



# AMERICAN INDIAN Health & Family Services



## GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW SITE

MINO-BIMAADIZIWIN  
"A GOOD LIFE"

Newsletter: July through September 2025



## AMERICAN INDIAN Health & Family Services

July 2025

From The CEO...



I trust that you all are appreciating this summer weather and managing to remain comfortable. I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on some of the exciting developments taking place at our agency.

Many of you participated in our livestreamed groundbreaking ceremony last month, which marked another significant milestone in the establishment of our New Health Center. AIHFS is sincerely appreciative of the collaborative efforts of our supportive teams and stakeholders. With construction now underway,

the anticipated completion date is set for 66 weeks from now. This accomplishment represents a momentous experience for AIHFS, the Urban Native Community, the City of Detroit, and all involved.

In efforts to bolster our capital campaign to increase funding to support the New Building project, AIHFS has established an online apparel and merchandise shop. Here you can purchase a variety of items such as T-shirts, coffee mugs, and water bottles that demonstrate your support for the community. All proceeds will be directed toward the new building initiative. Check out our online shop on the [aihfs.org](http://aihfs.org) website (under the about tab, click on shop).

Furthermore, I would like to take this moment to acknowledge the significant transition within our Board of Directors. After many years of dedicated service, John Lemire, a citizen of the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has stepped down from the BOD; therefore, passing the feather on. We thank him wholeheartedly for his leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment to our organization. As we move forward, we are excited to welcome George Luckey, a citizen of the Muskogee (Creek) Nation as our new Chairperson. Mr. Luckey brings years of experience and a fresh perspective that will guide us into our next chapter.

As always, we will continue to make substantial progress in enhancing our services and support for our community and clients. Remember, your insights are invaluable to us so please don't forget to complete the brief client survey using the survey kiosk, QR code, or website link. We appreciate the feedback.

Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay well,

Chasity Dial, MPA  
Chief Executive Officer

# Meet Our New BOD Chair

George Luckey is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma. He is a mechanical engineer from The University of Tulsa with a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Michigan Technological University. George moved to Michigan in 2000 to accept a dream job in manufacturing research at Ford Motor Company. He and his wife Amy, along with their four children live in Dearborn, where George still works at Ford, and still considers it his dream job. His children attend public school and his family attends Dearborn First United Methodist Church. They also tolerate his love for and practice of guitar. George has served on the AIHFS BOD since 2017 and is honored to have the opportunity to serve as the Chair.



**George Luckey, PhD**  
Muscogee (Creek) Nation

George is no stranger to Indian Health Service (IHS) clinics inclusive of the I/T/U (3) prong model of IHS, Tribal, and Urban clinics. He was raised using IHS clinics, which continue to serve as his primary medical facility. He stated, "Throughout my upbringing, I utilized IHS clinics and hospitals for primary care, dental services, optometry, and on occasion ER care---such as when I broke my arm. These facilities have always been, and remain, the primary means by which many members of my family access foundational preventative healthcare in Oklahoma and metro Detroit. I am grateful for the ongoing support and services provided by IHS clinics and most currently AIHFS."

## Inside this edition...

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# New Site Groundbreaking Ceremony



Thank you to everyone who joined us, June 4th, for the groundbreaking ceremony of our new health facility in Southwest Detroit, District 6. The new site is located at 4559 Wesson St. Detroit, MI, 48210. It was a powerful moment to celebrate the partners, supporters, and community members who helped make this vision a reality.

With construction already underway, this site will soon become a place of healing, connection, and expanded access to culturally informed care for Native American and underserved families across Southeastern Michigan.

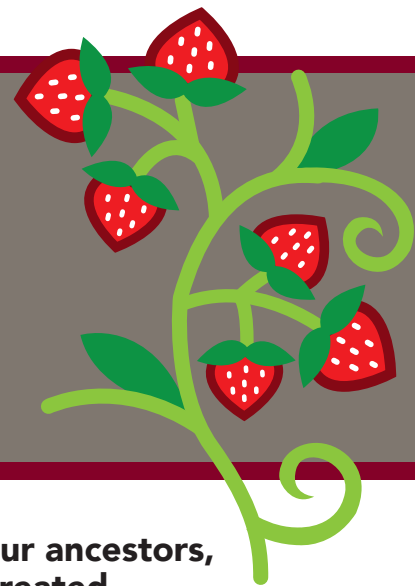
We're proud to take this next step together, toward a healthier future for our community.

Scan the QR code to view the rest of the picture set on our website.

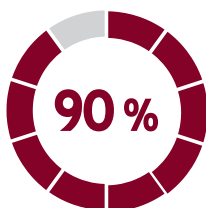


# KEEP IT TRADISH - RECLAIMING INDIGENOUS HEALTH THROUGH ODE'IMIN / WAŽÚŠTEČA

ODE'IMIN and WAŽÚŠTEČA mean strawberry in the Ojibwe and Dakota languages



For many tribes, the strawberry symbolizes the heart and carries good medicine and teachings. Recall the wisdom of your ancestors, **#SpotTheFake** and choose real strawberries over chemically created flavored vapes!



