



# NACS NEWS

**Celebrating Our 50th  
Birthday, July 2, 2025, in  
“A Tradition Of Caring”**

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# National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month 2025

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

**Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**, officially recognized every July, is a vital observance that highlights the unique mental health challenges faced by racial and ethnic minority communities in the U.S. Here's a look at its **origins** and its ongoing **focus on equity**:

## Origins: Honoring Bebe Moore Campbell

The month was established in **2008** by the U.S. House of Representatives in honor of **Bebe Moore Campbell**, an author, advocate, and co-founder of NAMI Urban Los Angeles. Campbell was a passionate voice for mental health equity, particularly for communities of color. Alongside her friend Dr. Linda Wharton Boyd, she advocated for a national observance to:

- Raise awareness of mental health disparities
- Reduce stigma in minority communities
- Promote culturally competent mental health services<sup>1</sup>

## Why Equity Matters in Mental Health

Minority communities often face **systemic barriers** to mental health care, including:

- **Stigma and cultural mistrust** of healthcare systems
- **Lack of access** to culturally and linguistically appropriate services
- **Economic and social stressors**, including racism, poverty, and intergenerational trauma<sup>2</sup>

For example, while 21% of Black Americans reported mental health concerns in 2021, only 39% received treatment<sup>2</sup>. These disparities are not just about access, they reflect deeper issues of **representation, trust, and systemic inequality**.

ty.

## Efforts Toward Equity

Organizations like the **CDC** and **American Psychiatric Association (APA)** are working to close these gaps by:

- Promoting **culturally responsive care**
- Supporting community-based programs for youth of color
- Hosting events like the **Moore Equity in Mental Health 5K**, which raises funds for grassroots mental health initiatives<sup>3,1</sup>

The CDC also emphasizes the importance of integrating minority voices into all stages of mental health programming—from planning to evaluation<sup>3</sup>.

## How You Can Support

- **Educate yourself** on the mental health challenges in minority communities
- **Speak up** to reduce stigma and advocate for equitable care
- **Support organizations** that provide culturally competent services
- **Practice and promote self-care**, especially in communities where mental health is often stigmatized

(<sup>1</sup> [American Psychiatric Association](#),  
<sup>2</sup> [Black Health Matters](#))

## 5 Facts About The Brain That Will Blow Your Mind

- 1. Brain surgeries aren't very new**  
In fact, the first recorded brain surgery happened during the Stone Age.
- 2. Brains shrink in size**  
As we get older, our brains tend to get smaller with age.

This usually happens after middle age.

- 3. The brain needs a lot of energy**  
Our brains consume almost 20% of the body's total oxygen and blood supply.
- 4. Brains are quite heavy**  
The human brain, on average, weighs three pounds.
- 5. The brain is divided into three parts**  
The three major parts of the brain are the cerebrum, cerebellum, and brain stem.

## Why National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month is Important

- 1. It saves lives**  
National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month saves hundreds of vulnerable lives every year with timely help and a supportive network of allies.
- 2. Makes the world a better place**  
This initiative was started with the genuine hope of making the world a better and more inclusive place for everyone, especially those who have been historically neglected.
- 3. It destigmatizes mental health issues**  
There's a lot of prejudice and stigma surrounding mental health issues. This month aims to fight misinformation so that those who are struggling don't feel left out.

([National Today](#))

## What are the types of mental health issues that impact Native American people?

Native American and Alaska Native communities face a unique and complex set of mental health chal-

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lenges, shaped by historical trauma, systemic inequities, and cultural disconnection. Here are the most prevalent mental health issues affecting these communities:

### Common Mental Health Issues

#### 1. Depression

- ◇ High rates of depression, especially among elders and women.
- ◇ Postpartum depression affects 14–30% of Native women, compared to 11% nationally<sup>1</sup>.
- ◇ Depression is often underdiagnosed due to stigma, lack of culturally competent care, and limited access to services<sup>1</sup>.

#### 2. Substance Use Disorders

- ◇ Native communities experience the highest rates of alcohol and drug use disorders in the U.S.
- ◇ Methamphetamine use and overdose rates are particularly high<sup>2</sup>.
- ◇ Substance use is often linked to unresolved trauma and lack of access to mental health care.

#### 3. Suicide

- ◇ Suicide is the **second leading cause of death** for Native youth aged 10–34<sup>3</sup>.
- ◇ Adolescent Native females have suicide rates **five times higher** than their white counterparts<sup>3</sup>.
- ◇ Contributing factors include intergenerational trauma, poverty, and lack of culturally relevant support.

#### 4. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

- ◇ High exposure to trauma, including domestic violence, childhood abuse, and historical trauma, contributes to elevated PTSD rates<sup>2</sup>.

#### 5. Anxiety Disorders

- ◇ Often co-occurs with de-

pression and substance use.

- ◇ May be underreported due to cultural differences in expressing distress<sup>1</sup>.

### Contributing Factors

- **Historical Trauma:** Forced relocations, boarding schools, and cultural erasure have left lasting psychological scars.
- **Discrimination:** Many Native individuals report avoiding healthcare due to fear of discrimination<sup>1</sup>.
- **Poverty and Isolation:** Economic hardship and geographic isolation limit access to care.
- **Underfunded Services:** The Indian Health Service (IHS) is often under-resourced, especially in urban areas where 70% of Native people live<sup>1</sup>.

### Protective Factors

Despite these challenges, Native communities also possess powerful sources of resilience:

- **Cultural Identity and Traditions:** Connection to language, ceremonies, and community can buffer against mental health issues.
- **Community Support:** Extended family and tribal networks often provide emotional and spiritual support.
- **Traditional Healing:** Practices rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems are increasingly integrated into mental health care<sup>1</sup>.

(<sup>1</sup> [PsychCentral](#), <sup>2</sup> [Indian Health Service](#), <sup>3</sup> [Office of Minority Health](#))

Here are some local mental health resources in Buffalo, NY that specifically support Native American individuals and families:

Native American Community Ser-

vices of Erie & Niagara Counties (NACS)

Location: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

Phone: (716) 874-4460

Website: [nacswny.org](http://nacswny.org)

Services Offered:

- ⊕ Mental health and wellness programs
- ⊕ Alcohol and drug prevention education
- ⊕ Youth and family support services
- ⊕ Cultural competency training and traditional healing practices
- ⊕ Wraparound services and managed care coordination
- ⊕ Elders program and community events<sup>1,2</sup>

NACS is a trusted, culturally grounded organization that serves both on- and off-reservation Native populations in Western New York. They integrate traditional values with modern therapeutic approaches.

Crisis Services of Western New York  
24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (716) 834-3131

Website: Crisis Services

While not Native-specific, Crisis Services partners with local agencies like NACS and provides emergency mental health support, mobile outreach, and trauma-informed care<sup>3</sup>.

Mental Health Advocates of WNY (MHAWNY)

Referral Line: (716) 886-1242

Website: [mhawny.org](http://mhawny.org)

They offer:

- Free, anonymous mental health screenings
- Referrals to culturally competent providers
- Advocacy and education programs<sup>2</sup>

(<sup>1</sup> [NACS](#), <sup>2</sup> [Mental Health Advocates](#), <sup>3</sup> [Erie County Mental Health](#))



## National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month

*Submitted by Bonnie LaForme, IHAWP Facilitation Assistant*

### BIPOC Mental Health Month:

Originally called this month to raise awareness of the mental health challenges faced by racial and ethnic groups that have been oppressed or disenfranchised. (BIPOC stands for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. It's a term used to acknowledge and address the historical and ongoing systemic oppression faced by these groups in the United States and other countries. BIPOC is often used in social justice and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) contexts to specifically center the experiences of Black and Indigenous communities while also recognizing the broader experiences of other people of color).

July was first declared as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in 2008. Since then, July has been a time to acknowledge

and explore issues concerning mental health, substance use disorders, and minority communities, and to destigmatize mental illness and enhance public awareness of mental illness among affected minority groups across the U.S. Studies suggest that racial minority groups and sexual minority groups show higher levels of anxiety, depression, suicidal tendencies, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and other mental health disorders. Unfortunately, in most cases, society's deep-rooted prejudice towards such stigmatized minority groups is a major cause of feelings of rejection, estrangement, and harassment. Moreover, immigration status, economic conditions, education levels, and access to public health benefits are just a few differences that can adverse-

ly impact the experiences of various ethnic groups in the U.S.

The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has compiled a list of helpful resources for parents and caregivers, children and teens, mental health providers, child welfare and juvenile justice professionals, healthcare providers, educators and school staff, and policy makers.

For more information and resources please follow the link listed below.

[\(National Child Traumatic Stress Network\)](#)



## International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples - August 9th

In order to raise awareness of the needs of these population groups, every August 9th commemorates the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. This date, adopted in December 1994 by UN General Assembly [resolution 49/214](#), marks the date of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Geneva in 1982.

Each year, UNESCO marks the celebration of the Day by sharing information on projects and activities that are relevant to the annual theme.

*"On this day, let us remember that Indigenous peoples are actors of*

*change, guardians of natural resources and carriers of unique worldviews, knowledge and skills. We must protect their traditions and ways of life – while respecting their rights."*

*Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO*

### **Indigenous Peoples around the world**

Indigenous Peoples live in all regions of the world and own, occupy or use some 22% of global land area. Numbering at least 370-500 million, Indigenous Peoples represent the greater part of the world's cultural diversity. They speak an overwhelming majority of the world's estimated 7,000 languages and represent 5,000 different cultures.

Despite their cultural differences, Indigenous Peoples from around the world share common problems related to the protection of their rights as distinct peoples. Many Indigenous Peoples continue to be confronted with marginalization, extreme poverty and other human rights violations.

