



NAACS NEWS

Volume 26 Issue 5
May 2025

Native American Community Services

Board of Directors:

President:

Timothy Ecklund

Vice-President:

Tricia Jacobs

Treasurer:

Lisa Marie Anselmi, PhD

Secretary:

Shaun Wilson

Members:

Kelly Aquino, PMP

Andrew L. Quigley

Kelly Scott

Brian W. Thompson, MD

Administrative Staff:

Executive Director:

Michael N. Martin

Deputy Director of Services:

Tracy Zachariah

Deputy Director of Finance & Operations:

Thomas Strauss

Administrative Coordinator:

Shannon Hill

Administrative Specialist:

Chelsea Martin

Marketing & Development

Specialist:

Skye Collins-Nieves

Program Secretary:

MacKenzie Rusinek

Program Managers:

Manager of Economic Empow- erment:

Solomon Joseph

Manager of Cultural Services:

Tina Smith

Manager of Family Services:

TBD

Manager of Community Well- being:

TBD

Program Coordinators:

Foster Care Coordinator:

Anna Miller

ROOTs Coordinator

Colleen Casali

Family Preservation & Strengthening:

Justine Rose

Special Initiatives Coordina- tor:

Pete Hill

Stages of Life Empowerment Coordinator:

Simone Alston

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

Send an email to:

gghosen@nacswny.org

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| National Women's Health Month | 03 |
| Mental Health Awareness Month | 05 |
| Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month | 06 |
| Older Americans Month | 11 |
| FBI Surge Targets Violent Crimes and Cold Cases | 12 |
| WWII Code Talkers Were Not Just Navajos | 13 |
| New Members to NACS | 14 |
| Former UB Great Joins Women's Basketball Coaching Staff | 15 |
| Friends of the Turtle News | 16 |
| Hepatitis C Cure Day | 17 |
| 2nd Annual Golf Tournament | 18 |
| Clubhouse News | 19 |
| RAAP/Girls Group News | 20 |
| Our Roles and Responsibilities - 7 Stages of Life Conference | 21 |
| NAIWA Conference | 22 |
| ROOTs Program | 23 |
| Haudenosaunee Social Song & Dance Instruction | 24 |
| Workshops for Native Parents | 25 |
| Veteran's Pow-Wow Date | 26 |
| Seneca Indigenous Fashion Show News | 27 |
| Coping with Political Trauma | 28 |
| Employment Opportunities | 29 |

May is National Women's Health Month

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

Women's Health Month is observed annually in May. It was the National Cervical Cancer Coalition (N.C.C.C.) that recognized each May as **Women's Health Month**. The observation officially kicks off every year with National Women's Health Week. This is also an annual observance pioneered by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women's Health. The goal of the holiday is to empower women in such a way that they can make health a priority. It also equips women with the knowledge to help other women on their journeys to improve their health. With the efforts of individuals and healthcare workers, every woman can live a healthy and happy life.

History of Women's Health Month

The celebrations for Women's Health Month were started by the U.S. Department of Health. Caught in the rigorous demands of work and family, women often forego an active lifestyle and a healthy diet to keep up with these demands. However, the consequences of neglecting health can be dire. When women fail to take care of their health, hereditary illnesses may afflict them sooner and with more severity. A sedentary lifestyle may also result in illnesses that can be avoided with a good lifestyle.

With a growing focus on personal health, it is extremely important for all women and girls, especially those with underlying health conditions like hypertension, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, and women 65 years and older, to take care of their health. Taking care of yourself and your loved ones should always be a top priority.



Women's Health Care Month makes the mission easy by setting up health camps, promoting specialized care, and raising awareness of the various ways a woman can improve her health. During Women's Health Care Month get in touch with your doctors for a full-body medical check-up and the steps you need to take to treat an ailment. Timely medical intervention will not only save your health from deteriorating further but also detect illnesses that you may have overlooked. This is also the month to pledge to take better care of yourself and live the healthy, active life that you have always dreamt of!

How to Observe Women's Health Month

♥ Join the gym

Pledge to take care of yourself during Women's Health Care Month. Sign up for a gym membership and make sure to attend regularly. A healthy weight and active lifestyle are important for good health.

♥ Get your vaccines

During Women's Health Care Month, check if you are up-to-date with all your vaccines and booster shots. If not, get an appointment for the pending shots. Vaccines

are mandatory to prevent many severe illnesses.

♥ Eat good food

On Women's Health Care Month, pledge to cut out alcohol, tobacco, and unhealthy foods from your diet. Stick to clean eating and develop a diet that addresses all your health needs. This is crucial for a healthy life.

5 Facts About Women's Health That Will Blow Your Mind

1. Most women have poor health

Nearly 13% of women over the age of 18 are in poor health.

2. Obesity is a cause for worry

Nearly 38% of American women are obese.

3. Alzheimer's

Two out of three Alzheimer's patients in America are women.

4. Breast cancer is common

One out of eight women is likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer in America.

5. Mental illnesses affect more women

Women are twice as likely as men to experience depression.

Why Women's Health Month is Important

A. Saves lives

Thanks to the awareness campaigns of Women's Health Care Month, the holiday equips women with important resources and knowledge. This can help them combat illnesses, and indeed save lives.

B. Healthy women, healthy families

The good health of women affects the well-being of their families. A happy, healthy mother is more likely to raise

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

happy, healthy children. When the women in a family are happy, they tend to keep a happy home too.

C. Health is a human right

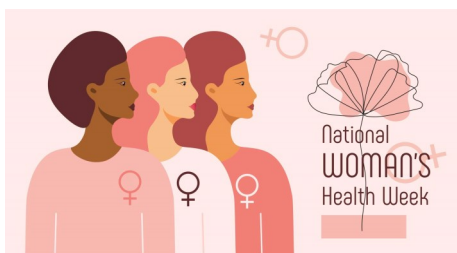
Access to affordable health care is a universal human right. Celebrations like Women's Health Care Month ensure that women across every stratum of society have access to good healthcare.

(Source: [National Today](#))

Celebrate National Women's Health Week

One of the key events during this month is **National Women's Health Week**, which takes place from May 12 to May 18, 2025¹. This week focuses on empowering women to take charge of their health journeys and highlights important health topics such as safe sexual health, maternal mental health, and reproductive health from puberty to menopause and beyond¹.

(¹ [OASH](#))



Stay active. Eat healthy. And get some sleep! Most important? Start today. The federal government's Office on Women's Health created National Women's Health Week as a way to encourage all women to make the choices which are right for them.

Women have unique health issues such as pregnancy and menopause. And some of the health issues that affect both men and women can touch women differ-

ently. Examples include osteoarthritis and urinary tract problems — both of which tend to affect women more.

The observance, which begins each [Mother's Day](#), runs from May 11 to 15, 2025. National Women's Health Week also encourages women to consider the factors that influence their mental health, such as managing stress, in order to ward off anxiety and depression. This year marks the 21st annual event.

Here are some activities and resources available during National Women's Health Month 2025:

Activities

1. **Health Screenings:** Many health centers and clinics offer free or discounted screenings for breast cancer, cervical cancer, osteoporosis, and other conditions.
2. **Fitness Events:** Community walks, yoga sessions, and fitness classes are organized to encourage physical activity.
3. **Educational Workshops:** Workshops on topics such as nutrition, mental health, reproductive health, and self-care are held to provide valuable information.
4. **Webinars and Online Events:** Virtual events covering various health topics, allowing women to participate from the comfort of their homes.

Resources

1. **National Women's Health Week Toolkit:** This toolkit includes social media shareables, videos, and fact sheets to help spread awareness and educate women on important health topics¹.
2. **CDC Health Observances:** The CDC provides a list of

health observances related to women's health, offering information on how to support a healthy lifestyle².

