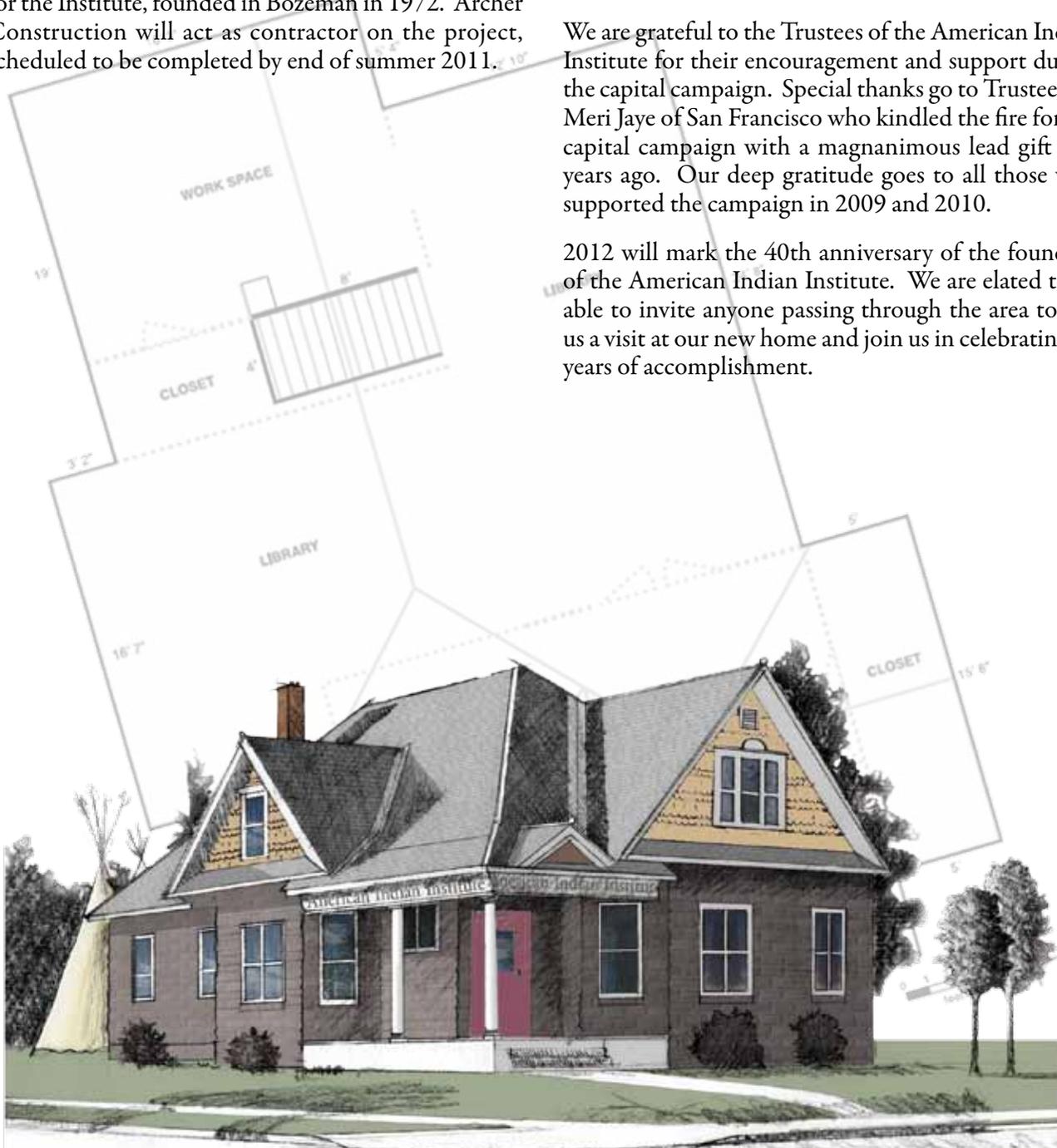
In December of 2010 the American Indian Institute successfully completed its two year, \$500,000 capital campaign for the purchase and renovation of a building located one block north of Main Street in Bozeman to serve as the organization's headquarters facility.

The 100-year-old stone block, historically registered, home will serve as the first-ever permanent office facility for the Institute, founded in Bozeman in 1972. Archer Construction will act as contractor on the project, scheduled to be completed by end of summer 2011.

A permanent headquarters facility will provide important dimensions to the productivity and long-term perspective of the Institute. The new location will bring staff together under one roof, 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.

We are grateful to the Trustees of the American Indian Institute for their encouragement and support during the capital campaign. Special thanks go to Trustee Ms. Meri Jaye of San Francisco who kindled the fire for the capital campaign with a magnanimous lead gift two years ago. Our deep gratitude goes to all those who supported the campaign in 2009 and 2010.