### **What UNESCO does with Indigenous Peoples**

Through partnerships with Indigenous Peoples, UNESCO seeks to support them in addressing the multiple challenges they face, while acknowledging their significant role in sustaining the diversity of the world's cultural and biological landscape. UNESCO places the needs of Indigenous Peoples

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amongst its priority areas for response.

([UNESCO](#))

### History of International Day of The World's Indigenous People

The first International Day of the World's Indigenous People was officially celebrated in August 1995. The day had been brought into existence when the 49/214 resolution was passed by the U.N. General Assembly on December 23, 1994. August 9 was chosen as the commemorative date because that was when the first meeting of the U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights was held. Every year, the day is honored by governments and organizations holding education forums and conferences to meet and discuss the social issues faced by indigenous groups worldwide. People are also given information on any ongoing and/or upcoming activities and projects that are being undertaken to help the target communities. Every year, the theme changes to shed light on a pressing topic, and the theme for the year 2021 was 'Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract.'

The social contract theme is a call for accountability in the general populations' interaction with the indigenous communities and their resources. Over the years, many indigenous groups have found themselves to be on a disadvantageous terrain in the face of urban development projects that have destroyed and denigrated their lands and territories. The central governments and builders involved in such projects never sought permission from or even

spoke with the indigenous communities before they took the developmental steps. Organizations and agencies like the U.N. and UNESCO have made efforts for constitutional/legislative reforms for dominant indigenous groups. Yet, the efforts must be focused on bringing everyone together in the cause, leaving none behind. Many individuals, organizations and businesses have created scholarships with the aim of giving more diverse people access to education.

### 5 Interesting Facts About Indigenous People

#### 1. **80% of the world's biodiversity**

Around 80% of the world's biodiversity is in places where indigenous groups are living.

#### 2. **4,000 indigenous languages**

The 5,000 indigenous communities in the world are credited with having about 4,000 languages.

#### 3. **High poverty rates**

While the indigenous communities account for only 5% of the world's population, they make up 15% of the world population that is living in poverty.

#### 4. **Short life spans**

Indigenous communities, due to a lack of awareness, have shorter life spans as they die of preventable diseases like malaria and H.I.V.

#### 5. **Leaders in protecting the environment**

Studies have shown that the fauna and flora, and biodiversity thrive and flourish where indigenous people reside.

**Why International Day of the World's Indigenous People is**

### Important

#### A. **It's a celebration of indigenous people**

Indigenous people form an essential and crucial part of not only our planet's history, but also how human beings have come to make systems to lead fruitful lives. The indigenous people's cultures, customs, and traditions are interesting to learn about for their uniqueness and for what they teach us about the universe and the bigger picture.

#### B. **It's a celebration of indigenous languages**

Language, at its core, builds the identity of a people. The involvement of the different phonetics, grammar rules, and formal/informal styles can tell one a lot about where a community has come from, and how their history has shaped them. The same is the case with indigenous languages. The problem lies in their endangerment, and this is why we must strive to preserve them.

#### C. **It's a celebration of the freedom to live**

The freedom to practice our rights on a piece of land that has shaped our communities for centuries should not be taken away from anyone. The freedom to practice our customs, traditions, and general lifestyles is another important aspect of living a worthwhile life. For these very reasons and many others, we should join indigenous people in their right to live and flourish however they like.

([National Today](#))

**Indigenous Peoples in the world make up less than 6% of the**

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## world's population but account for at least 15% of the world's poorest

The disproportionate poverty among Indigenous Peoples is the result of a complex mix of historical, political, economic, and social factors. Here are some of the key reasons:

### 1. Historical Dispossession and Colonization

- Indigenous communities around the world have faced centuries of colonization, during which they were often forcibly removed from their ancestral lands.
- This loss of land disrupted traditional economies, cultural practices, and self-sufficiency, leading to long-term economic marginalization.

### 2. Lack of Land Rights and Resource Access

- Even today, many Indigenous groups lack legal recognition of their land rights.
- Without secure land tenure, they are vulnerable to displacement by extractive industries (like mining, logging, and agriculture), often without fair compensation.

### 3. Discrimination and Marginalization

- Systemic racism and social exclusion limit Indigenous Peoples' access to quality education, healthcare, and employment.
- Discrimination in public institutions and the private sector further entrenches poverty.

### 4. Limited Political Representation

- Indigenous voices are often underrepresented in national and local governments.
- This limits their ability to influence policies that affect their communities, including development, education, and

environmental protection.

### 5. Cultural and Linguistic Barriers

- Education systems often do not accommodate Indigenous languages or cultural perspectives, leading to lower educational attainment.
- This contributes to a cycle of poverty by limiting access to higher-paying jobs and economic opportunities.

### 6. Environmental Degradation and Climate Change

- Indigenous communities often live in ecologically sensitive areas and are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental degradation.
- These impacts threaten traditional livelihoods such as farming, fishing, and herding.

### 7. Health Inequities

- Indigenous populations frequently experience worse health outcomes due to inadequate access to healthcare, poor living conditions, and higher exposure to environmental hazards.

## What solutions have been implemented?

### 1. Legal Recognition of Land Rights

- **Example: Colombia** – The government has recognized over 30 million hectares of land as Indigenous reserves, giving communities legal control over their territories.
- **Impact:** Secure land tenure helps protect traditional livelihoods and prevents displacement by extractive industries.

### 2. Culturally Relevant Education

- **Example: New Zealand**

(Aotearoa) – The Kura Kaupapa Māori schools teach in the Māori language and incorporate Māori values and knowledge systems.

- **Impact:** These schools have improved educational outcomes and cultural pride among Māori youth.

### 3. Indigenous-Led Health Services

- **Example: Canada** – The First Nations Health Authority in British Columbia is the first Indigenous-run health authority in the country.
- **Impact:** It provides culturally appropriate care and has improved health outcomes in participating communities.

### 4. Economic Empowerment and Self-Governance

- **Example: Australia** – The Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) requires a percentage of government contracts to go to Indigenous businesses.
- **Impact:** This has led to the growth of Indigenous enterprises and job creation.

### 5. Environmental Stewardship and Co-Management

- **Example: Brazil** – Indigenous communities in the Amazon are involved in managing protected areas and monitoring deforestation.
- **Impact:** These efforts help preserve biodiversity and provide sustainable livelihoods.

### 6. International Frameworks and Advocacy

- **Example: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)** – Adopted in 2007, it sets a global standard for Indigenous rights.
- **Impact:** While not legally binding, it has influenced national laws and policies in many countries.

### 7. Cultural Revitalization and Language Preservation

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- **Example: Norway, Sweden, Finland** – The Sámi Parliaments promote Sámi language, culture, and political representation.
- **Impact:** These institutions have helped preserve Indigenous identity and influence national policy.

### What challenges do these solutions face?

While many solutions have shown promise, they often face significant challenges that can limit their effectiveness or sustainability. Here are some of the most common obstacles:

#### 1. Inadequate Implementation and Funding

- **Challenge:** Policies recognizing Indigenous rights or promoting development are often underfunded or poorly implemented.
- **Example:** Land rights may be granted on paper but not enforced, leaving communities vulnerable to illegal land grabs.

#### 2. Political Resistance and Bureaucracy

- **Challenge:** Governments may resist ceding control or resources to Indigenous communities, especially when economic interests (e.g., mining, logging) are involved.
- **Example:** Indigenous-led health or education initiatives may face delays or restrictions due to centralized decision-making.

#### 3. Lack of Genuine Consultation

- **Challenge:** Development projects or policies are sometimes implemented without **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC)** from Indigenous communities.
- **Impact:** This can lead to mistrust, conflict, and the failure

of well-intentioned programs.

#### 4. Cultural Misalignment

- **Challenge:** Programs designed without Indigenous input may not align with cultural values, languages, or traditional knowledge systems.
- **Example:** Western-style education systems may marginalize Indigenous languages and worldviews, leading to disengagement.

#### 5. Legal and Institutional Barriers

- **Challenge:** In many countries, legal systems do not fully recognize collective land ownership or customary law.
- **Impact:** This weakens Indigenous governance and limits their ability to manage resources or resolve disputes.

#### 6. Climate Change and Environmental Pressures

- **Challenge:** Even with land rights, Indigenous communities are increasingly affected by climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
- **Example:** Rising sea levels threaten coastal and island communities, while droughts and deforestation impact traditional farming and hunting.

#### 7. Internal Challenges

- **Challenge:** Some communities face internal divisions, leadership disputes, or capacity gaps that hinder effective self-governance.
- **Impact:** These issues can make it harder to manage resources, advocate for rights, or implement development projects.

#### 8. Ongoing Discrimination and Racism

- **Challenge:** Deep-rooted so-

cietal biases continue to marginalize Indigenous Peoples in education, employment, and public life.

- **Impact:** This perpetuates cycles of poverty and exclusion, even when supportive policies exist.

### A Bridge of Understanding

For non-Native friends and allies, it's a chance to listen, learn, and stand in solidarity.

#### How We Can Honor This Day

##### Learn a New Story


Ask an elder, read a book, or listen to a podcast about Indigenous history and teachings.

##### Support Native Artists & Voices

Share their work, celebrate their craft, and uplift their messages.

##### Reflect on Our Connection to the Land

Whether you're Native or not, we all share a responsibility to honor the Earth.

 *"Our songs are not only for us — they are for those yet to come."*

On this day, may we celebrate the cultures that hold the wisdom of the land, the stories of survival, and the songs of tomorrow.

### Conclusion

As we observe World Indigenous Day 2025, it's imperative to approach celebrations with respect and a genuine desire to understand and honor indigenous cultures. By participating in these initiatives and educating ourselves, we contribute to a world that values diversity, promotes equity, and acknowledges the profound wisdom indigenous communities offer. Let's stand in solidarity with indigenous peoples, ensuring their voices are heard, their rights protected, and their cultures celebrated.

