

## NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER *Connecting For A Healthy Community*

### *The Need*

### Urban Native Americans – A Growing Population with Unique Needs

---

According to the United States Census, Phoenix has the highest proportion of Native American residents per capital of all other metro cities. In fact, nearly 100,000 Native Americans call Maricopa County home, the most of any Arizona county. Also reported by the United States Census Bureau, 64.1% of the American Indian/Alaska Native population lives outside tribal areas (off-reservation). Many leave family and the familiarity of reservation life to pursue professional and educational opportunities in the Valley. Unfortunately, this transition isn't always easy. Many face cultural hurdles. Some struggle with health issues. Others cope with unemployment.

According to a report by National Urban Indian Family Coalition, in times when they need services, Native Americans are more likely to seek help from Native American service providers rather than other non-profits or government agencies.

Despite Greater Phoenix's growing Native American population, until now, there was no central location for this community to share cultural traditions or to access services unique to their culture and circumstance or integrated approach to dramatically improve someone's ability to be self-sufficient.

### *The Solution*

### Creating A Center for Business, Culture and Human Services

---

Three of the Valley's oldest and most-respected Native American non-profits: Native Health, Native American Connections and the Phoenix Indian Center have partnered together using forward-thinking philosophy, to find the solution, this building (Native American Community Service Center, NACSC). These partners have collaborated creating a geographic center for urban Native Americans in Greater Phoenix through co-locating their services, as well as others, into a single location at 4520 N. Central Avenue, overlooking Steele Indian School Park. The partners, all non-profits formed a legal partnership to purchase the building and are now conducting a \$4.2 million capital campaign to complete the purchase and necessary building improvements. Providing a central location for services, culture and businesses, NACSC addresses the needs of urban Native Americans, now and well into the future. It provides a hub for Native Americans working to make their home in the urban environment, away from the cultural and familial support of the reservation.

**“In one building, Native Americans can visit the doctor, get support to find a job, get help putting a roof over my family's head, and much more; the most basic needs any person could have!” – Former NACSC client, now employee**



Just a few examples of the plethora of services provided in the NACSC:

- Quality housing opportunities integrated with community and social supports aimed at improving the residents' level of stability and self-sufficiency.
- Assistance in their employment search by gaining the tools and resources to obtain a job quicker than normal including job readiness training classes that help with resume writing, job search techniques and interviewing skills.
- Full clinic provides the entire basic preventive medical and dental services as well as prenatal and post-natal care, and services targeting high-risk and low income families at a sliding scale rate.
- Culturally appropriate behavioral health services.
- Alternative education program respecting cultural needs and values for at-risk youth.
- Tribes in Arizona can receive training and technical support to help develop a response to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.
- Situated on the sixth floor, a conference room provides community groups including Tribes, a central location to meet.

Located along the new light rail line, services are easier to get to geographically as at least 75% of the population depend on public transportation, and easier to access once the client arrives at the center. NACSC will foster Native American professional development and leadership opportunities for current and future generations.

Co-location and a new combined legal status provides service delivery efficiencies, reduction of overhead costs and future partnership opportunities that will enhance each organization's ability to provide continued and increased services. This campaign is about sustainability of services provided to the urban Native American community and beyond. Funding will provide a home of service provisions for generations to come.



***Why should one contribute?***

## Keeping Our Promise to the Future

NACSC provides a strong Native American cultural presence in the city, creating a place not only for services to be delivered but a place for Native American vendors to sell their crafts and a place of connection for Native American people. And, the building serves as an incubator for the development of small businesses for Native persons. NACSC is vital to the success and diversity of the overall Phoenix community today and for generations to come. Diversity in a community increases creativity, increases productivity, new attitudes and solutions to difficult problems.

This collaboration is viewed as a unique community development project and a model for other urban Native American communities nationwide. In 2006, the Native American Community Service Center received the Community Revitalization Award by the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco and Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco.

### ***Philanthropic Case***

As more Native Americans migrate from the reservation to Greater Phoenix, it's critical that we provide the mechanisms they need to be successful, contributing members of the community. Each year, NACSC empowers thousands of individuals and families with the tools, experiences and skills they need in order to improve their lives. By investing NACSC, one can inspire positive change and help individuals strengthen his or her self-sufficiency for the betterment of the community.

### ***Business Case***

The client services at the Native American Community Service Center focus on creating a sustainable future for American Indians in this urban setting. With workforce development services, affordable supportive housing, and quality preventative medical care and more provided in this space, an individual gains much of what is needed to be successful in the valley.

NACSC focuses on improving the skills of unemployed or underemployed individuals which increases their earning potential and generates economic activity. NACSC offers private sector companies (like Fed-Ex, Safeway, Chompie's, and Marriott) a pipeline of skilled, self-sufficient workers which has a direct impact on their productivity and ability to compete in today's environment.

