



KNOWLEDGE RESPECT
COURAGE GENEROSITY

2010–2011 Annual Report

Na-way-ee, Center School, Inc.

Our Mission: Providing transformative education, grounded in indigenous life-ways and love of learning.

Our Vision: Center School will exemplify excellence in indigenous education.

Letter from the Executive Director

Hello, My Relatives,

Nawayee Center School has never been a better learning place than it is today.

This is not only because we are successfully educating our children, but because we honor those who have been here before us and understand that we are a part of a process that began in the early 1970s when Nawayee was established as a drop-in center for Native youth who were disaffected with public schools.

What was true then is true now. Mainstream schools have not done well with many Native youth because they have not learned how to engage them.

Establishing, nurturing and maintaining relationships are fundamental to how we educate Native youth. We realized the effort to engage with our children could be enhanced by making a similar effort to build co-creative relationships among the staff. To that end we “took the plunge” of organizational restructuring to transform the way staff work together by using a distributed leadership model. After many aches, pains, laughs and long, thoughtful conversations, we are a more cohesive staff.

During this process, our Board of Directors began creating a new strategic plan and interestingly it mirrored staff restructuring efforts so much that the staff and board arrived at the same conclu-



Vicki Hollow preparing for the Book Fair

sions. We mutually realized our need to transform, to evolve into an experientially focused place of learning.

As a result, we have developed a strong community of staff and students who look forward to traveling the path of learning together. Nawayee is a fun place to work and learn, and at the end of the day, we are all tired, but in a good way.

I know in my heart that we are fortunate to be able to come together to learn in such a place as Nawayee Center School. We will, however, need help to maintain our school community. A quality learning place such as this requires talented professionals who understand Indigenous educational pedagogy. The ebb and flow of student

populations can dramatically affect the economics of keeping such a group together when funding is related strictly to student numbers.

I believe that there is enough good will and generosity in our community to find the resources to maintain an Indigenous learning place that really works. I remember and trust this core belief as I work with you all to find a way to keep the school alive.

Know that your help, of every kind, is essential and much appreciated as we do our best to live according to our mission.

Joseph C. Rice

Staff

Joe Rice, *Executive Director*
 Mary Cullen, *Lead Teacher*
 Vicki Hollow, *Office Manager*
 Vicki Dalbec, *Finance Manager*
 Carol Ladd, *Family Engagement Coordinator*
 Mike Huerth, *Social Studies Teacher*
 Cindy Ward, *Science Teacher*
 Ed Colon, *Math Teacher*
 Jim Lorenz, *Science Teacher*
 Ellen Puff, *English Teacher*
 Crystal Pelchat, *Health Coordinator*
 Dennis Rice, *Security*
 Thorn Bordeaux, *Security*

From Collaborating Agencies

Division of Indian Work

Louise Matson

Migizi Communications

Elaine Salinas, Graham Hartley, Cindy Ward

Minneapolis Public Schools

Sandy Reichert, Christine Sanguinet and Kimberly Galloway

Welna's Ace Hardware

Mark Welna

Philadelphia Community Farms

Rick Hall, Verna Kragnes

NACC Clinic

Lydia Caros, Shannon Fahey, Shannon Peterson

Running Wolf Fitness Center

Connie Norman

We dedicate this year's report to two members of our school community who passed away this summer and fall: Bointa Hill, a recent graduate, and Quentin Brown, our long-time facilities manager.

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	2011	2010
Current Assets:		
Cash	\$ 168,631	\$ 237,951
Accounts Receivable	5,039	957
Grants Receivable	72,903	74,874
Prepaid Expenses	7,435	15,505
Other Assets	13,379	31,250
Total Current Assets	267,387	360,537
Property and Equipment- Net	59,229	65,943
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 326,616	\$426,480
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 6,077	\$ 8,429
Payroll Tax Liabilities		4,170
Funds Held for Others	1,389	
Deferred Income	1,500	
Accrued Salaries and Vacation	23,115	18,851
Total Current Liabilities	32,081	31,450
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	229,535	328,399
Temporarily Restricted	65,000	66,631
Total Net Assets	294,535	395,030
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 326,616	\$ 426,480



Gifts and Grants July 2010–June 2011

Institutions

Beverly Foundation
 Fund of the Sacred Circle
 General Mills—
 Communities of Color
 Greater Twin Cities
 United Way
 Intertribal Council of
 AT&T Employees
 James R. Thorpe
 Foundation

McCoy Foundation
 McKnight Foundation—
 After School Program
 Minneapolis Health
 Department
 Minneapolis Foundation
 Minneapolis Kiwanis
 Club
 National Environmental
 Science Foundation
 Sundance Foundation

Two Feathers Fund
 Woman's Club of
 Minneapolis

Individuals

Karen Abraham
 Diana Archambault
 Sybil Axner
 Ramona Beard
 Tara Beard
 Shayna Berkowitz

Donald Bibeau
 Charrissa Blue
 Lydia Caros
 Quinten Caylor
 Andrew Champion
 Karen Coon
 Audrey Cullen
 Robert Dalbec
 Edward Dayton
 Vicki Glaeser
 Florence Golod

Eileen Grundstrom
 Shalini Gupta
 James Harkness
 Nell Hillsley
 Ryan Hoogheem
 Robert Jibben
 Petra Larson
 Louise Matson
 Devin McKinley
 Nora Murphy
 Elizabeth Potter

Joe Rice
 Elizabeth Tisel
 Owen Turnlund
 Kim Sundet Vanderwall
 Lauren Patricia Weck,
 Revocable Trust
 Cindy Ward
 Lawrence Weiss
 Patricia Welch
 Laura Wittstock
 Diane Wilson

Center School Achievements

Strengthened through a strong Native and community network, Center School continued to grow and innovate during the 2010-11 year:



Rachel picking sage

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Center School reinigorated its **drum group**, engaging 10 young men who play for school and community events.