([University Living](#))



# National Make A Difference to Children Month – July 2025

*Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor*

National Make A Difference to Children Month is observed in July. The month raises awareness about the vulnerability any child in the world can face if they do not have the right person in their lives to guide them. Children, being pure of heart and still lacking experience about life, need guidance to choose the right paths. Often-times such guiding figures can be parents, older siblings, teachers, or other types of guardians. However, it also happens that many times children do not have such mentors, and this can put them in harm's way. A study shows that children are more likely to pursue higher studies if they have mentors and ideals in their lives. Children are the future of the world, and this is why it is important to make a positive difference in their lives.

## History of National Make A Difference to Children Month

The grassroots movement behind the National Make A Difference to Children Month was started in 2006 by Kim Ratz. Being a child advocate, Ratz wanted people to recognize how making a difference in children's lives can lead to a better society in the long run. His focus was directed towards parents, teachers, care providers, and the general public who cared about children. Ratz's targets ranged from children in orphanages and shelter homes to homeless children and children in abusive households. While it was a noble cause, many believe it was not useful because of the huge amount of children who needed help. Ratz insisted that the amount of children needing help is not the issue. The issue is how many people are willing to come forward and help at least one child.

Ratz emphasizes making an effort to change the lives of children. These children can be your own kids, your neighbors' kids, or the kids who are friends with your children. You can start by trying to understand the problems plaguing the children. It could be as simple as help needed with studies or just taking some time out of your schedule to spend with them. It could also be something complex like mental/physical issues or financial strains. Whatever the case is, you can start helping a child and making a difference in their lives by finding different ways to help them. If the issue is something you cannot help with, you can get in contact with people, be it counselors or welfare organizations, who have the skills and resources to help. Taking the first initiative is a positive start, so don't feel daunted by the 'impossibility' of aiding a child.

## National Make A Difference to Children Month timeline

### 1889: England's First Child Protection Law

The English Parliament passes the first child protection law called the 'Children's Charter,' which helps the state to intervene between parents and their child in case the latter is found to be in danger at the hands of the former.

### 1959: U.N.'s Child Welfare Laws

The U.N. General Assembly passes the Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

### 1962: Physician Guidelines to Identify Child Abuse

Dr. C. Henry Kempe's paper 'The Battered Child Syndrome,' leads to the American Congress creat-

ing guidelines for physicians to identify and report any signs of child abuse and neglect.

### 2001: Scotland's Failing Child Welfare Protection Laws

After the inquiry into the murder of a three-year-old, an audit is released stating that half of the children at the risk of abuse and neglect do not receive protection of any kind.

2006: Kim Ratz establishes National Make A Difference to Children Month.

2025: Observance continues with widespread advocacy and community involvement.

## National Make A Difference to Children Month FAQs

### 1. When is National Make A Difference to Children Month?

National Make A Difference to Children Month takes place in July every year.

### 2. When did the child welfare system begin?

The child welfare system started in 1935 when the Social Security Act was passed.

### 3. In what century did child welfare agencies become active?

It is unclear as to exactly when many of the child welfare agencies became active, but most of the organizations started gaining momentum during the 19th and 20th centuries.

## How To Observe National Make A Difference to Children Month

### 1. Talk to a child

One of the best ways to help make a difference in a child's life is to get to know them better by understanding their needs. In many cases, all a child requires is the attention

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and time of someone as it makes them feel heard and cared for. So, talk to the children in your life, and spend time with them.

## 2. **Vow to protect children**

If you see abuse or neglect happening to a child around you, you can help them by stepping in or informing the authorities. But always make sure that you are aware of the situation between parents and their child before you take any action. Context is important.

## 3. **Donate to children's trust**

Find child welfare organizations and trusts and donate to them. You can also spread the word about them by talking to your friends and family, and encouraging them to donate, too.

## 5 Facts About Child Welfare That Will Blow Your Mind

### 1. **1 million children face abuse/neglect**

Around one million children in America are victims of abuse and neglect every year.

### 2. **20,000 foster children age out**

Every year, at least 20,000 children age out of the foster care system.

### 3. **More vacancies in welfare than in childcare**

There are more staff vacancies in child welfare agencies than in child-service agencies.

### 4. **Loans holding back social workers**

More social workers are willing to work for child welfare organizations if their loans are forgiven.

### 5. **Less than 40% of professional workers**

Estimates have shown that less than 40% of child welfare workers are professionals who are aware of the ins and outs of

their field.

## It's A Celebration Of Children

### A. **It's a celebration of children**

Children are the epitome of innocence and purity. It is our duty to protect them and give them a life that allows them to flourish and thrive in all sectors of life. Childhood is an amazing part of the human experience, and no human should lose out on the essence of what it means to be a child.

### B. **It's a celebration of the future**

One of the reasons we get out of bed every day is the hope of a better tomorrow. It is essential to understand that our tomorrow is tied to our children. If we can provide a better life to our children, we are automatically working towards making a better future for ourselves and the generations to come.

### C. **It's a celebration of positivity**

Hope breeds positivity, and it is this message that National Make A Difference to Children Month addresses loud and clear. No matter how dark the days may seem, there's always light at the end of the tunnel. Whether you walk, run, or crawl towards it, you will reach it eventually, and it is this positivity that all humans, especially children, need.

([National Today](#))

## The Power of Mentoring Why Does It Matter?

As we ponder the significance of National Make a Difference for Children Month, it is vital to acknowledge the fundamental belief that drives this observance: every child, regardless of their background, deserves

love, care, and support to help them grow into healthy, self-assured adults. This month spotlights our shared responsibility towards the future generation and serves as a reminder that the actions we take today, from our personal interactions with children in our lives to our advocacy for child-focused policies and activities, can profoundly impact their lives and mold the future. Furthermore, National Make a Difference for Children Month emphasizes that anyone can make a difference, no matter how big or small. Whether you are a parent, teacher, friend, or community member, your actions can create enduring positive effects.

Children's early years are critical for their development and future well-being. Unfortunately, conditions like living in an orphanage, a shelter, experiencing homelessness, or residing in an abusive family can create significant harm to a child's physical, emotional, and cognitive growth.

Specifically, the lack of consistent access to nutrition, healthcare, and safe living conditions can lead to various health problems, from chronic illnesses to developmental delays. Children in an abusive home may experience physical harm and are in dire need of stability, care, and emotional support. These encounters put children in a challenging condition where they are likely to experience high levels of stress, trauma, and instability, which can impact their emotional health. Consequently, as children's cognitive development is closely linked with their environment, they may struggle to focus on learning in a stressful and unstable environment, leading to cognitive developmental delays and lower

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academic performance.

Additionally, the lack of access to essential education resources or health care services further devastating children's growth, particularly for children in shelters or those experiencing homelessness. Without a role model in educating them about social norms and values, children may struggle to develop healthy social relationships. This lack of social-emotional learning can also result in difficulties with communication, empathy, and interpersonal skills, impacting their ability to form and maintain relationships later in life.

Therefore, it falls upon all of us collectively to intervene and equip these children with the necessities they require to grow. This involves addressing their immediate needs such as nutrition, clothing, and a safe place to live, while also catering to their long-term growth and wellness. The National Make a Difference for Children Month aims to mitigate the effects of their previous hardships and set them on a path toward a brighter future. As a whole, it is not only an investment in the individual child's future, but also in the betterment of our society.

### What Can We Do?

Mentoring can be a powerful tool in guiding and shaping children's cognition. It transcends merely tutoring or advising children on correct values or behaviors, but also forming a connection that is mutually respected and supported. The power of mentoring lies in its capacity to make children feel seen and valued. Within such secure environments, they are more likely to express their thoughts, ask questions, learn, and grow. This also promotes improved commu-

nication between mentors and children, facilitating an understanding of the children's needs.

Critically, affirmation from a trusted mentor can instill self-belief in a child, boosting their confidence and fostering resilience. This self-assurance is not only significant for their present circumstances but constitutes a solid foundation for their future pursuits. Particularly for children in vulnerable situations, mentorship can be a beacon of hope. It offers them a consistent, supportive relationship that can greatly alleviate their hardships and provide them with a sense of stability. For these children, mentors can serve as role models, demonstrating positive behaviors, attitudes, and paths to success.

Further ways to support these children extend beyond immediate interaction and can include contributing to organizations dedicated to children's welfare. Below are some programs you could participate in, all of which directly or indirectly aid children in need of support:

- ◆ **Food assistance programs:** These initiatives focus on providing nutritious meals to children who may not have consistent access to proper nutrition. Donations to these programs can help fund meals for these children, ensuring they receive the vital nourishment they need to grow healthily.
- ◆ **Child care training:** These programs aim to educate potential caregivers or parents on effective child-rearing strategies and the unique needs of children in vulnerable situations. Your contribu-

tion can help sponsor such training sessions, thereby increasing the pool of capable caregivers for these children.

- ◆ **Orphan Sponsorship:** This involves pledging a certain amount of money on a regular basis to cater to an orphan's needs, including their education, health care, and daily living expenses. Your commitment can make a significant difference in an orphan's life.
- ◆ **Medical Missions:** These are often conducted by healthcare organizations to provide medical care to children in impoverished areas or those who lack access to healthcare. Donations can help fund medical equipment, medicines, and healthcare professionals' visits.
- ◆ **Education Support:** This could involve donating to scholarship programs, book drives, or school supply drives that aim to ensure every child, regardless of their circumstance, has access to quality education.

In this National Make a Difference for Children Month, I encourage each one of you to consider the role you can play as a global citizen in helping young children. It is crucial to remember that our commitment does not end with July. The need for love, support, and care for children, especially those in vulnerable situations, exists all year round. From mentoring and volunteering to donating to child welfare organizations, each one of us has the power to make a positive difference in a child's life.