## 90% of youth e-cigarette users choose flavored products<sup>1</sup>

- Candy and Fruit Flavored are the most popular
- 63.4% of youth reported using fruit flavored e-cigarettes and 35% of youth reported using candy flavors<sup>2</sup>



### 1 Cup of Strawberries

- Fiber – helps you live longer!
- Vitamin C – fights diseases!

### Impact on Health

- Strengthens your heart
- Lowers risk of cancers, heart disease and diabetes
- Strengthens brain health

### Strawberry Flavored Tobacco Vape

- 40 mg Nicotine - equivalent to two packs of cigarettes
- Chemically created e-liquid

### Impact on Health

- Harms brain development
- Birth defects for pregnant individuals
- Harms lung health



Birdsey J, Cornelius M, Jamal A, et al. Tobacco Product Use Among U.S. Middle and High School Students – National Youth Tobacco Survey, 2023. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2023;72:1173-1182. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7244a1>.

Flavored tobacco impacts Native youth.

Protect our future.

Get support from Native coaches at [mn.mylifemyquit.com](https://mn.mylifemyquit.com)  
and [www.aiquitline.com](https://www.aiquitline.com)



American Indian  
Cancer Foundation®

This resource was produced and supported through funding to the American Indian Cancer Foundation through the Campaign for Tobacco-Free kids. Content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free kids.

## Powwow In The D Recap



by John Marcus (Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians)

On May 17, 2025, we had our Annual "Powwow in the D." We were pleased to be back at the Wayne State University Intramural Field this year to gather together as a community. For any questions, please contact the Powwow Committee at [powwow@aihfs.org](mailto:powwow@aihfs.org) or (313) 846-3718. On this page, you will find pictures from that day. To see more pictures and video, go to our website and look in the Archives menu for Powwow 2025.



## Winter of Moose

by Shelly Nimocks-Hinshaw (Dine')



The winter of moose has ended and I wanted to give thanks to Coreen Diabo who visited our agency in December, bringing toys for the youth and moose meat to be distributed to the various groups.

While the kiddos enjoyed the toys, I put on my chef's cap and let my skills do the rest as I worked on 20lbs of beautifully packaged meat. I took time to make patties, cut up into smaller pieces the steaks & roasts, pre-cook the meat, then placed in freezer bags for future meals.

I heard my Grand Ma Mable & my Great-Grand Ma Margie speak to my soul as I cut & prepared the meat. I can hear the words "take your time & respect the meat, slow and precise young one". Happy memories of being 9 years old again field dressing a kill with my Great Grandpa Columbus, came back to me. I was a city kid who was given knowledge of her meats and how they were processed on a farm, grocery or field.

I was honored on behalf of AIHFS to receive such a gift, and return it back to my community. The youth had a teaching lesson about moose which included pictures, habitat & nutrition. Youth group liked the burgers best, after trying Moose served a few different ways. I did witness some interesting moose dinner combinations involving Doritos, LOL!

I was able to prepare (6) dinners ranging from moose burgers, steaks, & crockpot meals served with wild rice, potatoes, noodles, assorted veggies & gravies. The pictures show the process and was served with love. Men's Society will eat the last of it tonight as the winter of moose has ended. Bon Appetit!



(more pictures on page 15)



## Suicide Prevention



Adon Vazquez (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians), a Program Assistant with our Sacred Bundle Suicide Prevention Program, received the Urban Indian Organization Staff Member of the Year Award from the National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH). Our CEO, Chasity Dial (Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina), had the honor of presenting Adon with the award at the annual NCUIH conference conducted this spring. Congratulations, Adon!

## Community Wellness

### Looking Into The Future: July, August, and September 2025

by Salli Wabsis (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians)

Maaajtaag Mnobmaadziid—Healthy Start/Tribal Home Visiting wishes everyone a happy summer. In this season we will be welcoming our newest baby's, hosting post-partum classes via zoom, continuing our play dates, father support classes, and welcoming back Charmaine Paulson (Grand Portage Band Lake Superior Chippewa), who will be teaching the Mashkiki classes.

Did you know? Research shows that pregnant women who take childbirth education classes have fewer complications during labor and birthing, and have better physical and mental health afterwards?

Tribal Home Visiting - Home visits are educational and supportive, health-promoting, an intervention, and culturally sensitive. It is for NA/AI families who live in the Detroit area enrolled in our program, who lack choices regarding health care providers, and who lack transportation. Home visiting by AIHFS Healthy Start/Tribal Home Visiting staff were provided education, support, and referral services for success.

If you are interested in volunteering to help out new families, please give us a call.