By partnering with NACSC, corporations can satisfy their corporate responsibility goals and send a strong message about their commitment to diversity and empowering underserved populations.



### ***Tribal Case***

NACSC has enhanced partnerships of many outside projects to effectively reach the Native American community. As an illustration, the 2010 census numbers will more accurately reflect the urban Native American population. The Center conducted several convenings and outreach activities at more than 4 university sites, 5 Native American owned Businesses, and 2 high schools as well as a "Census and Health Fair" on-site.

As a member of a tribe, please consider the importance of sovereignty and what that means to "give." Each tribe is sovereign and an investment in the Native American Community Service Center is a powerful way to express that sovereignty. Nothing speaks more loudly than the generosity of a leader or tribe. Giving isn't an occasional event; it comes from the heart and permeates every part of a leader's life.

**The actions we take today will impact the lives of generations to come. Through the Native American Community Service Center, you can help us create a positive foundation of support and celebration for Native Americans in our community. Only through the generous support of Arizona and National tribes and the Greater Phoenix business and philanthropic community, will this vision become a reality.**

*Who we are*

## Three Agencies Combine for A Total of 120 Years of Service

---

Native Health, Native American Connections and Phoenix Indian Center each have worked for decades to improve the lives of Native Americans in Greater Phoenix. The organizations combine critical services with Native traditions and culture for a unique approach for this important population.

The three organizations serve Native Americans from tribes and nations throughout the United States who have relocated to the metro Phoenix area and outlying areas in Arizona.

**Native Health**, founded in 1978, provides urban Native Americans high-quality, culturally competent primary health care, dental, medical and wellness services. Designed to not only help Native Americans address illness, these services promote a healthier lifestyle for both patients and their families. Each year, Native Health serves more than 12,000 individual patients representing between 80 and 100 different tribes, the majority from within Arizona.

**Native American Connections** began in 1972 to provide a safe haven for Native Americans recovering from substance abuse. Over the years, it has evolved into a nationally recognized provider of affordable housing, behavioral health services and community economic development. Native traditional healing ceremonies and practices are integrated into all of its services. The organization serves families in more than 300 owner-operated single-family homes and multi-family affordable housing. More than 5,000 individuals/families benefit from Native American Connection's comprehensive behavioral health and housing services each year.

**Phoenix Indian Center** is the oldest Native American agency in Phoenix and was the nation's first Indian Center. Founded in 1947, the Center began as a drop-in location for Native Americans coming to Phoenix looking for work. Today, the organization serves urban Natives through workforce development, education, cultural and language preservation and family counseling. At any given time, more than 4,000 Native Americans access the Center's services. More than two-thirds of those are unemployed and more than 75 percent live below the poverty level. The majority of these households are headed by women and include children.

The organizations' rich histories, and expertise in service provision make them the right collaborative group for the Urban Native American population. Plus, with more than 120 years of combined experience, the organization and in turn the collaboration will weather adversities as it arises.

## The Need For A Capital Campaign

---

The combined operating budgets for the three non-profits total approximately \$15 million designated for service delivery only. Therefore, \$4.2 million capital campaign is underway to fund capital improvements, furnishings, fixtures and other costs associated with the Native American Community Service Center.

### Next Steps

In the next year, all three organizations will be reviewing policies and procedures regarding access of services by customers, developing a new policy that allows immediate access to the other partners' services often bypassing any wait time when available. The services will appear seamless to the client.

### For More Information

For more information on the Native American Community Service Center and the capital campaign, please contact any of the following:

Patricia Hibbeler, Phoenix Indian Center, Chief Executive Officer — 602-264-6768

Diana Yazzie-Devine, Native American Connections, President/CEO — 602-254-3247

Walter Murillo, Native Health, Acting Chief Executive Officer — 602-279-5262

### *Fiscal Agent for the Capital Campaign:*

Phoenix Indian Center, Inc.

Patricia Hibbeler, Chief Executive Officer – 602-264-6768 (ext. 2101)

Frank LaFave, Chief Financial Officer – 602-264-6768 (ext. 2104)

### **Native American Community Service Center Estimated Project Costs**

Building infrastructure and code compliance	\$1,740,000
Building safety & security	400,000
Information technology	270,000
Fixtures, furnishings, equipment	260,000
Community and conference areas	580,000
<b>Total direct cost</b>	<b>\$3,250,000</b>
Operating costs	700,000
Development costs	<u>250,000</u>
<b>Total indirect cost</b>	<b>\$950,000</b>
Funding needs	\$4,200,000

Native American Community Service Center Campaign Office  
Jacquelyn Ahrenberg, CFRE  
4520 N. Central Avenue, Suite 250  
Phoenix, AZ 85012  
602.264.6768 Ext. 2106  
jacquea@nacsc.org