(Excerpt by Gloria Jiang, [ERACoalition](#))





## N.A.I.W.A CONFERENCE - June 8-12, 2025

*Submitted by Rhonda Martin, IHAWP Cultural Events Planner*

The NAIWA Conference at Seneca Niagara Casino began on Sunday June 8, 2025, with registration and opening ceremonies. A sacred fire was lit and lasted for the duration of the conference.

Upon my arrival on Monday June 9, 2025, everyone present were welcomed with a continental breakfast that consisted of bagels, delicious make it yourself parfaits, fresh fruit and hot coffee and teas. Shortly after breakfast, we entered the main event area for introductions of presenters.

The unforgettable and remarkable Mr. Tom Porter began his introductions with a smile so genuine, it melted the hearts of everyone in the room. Tom spoke softly about his grandmother and her teachings. He spoke of the glorious energy he was feeling as his eyes glistened with tears. He thanked the women in the room for gathering for such a special occasion and of how the women are the strength of the household and of the land. Tom mentioned the worries and the woes of our territories and troublesome times we are still struggling through and that we must remain strong to help make change.

Following Tom, Lori Quigley took the stage to discuss the residential schools, MMIW and the Sixties Scoop. Lori spoke gently about her grandmother attending the Thomas Indian School on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation. The school was a haven for some children she explained but it was also a place of poverty, abuse of all kinds and the children were forbidden to speak their native tongue. Her grandmother did not share much of her

experience at the school, as it was too hurtful and memories ran deep. The school closed in 1957 and only one main building remains standing as a 'historic site' and encloses the memories that will forever be unforgotten.

The afternoon sessions were comprised of break-out rooms. I attended Christina Porter's talk on Personal Safety and Stalker Awareness. Christina is an enrolled Tuscarora and her clan is Turtle and resides in Irving, NY. Christina shared her own personal story of being stalked in school and what she learned from this horrifying experience. She then showed a short film on human trafficking. The awareness she brought to the audience was astounding and realistic as we acknowledge the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Men.

Jocelyn Jones, Onondowa'ga and her clan is Wolf. Jocelyn resides on the Allegan Territory. Jocelyn was another speaker in the break room. She presented on the Rights of Passage, introducing some of her students while acknowledging her helpers Samantha Miller and Rachel Schindler. Jocelyn is passionate in her works towards Mother Earth, Onondowa'ga culture of knowledge, and the original instructions of creation.

The next two days were filled with speakers such as Yolanda Smith- Seneca, Turtle clan. She brings her knowledge of traditional medicines found here on Mother Earth. Nettie Hepner - spoke on self-defense and included her audience to experi-

ence some self-defensive moves but, I missed this one.

Jillian Isaacs is Tuscarora and her clan is Bear. She resides on the Six Nations Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada. Jillian's mother, Linda John, also Tuscarora Bear clan, shared discussions on MMIW. Mother and daughter both shared the memory of their late daughter/sister Helyna, a victim of MMIW and advocates that families of a lost loved one need lifelong support. Linda John advocates for the Haudenosaunee to be recognized as North American Indians of the United States. Her advocacy takes her through Canada and the United States to share and educate on the violence against Indigenous people while continuously raising awareness of MMIW.

Derise Whitcomb is her English name but she is known as Jagodawe'h. Derise currently resides on the Allegany Territory. Derise is a language restoration coordinator and teaches Seneca part time as an adjunct professor at St Bonaventure University.

Tonia Loran-Galban is Mohawk and Member of the Bear Clan, and resides in Farmington NY. Tonia is a traditional storyteller and is also a black ash utilitarian Basketmaker, bead worker, student of Herbolology and Hodinosyo:nih material culture creator.

Yolanda Smith is Seneca and a member of the Turtle Clan. Yolanda resides on the Cattaraugus Territory and is a true people's helper. She has worked in various places helping others. Yolanda has graced her community and others in sur-

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*(Continued from page 12)*

rounding areas on traditional medicines.

Cami Jones is Seneca and belongs to the Wolf Clan, and currently resides on the Cattaraugus Territory. Cami carries her talent as Hodi-nohsyo:ni'h potter, artist and is a passionate community advocate with the roots of the Seneca Nation. Cami dedicated her life to upholding the rich cultural heritage of her people through her work. Her pottery talents have been influenced from her great uncle Peter Jones known to many as "Pottery Pete."

Chef Lorinda John is a well-known culinary Master of Foods. She has shared her talents with the Buffalo Bills, the Bandits and many others. She has earned a degree in Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism and has received many honor awards during her years of education. Her parents are her greatest supporters, and she definitely adds a whole lot of love into everything that she does.

Alyssa Warrior is Seneca and currently resides on the Cattaraugus Territory, Alyssa carries an undergraduate degree in physics and in the summer of 2023, she had the incredible opportunity of interning with NASA at the Glenn Research Center in Cleveland Ohio. Her main interest is the history of contamination and pollution within the Cattaraugus Creek.

Nicky Thompson is an enrolled Seneca and is currently residing on the Cattaraugus Territory. Nicky has shared her experience as an advisor for incarcerated native men. She incorporates her ancestral teachings to encourage hope and healing. During her presentation she had us work on grief and

loss teachings. Nicky is also a water protector, a Diversity Master instructor and a speaker at the World Indigenous Suicide Prevention Conference. Nicky carries a passion to be with her elders and the teachings that are given to her.

The women were treated to a tour of the Falls. Some took the trolley while most of them walked to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of Niagara Falls.

During lunch on the last day, there was a screen sharing of the film "Lake of Betrayal" which told the story of the Kinzua Dam. It was heartbreaking and it touched the hearts of many in the room. To know that many Seneca families were displaced, betrayed and uprooted from their homelands for the sake of building a dam so the state of Pennsylvania wouldn't flood during rainy seasons is almost unbearable to comprehend.

On the last day the discussion focused on the Land Back Panel. Those addressing this was Odie Porter's "Connections to the Land - Why We Remember the Removal". Odie is a member of the Seneca Nation and resides on the Cattaraugus territory. Odie served on the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Advisory Board and the Burchfield Penney Art Center Board of Trustees and also advocates on Indigenous issues. Odie is a member of the grassroots Seneca Land Back and she focuses on educating the community and advocating for Seneca lands.

Christina Abrams is a Tonawanda Seneca and is a member of the Beaver clan. Christina presents "Protecting Mother Na-

ture" and voices her opposition to the STAMP project. STAMP is Science & Technology Advanced Manufacturing Park which is a green manufacturing mega-site developed to deliver hydro-power, utilities, and talent from a strategic location in New York, namely the Tonawanda territory. This project has affected the hunting and fishing areas.

Jeanne Shenandoah is Onondaga and is a member of the Eel Clan. Jeanne is a member of the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force. Jeanne is an Elder in Resident Indigenous Schola at the center for Native Peoples and the Environment. She is also a lifelong defender of Mother Earth.

As each guest entered the event they were greeted by the beautiful tones of the water drum and rattles as the voices of the Women's Singers carried throughout the event floors. It was a week-long event that had me astonished by the powerful energy that embraced each and every one of us as life carriers. The magnitude of that energy has lifted the women to continue encouraging each other and stand for what they believe in.

*Respectfully submitted by:*

*Rhonda Martin,*

*Indigenous Health & Wellbeing Promotion (IHAWP) Cultural Events Planner*

*Native American Community Services of Erie and Niagara Counties Inc.*

*1005 Grant Street Buffalo NY 14207*

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## SOLE Celebrates Pride Month

*Submitted by Laura Gugliuzza, SOLE Health Educator/Peer Mentor*

For months, The SOLE team has been busy updating outreach information, designing new material, and making hundreds of condom bags and period pouches — all in preparation for Pride Month, our favorite time of the year!

We attended several community events in June, which included Intersect Pride in Allentown, the Buffalo Pride Parade on Elmwood, Pride Alive at Babeville, Pride in the Park in Hamburg, and more! During these events, we connected with hundreds of people, handed out thousands of condoms and gave away resources, informational materials, and original stickers designed by our team!

### **Community Pride is important!**

Knowing that there are safe, affirming spaces that celebrate love, identity, and the power of being

seen and supported is essential.

- ◆ Groups like GLYS, Rainbow Collective, MOCHA, Buffalo & Erie County Library, Planned Parenthood, and others tabled and participated in these events, showing support and celebration of Buffalo's LGBTQIA2S+ history and culture
- ◆ During these events, we set up tabling and participated in walking outreach. We connected with many individuals who often shared stories of their own personal journeys. We fostered new relationships with those interested in our program and provided them with materials and information they needed.

Our favorite part of Pride is the overwhelming feeling of sup-

port, unity, and love that is shared. We witnessed people dancing together, uplifting each other, and feeling safe enough to express themselves fully and authentically.

*Isn't that the whole point?*

### **It is. That's why Pride is essential.**

It is a reminder that everyone deserves to be themselves and feel safe and accepted! It honors the history of the LGBTQIA2S+ rights movement, the progress that has been made, and the work that still needs to be done.

The work does not stop after June. Everyone deserves safety, affirmation, and the freedom to be exactly who they are today and every day.

With that, catch us at Rochester Pride on July 19<sup>th</sup>!

### **4 ways to make this summer as safe as it is fun**

From [American Heart Association](#)

DALLAS, May 29, 2025 — 350,000 people experience cardiac arrest outside of a hospital in the United States each year<sup>[1]</sup>, and only 10% survive. The American Heart Association, a global force changing the future of health for all, is calling on parents and families to make this summer as safe as it is fun by offering four ways to a heart-healthy summer, including learning CPR.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 23,000 children experience cardiac arrest each year, with nearly 40% related to sports and nearly 20% occurring in infants. If performed immediately, CPR can double or even triple

a person's chance of survival, yet less than half of people actually receive the help they need from someone nearby. With school out for summer, children will be away from teachers and coaches who might be trained in CPR, making it crucial for parents to know this lifesaving skill.