3. **Local Health Centers:** Many local health centers offer primary and preventive care services, regardless of ability to pay³.

(1 [OASH](#), 2 [CDC Women's Health](#), 3 [NACHC.org](#))

Health & Happiness: 5 Strategies For Women

1. Lose the stress

Long-term stress can lead to serious health problems. Women are also more likely to develop depression and anxiety

2 Put a cap on calcium

There's a limit. If you're under 50, try for 1,000 mg per day. Over 50? Push it up to 1,200 mg. Calcium-rich foods include milk, salmon, and almonds.

3. Pap test

Check for cervical cancer every three years if you're over 21. If you are 30-65, you can get both Pap and HPV tests every five years.

4. Birth control benefits

Studies show the Pill can lower the risk of uterine and ovarian cancer as well as regulate your cycle.

5. Stop fearing (all) fats

Fats aren't necessarily detrimental to your health. Those that come from avocados, nuts, seeds, and fatty fish are generally ok.

Why National Women's Health Week is Important

A. Happiness starts with good health

Healthy women have more energy to get through the day and approach life with more

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

hope and optimism. They are less stressed and experience lower levels of anxiety. Use National Women's Health Week as a reminder to breathe.

B. Kids need their moms

For moms, living a healthier lifestyle and taking preventative measures means they'll be around longer for their kids. Also, kids tend to adopt their parents' habits; healthy moms

are likely to have healthier kids.

C. Good health is infectious

When friends and family see how happy you are by living a healthier lifestyle, they'll want a piece of that happiness pie. Living and eating well shows others that they can do it too.

(Additional Source: [National Today](#))



May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Submitted by Bonnie LaForme, IHAWP Facilitation Assistant

Is This All There Is?

By Brian McAlister

I was born with the "MORE" gene. It's part of who I am. That's probably why I became an addict. Thirty-four years ago, I crawled into recovery as a beaten and broken man. By following suggestions from people who were able to get and stay sober, I learned how to stay sober too.



The challenge became this: I didn't just want to be clean and sober—I wanted a great life! Over time, I began to realize that if the Creator built this "more" character trait into me, then surely it could be put to good use.

My experience is that the true joy of recovery is redirecting our "more" tendencies to achieve positive, worthwhile goals. If you are seeking solutions or just some fresh ideas on how to move your

recovery dreams forward in 2025, let me offer a few suggestions:

1) Be careful how you talk to yourself.

We talk to ourselves all day long. And our internal conversations either propel us forward or drag us backward. During active addiction, many of us developed the habit of mentally beating ourselves up. This unproductive, limiting habit can stay with us long after we stop using.

"The voice" in our head tells us: I'm not good enough, pretty enough, or talented enough. Sometimes we reinforce weak suggestions such as: Someday I'll fall in love. Someday I'll finish college. Someday I'll make more money.

Remember—Today is Someday!

Suggestion: Write down four positive affirmations and read them aloud several times a day or whenever you drift into unproductive thinking patterns. Over time, these affirmations will become part of your subconscious. This is an easy way to rewrite the software in your head and create a new, positive habit.

A few examples:

- ♥ I was created to be sober, free, and loved.
- ♥ I can achieve all my goals.
- ♥ I can create the reality of my choosing.
- ♥ I am healthy in body, mind, and spirit.

2) Ask yourself better questions.

Better questions produce better answers. Better answers ensure better results. What kind of questions are you asking?

Do you begin your day with unproductive questions such as:

Why do I have to wake up? How come I never get a break? Why do I have to go to work? I don't know if I can succeed, so why bother trying? How am I ever going to pay my bills?

These types of fearful and negative questions instantly produce negative emotions, putting unneeded stress on your entire being. Physically, our bodies tense up, self-esteem plummets, and we can even feel achy and nauseous. Mentally, we become anxious and depressed. These types of questions are carryover habits from our days

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

in active addiction. They are a self-fulfilling prophecy and a complete waste of time.

Suggestion: Begin a new, more empowering habit of starting your day in a productive way by asking better questions.

Examples include:

- ⊕ What would I do today if I had unlimited time, freedom, and money?
- ⊕ How can I do something enjoyable and get paid for it?
- ⊕ What would I do if success were guaranteed?
- ⊕ How am I going to have fun TODAY?

This is not idle daydreaming. This is how you design a life.

All human accomplishments begin in the workshop of the mind. These types of questions, when answered intelligently, give you clues as to what really interests you. When you do something, you like, you do it with enthusiasm, and it doesn't feel like work. Do something with enthusiasm instead of just for a paycheck, and you typically do it well. Doing something well increases your self-

esteem. Do something well, and you will earn more money.

3) Take Action

We have all had good ideas and grand dreams about what we want to do, own, or accomplish, but few of us take the consistent action required to turn our dreams into reality.

A successful life rarely happens in a flash of brilliance or in a moment's stroke of inspiration. More often, it happens by taking consistent, focused, daily action over an extended period of time.

A good idea might pop into your consciousness, but unless we take focused action, nothing will come of it. Sometimes the hardest part of becoming successful beyond sobriety is just getting started. The good news is that all the tools needed to maintain sobriety are transferable into everyday life.

Suggestion: Write down one action step you could take today to turn your dreams into reality. It might be as simple as making a phone call. Maybe you want to register for a class. Perhaps you

could find a mentor who already knows how to accomplish what you are seeking to achieve.

After all, isn't that how most of us got sober? We took small steps on a daily basis, and it turned into a sober life. The same process can be used on your journey to abundance.

At the very least, write down your goal and place it where you will read it every day. Following through on these simple suggestions will increase your ability to make 2025 your best year ever!

To learn more, visit:

mymentalhealth.org

and download the APP! Taking this simple action today is your first step to making 2025 a year of Happiness, Joy, Sobriety, and Abundance.

***Brian McAlister** is President of My Mental Health, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, creator of the Freedom 365 Virtual Recovery System, author of the #1 Amazon bestselling book Full Recovery, and CEO/Founder of the **Full Recovery Wellness Center** licensed treatment facility.*

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Submitted by George T. Ghosen, Editor

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month is observed in May, a time to help youths fully understand pregnancy so they can make informed decisions about their future. Teen pregnancy refers to pregnancy in a female under the age of 20. It has significant social and financial consequences. It also has immediate and long-term consequences for both teen parents and their children. The U.S. has one of the highest [teen pregnancy rates](#) in the world. This month seeks to educate teens about the dangers of

unsafe sex and the risk of unwanted teen pregnancy.

History of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

Teens are more likely to make good decisions when they and their parents talk about relationships and things related to sex. Teens who report having frequent talks with their parents about sex are more likely to use birth control methods when they finally become sexually active, according to studies. Studies also

show that these teenagers desire to know how their parents feel about intimacy and relationships.

Teenage pregnancy (conceptions often involving females between the ages of 16 and 19) was significantly more prevalent in past centuries and was especially common in industrialized nations in the 20th century. By the early 1970s, roughly a quarter of Norwegian women born in the early 1950s had become teenage moms. Since that

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

time, however, rates have progressively decreased throughout the industrialized world. Fewer than 10% of those born in Norway in the late 1970s became teenage moms, but the rates have declined since then.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996, which became the foundation for drafting policies on teenage pregnancy prevention in the United States and the basis of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy (now known as Power to Decide), sought to reduce the number of young black and Hispanic single mothers living on welfare.

Many of the same pregnancy-related difficulties affect pregnant teens as they do other mothers. Under the age of 15, girls have much to worry about since they are less likely to be physically mature to sustain a successful pregnancy or give birth. For girls aged 15 to 19, the biological influences of age are less important than socioeconomic variables. Low birth weight, early labor, anemia, and preeclampsia are linked to biological age since they are seen in adolescent deliveries even if other risk factors like access to prenatal care are taken into account.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month timeline

1996 - Foundation for Teenage Pregnancy Prevention

Government policy on teenage pregnancy prevention is founded on the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act, which seeks to reduce the number of young black and Hispanic single mothers on welfare.