2012 will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the American Indian Institute. We are elated to be able to invite anyone passing through the area to pay us a visit at our new home and join us in celebrating 40 years of accomplishment.



Jake Swamp Eulogy

The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Six Nations), the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth, indigenous people throughout North America and all people who work for a sane and sustainable world have lost one of their strongest leaders. On October 15, 2010 Mohawk Elder, Jake Swamp, “Tekaronhianeken” (“where two skies come together”) stepped to the other side. He was 68, young by Elder standards.

Jake left an enduring legacy. Tom Porter, his Mohawk colleague, said his greatest work was teaching young people, instilling in them a responsibility to sustain the true Indian heritage.

Porter said “Jake and myself and others can pass peacefully knowing the young have taken heart, that there is no confusion in their minds and they know what has to be done --- and its because of people like Jake”.

In 1979 Jake founded the Akwesasne Freedom School, a Mohawk language immersion school, developing its curriculum based on the traditional values of the Haudenosaunee. He also managed Radio CKON at Akwesasne and not only directed its Native based programming but also helped secure its status as the only Native licensed broadcast facility in America.

He established the Tree of Peace society in 1984 to promote the Six Nations message of peace and greater ecological awareness. Jake planted hundreds of Peace Trees throughout the world. One of my fond memories is of being with him in a ceremony of tree planting in New York City’s Central Park.

Jake was a true leader of the Mohawk people and the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. His authority and respect came from a deep knowledge of the cultural and spiritual resources that have sustained his people over time and the wisdom and humility necessary to communicate that heritage. It also stemmed from the compelling example of his personal life. He was a complete Elder in every sense of the word.

Most of all those of us who knew him remember his warm friendship and how he made us all feel better by being in his presence. I first knew him when he attended the second council of the Traditional Elders Circle hosted by Thomas Banyacya at Hopi in 1978. He was an impressive young man who had boundless energy, enthusiasm and spirit. These qualities together with deepening wisdom and maturity were used over the years to the benefit of all whose lives he touched. One of our best has left us. Our love follows him along with our gratitude for his time among us.

Bob Staffanson
Founder and President



Jake and Judy Swamp, Elders & Youth Council, Ft. Peck, Montana, 2007

Thanks to the Many Who Helped in 2010

Individuals

Anonymous
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Mary Armour
Steve & Judy Browning
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2010 Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position
As of 12/31/10

Statement of Activities
January through December 2010

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
General Account	\$ 231,912
Checking	6,550
Money Market & CD	256,037
Total Checking/Savings	\$ 494,499
Accounts Receivable	
Endowment Earnings Due From	
Montana Community Foundation (MCF)	34,272
Restricted Fund Earnings Due	25,927
Total Current Assets	\$ 554,698
Fixed Assets	
Land - 502 Mendenhall	\$ 68,828
Real Property - 502 Mendenhall	296,763
Art - 502 Mendenhall	11,995
Equipment	24,997
Library	2,042
Program Equipment	32,318
Leasehold Improvements	9,024
Less - Accumulated Amortization	-781
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-68,453
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 376,733
Other Assets	
MCF Agency Endowment	\$ 881,233
Restricted Fund	622,233
Loan Origination Fees	1,250
Art Investments	140,325
Organizational Costs	753
Platagon International	153
Total Other Assets	\$ 1,645,947
Total Assets	\$ 2,577,378

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Equity	
Temporarily Restricted Funds	
Restricted Fund	\$ 622,233
Temporarily Restricted	
Program Funds	196,336
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investment	27,138
Total Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$ 845,707
Unrestricted Funds	\$ 738,898
Permanently Restricted Funds -	
MCF Agency Endowment	881,233
Net Income	111,540
Total Equity	\$ 2,577,378
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$ 2,577,378

Income

Individual Donors	\$ 97,788
Corporate & Foundation Grants	374,810
Contributions - In Kind	2,961
Registration Fees/Publications/Products	7,757
Interest & Dividend Income	79,781
Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	27,138
Rental Income	8,675
Total Income	\$ 598,910

Expenses

Direct Program Expenses	\$ 248,895
General & Administrative Expenses	
Bank/Financial Advisor Charges	16,978
Consultants	10,274
Fund Development	4,019
Insurance	24,687
Commercial Building Insurance	1,319
Miscellaneous	249
Office Supplies	2,948
Postage & Freight	1,250
Printing & Publications	1,571
Professional Fees	4,930
Public Relations/Marketing	3,193
Repairs & Maintenance	886
Rent	3,079
Payroll Tax Expenses	12,227
Salaries & Wages	
Payroll Expense	141,673
Simple IRA Company	2,537
Taxes and Licenses	2,045
Telecommunications	3,196
Vehicle Expense	1,414
General Operating Expenses	\$ 238,475
Total Expenses	\$ 487,370
Net Income	\$ 111,540

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