The Association offers this checklist for a heart-healthy summer and beyond:

1. **Learn CPR and join the Nation of Lifesavers™.** Families can take an [online CPR course](#), watch a 60-second video to learn [Hands-Only CPR](#) for adults or watch [this video](#) to learn how to save an infant or child using CPR with breaths. Travelers can also get trained in Hands-

Only CPR in about five minutes while they wait for their flights with a [CPR kiosk](#), located in public spaces and airports across the country. For more information on how to learn CPR, visit [heart.org/nation](#).

2. **Pick one healthy habit for you and your family to work on during the week.** Staying on track with your family's health goals during summer can be a challenge. Set manageable goals and choose one aspect of physical or mental health to focus on this summer. The American Heart Association's [Life's Essential 8™](#) are key measures for improving and maintaining cardiovascular health throughout your life: embrace healthy eating, move

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Summer Heart Health

(Continued from page 14)

your body, quit tobacco, sleep well, maintain a healthy weight, control cholesterol, keep blood sugar in check and know the blood pressure basics. There's even a [Life's Essential 8 for kids](#).

3. **Plan ahead.** Schedule doctors' appointments and refill prescriptions to make sure you have enough medication to get home safely if you're traveling. Check if your summer destination has an emergency plan or [cardiac emergency response plan \(CERP\)](#) in place. A CERP establishes specific steps to reduce death from cardiac arrest in any setting – be it a school, community organization, workplace or sports facility.
4. **Get involved.** Research shows that civic engagement is good for your community and your heart. **Join a Heart Walk.** Every walker who joins and every dollar donated means more people trained in lifesaving CPR, more lifesaving research funded and longer, healthier lives. Learn more and find a [Heart Walk near you](#). You can also become a part of the American Heart Association *Heart Powered* grassroots advocacy network and [join us](#) as we unite to change the future of health.

"Summer is a time for fun and relaxation. But that also means routines are disrupted," said Nancy Brown, chief executive officer of the American Heart Association. "Employees aren't at the office as much. Children aren't in school. So, our colleagues, teachers, coaches and classmates who we would normally rely on to take action in an emergency won't be there for us. That's why we at the American

Heart Association believe it's important that our families are knowledgeable and confident to perform CPR."

"Health and wellbeing should be top priorities for families during the summer months, from keeping up with medications and sun protection, to being ready for the unexpected," said Rick Gates, chief pharmacy officer at Walgreens. "One important summer checklist item is CPR preparedness. Walgreens pharmacists are here to support our customers and patients with their everyday health needs, and can also share tools, information and resources that can help in an emergency."

Walgreens is a national sponsor of the Association's Nation of Lifesavers initiative, committed to turning a nation of bystanders into lifesavers. The long-term goal: to ensure that in the face of a cardiac emergency, anyone, anywhere, is prepared and empowered to perform CPR and become a vital link in the chain of survival.

Visit [heart.org/nation](https://heart.org/nation) to learn **CPR and make this summer as safe as it is fun.**

### 7 Summer Fruits and Veg- gies That Are Great for Your Heart

By [Stephanie Brown](#), [VeryWell Health](#), Published on June 11, 2025  
Medically reviewed by [Jonathan Purtell](#), [RDN](#)

Many summer fruits and vegetables are rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber, which help lower blood pressure and support heart health while also keeping you hydrated in the heat.

### How to Choose Summer Produce

"Go for local produce if possible. They tend to be fresher, higher in nutrients, and more affordable when in season," [Sherry Gray, MPH, RD](#), a registered dietitian and extension educator at the University of Connecticut, told Verywell in an email.



Peaches and berries are rich in fiber, antioxidants, and vitamins that can help lower blood pressure and support heart health. - Credit: Alvarez / Getty Images)

Eating a wide variety of fruits and vegetables offers a mix of antioxidants and maximizes heart health benefits. "If you're not used to eating fruits and vegetables regularly, start with one or two a day and build from there," Gray said.

Here are seven fruits and vegetables to help support your heart this summer:

#### 1. Tomatoes

Tomatoes are a summer staple loaded with heart-healthy nutrients like potassium, vitamin C, and folate, which may help lower homocysteine levels—a risk factor for heart disease.<sup>1</sup>

With varieties like plum, heirloom, green, cherry, and beefsteak, tomatoes offer plenty of ways to add color and nutrition to your meals. "I like to cook tomatoes in pasta and add fresh arugula, a little olive

(Continued on page 16)



(Continued from page 15)

oil, and parmesan cheese,” Gray said.

## 2. Blueberries

Blueberries are rich in anthocyanins, antioxidants that can fight oxidative stress and inflammation—two risk factors for heart disease.<sup>2</sup>

Regular consumption of blueberries has been linked to lower cholesterol levels. Their high fiber content also helps manage cholesterol and supports overall heart health.<sup>2</sup>

## 3. Peaches

Peaches are a nutrient-dense summer fruit packed with potassium, vitamin C, fiber, and beta-carotene. These nutrients can help lower blood pressure, improve cholesterol levels, and reduce the risk of heart disease. Once converted to vitamin A in the body, beta-carotene offers additional heart-protective benefits.<sup>3,4</sup>

Peaches are versatile and easy to enjoy - try them grilled, mixed into salsas, or added to fruit salads.

## 4. Apricots

Like peaches, [apricots](#) are a summer stone fruit rich in antioxidants, fiber, and heart-protective compounds.

They contain pectin, which acts as a natural laxative, and they're packed with vitamins A, B, and C, along with phenolic compounds and carotenoids that support blood vessel health.<sup>5</sup>

## 5. Watermelon

Watermelon is a hydrating summer fruit rich in potassium, fiber, and lycopene—an antioxidant linked to improved blood pressure and reduced risk of cardiovascular disease.<sup>6</sup>

It also contains L-citrulline, an amino acid that may help lower blood pressure and arterial stiff-

ness, although most studies use supplements or extracts in amounts much higher than what you can typically consume.<sup>7</sup>

## 6. Zucchini

Zucchini and other summer squash are rich in potassium, a key nutrient for controlling blood pressure and lowering the risk of stroke and heart disease. Since many Americans fall short on potassium, adding more zucchini to your diet is a simple way to support heart health.<sup>8</sup>

Zucchini also provides vitamin C and fiber, which help with digestion and removing cholesterol from the blood.

## 7. Strawberries

A small 2021 study found that eating 2.5 servings of strawberries daily may improve cardiometabolic risk factors and insulin resistance.<sup>9</sup> Strawberries are rich in antioxidants and vitamin C, which help fight free radicals that can damage the heart.

Enjoy fresh strawberries on their own, blended into a smoothie, chopped in a salad, or as a topping for oatmeal or Greek yogurt.

## What This Means For You

Incorporating seasonal fruits and vegetables into your summer diet can have significant health benefits, particularly for your heart and cholesterol levels.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO

**50TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
GALA**

In Honor Of

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The Show at Shea's Seneca  
2188 Seneca St.  
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October  
Thursday **23** At 5:30pm  
2025



## REDISCOVERING OUR ONKWEHON:WE TRADITIONS

### **ABOUT US**

ROOTS is here to increase the availability of cultural education programs and resources for the urban Haudenosaunee people. We aim to implement opportunities to learn about Haudenosaunee traditions and practices through an increased number of Haudenosaunee cultural programs

### **CLASSES**

arts/cooking classes  
cultural speaker series  
elder and youth information exchange  
community socials  
singing and dancing classes  
yearly marketplace

### **GOAL**

The long-term community goal would be that all Native Americans have access to opportunity, knowledge, and the ability to incorporate traditional concepts and teachings within their families and communities

Arriana Smith  
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FUNDED BY: THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES-  
ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS



Indigenous Health & Wellbeing Promotion Program Presents:

A portrait of Jane Burning, a woman with grey hair and sunglasses, wearing a dark top and a colorful necklace. The background is a blurred autumn forest.

# JANE BURNING THE HEALING EXPERIENCE

**Monday**  
**July 28, 2025**  
6:30pm - 8:30pm



**On Zoom**

**For more info contact:**

**IHAWP Coordinator**  
**Madison Tighe**

**[mtighe@nacswny.org](mailto:mtighe@nacswny.org)**

**716-349-8782**

Join us for an uplifting virtual conversation specializing in trauma informed knowledge, understanding energy, and the awakening of one's consciousness.

**Register here:**




Funded by the New York State  
department of Health/AIDS Institute


Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Promotion Program Presents:

# FOSTERING EMERGENCE OF THE GOOD MIND WITH DIANE HILL & JORDAN MILLER


## Registration Details:

### Event Details

 Friday August 08 - Monday August 11, 2025

 Daily Workshop Hours: 8:30am - 6:00pm

 Native American Community Services Office  
1005 Grant St. Buffalo NY 14207

 All meals will be provided.



SCAN ME



Scan the QR code to register  
Please Register by August 01, 2025 5:00pm

All are Welcome! (Youth Included)

Sharing Circles on Sunday and Monday are  
limited to 15 people.

OR contact IHAWP Coordinator

Madison Tighe

716-349-8782 / [mtighe@nacswny.org](mailto:mtighe@nacswny.org)

FUNDED BY THE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH/ AIDS INSTITUTE  
&  
ADMINISTRATION FOR NATIVE AMERICANS



The Seneca Nation Education Department  
&

The Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences  
Present



# 7th Generation Operation



Are you curious about the world of Healthcare?