2008 - 2.5 Times Higher

The teen pregnancy rate among African-American and Hispanic females aged 15 to 19 is more than two and a half times that among white females belonging to the same age group.

2010 - Public Spending

According to the National Campaign, public spending on adolescent pregnancy in 2010 is anticipated to exceed \$9.4 billion.

2011 - Lowest Birth Rate is Recorded

The teen birth rate in the United States plummets to its lowest level in over 70 years of tracking cases of pregnant teenagers.

Teenage Pregnancy in the United States as of 2025

As of 2025, the teenage pregnancy rate in the United States continues to show a decline. The national average is **15.3 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19¹**. However, rates vary significantly by state. For example, Mississippi has the highest rate at **27.9 pregnancies per 1,000 females**, followed closely by Arkansas at **27.8** and Louisiana at **25.7¹**.

Despite the overall decline, the U.S. still has one of the highest teenage pregnancy rates among developed nations¹. Teen pregnancy can lead to substantial health, economic, and social challenges, including higher risks of maternal illness, school dropout, and poverty¹.

In **New York State**, the teenage pregnancy rate as of 2025 is **10.0 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19¹**. This rate is lower than the national average of 15.3 pregnancies per 1,000 females¹.

There is significant variation in teen pregnancy rates among different counties within New York State. For example, counties like **Bronx** and **Kings** have higher

rates compared to counties like **Suffolk** and **Nassau²**. Efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy rates in New York include comprehensive sex education programs, access to contraception, and community-based initiatives¹.

The teenage pregnancy rate in New York State has seen a significant decline over the past decade. Here are some key statistics:

- ♦ 2010: The rate was 29.4 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15-19³.
- ♦ 2015: The rate dropped to 19.1 pregnancies per 1,000 females³.
- ♦ 2020: The rate further decreased to 12.5 pregnancies per 1,000 females³.
- ♦ 2025: The current rate is 10.0 pregnancies per 1,000 females³.

This downward trend reflects the effectiveness of various public health initiatives, including comprehensive sex education, increased access to contraception, and community-based programs aimed at reducing teenage pregnancy³.

(¹ [World Population Review](#), ² [NewYorkUp.com](#), ³ [OASH-Office of Population Affairs](#))

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month FAQs

Why is teenage pregnancy life-threatening?

Preeclampsia (high blood pressure caused by pregnancy) is more common in teenagers than in women of reproductive age. It can potentially affect a girl's kidneys endangering her and her child. Premature birth and low birth weight are also common life-threatening conditions.

What is the primary cause of teenage pregnancy?

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

In underdeveloped nations where family income, imbalance of power, the absence of access to contraception, and girls' level of education are major issues, almost 90% of girls aged 15 to 19 become pregnant. In developed countries, social and economic inequality and societal attitudes toward sexuality and adolescents significantly affect teenagers' reproductive behavior.

When is the best time to get pregnant?

According to experts, it is best that a woman get pregnant between her late 20s and early 30s.

How to Observe Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month

1. Educate yourself and others around you

Read up on teen pregnancy and help others learn more about it. During this month, there are several awareness conferences and virtual activities you may attend.

2. Raise people's awareness about teen pregnancy

Pregnancies in females under the age of 18 have irreversible repercussions. Such conditions infringe on the rights of girls, with potentially fatal repercussions for their sexual and reproductive health. The social cost on impoverished families and communities is substantial because it prolongs the poverty cycle.

3. Take part in online events

Check out online podcasts and live workshops that educate the public about teen pregnancy. Throughout May, healthcare practitioners provide a variety of these online events.

5 Facts About Teen Pregnancy In The U.S.

1. About 750,000 teenage pregnancies occur

Every year in the U.S., about 750,000 teenage pregnancies occur — three out of 10 girls get pregnant before they're 20.

2. More than 50% drop out of school

Parenthood is the most common reason 50% of young girls drop out of school.

3. Within 24 months

Approximately 25% of teen mothers have a second child within 24 months of the birth of their first.

4. A few finish college by 30

Less than 2% of teen mothers are able to earn a college degree by the age of 30.

5. Most teen mothers live on welfare

Two-thirds of all families started by young, unmarried mothers are impoverished and dependent on government assistance.

Why Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month Is Important

A) It generates public awareness

Education and awareness help prevent this social phenomenon. For many teenage girls, the lack of information has life-threatening consequences regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

B) It removes the stigma

This month-long event helps educate and create a platform for the discussion of women's health. It also helps break the stigma often attached to pregnant teenagers.

C) It urges girls to look after themselves

It raises the awareness level among young girls regarding reproductive health issues. It

likewise reminds them of the consequences of early sex and out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and the social cost of single-parent homes. It also helps them think of the more important things — getting an education, fulfilling a dream (landing a job that fits their qualifications and skills or starting a business), and helping those in need.

Main Source By [National Today](#)

It's Time to Talk!

By [Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts](#)

When teens and parents talk with each other about relationships and sex, teens are more likely to make healthy decisions. Studies show that teens who report having ongoing conversations with their parents about sex wait longer to begin having sex and are more likely to use condoms and other birth control methods when they eventually become sexually active. Moreover, these studies have shown that teens want to hear what their parents think and feel about sex and relationships.

Our parent education program, *Let's Be Honest: Communication in Families That Keeps Kids Healthy*, helps parents and teens open the lines of communication and encourages them to have engaging and factual conversations about sex and sexuality. Parents can use National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month as an opportunity to help teens identify their plans for the future, consider how those plans would be impacted by having a child, and set short-term goals in order to meet their long-term goals.

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

- ◆ Parents should talk with their teens about their expectations of them and help them think through how to handle communicating with a partner, using protection, and resisting peer pressure.
- ◆ It's important to talk with teens about preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The best way for sexually active teens to prevent pregnancy and STIs is to use both an effective form of birth control and a condom every time.
- ◆ Parents should teach youth about the meaning of consent. Consent should be verbal, mutual, sober and enthusiastic. Silence does not equal consent. Anyone can change their mind at any point. No one should be shamed, harassed, or judged because of their personal boundaries or sexual preferences. No one should be pressured, coerced, or manipulated into doing something that makes them feel uncomfortable.
- ◆ Does your teen know how to access accurate sexual health information? Planned Parenthood provides information and services that help teens lower their risk of pregnancy and STIs, and make healthy and informed decisions about sex.

Parent Activities

By Yahoo AI Chat

There are various activities that parents can do to raise awareness, foster open communication, and educate their teens about the risks and responsibilities associated with teen pregnancy.

Here are some constructive activities you can consider:

- ◆ **Family Discussions:** Initiate open conversations with your teenager about relationships, safe sex, and contraception. Encourage questions and provide accurate information.
- ◆ **Media Analysis:** Watch TV shows or movies together that address teen pregnancy and discuss the consequences realistically portrayed.
- ◆ **Community Service:** Get involved in community programs or volunteer with organizations that focus on preventing teen pregnancy.
- ◆ **Educational Workshops:** Attend workshops or seminars aimed at educating parents and teens about sexual health and teen pregnancy prevention.

By actively participating in these activities, parents can play a significant role in empowering your child to make informed decisions and navigate adolescence confidently. Remember, open communication and support are key in addressing sensitive topics like teen pregnancy.

Teen Pregnancy: Teen Dads

Teen fathers often face unique challenges and may feel overlooked in discussions about teen pregnancy. Here are some key points:

Acceptance of Responsibility

- **Desire to be Involved:** Research shows that about 25% of teen fathers express a strong desire to be actively involved in their children's lives ¹. However, many face barriers such as financial constraints, relationship issues with the child's mother, and a lack of parenting skills ¹.

