

SOUTHWEST NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

JOSHUA ARCE, PWNA PRESIDENT & CEO



Greetings Program Partners!

The weather is starting to warm up, the flowers are blooming, and spring ceremonies are in full swing. Spring planting is underway, and preparations for the upcoming summer activities are on the horizon.

As our communities gear up for spring and summer activities, we get the chance to come together, reflect on the past year, and make plans for the future. Our reflection now will help chart our path for spring, summer, and beyond. We embrace this time as a season of renewal and growth.

We appreciate your continued partnership and support. To serve you better, we must continue to hear from you. Please share with us your spring plans and initiatives, and we look forward to supporting another year of activities, programming, and success.

From the PWNA Team to you, your team, and your community, we wish you many blessings as we embrace the spring season!

Migwech!



PWNA President & CEO
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Partner Spotlight

Only 26% of Native American communities are within one mile of a grocery store compared to 59% of all people in the United States. In isolated tribal communities, families travel far to shop for essentials, often going off the reservation where there is more variety and prices are lower. The Navajo Relief Fund (NRF), a program of Partnership With Native Americans® (PWNA), aims to alleviate this challenge by delivering emergency food boxes to our Program Partners in underserved tribal communities.

Members of PWNA's Board of Directors and Executive Leadership teamed up with the staff at the Pisinemo Senior Center to pack and deliver boxes to Elders across the Pisinemo District of the Tohono O'odham Nation.

This delivery came at a time of celebration in the community as Elders, children, and families prepared for the upcoming Pisinemo District Day, an annual day of celebration across the district filled with games, music, and dancing. Our Program Partner, Mike B., recruited his employees—Diane, Lystan, and Alvin—to lead the PWNA team in packing and delivering the boxes.

Pisinemo Elders were grateful to receive a special visit from PWNA Board members, sending their gratitude to the employees and donors who help provide food, water, and emergency supplies to their community. On behalf of the families served by PWNA, Mike would like our donors and Program Partners to know:

"I thank the board for coming out here and I thank PWNA for all they do for all Natives. We are truly blessed to be a partner with PWNA. Some of the Elders here live alone and don't cook. They depend on us at the senior center. PWNA has really been a blessing to us and I hope to continue this relationship with you guys. Having visitors like the Board of Directors is also a blessing because they can see that their hard work is being appreciated, and what they're achieving."



PWNA's President and CEO, Josh, alongside our Board of Directors, joined Mike and his employees at the Pisinemo Senior Center to pack and deliver Emergency Food Boxes to Elders in the Tohono O'odham Nation's Pisinemo District"

Peach Corn Salsa

By Laura Schad



INGREDIENTS

- 4 peaches, diced
- 4 fresh ears of corn, cooked and cut off the cob
- 1 small can diced green chiles*
- ¼ cup fresh cilantro, chopped
- ½ medium sweet or red onion, diced
- 1 small lime, juiced
- 2 dashes hot sauce

*If you like your salsa spicy, use jalapenos instead.

DIRECTIONS

1. Wash and dry peaches. Depending on preference... the skins can remain on or be peeled. (Leaving the skin on provides some good texture). Chop the peaches and place in bowl.
2. You can either grill the corn in the husk or you can boil the corn. Once cooked, trim the corn from the cob and mix corn with chopped peaches. (Frozen or canned corn will also work).
- 3.) Mix in the chopped cilantro, chopped onion, lime juice, hot sauce, and season with salt and pepper to taste.

(Recipe reprinted with permission)

Indigenous Recipe



COLLABORATION CORNER



We wrapped up the Feeding America Natives Prepared project with the Hualapai Tribe by conducting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on March 20-21, 2025 in Peach Springs, AZ. 12 Tribal members received certification to assist their families, neighbors, and communities during emergencies by training the individuals with the essential skills to respond, including first aid, light search and rescue, fire safety, and team organization. Everyone was able to receive their own CERT starter kit bag, along with a first aid kit, and a fire extinguisher.

All the participants were eager to help their elders and community and noted that they didn't want this CERT team to die down. They want to become a certified CERT team, and additional FEMA training is needed. The group stated they want to learn and stay committed and are happy to answer and serve where needed.

Tribal Emergency Operations Manager Cheyenne Majenty was in attendance and provided her emergency response experiences to provide background on the emergencies in the area. Overall, she was glad to have this training and the interest from the number of participants who showed up because she will need additional help.

Coming soon: PWNA's Animal Welfare RAR Community Investment Project (CIP) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Grant Announcement. Look out for an email from ciprar@nativepartnership.org (and check your spam and junk folders)



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“Everyone here [at this CERT training] speaks volumes and is here to help as a person, team, and tribe. As the [CERT team] grows, it will be more protected than an area that isn't.”

”

**-Cheyenne M.
Hualapai Tribe | Peach Springs, AZ**



Service Highlights

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

One of PWNA's many services include our School Supplies service. This service provides supplies to eligible schools and Head Starts that serve Pre-K through 12th grade students. To be eligible, schools must be on or located near reservations served by PWNA. The goal is to help students to be prepared for homework and the classroom. Also to save the school/teachers/families funds that can be utilized elsewhere. School supplies must be distributed to students and NOT kept as classroom supplies.

