

Health organization asks assistance in reaching Michigan's Native American Population

Southeastern Michigan holds the largest Native American population in the state and the 10th largest Native American population in the country. The American Indian Health and Family Services Clinic has chosen April, National Minority Healthcare Month, to launch a public awareness campaign with the goal of better serving the urban Native American and Alaskan Native community.

Detroit, MI April 13, 2011-- The 2010 census showed that the American Indian and Alaskan Native population in the greater Detroit area is growing and so are the services offered to support this population by the American Indian Health and Family Services Organization and Clinic. "We have doubled our staff and the services we offer over the last 3 years," said Jerilyn Church, Executive Director for AIHFS. "One of our biggest challenges is getting that word out to the Native population in the Greater Detroit area. Because April is National Minority Health Care month, we are launching a year-long public awareness campaign to help us communicate the services we offer to this difficult to reach population."

The organization invites the press to contact them for a tour of the facilities and interview with the director or other senior staff. "Not many health care clinics have a sweat lodge on the premises and teach Powwow dance as a form of physical activity, in addition to traditional health services. Those are just small signs of the unique services we provide to the community. We only serve a small percentage of the Greater Detroit Native Community. There is great need, and we want to make all the Native and Native-blended families understand that this clinic is open to them, for them," said Ms. Church.

AIHFS is a non-profit urban Indian health center serving the American Indian community of Southeastern Michigan. They offer comprehensive, culturally-integrated health care by providing medical, behavioral health, and health education services, in addition to outpatient substance abuse treatment and prevention programs. These services are open to persons with or without insurance. They also have an active youth program, provide health and wellness programs, and sponsor community events.

For more information or a tour and interview, please contact Nickole Fox at 313.846.3718 ext. 1113.

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