- **Challenges:** Teen fathers often encounter significant challenges that can impact their ability to take responsibility, including educational barriers, economic instability, and social stigma ^{1,2}.
- **Support Programs:** Programs like The Fatherhood Project and Daddy and Me provide resources and support to help teen fathers develop parenting skills and understand their role in their children's lives ^{1,2}.

Impact of Involvement

- **Positive Outcomes:** Involved fathers contribute positively to their children's cognitive, social, academic, and emotional development³. Their engagement can lead to better outcomes for their children, including improved self-esteem and emotional resilience^{2,3}.

(¹ [The Fatherhood Project](#), ² [The Teen Doc](#), ³ [Family & Youth Services Bureau](#))

What is the Impact of delinquent teen fathers on their children?

The impact of delinquent teen fathers on their children can be significant and multifaceted. Here are some key points:

Negative Outcomes for Children

- **Behavioral Issues:** Children of delinquent teen fathers are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems, including aggression and defiance ^{1,2}. These children often struggle with self-control and social interactions ².
- **Academic Challenges:** These children tend to have lower academic performance and higher dropout rates ². The instability and lack of support from a delinquent father can hinder their educational pro-

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

gress².

- **Emotional and Social Development:** The absence or negative influence of a father can lead to emotional distress and difficulties in forming healthy relationships^{1,3}. Children may experience feelings of abandonment and low self-esteem³.

Contributing Factors

- **Father Absence:** Fatherlessness is a significant factor contributing to juvenile delinquency³. Children without a positive father figure are more likely to engage in risky behaviors and face emotional and social challenges³.
- **Hostile Father Relationships:** Studies show that boys with hostile fathers commit more crimes and use a larger variety of drugs and alcohol compared to those with absentee fathers¹. The quality of the father-child relationship plays a crucial role in the child's development¹.

Support and Intervention

- **Mentoring Programs:** Programs aimed at providing positive male role models can help mitigate some of the negative impacts of delinquent fathers². These programs focus on teaching self-control, social skills, and academic success².
- **Community Support:** Community initiatives that offer support to both teen fathers and their children can improve outcomes. These include parenting classes, counseling, and educational support².

(¹ [The Journalist's Resource](#), ² [Impact of Absent Father Figures](#), ³ [Kids Imprisoned](#))

What is the impact of teen fathers

and their involvement with their children?

Teen Father Involvement

- **Living Arrangements:** About 40% of teen fathers live with their children, while the remaining 60% live apart¹. Fathers who live with their children tend to be more involved in daily activities and caregiving¹.
- **Activity Participation:** Teen fathers who live with their children are more likely to participate in activities such as playing, reading, and providing physical care compared to those who live apart¹.
- **Challenges:** Teen fathers who do not live with their children often face barriers such as financial instability, relationship issues, and lack of parenting skills, which can impact their level of involvement¹.

Impact of Involvement

- **Positive Outcomes:** Involved fathers contribute positively to their children's development, including better academic performance and emotional well-being¹. Children with engaged fathers tend to have higher self-esteem and better social skills¹.

(¹ [National Health Statistics Report](#))

Challenges Faced by Teen Fathers

- **Educational Barriers:** Many teen fathers struggle to complete their education due to the demands of parenthood. Only about 40% of teen fathers complete high school, compared to 85% of older fathers¹.

Financial Responsibilities:

Teen fathers often face economic instability, earning 25-30% less than those who become fathers later in life¹.

- **Social Stigma:** Teen fathers may experience judgment and alienation from their peers and family².

Support Programs

- **The Fatherhood Project:** This program provides expecting and parenting teen fathers with support, fathering skills, and resources. It includes fathering skill-building activities, knowledge about child development, and practical parenting tips².
- **Daddy and Me Program:** This initiative offers support and resources for teen fathers, focusing on building healthy attachments with their children, managing stress, and improving communication with the child's mother³.

Importance of Father Involvement

- **Child Development:** Involved fathers positively impact their children's social competence, academic performance, and emotional regulation⁴. Children with supportive fathers tend to have better peer relationships and perform better in school⁴.
- **Emotional Well-being:** Regular positive contact with fathers helps children regulate their emotions better⁴.

(¹ [Daddy Simply](#), ² [The Fatherhood Project](#), ³ [Better Family Foundation](#), ⁴ [Psychology Today](#))

What can be done to educate teen males about pregnancy prevention?

Educating teen boys about preg-

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

nancy prevention is crucial for reducing teen pregnancies and promoting responsible behavior. Here are some effective strategies:

Comprehensive Sex Education

- **School Programs:** Implementing comprehensive sex education programs in schools that cover topics such as contraception, consent, and healthy relationships can provide boys with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions¹.
- **Evidence-Based Programs:** Utilizing evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs that have been proven to change behaviors related to teen pregnancy².

Parental Involvement

- **Open Communication:** Encouraging parents to have open and honest conversations with their sons about sex, relationships, and contraception can help boys feel more comfortable seeking advice and making

responsible choices³.

- **Parental Guidance:** Parents can provide guidance on the importance of respecting boundaries and understanding the consequences of unprotected sex³.

Access to Resources

- **Healthcare Access:** Ensuring that teen boys have access to healthcare services, including contraception and sexual health education, can help them make informed decisions¹.
- **Community Programs:** Community centers and organizations can offer workshops and resources on sexual health and pregnancy prevention³.

Peer Education

- **Peer Mentoring:** Programs that train teens to educate their peers about sexual health and pregnancy prevention can be effective, as

teens may feel more comfortable discussing these topics with their peers³.

- **Youth-Led Initiatives:** Encouraging youth-led initiatives and campaigns can empower teen boys to take an active role in promoting pregnancy prevention among their peers³.

Media and Technology

- **Social Media Campaigns:** Utilizing social media to spread awareness and provide information about pregnancy prevention can reach a wide audience of teens³.
- **Educational Apps:** Developing and promoting apps that provide information on sexual health, contraception, and healthy relationships can be a useful tool for teens³.

(¹ [CDC Contraception Guidance](#), ² [CDC Reproductive Teen Pregnancy](#), ³ [OASH Adolescent Health](#))

Celebrate Older Americans Month!

What is Older Americans Month?

By [AgeGroup](#) Writer 4

Every May, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) runs Older Americans Month (OAM), which celebrates and remembers the older adults in our communities.

Once known as Senior Citizens Month, each year's theme is different - this year, it is "Age My Way." The idea is to look at and identify ways that older members of society can help stay in control of their lives - by accessing social activities and looking after their own health care or well-being while remaining engaged and connected to others. The aim is to tackle the social isolation that so many senior centers

assert is rife in our communities.

What does Older Americans Month mean?

Older Americans Month is an opportunity to encourage the nation's observance of the contributions of older adults. It is more than just the 'history of Older Americans month'; it is a celebration of all we can learn from our elders and their experiences. In that way, OAM aims to support building communities of strength and diversity - where young and old alike can enrich one another's lives.

What is the purpose of Older Americans Month?

While OAM is an opportunity to focus on the positive contribu-

tions of older people in our community, it also seeks to ensure that the Older Americans Act is adhered to by society. Additionally, OAM can help tackle critical issues that are far more common than we might believe, including:

- ⊕ Elder abuse
- ⊕ Difficulty accessing long-term care
- ⊕ Feeling ostracized by a community they helped build

Additionally, Older Americans Month helps look at how our elders can remain independent. That's so crucial for so many of us. Being independent helps us keep a level of self-respect and confidence. To encourage this, especially with this year's Age My Way

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

theme, there is a heavy emphasis for elders to look at their access to medicare and the healthcare providers that will help them lead their lives on their own terms.