**Healthy Start/Tribal Home Visiting will  
offer**

**MASHIKI**

**is back with Anishinaabe Elder  
Charmaine Paulson, Grand Portage  
You will learn how to make traditional  
herbal remedies for various ailments**

**July 10 3:30-5pm**

**August 14 3:30-5pm**

**September 11 3:30-5pm**



**Post-Partum Zoom - new dates and times**

July 16th

August 20th

September 17th

Times 11am-12pm

If you attend this event you can receive available supplies at next Home Visit

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://aihfs-org.zoom.us/j/84048864874?pwd=bPsZvAVXWzQ71KFTHZcohPV0bHdfs9.1>

Meeting ID: 840 4886 4874

Passcode: 719322

**Playdate  
NEW Cultural Activity  
Gikinawaabi  
Lesson**

**July 9th ,**

**August 6th,**

**September 10th**

**Times 11am-12pm**

**Come bring your children to play, gather,  
listen to a Gikinawaabi lesson, share parenting  
stories, and receive available supplies.**

# Wellcome To The World



Healthy Start  
Tribal Home Visiting





**Fathers Support Group**

July 23rd  
August 27th  
September 24th  
Times 11-12pm

Receive available supplies

Healthy Start  
Tribal Home Visiting

# Development

Mark your calendars! AIHFS' 4th Annual Charity Gala is set for October 3, 2025, at the Garden Theater in Detroit. Join us for an inspiring evening focused on "Empowering Wellness: Innovative Philanthropy for Native Health in Detroit," supporting AIHFS' efforts to expand healthcare services and resources for Native American and underserved communities.

Early bird tickets go on sale July 1, 2025—stay tuned for more details!



## Our Online Shop!

We are excited to share we launched our new online Shop on May 16. It is found on our website! <https://aihfs.org/shop/>

Of course, we're not going to twist your arm to buy anything, but if you'd like to show a bit of support, there are some options up there that might catch your eye.

With all of our merch, the proceeds will go towards a new facility. What we launched is simple: t-shirts, coffee mugs, and insulated travel mugs. All items are now available in some fun styles.

#NativeNonprofitDay #AIHFS #MerchShop #Fundraiser #NewFacility



<https://aihfs.org/shop/>

# BUILDING A HEALTHIER TOMORROW: TOGETHER IN NATIVE HEALTH

**AIHFS is building a new health facility for the Metro Detroit AI/AN Community,** and you can help raise funds and awareness by purchasing merch from the AIHFS online shop using the QR code on this flyer!  
**Thank you for your support!**



AMERICAN INDIAN  
**Health & Family Services**

# Employee of the Month

March



**Patrick Mayfield**  
Facilities Associate/Driver



April



**April Slaven**  
Medical Biller/Coder



May



**Kayla Cagle**  
Practice Manager



**Missed this newsletter in your mailbox or email?**



**To receive the newsletters**, please email John Marcus at [jmarcus@aihfs.org](mailto:jmarcus@aihfs.org) to be added to the AIHFS email list. If you need a hard copy mailed to you, please call the front desk and give them your information to be added to the mailing list. If you change your address, please let us know. We want to keep you updated on all the events at American Indian Health and Family Services.

# Winter of Moose

(continued from page 7)



## How to Support AIHFS!

Only with your support can AIHFS continue to try to meet the physical, spiritual, emotional and mental wellbeing needs of Native American families and other underserved populations in Southeastern Michigan. Additionally, as a 501(c)(3), your generous support is tax-deductible.

**Won't you make a donation today to help us get closer to meeting these needs?**

To donate by check or money order  
please send payable to:

American Indian Health & Family Services  
P.O. Box 810, Dearborn, MI 48121-0810

To donate online:  
[www.aihfs.org/donate/](http://www.aihfs.org/donate/)

Or, use this QR Code >>>



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**AIHFS**  
**4880 Lawndale**  
**Detroit, MI 48210**

**Return Service Requested**

## Services Provided at AIHFS

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Medical Services  
Women's Care  
Maternal Health  
Diabetes Health & Education  
Health Education & Outreach  
Immunizations & Flu Shots  
HIV/AIDS Testing & Referrals

Insurance Enrollments  
Substance Abuse Counseling  
Behavioral Health Counseling  
Psychiatric Services  
Case Management  
Cultural Consolation  
Youth Programming

Tobacco Cessation  
Native Healthy Start  
Sweat Lodge  
Community Garden  
Cooking Classes  
Annual Events  
Fitness Classes

**Here at AIHFS we  
offer great care &  
services for your  
health care needs.**

If there is anything  
we can be more  
helpful with, please  
let us know!



**Visit us at: [www.aihfs.org](http://www.aihfs.org)**

### Clinic Hours:

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Monday	9:00 - 5:00pm
Tuesday	9:00 - 5:00pm
Wednesday	7:30 - 6:30pm
Thursday	9:00 - 5:00pm
Friday	9:00 - 5:00pm

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**Clinic: 313-846-6030**