



EMPOWERING LAKOTA YOUTH AND FAMILIES

ANNUAL REPORT
2014

ABOUT THUNDER VALLEY

Thunder Valley is located in the northern part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Oglala Lakota Nation between Sharps Corner and Rockyford. We are just a few miles off of being physically located in the geographic center of the Oglala Lakota Nation. The heart of this winding valley was formed over thousands of years as Porcupine Creek carved its way through the grass-covered hills at the edge of the badlands of South Dakota. It was long ago in this region the Lakota people, originated, having spread out and flourished in the 18th and 19th centuries. The origins of the name Thunder Valley have long been forgotten, and until recently, only the elders and old ranchers still used the name Thunder Valley. Now the name is synonymous with an amazing renaissance of traditional values and cultural pride.

In 1998 the rebirth of the ancient rite of traditional Lakota Sun Dance was reintroduced in the Thunder Valley community. This celebration of sacrifice, life and rebirth lay the foundation for change offering culture, tradition

OUR MISSION

Empowering Lakota Youth and families to improve the health, culture and environment of our communities, through the healing and strengthening of cultural identity.

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and a renewed sense of responsibility toward family and community. As this circle of change grows larger with each passing season, more and more individuals and families have become involved creating the energy and passion needed to set a powerful path forward.

The organization of Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation was created in 2007 using this same energy of resiliency and community values. Nurtured from conversations voiced by youth to elders who realized we honor the best of our past by utilizing new tools, new ideas and new strategies as we create the opportunities of the future, Thunder Valley CDC came into being.

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation (CDC) is a Oglala-led, Native American 501(c)3 non-profit public charitable organization based out of the Thunder Valley community of the Porcupine District on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

OUR FOCUS AREAS



PEOPLE



HOUSING



JOBS



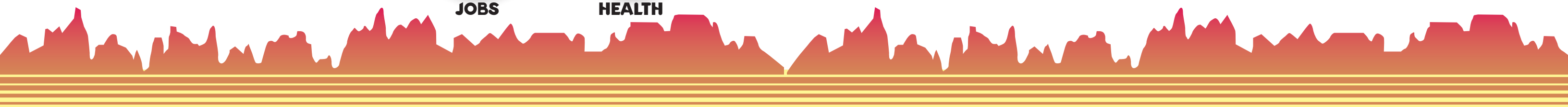
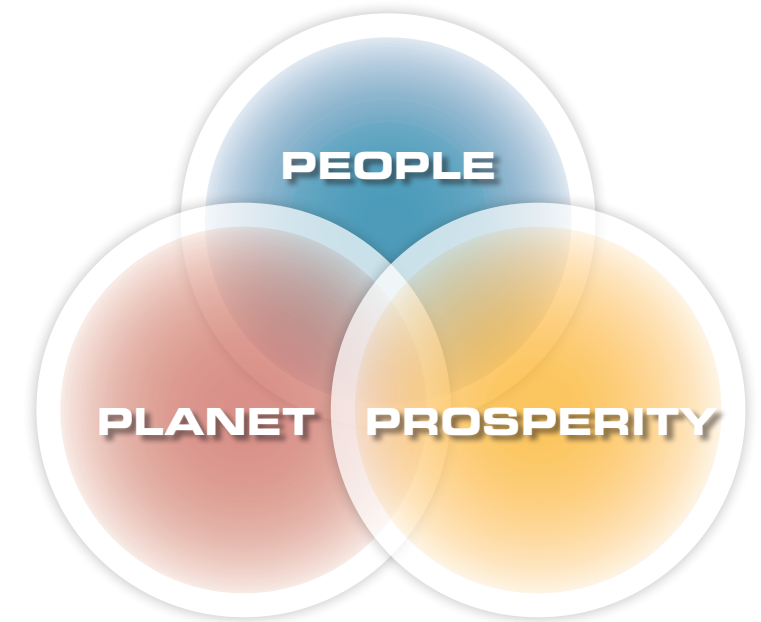
HEALTH

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OUR MODEL

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation's approach toward sustainability is firmly rooted in the concept of the *Triple Bottom Line*. *The Triple Bottom Line* dictates that sustainable communities must consider social needs (People), environmental responsibility (Planet), and economic vitality (Prosperity). This concept nurtures a vibrant, healthy community that embraces its cultural heritage while also celebrating its role as community, ecosystem and marketplace.