Finally, when looking at ensuring we have strong communities around us which assist our elders as and when they need, OAM also tries to highlight the plight of our caregivers. Without caregivers, whether they be caring for those with Alzheimer's or helping less mobile individuals throughout the pandemic, many seniors would not be able to lead their lives as they would want. OAM also helps raise awareness to ensure that caregivers have the support they need in delivering their services.

Why is Older Americans Month celebrated?

There are so many difficulties that the older generation has to grapple with these days. Older Americans Month is vital to help raise awareness of those problems.

For instance, did you know that 10% of Americans over 65 suffer from or have suffered from [elder abuse](#)? Plus, the caregivers that support the elderly are overworked and spread thinly - a problem that only looks to worsen with [a projected national shortage of 151,000 caregivers by 2030](#). Older Americans Month seeks to reduce those issues by raising awareness of these problems but also by empowering communities to make a change.

Older Americans Month looks to build communities of strength upon which the older generation can rely. One where they are not plagued by a lack of funds meaning they cannot access the help they need to deal with their disabilities. Instead, strong communities support senior citizens to live their lives how they want to live them - independent and autonomous for as long as feasibly possible. Ensuring the nation's focus is on our seniors helps shine a light on what we can all be doing better to help our elders live a more self-sufficient life. Importantly, we can help make those changes far before the need for long-term care.

Older Americans Month also ensures that younger generations look ahead and plan for their own future. By raising awareness of the troubles that older generations face concerning their well-being, the scheme highlights the need for people to address how they will live and cope when they get old. For example, it could make younger individuals question what they would do if they developed Alzheimer's. Or what their wants are regarding vaccines should there be another pandemic in the future.

All of this is done under the umbrella of celebrating what older adults across the country have given us and how we can help them as they once helped us by shaping the world we live in.

What are some things that people do to celebrate Older Americans Month?

If you are looking to join in with the National Council of Senior Citizens and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are lots of activity ideas to help you get into the act of OAM. You could get involved with initiatives at one of the country's many senior centers, look at ways to support those with disabilities, or give the month a shout-out on social media. The hashtag [#olderamericansmonth](#) is popular, but it could still do with being used even more!

On top of that, you can help in more practical ways too. You can reach out to older adults in your communities. You can offer friendship and company and offer to assist them if they need help making modifications in their own home. Those modifications can help them live at home independently for longer, so your support can make all the difference.

May is Older Americans Month

It's vital we have a regular celebration of older Americans in our community. Without it, we may forget to check in on elders, which can mean they become increasingly isolated from their community as their health or mobility begins to dwindle. To find out more about specific materials in your community on OAM, you can go to [acl.gov](#) - the Administration of Community Living website.

New FBI Surge Targets Violent Crimes and Cold Cases in Indian Country

By Elyse Wild, [Native News Online](#), April 03, 2025

The FBI is ramping up efforts to combat the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis with a six-month deployment of 60 personnel to 10 FBI field offices nation-

wide. The initiative aims to solve unsolved violent crimes in Native communities through partnerships with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal law enforce-

ment.

The deployment marks the third personnel surge under "[Operation](#)

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

[Not Forgotten](#),” the FBI’s 2023 initiative targeting cold cases in Indian Country. Last fall, the bureau held a press briefing to tout the initiative’s results thus far, which included providing investigative support to more than 500 cases, leading to the recovery of 10 child victims, 52 arrests, and 25 indictments or judicial complaints.

The BIA’s Missing and Murdered Unit will provide additional support, while U.S. attorneys’ offices commit to aggressive prosecution of referred cases, according to [a statement by the Department of Justice](#).

The crisis remains severe, with Na-

tive Americans experiencing murder rates 10 times the national average, with homicide one of the [top 10 causes of death](#) for Native women. While the Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates there are 4,200 unsolved MMIP cases, the actual number is likely higher, Native advocates say.

As of early fiscal year 2025, the FBI’s Indian Country program had approximately 4,300 open investigations — including more than 900 death investigations, about 1,000 child abuse investigations, and more than 500 domestic violence and adult sexual abuse investigations.

“Crime rates in American Indian

and Alaska Native communities are unacceptably high,” Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a [press release](#). “By surging FBI resources and collaborating closely with U.S. attorneys and tribal law enforcement to prosecute cases, the Department of Justice will help deliver the accountability these communities deserve.

The Justice Department’s MMIP Regional Outreach Program will support these efforts by placing attorneys and coordinators in U.S. attorney offices nationwide to help prevent and respond to cases of missing or murdered Indigenous people.

Memorial Day - WWII Code Talkers Were Not Just Navajos

While the Navajo Code Talkers are the most well-known, they were not the only Native American code talkers during World War II. Other Native American tribes also contributed significantly to the war effort by using their languages to create unbreakable codes.

For instance, the **Comanche, Choctaw, Cherokee, Hopi, Meskwaki, Mohawk, Tlingit, Cree, and Crow** languages were all used by code talkers^{1,2}. These code talkers served in various theaters of the war, including the Pacific, North African, and European fronts².

Each tribe’s language provided a unique and complex code that was nearly impossible for enemy forces to decipher, greatly aiding in secure communications and contributing to several key victories².

(¹ [CIA](#), ² [Wikipedia](#))

Mohawk Language used in Allied Invasion of Europe

The Mohawk code talkers played a

crucial role during World War II, particularly in the European theater. They were part of General George Patton’s Third Army and used their native language to transmit secure communications during the Allied invasion of Europe¹. This was especially important because it was believed that a German professor might understand Navajo, so the Mohawk language was chosen to ensure the codes remained unbreakable¹.

The Navajo code talkers were the largest group of Native Americans in World War II to use their language skills to confuse the enemy. Widely recognized in literature and film, they have become famous for their exploits. But many other tribes used their traditional languages to develop virtually unbreakable codes for battlefield communications. The Mohawk Tribe is one of these tribes and they are seeking recognition from the federal govern-

ment for their contributions to the war effort in the 1940s. The Mohawks performed this duty during the invasion of Europe during World War II. They worked with General George Patton’s Third Army. It was thought that a German professor, called back to active duty in the German Army, could possibly understand Navajo. Therefore, a different Native American language was used: Mohawk³.

The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Council has sent a letter of request to the United States Mint to develop a Code Talkers Congressional Medal for Mohawk Code Talkers. “Those Mohawk Veterans of World War II who used the Mohawk Language to help the Allied Forces win victory demands Tribal and U.S. Government distinction as true heroes,” the letter stated³.

The Code Talkers Recognition Act was signed into law by U.S. President George W. Bush in 2008, re-

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

quiring the secretary of the Treasury to strike Congressional Medals in recognition of the dedication and valor of Indigenous code talkers to the U.S. Armed Services during World War I and World War II⁶.

In 2016, the U.S. Congress honored the Mohawk code talkers with a specially minted silver medal for their invaluable contributions to the American war effort⁴. This recognition was part of a broader effort to acknowledge the diverse groups of Native American code talkers who played crucial roles in the war.

Levi Oakes, Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne, Turtle Clan

One notable Mohawk code talker was **Levi Oakes**, who was born in Canada and served in the Pacific theater². The Mohawk code talkers' contributions were significant, and efforts have been made to recognize their service, including requests for a Code Talkers Congressional Medal¹.

Levi Oakes was a remarkable individual and the last surviving Mohawk code talker from World War

II. Born on January 23, 1925, in Quebec, he was a member of the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation and belonged to the Haudenosaunee Turtle Clan^{5,6}. Oakes enlisted in



CBC News, May 29, 2019-Louis Levi Oakes, a Mohawk veteran from Akwesasne, was honored by the Assembly of First Nations for his contributions as an Indigenous code talker during the Second World War. (CPAC)

the United States Army at the age of 18 and served with the 442nd Signal Heavy Construction Battalion^{5,6}.