Join us at the Jacobs School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences to gain firsthand experience performing healthcare procedures and techniques.

- Prizes!!
- Food and beverages provided
- Groups separated by grade

**July 23, 2025**  
**Grades 6 & UP!**  
**9:00am-4:00pm**  
**955 Main St**  
**Buffalo, NY 14203**



**Register Here!**  
<https://tinyurl.com/7thGen2025>

**PARTICIPATING UB SCHOOLS:**

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- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Athletic Training
- Public Health
- Social Work
- Speech Language Pathology

**WORKSHOPS:**

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**Questions?**

**Email: [7thgenjsmbs@gmail.com](mailto:7thgenjsmbs@gmail.com)**



***Are you an Indigenous person interested in improving health and well-being for Indigenous communities?***



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Learn more and apply to join at: [surveymonkey.com/r/IHC2025](https://surveymonkey.com/r/IHC2025)

#### **What are the values of this Coalition?**

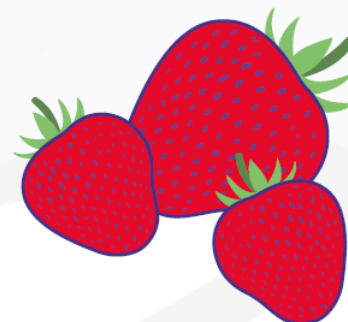
- **The next Seven Generations:** All decisions positively impact the next Seven Generations.
- **A Good Mind:** We use a Good Mind. Communication is respectful, engaging and empowering among all persons involved.
- **Inclusivity:** We strive to center the voices of all Indigenous people in our region, regardless of Tribal affiliation, enrollment status, or whether they live on or off territory.
- **Indigenous data sovereignty:** We are committed to using Indigenous methods of data collection and protecting data ownership.
- **Traditional methods of healing:** We uplift traditional methods of healing to be used in partnership with Western medicine.
- **Resilience:** We reframe intergenerational trauma as intergenerational resilience.

#### **What will the time commitment be?**

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 6-7:30 pm. Location varies between in person in Rochester, and virtually on Zoom. Members are expected to engage with the coalition at least 6 times per year.

Engagement opportunities include but are not limited to attending coalition meetings, tabling on behalf of the coalition at community events, presenting to an outside group on behalf of the coalition, and leading a coalition project outside of regular meetings.

**Members of the coalition must be Indigenous and must fill out an application to be reviewed by the coalition.**





# **178th TUSCARORA PICNIC & FIELD DAY**

Join us in honoring our  
vibrant cultural legacy!

## **JULY 11-12 2025**

### **FRIDAY, JULY 11, 2025**

- 5pm - Opening
- 5:30pm - Tuscarora Baptist Choir
- 6pm - Young Indian Dancers
- 7pm - Miss Tuscarora Contest  
& Jr Miss Tuscarora Contest
- 8pm - Janice Mitchell, vocalist

### **SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2025**

- 8am - Breakfast in the Grove
- 9am - 10k Race & 2.5 mile Fun Run
- 11am - Parade \* Opening \*  
Tuscarora Mission Singers
- 12pm - Children's Clothing Contest
- 1pm - Smoke Dance warm-ups
- 2pm - Darryl Tonemah  
Craig Wilkins
- 3pm - Iroquois Indian Band
- 4pm - Thunderbirds
- 5pm - Smoke Dance Finals
- 6pm - Terry Buckwald as Elvis
- 7pm - Hand Drum contest
- 8pm - Ladies First Jazz, jazz ensemble



**Tuscarora Nation**  
corner of Mt. Hope Rd  
and Walmore Rd,  
Lewiston, NY

• Open  
to the Public

• **FREE Admission**

• **FREE Parking**

- No Drugs Allowed
- No Cannabis Allowed
- No Alcohol Allowed

More Information  
Neil Patterson Sr.  
716.609.0747

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





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PRODUCTIONS



**JULY 19 & 20**

**2025**

[senecapowwow.org](http://senecapowwow.org)

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SENECA ALLEGANY  
RESORT & CASINO**  
777 ALLEGANY CASINO BLVD.  
SALAMANCA, NY 14779



**SENECA  
ALLEGANY**  
RESORT & CASINO

## DANCE CONTEST

**Golden Age (55+): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400**  
(Traditional/Grass & Fancy Combined/Jingle & Fancy Combined/Smoke)

**Southern (18+): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400**  
(Cloth & Buckskin Combined/Straight)

**Sr. Adult (40-54): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400**  
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

**Jr. Adult (18-39): \$1,200 / \$900 / \$600 / \$400**  
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

**Teens (13-17): \$400 / \$300 / \$200 / \$100**  
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

**Juniors (5-12): \$250 / \$200 / \$150 / \$100**  
(Traditional/Grass/Jingle/Fancy/Smoke)

**Tiny Tots (0-4): Daily Honorarium**

## DRUM CONTEST

**\$12,000 / \$8,000 / \$6,000 / \$4,000 / \$2,000**  
\$2,000 drum split to non-placing drums

## HEAD STAFF

**Emcee:** Vince Beyl

**Emcee:** Clifton Goodwill

**Arena Director:** Osceola Red Shirt

**Drum Judge:** Jared Brown

**Head Male Dance Judge:** Kevin Haywahe

**Head Female Dance Judge:** Brittany Pelkey

**Head Smoke Dance Judge:** Natasha Thompson

**Head Smoke Dance Singer:** Cameron Hill, Sr.

**Head Iroquois Male Dancer:** Jordan Smith

**Head Iroquois Female Dancer:** Mandy Bomberry

**Head Male Dancer:** Jonathon Windy Boy

**Head Female Dancer:** Marley Fairfield-Staats

**Head Male Veteran:** Clayton Logan

**Head Female Veteran:** Lisa Whiteface

## HAND DRUM CONTEST

**\$2,000 / \$1,000 / \$500**





# seneca designer & model call

**EXCLUSIVE  
SENECA NATION  
PRE-CALL**

**MAKE YOUR MARK  
ON THE RUNWAY**

**SAT  
NOV 1  
6 PM**

**Seneca Niagara  
Resort & Casino  
Event Center**

All interested candidates will need to submit an application.

We look forward to hearing from you!

**Applications must be received  
by Wednesday, April 30**

*Applications will be open to other Indigenous communities starting in May. Selection not guaranteed. Demand and number of submissions received may require a selection process, resulting in some applicants not being selected.*



## SENECA INDIGENOUS FASHION SHOW

WHERE TRADITION MEETS TREND

### DESIGNER QUALIFICATIONS

- Seneca Nation Fashion Designer or Fashion Student
- Have a design or fashion line to showcase
- All craft designs welcome, showcasing beadwork, purses, jewelry & more
- Must be available for travel (if necessary) and on-site from October 30 – November 2.

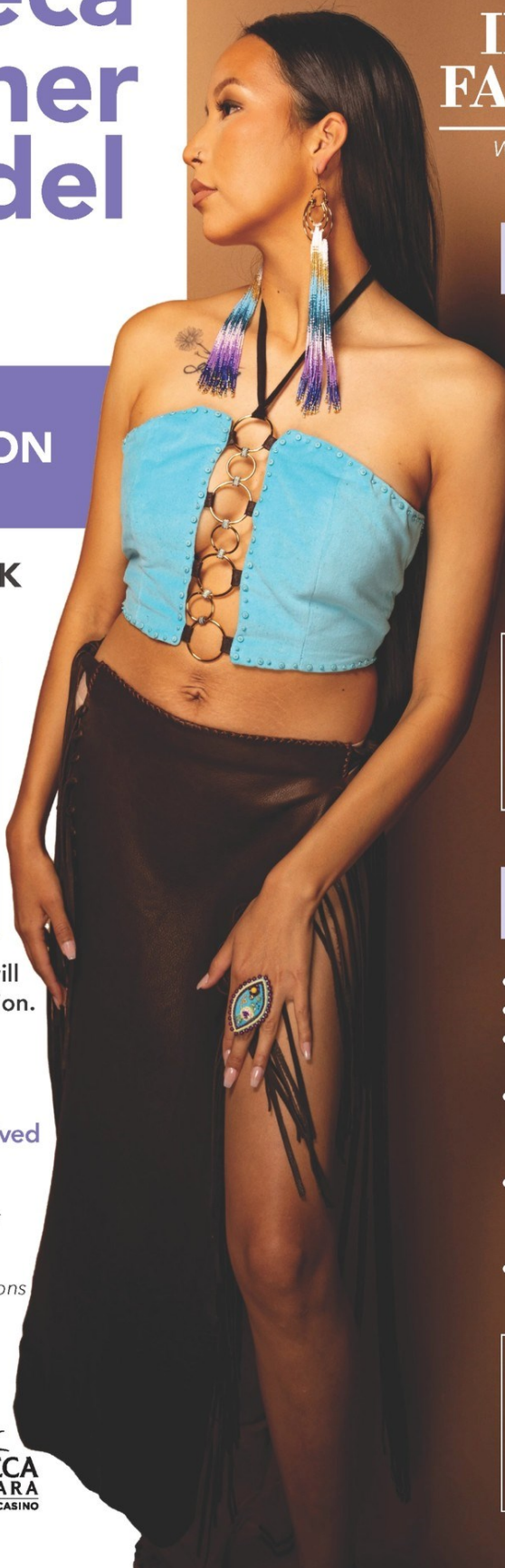
**SCAN  
TO  
APPLY  
HERE**



### MODEL QUALIFICATIONS

- Seneca Nation Member
- Age 18+
- Interest in showcasing Indigenous fashions
- Confident individuals with modeling, dancing, acting or runway experience
- Must be available for travel (if necessary) and on-site from October 30 – November 2.
- All genders and body types are welcome!