SPECIAL THANKS

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of Foundations - Donors - Agencies and Individuals. "Movements for positive change aren't about institutions, organizations, governments, or jurisdictions. They are about people...people coming together for the benefit of each other and the willingness to sacrifice in order to lift each other up. As human beings we can accomplish anything we put our minds to." We say Wopila, thank you to all those who support us now, in the past and those yet to join us in meeting the goals of our community on the Oglala Lakota Nation.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jennifer S. Irving
Chance Weston
Robert Ecoffey

Morris Brewer
Brett Shelton

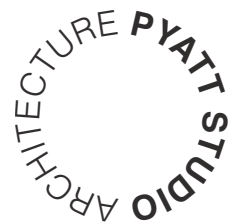


DESIGN PARTNERS

Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation can not do it alone. From the beginning, every step forward was achieved by the efforts of many. Community volunteers, community leaders, folks from every level of support have had hands on of our shared success thus far.

We acknowledge our partners, our relationships with many talented individuals and organizations, many powerful and passionate spirits who are changing the story. Owning the story and directing what the future chapters may hold for our future generations on our own terms.

Thank you for your continued support.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hau Mitkuyapi,

Greetings relatives. 2014 was an exciting and inspirational year here at Thunder Valley CDC. In the spring we revisited our strategic plan and made sure that we listened to our stake holders, that resulted in us creating programming and fundraising strategies that were at the crossroads of community development and youth empowerment.

We recognized that we needed to return to our roots of working with youth but also involving youth in the catalytic community development project taking place at Thunder Valley CDC. We opened our minds to believe what is possible and had the courage to take on new ideas.

This year we began to move toward implementation of a variety of different projects and programs. The Lakota Childcare Immersion Program located in Oglala on the western edge of the reservation experienced growth and progress. They secured funding for the childcare center for the next three years. This will ensure that at least 20 youth are immersed in the Lakota Language every day. The funding was also secured to launch our Workforce

Development Through Sustainable Construction Program, in January 2015. This will engage 10 young adults to build their skills, confidence and employability.

We went back to the drawing board and completely redesigned our entire master plan of the Thunder Valley Regenerative Community Development Project north of Sharps Corner. This was a result of active community engagement and steadfastly listening to the feedback of our community members who felt that the design needed to better reflect our Lakota culture.

We are especially grateful this year to our community and to our design team (BNIM, Pyatt Studio and KLJ) for helping us to craft a vision for the Regenerative Community Development. Our community continues to inspire and inform us as we plan for the future.

Thank you,

Nick Tilsen,
Executive Director
Mitakuye Oyasin (*We are all related*)

“Our community continues to inspire and inform us as we plan for the future.”

COMMUNITY-BASED DESIGN

WHAT THIS MEANS TO US:

T rue community-based design becomes possible when everyone involved shares a clear vision for the future, rooted in the values of the community. A firm foundation of community input and engagement allows the invaluable skill and knowledge of our incredible team of architects and engineers to develop design plans that support the needs, values, culture, and future of the local community members who will make the regenerative community their home.

Our design team has committed to countless hours of community engagement—from visioning sessions to design charrettes—to ensure that the voice of the community is in each stage of design and involved in all the decisions that are made. They have also been an integral force behind the planning work we have done this year and are dedicated to building the capacity of our organization to continue this work. Thank you to our design team for all of your hard work and dedication to this project. You are truly helping the community challenge and change the status quo on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation for generations to come.