The veteran was one of 17 Mohawks from Akwesasne, which straddles the Quebec, Ontario and New York state borders, who received code-talker training while stationed in Louisiana.

Kanien'kéha, the Mohawk lan-

guage, was one of 33 Indigenous languages used during the war to send encoded messages between Allied forces so enemies could not understand what was being said.

During his service, Oakes used the Mohawk language to encode messages, ensuring secure communications in the South Pacific, New Guinea, and the Philippines⁶. His contributions were crucial in maintaining the secrecy of Allied operations. After the war, he worked as a steelworker in Buffalo, New York, and later returned to the Akwesasne Reserves to work on road construction projects⁵.

Oakes was awarded the Silver Star Medal in 2016 for his gallantry in action⁶. Despite his significant contributions, he did not speak about his experiences as a code talker until later in life, revealing his story to his family only about five years before his passing⁶. He passed away on May 28, 2019, at the age of 94^{5,6}.

(¹ [St. Regis Mohawk Tribe](#), ² [Wikipedia](#), ³ [St. Regis Mohawk Tribe](#), ⁴ [Two Row Times](#), ⁵ [Levi Oakes-Wikipedia](#), ⁶ [CBC News](#))

Welcome Two New Members to NACS!

Welcome New Board Member - Kelly Scott

Kelly was elected to a three-year term. Kelly is an Art Teacher in the Lockport School District, so she brings that skill and knowledge, as well as representation of the Niagara County community. She is a Seneca, member of the Snipe Clan. She is a graduate of Alfred University for her BFA, and Buffalo State College (now University) for her MA. She understands the challenges of the off-territory Native population and has participated in some of our community programs, so she brings that first-hand experience as well.

Welcome Our New Manager Economic Empowerment - Solomon Joseph

Solomon is a dedicated leader in the field of community development, with a passion for driving impactful initiatives that uplift communities and foster sustainable development. With years of experience managing programs that focus on educational achievement, workforce development, and financial literacy, he specializes in creating opportunities for individuals to thrive economically.

"As Manager of Economic Empowerment, I look forward to exploring innovative solutions at NACS and empowering our communities for inclusive growth."

From all of us here at NACS, Welcome!

Former UB Great, Summer Hemphill, Joins Women's Basketball Coaching Staff!

From UBBulls.com, 4/22/2025, UB Women's Basketball



Photo Credit: 2025 University at Buffalo Bulls Athletics, The State University of New York

BUFFALO, NY – University at Buffalo women's basketball head coach [Kristen Sharkey](#) has announced the addition of former UB standout Summer Hemphill to the coaching staff for the 2025-26 season.

Hemphill comes to Buffalo after three successful seasons at Dae-men University, helping lead the Wildcats to three-straight East Coast Conference regular season championships (2023, 2024, 2025), three ECC tournament titles (2023, 2024, 2025) and three NCAA tournament berths (2023, 2024, 2025), including a NCAA Tournament East Region championship in 2024.

Prior to embarking on her coaching career, Hemphill led the Bulls to unprecedented success across her time in the blue and white, leading UB to two Mid-American Conference championships and three

NCAA Tournament appearances, including a run to the Sweet Sixteen in 2018.

The Buffalo native and Cardinal O'Hara graduate received several accolades along with those historic statistics as she was named to the MAC All-Freshman team, earned All-MAC honors twice and was named to the 2019 MAC All-Tournament team as a junior after setting a conference tournament record with 21 rebounds in the MAC championship game.

In her final season at UB (2021-22), Hemphill averaged a double-double with 13.0 points and 10.4 rebounds per game and led the Bulls in total rebounds (354) and blocks (43). She scored in double-digits 20 times, including six performances of 20+, as she led UB to a second conference championship in four years. Hemphill graduated with a bachelor's de-

gree in sociology in January of 2021.

"It's always summertime in Alumni Arena," said Sharkey. "Summer was part of the first recruiting class of my coaching career. She trusted us, let us push her, empower her and now she is doing the same for young women. She brings the love for Buffalo and a great understanding of what I want to achieve and knows what it takes to get this program to an NCAA Tournament. She's on the Mount Rushmore of UB athletes and I am honored to have her with me on this journey."

For all the latest on UB women's basketball, follow [@UBWomensBasketball](#) on Twitter/X and Instagram and like the UB Women's Basketball [Facebook](#) page.

Summer is from the Seneca Nation of Indians and is a member of the Hawk Clan.

SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday May 7th

11:00 a.m.

Cataract House Park

Niagara Falls, NY



Friends of the Niagara Turtle has exciting NATIONAL news to share!
Please join us:

- Wednesday May 7, 2025 at 11 a.m.
- Cataract House Park (directly in front of the Turtle) for this exciting NATIONAL announcement
- All are welcome
- Haudenosaunee singer Doh-Bid Pierce (Seneca, Hawk Clan) will perform a new song dedicated to the Turtle
- Come celebrate this inspiring news and enjoy free refreshments.

The Turtle Museum, officially known as the **Native American Center for the Living Arts**, is a unique three-story building located in Niagara Falls, New York ¹. It opened in May 1981 and was designed to promote Native American visual and performing arts ². The building's distinctive shape, featuring a geodesic dome roof and large porthole windows, symbolizes the Iroquois creation story of the earth forming on the back of a giant turtle ¹.

Despite its cultural significance, the museum closed in 1995 due to financial difficulties ¹. The building has remained vacant since then, with ongoing discussions about its future use and preservation ¹.

The turtle holds profound significance for the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) people. It is central to their creation story, where the earth was formed on the back of a giant turtle, known as Turtle Island ³. This story emphasizes the turtle's role as a symbol of creation and the interconnectedness of all life.

The turtle's shell, with its 13 large scales, represents the 13 lunar cycles in a year, highlighting the sacred rhythm of time ³. Additionally, the turtle embodies qualities such as patience, resilience, and wisdom, which are highly valued in Haudenosaunee culture ³.

(1 [Wikipedia](#), 2 [WIVB.com](#), 3 [Indigenous Climate Hub](#))



Department of Health

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner

JOHANNE E. MORNE, MS
Executive Deputy Commissioner

May 2025

Dear Provider,

The New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute is pleased to celebrate May as Hepatitis Awareness Month and May 21st as Hepatitis C Cure Day. New York State has committed, as part of a larger global public health effort, to eliminating hepatitis C by 2030 as outlined in the [New York State Hepatitis C Elimination Plan](#). With your support, we anticipate that 2025 will be a year of exciting and engaging events!

Hepatitis Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness of viral hepatitis and encourage people to get tested. Hepatitis C Cure Day is an annual event, during May, that aims to celebrate those cured of hepatitis C and motivate those living with hepatitis C to initiate and complete treatment.

The AIDS Institute strongly encourages all providers to engage in “opt-out” hepatitis C testing. Opt-out testing is defined as a process in which clients are informed that hepatitis C testing will be included as a routine standard of care, provided to all clients, and that they may decline the test if they so choose. Along with appropriate post-test counseling and education for those who test reactive, this approach allows for linking patients to appropriate hepatitis C care and treatment. For more information on opt-out hepatitis C testing go to:

https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/hepatitis/hepatitis_c/optouttesting.htm

We invite you to get involved. Included in this email, please find resources to use during the month of May to celebrate Hepatitis Awareness Month and Hepatitis C Cure Day. Many activities for celebrating Hepatitis Cure Day are included in our [Hepatitis C Cure Day Toolkit](#). Some ideas include:

- Plan HCV testing events.
- Host an exhibit with health education materials, information, and music or art inspired to raise awareness. Use the [HIV, STIs, Hepatitis coloring book!](#)
- Host a viewing of the [Hepatitis C animated videos](#) and [video testimonials](#)
- Create a “What Hepatitis C Cure Means to You” board in your program or clinic. Or use your programs social media pages to hear from your networks!
- Educate and share information with hepatitis C games and quizzes.
- Ask people to participate in a photo booth, using a social media photo frame, or posting to show their support for hepatitis C elimination.
- Celebrate the achievement of key milestones in hepatitis C treatment with a ceremony.
- Share a hepatitis C message in your virtual background or virtual waiting room!