The four components of the School Supplies service are Head Start, Elementary, Middle, and High School. Supplies are grade appropriate, and examples of supplies are as follows:

Head Start/Pre K: Crayons, glue, & paper.

Elementary: Wide ruled paper, pencils, & rulers.

Mid/High School: 3-ring binders, pens, & calculators.

Partners can find the School Supplies request on our Program Partner website or email/call our office to request a copy of the request. The deadline is May 1st and PWNA is currently accepting requests. Requests will be reviewed, and Partners will be notified if the request was approved or declined. Once approved, the School Supply report and sign-out sheets will be due 30 days from the distribution date.



Our warehouses strive to use all the different items generously donated to our inventory. To show that every item has value, we strive to demonstrate alternate uses for some of our less-requested items. Here are some examples of items that can be used creatively to meet needs in your communities.

Multi-Purpose Cleaner: Lavender scent can be used to clean floors and other surfaces that can be cleaned with water.

Disinfectant: Ready to use disinfectant cleaner, is mostly used in cleaning hospitals, schools and nursing homes but can also disinfect surfaces like walls, tables, bathroom tile, kitchen counters, stovetops and cabinets. DO NOT use disinfectant on eating utensils, plates or glassware.

Dishwashing Detergent Pots/Pans: Liquid dishwashing detergent for use on glasses, dishes, pots and pans.

PPE: We have multiple types of face masks – disposable, N-95 masks and disposable children's masks. Shoe covers can be used to keep mud off your shoes. Head covers can be used to cover bowls. Isolation gowns can be used as an art smock or to keep your clothes clean.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

29,124

MILES DRIVEN

339

SHIPMENTS

282,214

LBS OF SUPPLIES

180

SERVED THROUGH
ANIMAL WELFARE

9,650

SERVED THROUGH
HEALTH SERVICES

1,782

SERVED THROUGH
EMERGENCY SERVICES

186

SERVED THROUGH
EDUCATION SERVICES

7,149

SERVED THROUGH
FOOD SERVICES



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EDUCATION UPDATE

- AIEF began the year by prioritizing our outreach efforts, distributing scholarship posters, brochures, and business cards to our priority High Schools, TCUs, Colleges, and Universities.
- As part of our scholarship outreach, AIEF participated in the Mid-Year Unity Conference on February 7-9, 2025, in Phoenix, AZ; the UTA Powwow on March 1, 2025, in Arlington, TX; and the 2025 Student AIHEC Conference on March 8-11 in Rapid City, SD.
- AIEF had the honor of presenting at the 2025 Student AIHEC Conference. Our presentation, "Do What You Love, Love What You Do," highlighted personal stories about several PWNA staff members' educational and career journeys and encouraged higher education.
- In the planning stages for the Scholarship Review Committee Retreat, scheduled to take place from June 23 - 26, 2025.



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"An AIEF scholarship awardee acknowledged, "I was relieved that I didn't have to stress about getting the education I wanted."

”

Kylie P.

Part of the Turtle Mountain
Band of Chippewa Indians
University of South Dakota



PARTNERSHIP WITH
NATIVE AMERICANS®

Material Services

SAVE THE DATE

Great Non-Profit Reviews: April 30
PWNA would like to give our partners an opportunity to provide a review of the organization. Please contact PWNA and staff will email you directions on how to complete a review.

School Supplies deadline is May 1st.
Schools with grades K-12 and Head Starts on or near reservations are eligible to submit a request for School Supplies. PWNA provides a variety of school supplies for every student in the school. The School Supplies request can be found on our partner website at www.swnativepartners.org or you can call our office, and a request will be sent to you.

Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) would like to thank you for your valued partnership. We look forward to a strong, lasting relationship between PWNA and your organization. We continuously strive to improve how we support you, most recently updating our service documents, guidelines, request forms and report forms. This will help us learn more about your organization and programs, and how we can better support your goals and outcomes. We believe these minor changes will help PWNA staff become better stewards and partners in serving you and your communities.

American Indian Education Fund

AIEF Scholarship Deadline for Undergraduate, Graduate, and Vocational/Technical Students – April 4th by 11:59 p.m. ET.

Online Application link: https://webportalapp.com/sp/american-indian-education-fund_undergrad-grad

Questions: aief@nativepartnership.org or call (866)-866-8642

“Thank you so much. Many of the students are cared for by their grandparents or some other relatives, and a lot of them don’t get school supplies. We do have supplies here at the school for them, but this is helpful for them to have supplies at home so they can do their homework.”

If you need help with Material Services or Long-Term Solutions, please call us at 877-281-0808 or 602-340-8050.

*** REPORT DEADLINE REMINDERS ***

Due 30 days after delivery:

Healthy Living
Community Events
Food Pantry

Due 90 days after delivery:

Standard Food
Residential
Animal Welfare



CONTACT US

PWNA only delivers needed goods and services. We want to ensure the products we send fit your needs. If they do not, please call us so that we may better serve you.

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Kohatk, AZ March 22, 2024