MEET THE DESIGN TEAM

Christina Hoxie, BNIM
 Rob Pyatt, Pyatt Studio Architecture
 Janna Ferguson, Pyatt Studio Architecture
 Dana Foreman, KLJ Engineering

DESIGN CHARRETTE

In July we had more than 40 people attend our Community Design Charrette, an event that gave community members and potential homeowners the opportunity to provide feedback on our design plans at this early and critical stage of development. People talked about the desire for a Homeowners Association and the importance of energy efficient homes as a way of making ownership more affordable. This meeting was a particularly great opportunity for Pyatt Studio Architects to work side by side with the community to directly incorporate their needs and desires into the design of healthy, sustainable housing.



ONE PLANET ACTION PLAN

Our organization strongly believes in the importance building a resilient, regenerative community on the reservation that is good for the environment, good for people, and good for the economy. We recognize the value in monitoring our progress and evaluating our impact. In October we hosted our One Planet action plan meeting to establish a sustainability roadmap that sets goals and performance indicators for each of the ten One Planet living principles.

These principles include: Health & Happiness, Equity & Local Economy, Culture & Community, Land Use & Wildlife, Sustainable Water, Local & Sustainable Food, Sustainable Materials, Sustainable Transport, Zero Waste, and Zero Carbon.

We have high goals for each of these principles and creating an action plan will help us achieve these goals with leadership from our community members.



THE MASTER PLAN FINALIZED



2014 was an incredible year for moving forward on the Master Plan for our Regenerative Community Development. After presenting our first draft of the Master Plan to local community members, their feedback helped us realize that we needed to dream bigger and create a more uniquely Lakota community that incorporates our heritage in every aspect of its design.

Our commitment to the honoring the voice of local community members sent us back to the drawing board. We made some major changes to the design of our community, most significantly shifting from a linear organization of structures to a more circular concept, organizing

our single family homes in the same way our ancestors organized their thípi clusters. We also reorganized our shared community spaces, centralizing them around the space that will be our powwow grounds, farmer's market and artist market.

By staying true to the visions our people have for a community that they want to live in, our second Master Plan shows a community that is greatly informed by who we are as Oglala Lakota people. Developing this Master Plan with our devoted Design Team would not have been possible if not for the voices of our local community members, and for that we thank them.

LAKOTA IMMERSION CHILDCARE

In 2014 the program has evolved from a daycare serving a handful of local kids to a multifaceted program on the forefront of the Lakota language revitalization movement, empowering a new generation of heritage language speakers. In addition to the children we teach in our total “language nest” style daycare facility, our books, videos, e-readers, apps and online teaching materials allow us to reach an unlimited number of eager Lakota learners. By utilizing a variety of platforms such as Bitsboard, Memrise, Mindflash, GoAnimate, and SceneSpeak, we allow users to engage with Lakota in ways like never before. By creating more ways to read, hear, and speak the Lakota language, we will increase the number of speakers.

A robust staff and steadily growing enrollment, have allowed us to improve the amount of classroom time across all age cohorts, every day becoming more and more a heritage language nest and preschool that goes far beyond the expectations of a typical daycare. The staff are divided among the each age cohort during a morning and afternoon class session, in which we lead the children in various engaging activities. These include singing songs, making arts and crafts, playing games, doing kinesthetic activities, and - for the older kids - more advanced learning such as letter recognition, counting and basic scientific experimentation. Through these activities, our children are meeting, and often times exceeding, the language comprehension milestones we have set in place.



COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING

In addition to the growth we have experienced in our already established program areas, this year has also included the design of our Worker Owned Enterprise and increasing our knowledge of Community Wealth Building. Throughout the year we took part in a Learning Action Lab hosted by the Northwest Area Foundation and the Democracy Collaborative. Through this Learning Lab we are on our way to developing our first worker-owned company as a way to build power and economic development for our community.



2014 SUPPORTERS

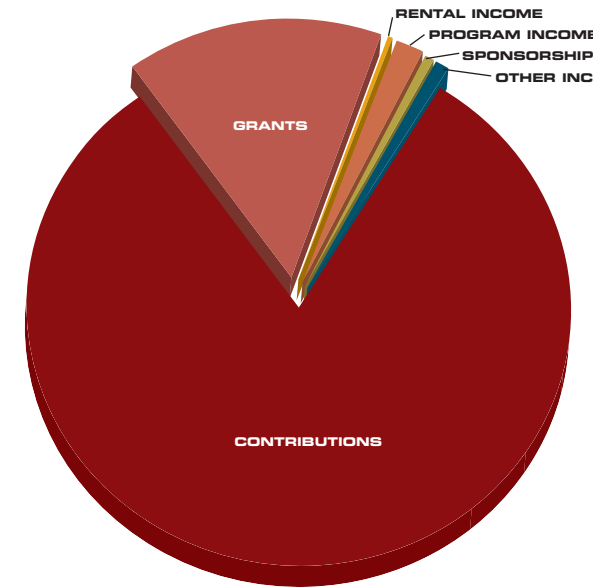
This year has been a year of planning for growth. We are so grateful to our Federal and Philanthropic partners for supporting our work and believing in the future of our organization. This year we were supported by:

- Administration for Native Americans
- Buckminster Fuller Institute
- Bush Foundation
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- First Nations Development Institute
- Gathering Thunder Foundation
- Hill Snowdon Foundation

- Hopa Mountain
- Lannan Foundation
- Minnesota Housing Partnership
- Northwest Area Foundation
- Rotary Club of New Britain-Berlin
- Sacred Fire Foundation
- Seventh Generation Fund
- Surdna Foundation
- Threshold Foundation
- The Seventh Power Fund
- Tara O'Keefe
- Kevin Hancock



FINANCIALS - 2013

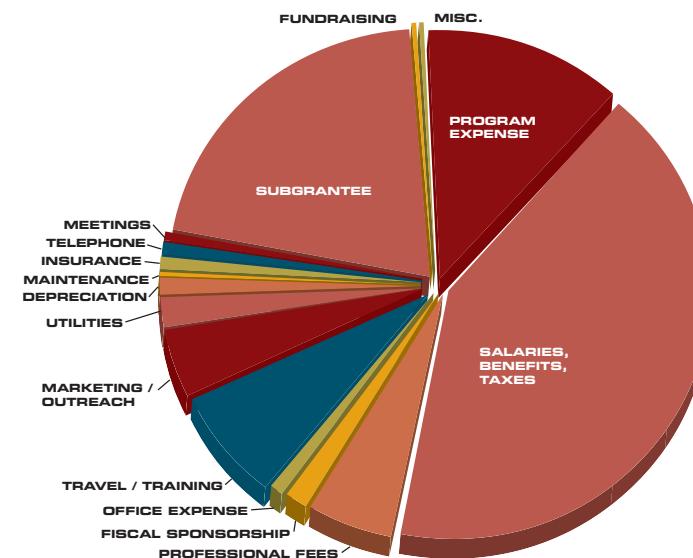


REVENUE - 2014

Contributions	\$940,307
Grants	\$173,683
Rental Income	\$5,400
Program Income	\$19,351
Sponsorships	\$6,130
Other Income	\$6,970
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,151,841

EXPENSES - 2014

Program Expense	\$119,355
Salaries, Benefits, Taxes	\$406,595
Professional Fees	\$52,790
Fiscal Sponsorship Expenses	\$13,352
Office Expenses	\$7,938
Staff Travel and Training	\$71,891
Marketing and Outreach	\$43,160
Utilities	\$17,056
Depreciation	\$12,765
Repairs and Maintenance	\$1,518
Insurance	\$8,508
Telephone	\$7,881
Meetings/Conferences	\$5,286
Postage	\$917
Interest Expense	\$601
Subgrantee	\$202,500
Fundraising Expense	\$1,250
Miscellaneous	\$2,626
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$975,987



*All audited financials are available to the Oglala Sioux Tribe, Oglala Sioux Tribal members, and the general public. These can be downloaded at www.thundervalley.org



Your Gift to Thunder Valley will help us create a better world for Lakota Youth & Families. Native Communities like ours need support from people like you. Together we can work towards creating a healthier way of life for all. Please consider making a recurring donation of \$500 dollars or more. We are in this systemic work for the long term. Please join us in this struggle.