Below are some additional resources to help support Hepatitis Awareness Month and Hepatitis C Cure Day activities:

- ❖ [Hepatitis C Cure Day Toolkit](#)
- ❖ [Hepatitis C Educational Materials](#)
- ❖ [New York Cures Hep C – Hepatitis C Elimination Campaign](#)
- ❖ [Hepatitis Awareness Month Resources - CDC](#)

If you have any questions or suggestions for Hepatitis Awareness Month or Hepatitis C Cure Day, please email us at hepatabc@health.ny.gov

In health,

AIDS Institute

Bureau of Hepatitis Health Care and Epidemiology



2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

**MONDAY
JUNE 23, 2025**

Registration: 11am
Shotgun Start: 1pm
Dinner: 6pm

REGISTRATION FEES:

SINGLE PLAYER

\$175

TEAM OF 4

\$600

Seneca Hickory Stick
4560 Creek Rd.
Lewiston, NY 14092

Register Here

FOR MORE INFORMATION

716-574-0471

MARKETING@NACSWNY.ORG

CLUBHOUSE CORNER

MAY EDITION

*Make this month count,
Accomplish your goals
You can do this!*



BUFFALO BANDITS GAME



Last month, our youth and their families attended a professional NLL game. Buffalo Bandits VS. HalifaxThunderbirds

YOUTH & ELDERS PAINT DAY WITH LYLE LOGAN



MAY

Mohawk & Seneca
Onerahtokko:wa-
time of big leaf
Ganö'g'at-
poking into ground

MOVIE DAY

During Spring break our youth clubhouse members went to the Galleria Regal Movie Theater and watched Minecraft!

**YOU'RE
ALLOWED TO
SCREAM,
YOU'RE
ALLOWED TO
CRY, BUT
YOU'RE
NEVER
ALLOWED TO
GIVE UP.**



Our Youth & Elders gathered together to paint with local artist, Lyle Logan. Lyle taught some great paint techniques, blending colors and drawing.

**STAY UPDATED ON
OUR CLUBHOUSE
EVENTS WITH SOCIAL
MEDIA!**



NEXT MONTH: Woodburning plaques, Social singing & Dancing Instruction

**To join our upcoming events, message
Kelly (716-449-6405) or
Dakota (716-449-6472)**



NACS CLUBHOUSE CORNER - MAY 2025

CLUBHOUSE CORNER

MAY EDITION

*Make this month count,
Accomplish your goals
You can do this!*



RAAP/GIRLS GROUP



CORN HUSK DOLL MAKING WITH BERNADETTE SCOTT

The Girls Group had a great time making cornhusk dolls with Bernadette on April 24th. They not only learned how to make a doll but why the doll doesn't have a face. It is to remind us that it's more important to think of ways to help other people than it is to worry about how we look or how people see us, and that Creator has given a special gift to everyone – but those gifts must be used in a good way.



ON APRIL 24 GIRLS GROUP WENT TO THE ART MUESUEM TO LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL CHERRY BLOSSOMS



SCAN ME

STAY UPDATED
ON OUR
CLUBHOUSE
EVENTS WITH
SOCIAL MEDIA!

Always remember you are
braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem,
smarter than you think
and twice as *beautiful*
as you'd ever imagined.



MMIW

NACS CLUBHOUSE CORNER - MAY 2025

Nurturing Indigenous Peace



Free Community Event



Our Roles & Responsibilities

7 STAGES OF LIFE

Keynote speaker: TOM PORTER

1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Conference 10-4pm / Haudenosaunee Social & Dinner 4-7pm

Saturday May 24, 2025

Fort Erie Native Friendship Center
796 Buffalo Road Fort Erie ON L2A 5J9



53rd Annual



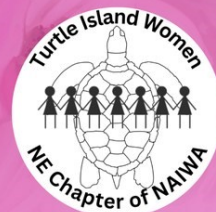
NAIWA CONFERENCE

"MOTHER EARTH CONNECTIONS TO HEALING"



June 8th -12th, 2025

Seneca Niagara Resort & Casino



Featured Speakers:



Tom Porter



Jeanne Shenandoah



Lori Quigley

Workshops, vendors, social, banquet & more

**REGISTER
NOW**



Registration form on Facebook



TurtleIslandWomen



TurtleIslandWomen@gmail.com



310 4th Street, Niagara Falls, NY



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
ROOTS Project Specialist
asmith@nacswny.org

Colleen Casali
ROOTS Project Coordinator
ccasali@nacswny.org

Dakota Jonathan
ROOTS Project Specialist
djonathan@nacswny.org

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

HAUDENOSAUNEE SOCIAL SONG & DANCE INSTRUCTIONS



No Registration needed, families encouraged to attend!

LOCATION:

Niagara Falls High School
4455 Porter Road
Niagara Falls

TIME:

4:00PM-5:30PM

DATES:

Only 3
Classes
Left!

May 06, 2025
May 20, 2025
May 27, 2025



Any questions call:
Colleen, Arriana or Dakota
(716) 847-2797 ext. 334





WORKSHOPS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN PARENTS

ASU Global Center for
Applied Health Research
Arizona State University

HIGHLIGHTS

- Ten weekly classes
- Qualifying families may receive up to \$300 in gift cards
- Participation in a parenting and health research study
- Healthy food provided
- Childcare services available
- Transportation assistance provided

ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ **Self-Identify as Native American**
- ✓ **Lives in urban area of Erie & Niagara County**
- ✓ **Primary Caregiver of Native American youth 12-17 years old**

Workshops begin March 18, 2025



Scan QR Code
or Click Link
to Register

<https://forms.gle/Q3RQM7VSWbFHeiT67>



716-339-1831 or 716-874-4460



pjacobs@nacswny.org



ReZonance
PRODUCTIONS



JULY 19 & 20

2025

senecapowwow.org

**EVENT CENTER
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.

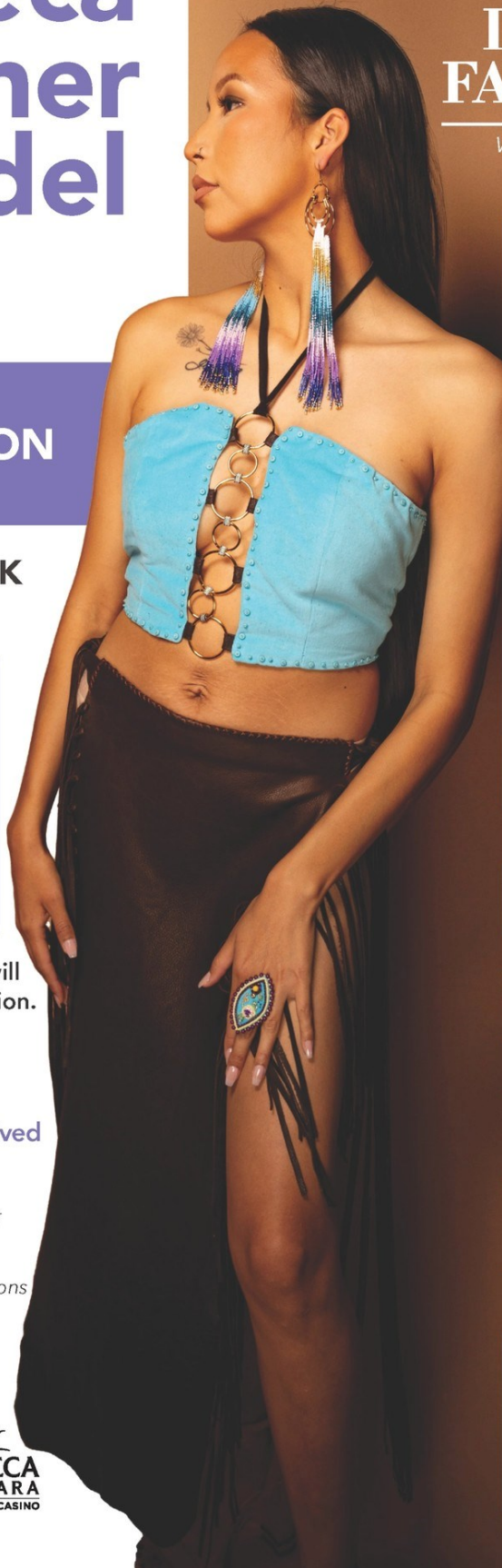
**SCAN
TO
APPLY
HERE**



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**





What is Political Trauma and How Do I cope with it?