**SCAN  
TO  
APPLY  
HERE**



## Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

## Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

MICHAEL N. MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1005 Grant St. Buffalo, NY 14207 • Phone: 716-874-4460 • Fax: 716-874-1874  
 1522 Main St. Niagara Falls, NY 14305 • Phone: 716-299-0914 • Fax: 716-299-0903  
 76 West Ave. Lockport, NY 14094 • Phone: 716-302-3035 • Fax: 716-302-3037  
 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD  
 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Workforce Development Coordinator

**Type:** Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Set Salary:** \$28.00 / hour

**Office:** Buffalo (travel is required- Niagara Falls, Rochester, Syracuse)

### SUMMARY:

*The Workforce Development Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the component while assisting community members to further their education, upgrade job skills, obtain employment and secure a more improved financial status. Program areas include helping community meet basic needs (Food Pantry), Workforce Development, financial literacy/management, digital equity, and community asset building. WDC must be flexible to evening, weekend schedules (when necessary) and travel. The Workforce Development component provides services to 17 counties. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Direct supervision of the Workforce Development component staff including establishing staff responsibilities and procedures necessary to attain contract goals and objectives.
- Evaluates staff performances and completes systematic, regularly scheduled personnel evaluations.
- Follow Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guidelines to determine local service delivery techniques and methodologies.
- Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers into the program.
- Travels to all NACS' offices and service areas as necessary to provide support, supervision, trainings, partnership meetings, and outreach events as needed.
- Reports to and collaborates with the Manager of Economic Empowerment to ensure compliance with all contractual goals, objectives, and requirements.
- Assist the Manager of Economic Empowerment to prepare, submit, and secure additional grant proposals to continue or expand funding for the component program.
- Conducts regular reviews of case files and documentation to ensure high standards of care and service delivery.
- Conducts outreach to academic entities, unions, coalitions, service providers, and other individuals/agencies to promote services, develop linkages, build network opportunities and advocate for issues in the Native American community.
- Must do Workforce Development specialist responsibilities which include conducting initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs, develop an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with client.
- Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping, including the utilization of database systems.
- Ensures the program remains compliant with all contractual obligations and requirements.

### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree from accredited institution with supervisory experience or relevant role. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge of local area service providers.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, conflict resolution and communication skills.

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Employment Opportunity

Page 2 | 2

- Interpersonal skills to work cooperatively and effectively with individuals, groups, and diverse populations.
- Computer skills: ability to use Microsoft Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Ability to become certified in CPR & First Aid. Must be able to do medium lifting.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

**BENEFITS:**

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO)             | • Health & Dental Insurance   |
| • Life Insurance                  | • Employee Assistance Program |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan     |

For consideration send resume to: [humanresources@nacswny.org](mailto:humanresources@nacswny.org)



## Employment Opportunity



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960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Workforce Development Specialist

**Type:** Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Salary/Range:** \$19.00-\$20.00 / hour

**Office:** 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 – travel required

#### SUMMARY:

*The Workforce Development Specialist assists in planning and implementing goals and objectives of the Workforce Development Component as well as ensuring quality of service provision to clients. Incumbent will be flexible to evening and weekend schedules as needed. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

#### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Conducts initial intake and comprehensive testing to determine client eligibility and needs.
- Develops an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) with client.
- Develops and provides workshops to clients in such areas of academic, life skills, and technical areas.
- Keeps abreast of current trends in the local job market.
- Establishes an effective support network and provides referrals for clients.
- Attends and participates in weekly component staff and other required meetings.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Develops an outreach action plan to successfully recruit and retain participants and employers in the program.
- Conducts outreach to academic entities, unions, coalitions, service providers, and other individuals/agencies to promote services, develop linkages, build network opportunities and advocate for issues in the Native American community.
- Develops and nurtures relationships with employers for on-the-job training agreements and work experience opportunities for clients.

#### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in human services or related field of study preferred, with three (3) years' experience in workforce development including supervision and program management.
- Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge of local area service providers.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

#### BENEFITS:

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO)             | • Health & Dental Insurance   |
| • Life Insurance                  | • Employee Assistance Program |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan     |

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 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Foster Care Caseworker

**Salary/range:** \$21.00- \$23.00

**Type:** Full- time/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Office:** Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

### SUMMARY:

*This position works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS) and is responsible for protecting the health, safety, and well-being of the children on their caseload and provides support to foster parent(s) through case management services, crisis management, home visits, weekly contact, monitoring of service compliance, documentation, ongoing training, and advocacy. The main objective for this position is to effectively work towards reunification, achieving permanency for children while actively assessing the needs of the child, foster parents, and coordinating interventions when necessary. Incumbent will be responsible for day-to-day casework duties ensuring the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) of 1978 is followed when placement of Native American children into foster care is indicated. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Provides all aspects and elements of casework services to an assigned caseload. Conducts casework contacts with families, as needed but at least twice a month, face-to-face in their homes and community settings to focus on goals.
- Assists in the National Training & Development Curriculum (NTDC) classes.
- Responsible for case planning with children in foster care and their families to achieve a positive and safe permanency plan.
- Participates in the compliance and implementation of ICWA as well as new/current social service laws and regulations.
- Assists all foster parents in attaining training requirements specific to foster care certification.
- Must enter and maintain required child welfare information including but not limited to person and family information, periodic family assessment and service plans, plan amendments, and progress notes in CONNECTIONS.
- Makes detailed and completes case studies, recommending and defining short and long-term social needs and goals of children and families.
- Participates in DSS permanency planning, court hearings, and school related meetings for the child(ren).
- Maintains regular and consistent contact with all appropriate members of the 29-I (VFCA) license team, providing current information and responding to requests as needed.
- Responsible for facilitating visitations including providing safe and reliable transportation when needed.
- Must consistently remain vigilant and proactive in assessing safety and risk concerns at all times.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree required, in a human service field or related field of study.
- Knowledge of ICWA, Adoption Safe Family Act, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

### BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Health & Dental Insurance
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- Life Insurance
- Employee Assistance Program
- 403 (b) Retirement Plan

For consideration send resume to: [humanresources@nacswny.org](mailto:humanresources@nacswny.org)

## Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

## Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

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 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Foster Care Homefinder  
**Salary/Range:** \$21.00-\$23.00

**Type:** Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt  
**Office:** Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

### SUMMARY:

*The Foster Care Homefinder will recruit, train, and retain families who have been identified as having an interest in becoming foster parents. The Homefinder is primarily responsible for the recruitment, training, certification/approval, and on-going development of foster parents in the Foster Care program. Must be flexible to evening and weekend program schedules. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Works with NACS Marketing & Development Specialist and Foster Care Coordinator to develop and implement foster parent recruitment plan.
- Provides information and conducts initial assessment of prospective foster parents via phone or face-to-face inquiries.
- Coordinates and conducts monthly general information meetings to provide information on the organization, program, children served, and steps to becoming a foster parent.
- Coordinates and co-facilitates National Training & Development Curriculum (NTDC) trainings a minimum of three times yearly. Coordination will include invitations, reminders, and agenda letters to applicants, assisting in the assignments of NTDC sections to participating trainers and preparing materials for upcoming trainings.
- Works in collaboration with the caseworker in supporting foster parent's capacity to meet the needs of child/children in their home.
- Completes home study assessments for all prospective homes within four months of their application and acceptance to the program; completes home study addendum on an as needed basis.
- Maintains all resources on the CONNECTIONS and BINTI database to include opening new foster homes, reauthorization of foster homes, and closing of foster homes.
- Schedules and organizes foster family retention events.
- Participates in recruitment and outreach events to recruit potential foster parents.
- Acts as an organization liaison to the Coalition of Adoption and Foster Family Agencies (CAFFA).
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree required, in a human service field or related field of study.
- Knowledge of ICWA, Adoption Safe Family Act, Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

### BENEFITS:

- |                       |                               |                                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO) | • Health & Dental Insurance   | • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) |
| • Life Insurance      | • Employee Assistance Program | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan         |

For consideration send resume to: [humanresources@nacswny.org](mailto:humanresources@nacswny.org)

## Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

### Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

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100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD  
960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Erie County Clubhouse Youth Leader- 3 openings

**Type:** Part-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Hours:** 20 hours per week. Non-traditional (must be available for day, evening, and weekend hours)

**Salary/Range:** \$17.00- \$18.50 / hour

**Office:** 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

#### SUMMARY:

*The Clubhouse Youth Leaders assist the Clubhouse Manager in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all members. The Clubhouse welcomes self-identified Native American youth and young adults ages 12-17 years old. Clubhouse programming includes recreation & pro-social, education, evidence-based / best practices, skill building, wellness, and cultural activities. Leaders will provide transportation, supervision, and leadership. Recruitment through outreach, attending and participating in weekly staff meetings will also be required. Leaders must be available for non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends). The Clubhouse is open 25 hours per week. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

#### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise, provide leadership, and be a positive role model for youth.
- Deliver workshops and activities in a confident and organized manner.
- Ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of evidence-based prevention models.
- Provide safe transportation and/or supervision of youth to and from clubhouse activities.
- Recruit youth through local outreach efforts.
- Adhere to data collection and performance measurement requirements determined by SAMHSA and OASAS.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensure the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Ensure Clubhouse maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained.
- Other duties as assigned.

#### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's or Associates degree in human services or related field of study preferred.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge and understanding of substance use, and experience with at-risk youth.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must have a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

#### BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program
- Holiday Pay (if scheduled)

For consideration send resume to: [humanresources@nacswny.org](mailto:humanresources@nacswny.org)



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960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Niagara County Youth Clubhouse Site Supervisor

**Type:** Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Salary/Range:** \$20.00- \$21.00 / hour

**Office:** 1522 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

#### SUMMARY:

*Under the guidance of the Health & Wellness Coordinator, the Youth Clubhouse Supervisor is responsible for assisting and leading in the performance of day-to-day duties in delivering and providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all Native American youth (ages 12-17 years old) clubhouse members. This position will lead in the oversight of activities, cultural programming, and supervise youth leaders. Incumbent must be available for non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends). The Clubhouses are open 25 hours per week. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

#### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Implement, plan, and lead program activities, field trips, and workshops in accordance with contractual obligations both virtually and in-person.
- Have knowledge and understanding of substance use and ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of research and evidence-based and best practices prevention models.
- Serve as a facilitator and member of the Youth Advisory Council.
- Coordinates scheduling of the Clubhouse Youth Leaders.
- Organize, supervise, and provide safe transportation for youth clubhouse members.
- Ensures Clubhouse maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained.
- Recruit participants for the clubhouse program through outreach events and materials.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping, including the utilization of database systems.
- Ensures the program remains compliant with all contractual obligations and requirements.

#### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree from accredited institution with supervisory experience or relevant role.
- Experience working with at-risk youth, community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge and understanding of substance use.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Computer skills: ability to use Microsoft Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

#### BENEFITS:

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Paid Time Off (PTO)             | • Health & Dental Insurance   |
| • Life Insurance                  | • Employee Assistance Program |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • 403 (b) Retirement Plan     |

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## Employment Opportunity



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100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD

960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Position:** Niagara County Clubhouse Youth Leader- 2 openings

**Type:** Part-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Hours:** 20 hours per week. Non-traditional (must be available for day, evening, and weekend hours)

**Salary/Range:** \$17.00 - \$18.50/ hour

**Office:** 1522 Main Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

#### SUMMARY:

*The Clubhouse Youth Leaders assist the Clubhouse Manager in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug free environment for all members. The Clubhouse welcomes self-identified Native American youth and young adults ages 12-17 years old. Clubhouse programming includes recreation & pro-social, education, evidence-based/ best practices, skill building, wellness, and cultural activities. Leaders will provide transportation, supervision, and leadership. Recruitment through outreach, attending and participating in weekly staff meetings will also be required. Leaders must be available for non-traditional hours (evenings and weekends). The Clubhouse is open 25 hours per week. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

#### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Supervise, provide leadership, and be a positive role model for youth.
- Deliver workshops and activities in a confident and organized manner.
- Ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of evidence-based prevention models.
- Provide safe transportation and/or supervision of youth to and from clubhouse activities.
- Recruit youth through local outreach efforts.
- Adhere to data collection and performance measurement requirements determined by SAMHSA and OASAS.
- Maintain necessary documentation and ensure the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.
- Ensure Clubhouse maintenance, cleanliness, and safety is maintained.
- Other duties as assigned.

#### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's or Associates degree in human services or related field of study preferred.
- Experience working with community and group settings. Work experience may replace some of the education requirements at the discretion of the Executive Director.
- Knowledge and understanding of substance use, and experience working with at-risk youth.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must have a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

#### BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program
- Holiday Pay (if scheduled)

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960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

#### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Positions:** Community Service Worker (CSW) wraparound services Level I - Clinical

**Type:** Casual/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Salary/range:** \$50-\$75/ hour

**Office:** Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

#### SUMMARY:

*The Level I CSW will provide wraparound services that are comprehensive, individualized support systems designed to address the unique needs of individuals and families, in the context of mental health, behavioral health, or developmental disabilities. This role involves providing targeted, time-limited services to families to help them meet their goals, participating in Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings, and helping link families with sustainable supports. The CSW will partner with the Care Coordinators. The CSW must have their master's degree and be licensed to provide specific wraparound services. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

#### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Goal directed, trauma informed, culturally sensitive, and evidence-based practice of face-to-face, and possible therapeutic intervention which focuses on the mental health/behavior needs of the client and/or family members.
- Vendors must document the type of evidence-based intervention used in all progress notes.
- When clinical needs indicate ongoing community-based support following care coordination, the service provider is responsible for facilitating a smooth transition. This includes educating families about available clinical support options, assisting with engagement and referral processes to appropriate community-based providers, and offering additional support as needed to ensure continuity of care through CFT.
- Must successfully complete training requirements and other mandatory training programs as required for the role.
- Implement, plan, and lead, appropriate services in accordance with the vendor codes and descriptions.
- Maintain on-going communication with families to provide advocacy and support ensuring the needs are met and fostering strong relationships.
- Progress notes must be clear and specific, document progress toward goal completion aligned with the Plan of Care.
- Services may include pre-and-post evaluation, which must be shared with the family and Care Coordinator.
- Establish and sustain ongoing contact with Care Coordinators and Vendor Supervisors, ensuring alignment of services and resolution of client needs.
- Facilitate and implement activities aimed at promoting the development and enhancement of essential skills for clients.
- Provide safe and timely transportation for clients to and from services and activities, supporting their participation in required programs, as needed.
- Assess and consider cultural, environmental, and safety factors that impact the client and those within their immediate sphere, ensuring support and care.
- Supervise and engage the client in the necessary programs and activities as directed by the vendor description.
- Must consistently remain vigilant and proactive in always assessing safety and risk concerns.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

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Employment Opportunity

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**EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:**

- Master's degree in human services or related field.
- Experience working with at-risk youth and parents/caregivers of at-risk youth.
- Certification licenses LCSW, LCAT, LMFT, LMSW, LMHC.
- Bilingual is a plus.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

**BENEFITS:**

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program

For consideration send resume to: [humanresources@nacswny.org](mailto:humanresources@nacswny.org)



## Employment Opportunity



www.nacswny.org

## Native American Community Services of Erie & Niagara Counties, Inc.

MICHAEL N. MARTIN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1005 Grant St. Buffalo, NY 14207 • Phone: 716-874-4460 • Fax: 716-874-1874  
 1522 Main St. Niagara Falls, NY 14305 • Phone: 716-299-0914 • Fax: 716-299-0903  
 76 West Ave. Lockport, NY 14094 • Phone: 716-302-3035 • Fax: 716-302-3037  
 100 College Ave. Suite 200, Rochester, NY 14607 • Phone: 585-514-3984 • Fax: TBD  
 960 James St. Syracuse, NY 13203 • Phone: 315-322-8754 • Fax: TBD

### Equal Opportunity Employer

**Positions:** Community Service Worker (Wraparound) Level II & III – Non-Clinical

**Type:** Casual/ hourly/ non-exempt

**Salary/range:** \$20-\$45/ hour      **Office:** Erie & Niagara Counties – travel required

### SUMMARY:

*The Level II & III CSW will provide wraparound services that are non-clinical. This role involves providing targeted, time-limited services to families to help them meet their goals, participating in Child & Family Team (CFT) meetings, and helping link families with sustainable supports. The CSW will partner with the Care Coordinators. Services may include but not limited to Academic Coaching, Family Peer or Youth Peer Advocate, Adult/ Home Skill Builder and Youth Skill Builder. All efforts will be performed with the understanding of and in accordance with Good Mind principles, while also adhering to the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC).*

### ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Must successfully complete training requirements and other mandatory training programs as required for the role.
- Implement, plan, and lead, appropriate services in accordance with the vendor codes and descriptions.
- Maintain on-going communication with families to provide advocacy and support ensuring the needs are met and fostering strong relationships.
- Progress notes must be clear and specific, document progress toward goal completion aligned with the Plan of Care.
- Establish and sustain ongoing contact with Care Coordinators and Vendor Supervisors, ensuring alignment of services and resolution of client needs.
- Facilitate and implement activities aimed at promoting the development and enhancement of essential skills for clients.
- Provide safe and timely transportation for clients to and from services and activities, supporting their participation in required programs, as needed.
- Assess and consider cultural, environmental, and safety factors that impact the client and those within their immediate sphere, ensuring support and care.
- Supervise and engage the client in the necessary programs and activities as directed by the vendor description.
- Must consistently remain vigilant and proactive in always assessing safety and risk concerns.
- Maintains necessary documentation and ensures the timely completion of all necessary recordkeeping.

### EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Level II: Bachelor's degree, associates degree or higher based on New York State Education Department licensure. Experience working with at-risk youth.
- Level III: High school/GED. Experience working with at-risk youth and includes being a parent of a child with social, emotional, behavioral, mental health, medical, addiction or developmental needs or self-identified as a person who has experience with the developmental challenges.
- Bilingual is a plus.
- Effective problem solving, organization, time management, and communication skills.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- Familiarity with and sensitivity toward local Native American communities.
- Must be flexible to evening and weekend hours as needed.
- Must pass all background checks and pre-hire requirements including a clean and valid NYS driver's license and carry minimum auto liability coverage of \$100k/\$300k.

### BENEFITS:

- Paid Time Off (PTO)
- Employee Assistance Program

For consideration send resume to: [humanresources@nacswny.org](mailto:humanresources@nacswny.org)

# Nya:wëh, Thanks for reading!

Please share this newsletter with family, friends, and coworkers. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the month NACS News by email, please have them send their first name, last name, and current email address to: [gghosen@nacswny.org](mailto:gghosen@nacswny.org)

You can also look for our newsletter on our [website](#).

FUNDED BY: Erie County Department of Social Services; New York State Office of Children & Family Services; New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services; Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo; National Urban Indian Family Coalition; Niagara County Department of Social Services, Niagara County Office of the Aging; United Way of Niagara, US Department of Labor; Administration for Native Americans (ANA); Indigenous Justice Circle; Jessie Smith Noyes Foundation; Erie County Department of Mental Health; NYS Research Foundation for Mental Health; NYS Medicaid Program 29-I; Western New York Foundation; New York State Department of Health/AIDS Institute, as well as businesses, foundations and caring individuals.

## I'd like to help NACS continue it's Tradition of Caring...

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