Several young women became accomplished singers, learning how to harmonize in the traditional fashion called **Wicaglata** by the Lakota. Their work was recognized in a *Star Tribune* article "A Homegrown Song" by David Jolie (11/10/2010).

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

We grew our **Healthy Choices Program** that provides exercise, health instruction, and screening services to Na-way-ee students. The program is designed to reduce the incidence of diabetes and other diseases among Native youth. Last year we added health fairs, making our diabetes screenings more educational and very popular with students, and improved participation in screenings and other health programs.

Our girls (and now boys) programs include classes, enrichment opportunities and individual mentoring. These combined efforts are called the **Children of the Seventh Fire Initiative**. The school secured city of Minneapolis Health Department funds to launch a Men's Reproductive Health Program in 2011. The rate of pregnancy among students at the school has reduced dramatically since the program began.

We offered students opportunities for extended field trips including canoeing, orienteering, and a three-day **trip to the Black Hills** to study astronomy and geography with a Native teacher.

Center School principal and Executive Director Joe Rice was **invited to speak** at the National Green Schools conference regarding the Garden Project. Center School participated in the Farm to School project led by the University of Minnesota.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Center School coordinates the **Phillips Indian Educators (PIE)** network, which brings together educators from public, charter, and alternative schools that serve Native American students. Last year, we posted new curricula, resources and biographies of local Native American educators on the PIE website. Use of the site continues to increase.

As part of our work with PIE, staff and board members actively participated in **Memorandum of Agreement** discussions with the Minneapolis Public Schools. Our goal is to work with the District to create better educational environments and outcomes for all Indian students. Staff provided the leadership for fall and spring Best Practices in-services that attracted 75 teachers from MPS schools.

There was a significant increase in **positive media coverage** of the school in the *StarTribune*, *The Alley* newspaper (covering the Phillips neighborhood), and *The Circle*, a monthly Native American publication. Staff interviews aired on KFAI community radio and National Public Radio.

STUDENT SUCCESS

Attendance improved by 1% over the previous year with an ADM (average daily membership or enrollment) of 52. This is the third year in a row that attendance has improved.

Center School students won **five awards** at local science fairs and four at national competitions.

Seven students graduated in 2011, the largest group of graduates in ten years. This is more than the number of Native American students who graduated from South High the same year.

The school began implementation of **AIEKS** (Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces), a web-based tutoring program that provides continuous feedback and assessment.

We developed a school-wide **math strategy**; the entire teaching staff supports math learning with leadership from the math teacher. We strengthened our science program with the addition of Cindy Ward and Jim Rock, two very experienced and successful Indigenous educators.

We launched the **Indigenous Knowledge Keeper's class**, focusing on the intersection of European and Indigenous North American science, and employing the strengths of both disciplines



Jim and Leland in Wind Cave

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

The board completed a **strategic plan** that focuses on strengthening the school's collaborations and expanding experiential educational opportunities.

Staff and volunteers from Philadelphia Farms (Osceola, Wis.) and Dream of Wild Health (Hugo, Minn.) supported our **garden program** by offering garden lessons at their farms, helping at our school garden, and organizing student-managed farmer's markets. Students learned to process the foods they grew and began to grow flowers.

School staff engaged in an intensive **yearlong reorganization** to maximize teacher engagement and assure that time and attention is focused on student outcomes and external relations. This distributive leadership model recognizes each staff member's talents and areas of expertise. Regular leadership council meetings cover important decisions about school policy and programming, and committees discuss issues in nine key areas: assessment, instruction, attendance, professional development, academic planning, student behavior, enrollment, data development, and school climate.

CARING FOR OUR SCHOOL BUILDING

We **repaved and fenced** the parking area for better security and a place for students and staff to play basketball.

Our **remodeled kitchen** better supports our healthy foods program.

New **carpeting and lighting** make the building a nicer place to learn and work.



Knowledge Keepers class at Bear Butte Lodge

Board of Directors 2010–2011

Thank you to our board of Directors for their support and guidance during the last year.

DEANNA STANDING CLOUD GREEN

Parent Engagement Coordinator
MPS Department of Indian Education
(Red Lake Ojibwe)

LEMOINE LAPOINTE

(Board Chairperson)
(Sicangu Lakota)

ELIZABETH POTTER

Upward Bound

CECELIA MARTINEZ

Director, Center for Earth, Energy and
Democracy
(Taos Pueblo)

NANCY BORDEAUX

Director, Indigenous Women's Life Net
Minneapolis American Indian Center
(Sicangu Lakota)
nbordeaux@maicnet.org

KAREN MCCALL

(Board Vice Chair)

OWEN TURNLUND,

(Board Treasurer)
Director (retired)
Plymouth Christian Youth Center

DEATRICK LAPOINTE, M.A.

Patient Care Manager
Indian Health Board of Minneapolis
(Sicangu Lakota)



Four Directions mural



Destiny and a friend

Canoe class at Mde Maka Ska

Na-way-ee, Center School, Inc.

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