Political trauma is a profound experience that can significantly impact mental health and overall well-being. It arises from exposure to politically motivated events, actions, or rhetoric that cause distress, fear, or anxiety.

As members of Indigenous and BIPOC communities, we may be particularly vulnerable to its effects.

Effects of Political Trauma on Mental Health

Political trauma can have far-reaching consequences on an individual's mental health. Experiencing political trauma can lead to:

Increased Risk of PTSD: Exposure to political violence or oppression can lead to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), characterized by intrusive thoughts, nightmares, and hypervigilance.

Depression and Anxiety: Chronic exposure to political stressors can contribute to the development of depression and anxiety disorders.

Cognitive Impairment: Political trauma may affect cognitive functions, leading to difficulties in concentration, memory, and decision-making.

Social Withdrawal: Individuals may experience a sense of alienation and disconnect from their communities, leading to social isolation.

Intergenerational Trauma: The effects of political trauma can be passed down through generations, impacting the mental health of future family members.

For Relatives living in Nebraska

All Nations Crisis Textline

Text "Support" to 33464 to chat with an All Nations team member.

We are here seven days a week from 8:00am-Midnight.



society of care



Signs of Political Trauma

- Heightened anxiety or fear related to political events
- Difficulty sleeping or concentrating
- Increased irritability or anger
- Feelings of helplessness or despair
- Physical symptoms like headaches or stomach issues

Coping Strategies



Limit media consumption: Set boundaries on news and social media intake to reduce exposure to triggering content.



Practice self-care: Engage in activities that bring you joy and relaxation, such as meditation, exercise, or creative pursuits.



Connect with community: Share experiences and seek support from trusted friends, family, or support groups.



Engage in meaningful action: Volunteer or participate in community initiatives that align with your values to regain a sense of control and purpose.



Seek professional help: If symptoms persist, consider talking to a mental health professional who specializes in trauma-informed care.



Cultural healing practices: Engage in traditional healing practices that are culturally relevant and meaningful to you.

Sources:
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/theyre-not-coming/202101/how-to-cope-with-todays-political-trauma-and-madness>
<https://www.aprilonyonpsychotherapygroup.com/blog/political-trauma-signs-symptoms-and-treatment>

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: Family Preservation & Strengthening Caseworker- Erie County

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/Range: \$18.23-\$19.23 / hour

Office: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207

SUMMARY:

The Family Preservation & Strengthening Caseworker works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS/DSS) and is responsible for providing prevention services to families referred from DSS. Incumbent helps children remain safely in their homes and prevent placement outside of their home. 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:

- Provide effective and efficient case management for assigned families.
- Make use of appropriate counseling, parent training, home management, support and advocacy services.
- Work collaboratively with referral sources, community service providers, and family members to meet goals.
- Produce accurate, thorough, and timely progress notes in CONNECTIONS.
- Ensure all court mandated or recommended services are applied and supported.
- Provide transportation for meetings, services, and appointments in a safe, reliable vehicle as necessary.
- Maintain strong communication with the family working toward stabilizing and strengthening the family unit, with regular face-to-face contact.
- Maintain confidentiality of sensitive information.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in human services or related field of study required with experience in child welfare.
- Knowledge of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- 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) | • 403 (B) Retirement Plan |
| • Employee Assistance Program | • Life Insurance |
| • Flexible Spending Account (FSA) | • Health and Dental Insurance |

For consideration send resume to: 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

Position: Family Preservation & Strengthening Caseworker- Niagara County

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/Range: \$18.23-\$19.23 / hour

Office: 76 West Ave., Lockport, NY 14094

SUMMARY:

The Family Preservation & Strengthening Caseworker works in conjunction with the Local County Department of Social Services (LCDSS/DSS) and is responsible for providing prevention services to families referred from DSS. Incumbent helps children remain safely in their homes and prevent placement outside of their home. 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:

- Provide effective and efficient case management for assigned families.
- Make use of appropriate counseling, parent training, home management, support and advocacy services.
- Work collaboratively with referral sources, community service providers, and family members to meet goals.
- Produce accurate, thorough, and timely progress notes in CONNECTIONS.
- Ensure all court mandated or recommended services are applied and supported.
- Provide transportation for meetings, services, and appointments in a safe, reliable vehicle as necessary.
- Maintain strong communication with the family working toward stabilizing and strengthening the family unit, with regular face-to-face contact.
- Maintain confidentiality of sensitive information.

EDUCATION, QUALIFICATIONS, AND SKILLS:

- Bachelor's degree in human services or related field of study required with experience in child welfare.
- Knowledge of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Federal and State regulations, as well as mandated reporting requirements.
- Intermediate computer skills and understanding of office applications including MS Office Suite.
- 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
- Flexible Spending Account (FSA)
- 403 (B) Retirement Plan
- Life Insurance
- Health and Dental Insurance

For consideration send resume to: 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

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

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: 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)

For consideration send resume to 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

Position: Niagara County Youth Clubhouse Site Manager

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

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

Office: 1522 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Summary

Under the guidance of the Health & Wellness Coordinator, the Youth Clubhouse Manager 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 and young adults ages 12 to 17 years old. 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.
- Ensure 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 |

For consideration send resume to: 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

Position: Clubhouse Youth Advocate

Type: Full-time/ hourly/ non-exempt

Salary/Range: \$19.00-\$20.00

Office: 1005 Grant Street, Buffalo, NY 14207 and 1522 Main St, Niagara Falls, NY 14305

Summary

Incumbent will assist the Health & Wellness Coordinator and the Youth Clubhouse Managers in providing a safe, supportive, culturally appropriate, alcohol and drug-free environment for all members. The Youth Advocate will ensure to serve any Native American youth ages 12 to 17 years old in Erie and Niagara counties, who are in recovery from or at-risk of developing a substance use disorder. Incumbent will be responsible for ensuring youth receive resources, needs, services, supports, and/or activities to ensure overall good health. 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:

- Recruit youth participants through outreach efforts at community events, local schools, etc.
- Meet with youth one-on-one and in group settings and develop individualized advocacy plans with youth.
- Establish and expand a network of referral resources and linkages to provide relevant, appropriate services and/or supports as identified by the youth.
- Have knowledge and understanding of substance use and ensure youth programming utilizes a percentage of research and evidence-based, and best practices prevention models.
- Assist both Erie & Niagara County Clubhouses by implementing programming through delivery of workshops, recreational, and cultural activities in accordance with contractual obligations both virtually and in person.
- Continually keep informed of new developments relevant to the provision of services to youth.
- Ensure 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 |

For consideration send resume to: 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

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...

PLEASE ACCEPT MY CONTRIBUTION OF: ☐\$5 ☐\$10 ☐\$25 ☐\$50 ☐\$100 ☐OTHER:

☐ I’D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER MY TIME. I CAN...

☐ PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST!

NAME

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE