

Pokégnek Bodéwadmik
POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI

2014 Accomplishment Report



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Pokégnek Bodéwadmik (Pokagon Band of Potawatomi) will respectfully promote and protect the culture, dignity, education, health, welfare and self-sufficiency of our elders, our youth, our families and our future generations while preserving Mother Earth. We will strive to give Pokagon citizens a better quality of life. The Band will also strive for successful economic strength thus assuring the sovereignty of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.



JOHN P. WARREN CHAIRMAN



BOB MOODY, JR VICE-CHAIRMAN



EUGENE MAGNUSON TREASURER



FAYE WESAW SECRETARY



STEVE WINCHESTER MEMBER AT LARGE



MICHAELINA MARTIN MEMBER AT LARGE



ANDY JACKSON MEMBER AT LARGE



ROGER RADER MEMBER AT LARGE



THOMAS WESAW MEMBER AT LARGE



CARL WESAW ELDERS REPRESENTATIVE

Boozhoo tribal citizens,

I'm happy and honored to report that in 2014, Tribal Council and staff worked hard, continually looking for ways to enhance your lives and to expand services for you and your families. There is no doubt that our ancestors are looking down, and I'm sure our ancestors are still having a hand in the future of the Pokagon Band, because in 2014 we were truly blessed once again.

We opened our 36,000 square foot Health Center with in-house dental services, expanded behavioral health services, and in 2014 third party billing recouped close to \$200,000. The Clinic added a Pokagon citizen as a female practitioner and extended hours. The Wellness Center averages 40 visits daily, and many tribal citizens are following exercise programs provided by in-house trainers.

The Education Department implemented an electronic higher education scholarship, providing convenience and a shorter processing time for students. The restructuring of the Education Department was developed to better serve citizens in all stages of life, including an excellence program, Paul Sorce Memorial Scholarship, simplified forms, and partnerships with Western Michigan University, Michigan State University, Southwestern Michigan College, Lake Michigan College, and Indiana University South Bend.

Planning and engineering studies for infrastructure for housing in Hartford, Michigan is underway, and construction of infrastructure will begin summer of 2015. In 2014 playgrounds for all ages were added to the Edawat subdivision, and the new Housing office building was finished to deliver better customer service to citizens. Infrastructure design is ongoing for housing in South Bend and will be installed after the land goes into trust.

Tribal Council was so honored and humbled to celebrate with you the 20th anniversary of President Clinton signing our Reaffirmation Bill on September 21, 1994. The Pokagon Sovereignty Day Celebration had one of the highest turnouts, with many Tribal families enjoying the rides, games, and visiting with family and friends. The last twenty years have been such a wonderful journey rebuilding our nation. Igwien | Thank You for all the support you have given Tribal Council. Your support enables Tribal Council to constantly work towards enhancing and delivering better services, and building a place to work, live, and play for our tribal citizens. .

Best wishes,

John P Warren
Chairman



Boozhoo Pokagon citizens,

On behalf of the Pokagon Band's Finance team, I am pleased to submit the Treasurer's report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014.

I want to thank the Finance Board, along with staff from our Finance team, whose team members always stand ready to help our citizens.

We are in a unique time when the decisions we make now will have an especially profound impact on whether our Nation grows stronger or stagnates. To meet the goals of the tribal financial strategies, the Finance Board collaborates with the Finance team and the government manager on a bi-weekly base to review the tribe's financial health.

The Treasury took several important steps in 2014 to improve Council's awareness of the financial performance of tribal programs and activities. Meaningful communication and coordination between department directors resulted in a continued responsible path toward positive financial results. Our top priority in 2014 was to build upon the quarterly departmental budget reviews that focused on budget results and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). In the latter half of 2014 the department directors participated in three separate days of dedicated budget planning time that will guide each department in 2015.

I would like to give thanks to the department heads, as 2014 was nothing short of an outstanding year for the Pokagon Band. The tribe has built the foundations for the future delivery of service within a system of sound and balanced tribal finances, and this has been recognized by our audit firm McGladrey. I would like to acknowledge the department leaders:

IT Jody Osbon, Social Services Mark Pompey, Housing Jim Coleman, Natural Resources Jennifer Kanine, Tribal Police Rich Killips, General Counsel Ed Williams, Communications Paige Risser, Education Sam Morseau, Health Matt Clay, Human

Resources Jim Dybevik, Gaming Commission John Roberts, Courts Steve Rambeau and a special thanks to our Finance Director Anita Grivins and our Government Manager Jason Wesaw, along with Executive Assistant Melissa Rodriguez and Frederick Lamble, our financial advisor with Key Bank.

Our economic blueprint has been rooted in doing everything possible to promote future opportunities for the next seven generations of Pokagon Potawatomis. Mno-Bmadsen is the economic development entity conducting all non-gaming, for-profit business for the tribe. Currently Mno-Bmadsen's holdings include the following companies:

Accu-Mold LLC., a plastics engineering and tooling company that specializes in metal to plastic conversions; Seven Generations Architecture & Engineering; MB C-Stores LLC The Bent Tree and Mno-Bmadsen's newly formed company 7Gen Construction LLC, a design/build general contracting company that will be based out of South Bend, Indiana.

Before closing I would like to thank the Finance Board members Faye Wesaw, Robert Moody, Jr, Steve Winchester, and Roger Rader who have each in their own way with their different perspectives helped me with their advice and counsel to stay focused on the long term financial sustainability of the tribe and were instrumental in realizing the favorable financial results the tribe achieved in 2014.

Chi-Miigwetch

Eugene Magnuson, Treasurer

TRIBAL JUDICIARY

The Judiciary is an independent branch of government established by the Constitution of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. The Tribal Court system consist of two levels: the trial level (Tribal Court) and the appellate level (Court of Appeals).

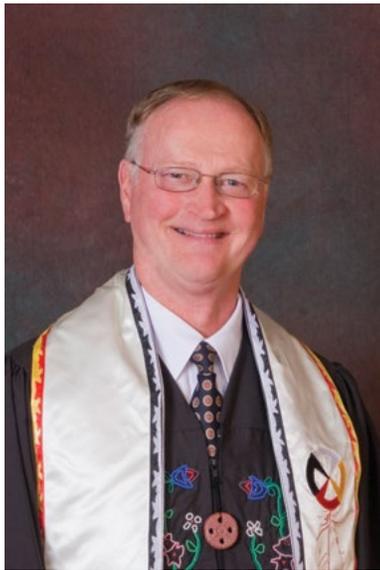
The Tribal Court Judges are: Chief Judge Michael Petoskey (Grand Traverse Band) and Associate Judge David M. Peterson, retired 5th District Court Judge for Berrien County, Michigan and practicing Michigan attorney.

The Court of Appeals Justices are: Chief Justice Robert T. Anderson (Bois Forte Band), Professor of Law and Director of the Native

American Law Center, University of Washington School of Law; Associate Justice Jill E. Tompkins (Penobscot), former law professor at the University of Colorado School of Law, former Senior Director of the Indian Child Welfare Programs at Casey Family Programs, and currently in private practice; and Associate Justice Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Grand Traverse Band), Professor of Law and Director of the Indigenous Law & Policy Center, Michigan State University College of Law.



CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERT T. ANDERSON



ASSOCIATE JUDGE DAVID M. PETERSON



CHIEF JUDGE MICHAEL PETOSKEY



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE JILL E. TOMPKINS



ASSOCIATE JUSTICE MATTHEW L.M. FLETCHER

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF TRIBAL COUNCIL AND THE JUDICIARY

Each year Tribal Council and the Judiciary, as separate branches of Tribal government, meet face-to-face to collaborate in order to ensure that the needs of the Band, as a sovereign nation, and its citizens are met. Each updates the other on its accomplishments over the preceding year and shares information about its work in progress, needs and future plans. It has been an exemplary best governmental practice and tradition.

OVERVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE COURT

The work of the Court involves: (1) meeting the needs of the Tribal government because it is a federally-recognized sovereign nation; and (2) providing an independent, fair forum for resolving disputes, conflicts and adherence to Tribal standards. Some of the duties and responsibilities are mandated by the Tribal Constitution. Other duties are the results of laws passed by Tribal Council. Yet other duties are the product of court rules, administrative orders and the inherent authority of the Judiciary as a branch of government. The Court meets these responsibilities by: (1) establishing general rules of practice and procedure before the courts; (2) collaborative governmental development for the implementation of the laws of the Band, Court Rules and Administrative Orders; and (3) the judicial processing of actual cases transferred or filed in the courts.

CURRENT WORK OF THE JUDICIARY

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians Constitution mandates that the Court of Appeals establish and amend general rules for practice, procedure and evidence in the Tribal Court and Court of Appeals. Court rules provide standard process and procedures: (1) for the practice before the Tribal courts; and (2) the judicial processing of cases. During 2014 the Judiciary worked on revisions to the following Court Rules:

Chapter 5 - Court Rules of Appellate Procedure

Chapter 6 - Court Rules for Recognition of Foreign Court Judgments

Chapter 7 - Court Rules for Small Claims

Chapter 8 - Court Rules of Judicial Conduct

COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT

Tribal Court Improvement Project Grant

"At the heart of sovereignty is taking care of our children."

Arthur Morozan, Chairman, Family Welfare Commission

"Connection to culture is paramount, even if the connection to the family is broken. We believe our children have more than one mom or dad. If they lose connection to the Tribe, they lose the opportunity to learn who they are."

Jason S. Wesaw, Family Welfare Commissioner

The Pokagon Band was one of only seven tribes within the United States to be awarded an inaugural Court Improvement Project grant on October 1, 2012. Work is well underway and will continue through September 2015. The focus of this project is on the Pokagon Band child protection justice system, with three specific goals:

1. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of how the Tribal Court conducts child welfare proceedings and make improvements based upon the results.
2. Ensure that each child's needs for safety, permanency, and well-being are met in a timely and complete manner through the collection and analysis of data.
3. Provide for training of Tribal Court practitioners and other community stakeholders involved in child welfare cases.

That assessment was completed and a final report provided to Tribal Council in September. The above quotes and the following excerpt are from that report.

"The Pokagon Tribal Court has historically taken a collaborative approach to important infrastructure and policy development efforts that have resulted in coordinated efforts between tribal departments to improve the well-being of Pokagon families and children. The protection of its children and their families is of utmost importance to the Pokagon Band, so determining if the Tribal Court and those who work with tribal child welfare proceedings are accomplishing the most good for all involved is critical work. The Chief Judge has been committed

to collaborative efforts within the Pokagon Band by working with the executive/legislative branch of the government and administrative departments to implement systems for child protection cases. Administrative departments have included the Department of Social Services, Pokagon Behavioral Health and Health Services, Education, and Housing. Periodic meetings have occurred with departments. The Chief Judge has focused on building services needed by the Court and how to keep children and parents connected with the Tribal community." *Pokagon Band Tribal Court Improvement Assessment*, P. 5 (2014)

Your help is needed to fully achieve the goals of children's needs for safety, permanency and well-being. We are reaching out to our strong Pokagon community to encourage involvement as foster caregivers, respite caregivers and mentors to ensure that the culture of the Pokagon Band flourishes in our youth.

Native Justice Initiative (Tribal Court Assistance Program Grant)

"It is clear to me that we need to develop justice tools that maintain relationships among people, and that can hopefully even enhance them."

Chief Judge Michael Petoskey

The Court and community members are developing an alternative way to resolve disputes between community members that does not involve the Tribal Court called "Native Justice Initiative". Commonly referred to as peacemaking, it utilizes ceremonial traditions, talking circles, and circlekeepers to bring people involved in disputes to common ground. There are three strands to this journey: (1) Native Justice community awareness and education; (2) creation of a Native Justice conflict and dispute resolution tool for non-court community use; and (3) continued development of Native Justice tools for Court.

"How do you solve it? That's the question of any community. How do you solve those problems when they come up. Again, we went back to the circle."

Kevin Daugherty, Pokagon Band Citizen

This is something we already do in the community. We are currently formalizing the process to expand the utilization by those who may not otherwise have access. We hope that others in the community will join this journey in developing the Native Justice Initiative. More information can be found on the Tribal Court webpage, including a short film.

"It sparked my interest from a year ago and how far we've come. Now to be in front of a camera to try to bring the community into saying... yes we have problems... yes they can be solved... and we want to do it on a community level. We can solve our own problems."

Steve Winchester, Tribal Council Member

Judicial Processing of Cases

The Pokagon Band Tribal Court is a court of general jurisdiction. Tribal Court continues to develop with growth in the community. The Judiciary and court personnel are committed to providing a court system that reflects the values, culture and spirit of Pokagon Band Tribal community.

The Court's inception began in 2003. After the development of the Courthouse, appointment of judges and initial infrastructure, the first case was filed in 2004. The majority of cases in the beginning concerned child protection matters because it is important that decisions involving Tribal children be made in the Band's own court. Thus, transfer of Indian Child Welfare cases from the State court to the Band's own court was a major impetus for the development of the Tribal courts. However, with the economic development of the Pokagon Band, the Court is addressing a variety of cases which have greatly increased after the opening of the Four Winds Casino Resort in August of 2007.

Chart 1: Growth in Caseload from 2004–2014

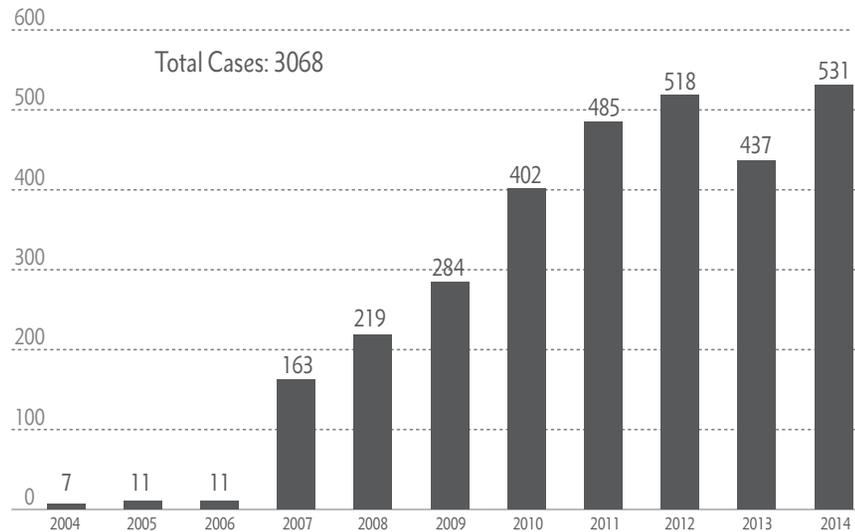
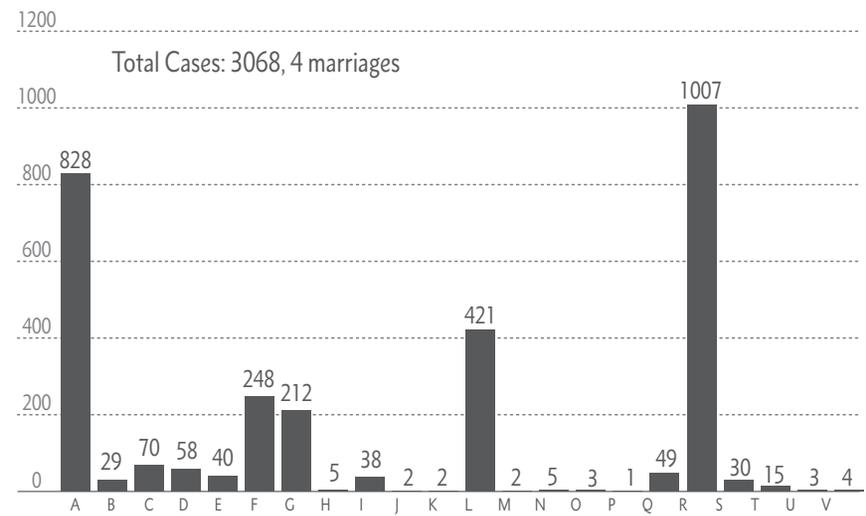
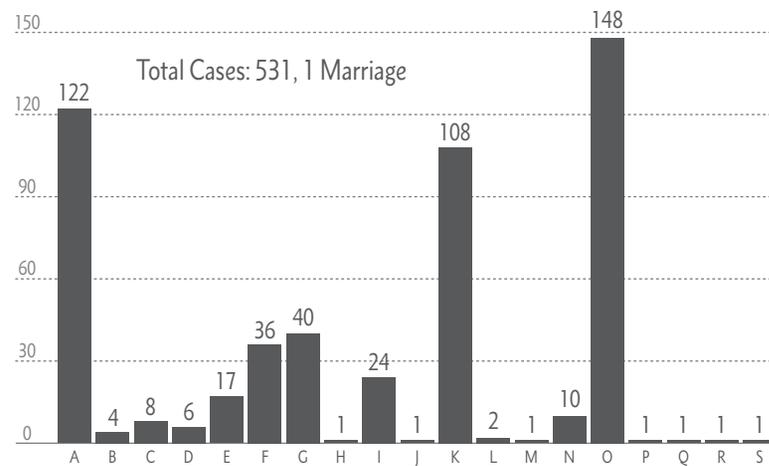


Chart 2: Types of Cases Filed 2004–2014



- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Child Support Recognition | K. Administrative Appeal |
| B. Bankruptcy Deduction | L. Per Capita Distribution for Delinquent Child Support |
| C. IRS Garnishment (Including 1 HUD, 1 SSA Case and 1 Dept. of Agriculture Case and 1 Dept. Treasury Small Business Assoc.) | M. Garnishment of Per Capita by Garnishment Code for Debt to Tribe |
| D. Student Loan Garnishment | N. Enrollment |
| E. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Subpoena | O. Election |
| F. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Judgment | P. Exclusion |
| G. Foreign Judgment Garnishment | Q. Criminal Offense |
| H. Garnishment of Per Capita by Garnishment Code for IRS Levy | R. Civil Infraction |
| I. General Civil | S. Child Protection |
| J. Small Claims | T. Adoption |
| | U. Court of Appeals |
| | V. Marriage |

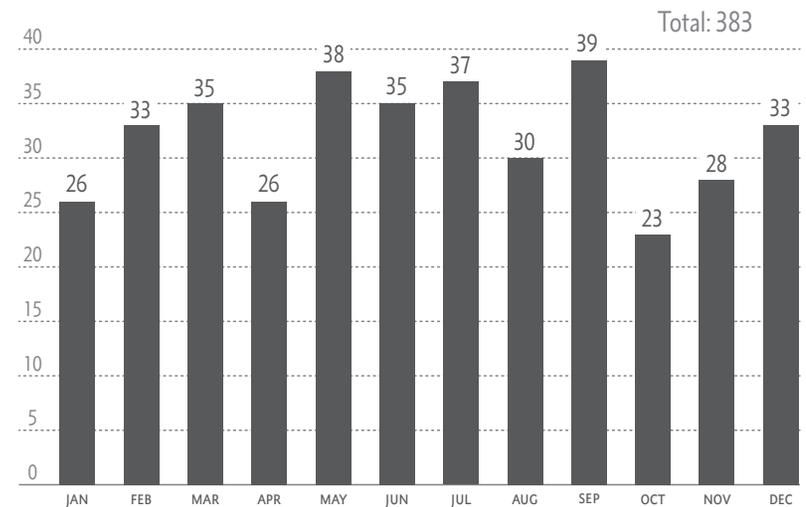
Chart 3: Types of Cases Filed 2014



- A. Child Support Recognition
- B. Bankruptcy Deduction
- C. IRS Garnishment
- D. Student Loan Garnishment
- E. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Subpoena
- F. Recognition and Entitlement of Enforcement of Foreign Judgment
- G. Foreign Judgment Garnishment
- H. Garnishment of Per Capita by Garnishment Code for IRS Levy
- I. General Civil
- J. Small Claims
- K. Per Capita Distribution for Delinquent Child Support
- L. Election
- M. Exclusion
- N. Criminal Offense
- O. Civil Infraction
- P. Child Protection
- Q. Adoption
- R. Court of Appeals
- S. Marriage

The Court schedules and holds hearings in a variety of cases. The number of hearings scheduled has increased with the caseload of the Court. Although some hearings are scheduled and may not be held primarily due to respondents entering a plea prior to a hearing or for failing to appear at the hearing, Court staff must still prepare and serve the proper paperwork needed for the hearing.

Chart 4: Number of Hearings and Trials Scheduled Monthly 2014



FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Tribal Court continues to develop for the future. Goals of the Tribal Court are to:

- provide a fully functioning judicial forum for all matters heard by the Tribal Court built on the community values, culture and spirituality; and
- continue to exercise judicial authority consistent with the sovereign powers of the Band and to provide for operation as a branch of government consistent with the principles of separation of powers.

Objectives of the Court for the immediate future are the continued:

- collaboration with various branches of government, the community and service departments to provide a judicial system that is culturally appropriate to the Pokagon Band;
- enactment of chapters of court rules and administrative orders for jury selection, contempt, the expansion of recognition of foreign court warrants, subpoenas and other judicial acts and civil offense procedures to meet the increasing jurisdictional needs of the Band;
- development of culturally appropriate probationary services for diversion programs and community service programs;
- advancement of the case management system to provide for efficiency in staff's work, case flow management, data collection and generation of reports for informed decision making;
- development of further procedural processes for Court staff; and
- identification of outside resources for the development of the Tribal Court infrastructure.



Elders Council

Looking back, this year has been a productive time for our Council. We hope that we have made your lives a little more enjoyable in the events that we presented. We tried to listen to your input and serve you in a way that you had an active part in your Council.

The elders membership is growing. At last count we are 500 plus strong. It is both an honor and privilege to represent you. We are reaching out to you for comments and suggestions to better serve you. Please feel free to contact any one of us to improve.

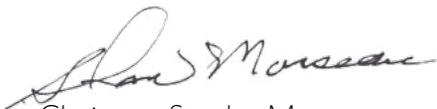
We have many programs in place to make life as easy as can be. All information regarding programs are either on the website or in the newsletter. We update both as quickly as possible.

Our biggest project was our trip to New York City. A group of 93 elders made the trip to enjoy the sights and visit Times Square. We also went to Central Park, the Museum of Natural History, Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, and a Broadway play. We have many ongoing

projects, such as our emergency fund, snow removal, monthly socials, and educational help with electronic devices. Others included:

- Detroit Tigers game with the Youth Councils
- MIEA conferences
- Mt. Pleasant Boarding School visit
- Annual Elders picnic
- Trips to the Mall of America, the Potawatomi Gathering, and the mounds in Newark, Ohio

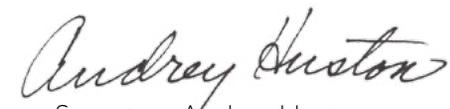
Our goals are simple: we can only do what you suggest. Your comments determine what we do on a yearly basis. We open up each meeting with the hope that you will make a comment or suggest an activity or share an idea. Help us attain our goal by bringing your ideas to our attention.



Chairman Stanley Morseau



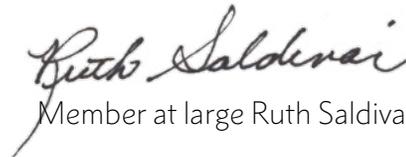
Vice Chair Maxine Margiotta



Secretary Audrey Huston



Treasurer Clarence White



Member at large Ruth Saldivar







We venture around the circle, encountering purpose and meaning along our journeys. We stumble over mistakes, and those mistakes mature into lessons. We enter the world as infants in the east, growing into adolescents in the south. We then look west as adults, ending our journey in the north as elders. We teach and learn as we follow our life's path until the end.

As a tribal government, we strive to meet the needs of every stage through which citizens venture. The 2014 Annual Accomplishment Report is organized to reflect this journey, displaying our 2014 services beginning in the east.



Just as the
yellow sun rises
in the east, so
do the lives
of precious
children begin.
Though small,
babies contain
great teachings
from the
spirit world,
reminding us of
innocence and
simplicity.

Infant mental health program multiplies children serviced

The infant mental health (IMH) program began in the fall 2014, when Behavioral Health Counselor Shaun West received his IMH endorsement.

Pokagon Band children under the age of eight and their care givers have access to services more specific to their needs, and the number of children benefiting from the Behavioral Health Program has increased immensely.

“Prior to the infant mental health initiative, we serviced approximately four children between the ages of zero to eight,” said Daun Bieda, Behavioral Health Program supervisor. “Within one year we have seen over a 100 percent increase in patients between the ages of zero to eight.”

The care provided through IMH has yielded positive results for children and their care givers. Children have improved outcomes, and their care givers’ parenting patterns, the parent-child interactions and relationships, and responses when playing have all improved.

“In children, we have seen both reduced problems and enhanced positive social-behavioral development,” Bieda said. “The child’s

feeding and sleeping problems have been reduced, as well as the child’s disruptive, aggressive, and anxious behavior.” For parents, the treatments have helped them minimize harmful behaviors and replace poor habits with positive parenting patterns. After treatment, they also displayed lower levels of controlling behavior and intrusiveness in play. Depression and parenting stress also fell.

“These parents also showed increased acceptance of their child and more accessibility, sensitivity, and responsiveness,” Bieda said. “They reported increased feelings of competence and greater happiness.”

The IMH program believes in preventative care and helping the parent and child have the best relationship possible.

“This is not about somebody being a bad parent,” West said. “Babies don’t come with manuals. They don’t. It’s not about what they’re doing wrong. It’s about helping them make things better for them. It’s not about pointing fingers. It’s about improving our abilities as parents.”



Foster Care Program opening native homes to native children

Pokagon Ruth Froberg saw the “Become a foster parent” ads in the newsletter, and something stirred in her heart. For many years she and her husband, Bill, discussed the possibility, and in 2014, they opened their home and their hearts to native children in need of a home.

They knew their family of four might fall in love with a child they brought into their home, so they entered the program open to adoption.

“We love kids,” Ruth said. “I always tell people that my husband was made to have 100 kids. He just has all the love in the world.”

The Band’s foster program guided the Frobergs through the licensing process. The program offers support to participating families through financial aid, such as gas cards to appointments, childproofing of their home, and necessary childcare supplies. They also help families understand the process.

“They’ve been great at being that mediator, especially with all the court dates and all the court stipulations,” Ruth said. “They’re very good at educating us who are going through it for the very first time.”

From completing physicals to getting their dog licensed, the Frobergs had the support of Social Services. Ruth says they assisted with any needs that arose.

This experience has brought the Froberg family together. Ruth’s 12- and 15-year-olds come out from behind their screens to be more involved with their new sibling. Ruth was home with her first two children for eight years, but now she works full time at Four Winds. The entire family has therefore become quite the team, and Ruth says communication is the vital piece of their growing family.

“The love, that’s the best experience,” Ruth said. “The love and knowing that we’re going to be giving (children) a good home.” The Frobergs are open to fostering more children. They might just get their 100 kids yet.

4

bibisäk



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/infants/foster-care

Your love shelters our children.
To help, call Foster Care/Adoptions (269) 462-4216.



LAUNCH program provides a voice for caregivers of Pokagon kids

Two years ago, the Pokagon Band was one of three Potawatomi tribes in Michigan awarded a federal grant of nearly \$4.2 million through Project LAUNCH. The five-year program aims to promote health and wellness in children through age eight. As part of this effort, in 2014 the Department of Social Services formed a parent group, to hear directly from caregivers about the needs of their children and how the tribe can meet those needs.

Rachel Orvis, whose family includes husband Dean and 18-month-old Bo, joined the group. “I wanted to be a voice for Bo, so that there will be tribal programs to support him as he gets older.”

Mike and Shannon Snay, who have six grown children, recently adopted two young children, and are in the process of adopting two other youngsters, also felt compelled to join.

“Since we already have successfully raised six, and we have four in the age range of zero to eight, we thought we’d get involved,” Shannon said.

The group is open to any caregiver of a Pokagon child, and it meets monthly.

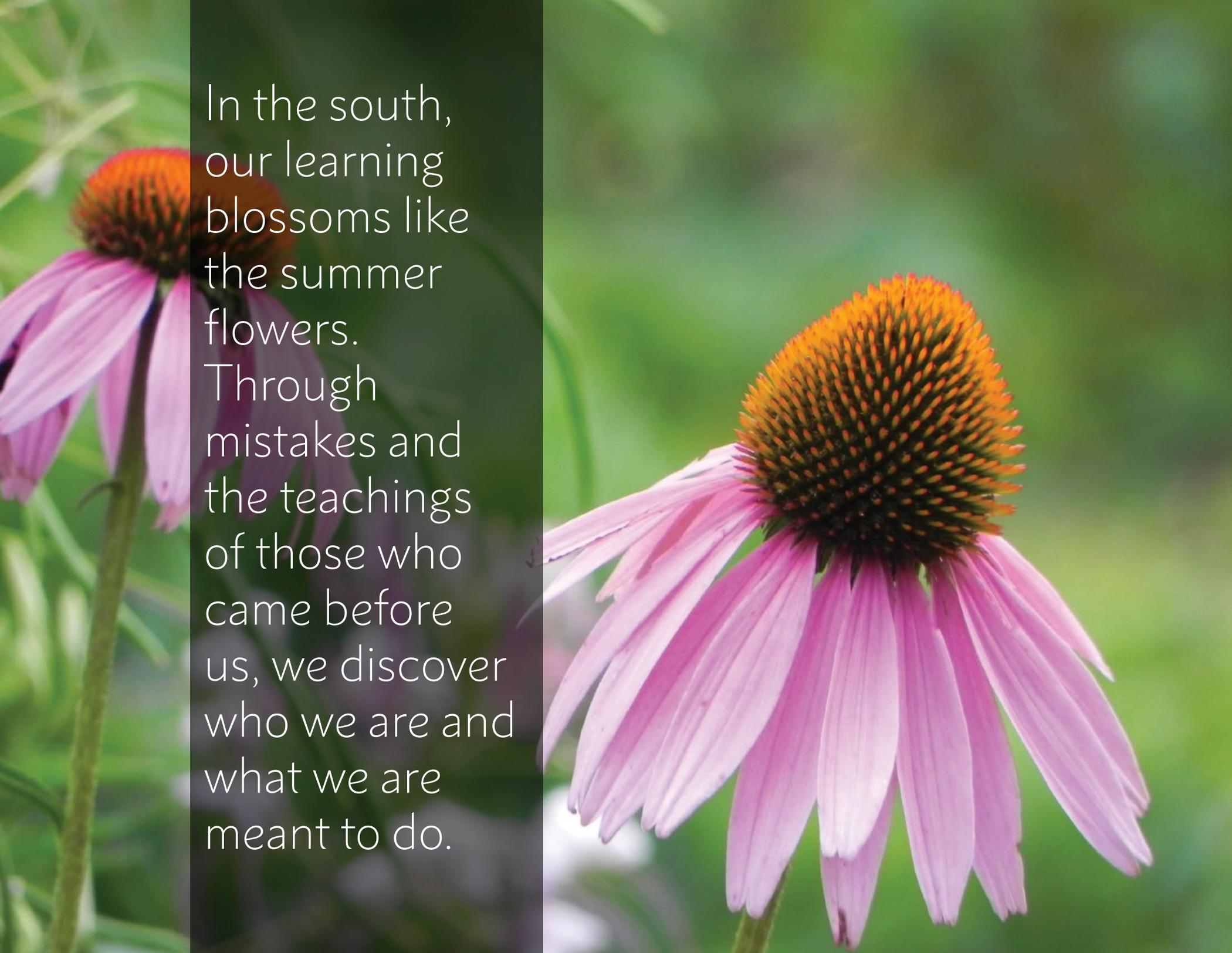
“We start with a cultural teaching from a Council member,” Shannon said. “It’s important for us to learn culture, and to combine the culture and the needs to present day, so it doesn’t get lost.”

“We talk as a group about how the departments could meet the (kids’) needs,” Rachel said. “It’s been really helpful to have an in-person dialog with them. Often we’re not aware of services or programs, like Behavioral Health’s acupuncture and massage therapy.”

The group is starting to plan activities to support children (stay tuned for a mom-to-mom sale/fundraiser in the spring), pinpointing how they can support and be a voice for other parents. And they’re pleased to already see some of their suggestions put into action.

“There are so many ideas,” Shannon said. “The main goal is to get the kids involved earlier in education and their culture.”





In the south,
our learning
blossoms like
the summer
flowers.
Through
mistakes and
the teachings
of those who
came before
us, we discover
who we are and
what we are
meant to do.

Édawat park brings kids together

In the fall of 2014, apprentices, maintenance, and grounds team members completed phase one of Édawat Central Park. Now standing are two playground structures, swings, and basketball courts.

“The park offers residents healthy options for exercise and fresh air and offers a safe play environment for children,” said Jim Coleman, director of Housing and Facilities. “Prior to the park, kids would play in the parking lots or in the street.”

Pokagon citizen and Édawat resident Anthony Foerster frequents the new playground with his children, who have enjoyed making friends in the new play space.

“Before we had (the park), we didn’t even know there were kids living out here,” Foerster said.

“It’s fun,” said one of Foerster’s children. The kids’ favorites are the swings and the basketball court. One of the children, Foerster says, will go out and play basketball all day long.

Through several community meetings, Housing noted that swings, climbing structures, and basketball courts were the most important features for the kids, all of which are included in the park. A spring-mounted horse and motorcycle, merry go round, and teeter-totter are a few of the additional features at the park. Equipment suited for toddlers, children with handicaps, and older kids are also included.

The next phases of development for the park include a picnic pavilion, grills, fitness stations, and playing field.

“With the addition of a grassy playing field, they will be able to play ball, lacrosse, frisbee, and other fun sports,” Coleman said.



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/youth/park



Enrichment Program helps youth work with hawks

There are only about 3,000 people in the U.S. who are licensed falconers, but Pokagon youngster Cole Topash and his parents Kristin and Hollie Topash are three of them. Fourteen year-old Cole and his parents have been practicing falconry, one of the most highly-regulated hunting sports around, for more than two years.

Cole earned his license at age 14, and he's working his way through his apprenticeship on his way to becoming a general and finally master falconer. Part of the fees for his training and state license exam (on which he scored a 92—the highest in his family!) came from the Department of Education's Enrichment Program, which supports students participating in camps or other extra-curricular activities.

Falconry is no easy activity. "It's a lifestyle," said Hollie. "You have to hunt (the birds) or interact with them on a daily basis, one to two hours a day, or they revert back to a wild state."

According to Cole, falconers construct a 12' x 12' mew, an enclosure complete with perches, for their birds, which must be cleaned daily. They hand make much of their equipment: perches and anklets and jesses made from cow or kangaroo leather.

Birds can be caught from the wild or transferred from another falconer. Cole's bird is a four-year old Harris hawk named Mia. The family also has a red tailed hawk named Shawdesé' which in Potawatomi means "where the heat comes from," and another red tailed hawk named Shkoté' meaning "flying spirit." The red tailed hawk is a meaningful bird to the Potawatomi; it is the bird that flew to the sun to bring back fire to the keepers of the fire.

It takes usually about a month to train the birds to follow their human from tree to tree, to return when signaled, and to land on their trainer's heavily-gloved hand. The birds hunt for rats, rabbit, quail, or squirrel.

"I really enjoy it," Cole said. "Hunting the birds is my favorite thing; it's exciting. I love to see my bird fly, knowing all the work I put into it, watching it do what it's supposed to do."







Discovery Kits provide STEM and STEAM

Tribal citizen Ben Brown and his wife Penny make usual treks from South Bend to our Dowagiac campuses with their two sons, especially when it's time for Discovery Kits.

Discovery Kits are given to Pokagon Band children, up to grade 12, every summer. They include fun and mind-bending toys, books, and other activities. The contents provide an outlet for learning during the summer while kids are on break and are not engaged in regular learning activities.

Darius and Darren took their first kits home in 2013, and 2014 was no

different: they play with each toy and arrange every puzzle until the pieces are lost or broken from use. The clear favorite of the Browns and other recipients were the Legos.

"They're fun!" Darius said, remembering the Legos. The Education Department included the Legos this summer to incorporate STEM (science, technology, engineering and math education) into the kits. The art supplies added another learning component, broadening STEM to the newly popular STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math education).

A couple of the items in the kits, like the planters and bug homes, required additional effort, offering

opportunities for parents and children to work together. This was the Education Department's third year distributing Discovery Kits. They gave about 300 kits to Pokagon Band children, within and outside of the ten-county service area.

"I think it's awesome," Penny said about the Discovery Kits. "I think everything they get from the (Band) is just awesome."

10
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Youth discover culture and opportunities

In 2014, the Departments of Language and Culture and Tribal Police worked hand in hand to build positive relationships with Pokagon youth. The new year kicked off with the youth lock in and continued with the traditional travel activity, the youth hunt, culture camp, and finished with the Christmas favorite: Shop with a Cop.

Organizers and youth were honored to have First Sgt. Ben Graves speak at the lock in. Sgt. Graves lost his son to suicide; he spoke about youth suicide prevention and wellness. Native youth have the highest rates of suicide-related deaths, so the group was grateful that he shared his significant story and perspective.

Skyler Daisy, Senior Youth Council member, went on the traditional travel trip that included canoeing, fishing, and camping. His lessons from the trip were both contemporary and time-honored.

“Don’t bring your cell phone!” he said, remembering when his canoe tipped. “And, have faith in your fellow council members; they saved me and a bunch of my stuff.”

“The collaboration I have with my youth council family gave me the drive to graduate from high school,” he said. “It flipped my life around,

and I did. And now I’m doing all sorts of cool things like attending NCAI conferences in D.C.”

In July, youth attended culture camp, and a group traveled north to Drummond Island to take part in the Great Lakes Traditional Arts Gathering, learning about and reviving traditions of the past.

“There was a huge sense of unity and kinship between those that went,” Officer Eric Shaer said. “I feel experiences like this will help solidify a stronger sense of culture and allow us to bring back some of the teachings that many have forgotten.”

At the youth deer hunt in September, Pokagon youth learned how to hunt safely and effectively while honoring the earth and wildlife in a traditional Potawatomi way.

“Effective community policing starts with the youth, that way they can grow up and have a good vision of the police,” said Richard Newcomer, a former Youth Council member and new Tribal Police officer.



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/youth/police



The west sets
our lives in
motion. We care
for the young
and the old,
listening to their
wisdom and
sharing our own.
Our obligations
to the tribe and
its people are
many, matched
with spiritual
and tangible
rewards.





Storage units lock away citizen worries

Linda Cook, a tribal citizen and employee in the Finance Department, lived with her husband Chris and their daughter Sammie in a four-bedroom rental home in Niles.

In November 2014, their landlord sold the home, and the Cooks had to leave. After waiting on the list, a townhome opened in Pokégnek Édawat, and the Cooks moved in September 1. This townhome was smaller than they were used to—two bedrooms, for starters, instead of four—and they could not fit all their belongings.

The Housing Department offered a solution.

In November, 48 nine-by-eleven foot storage units became available to Pokagon Band citizens, located behind the department's new building. The Cooks filled two.

The doors are almost the width of the units making for easy access. Security is 24/7, including individual key codes to open the gate, a surveillance camera, and security lighting.

The monthly rate is approximately \$20 less than comparable size units elsewhere, according to Housing's Administrative Assistant Lisa Johnson. Revenue from the rental fees goes back into Housing programs, helping support other citizen needs.

The Housing Department heard from tenants and potential tenants that storage at Édawat was a concern, so Housing answered quickly with these brand new units, their use not limited to tenants, but open to all tribal members. Also available is RV parking at \$1 per linear foot.

Now, Mr. and Mrs. Cook are living comfortably in their townhome, and on the weekends, their daughter makes it a full home.

"For the future, we're looking to buy," Chris said.

"We have our wish list of our dream home," Linda said. "We're standing and believing that will be fulfilled—hopefully soon."



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/adults/storage-units



Planning activities move to Housing Department

In 2014, the work of tribal planning and geographic information system (GIS) joined the Housing Department for better collaboration on community development. Pokagon Matthew Bussler is the tribe's GIS professional, and since he assumed that role 18 months ago, he's been busy learning GIS and mapping such tribal features as buildings, utility lines, roads, and signs.

"Like the roots of a tree, the underground infrastructure ties our community together, so it's very important that we know where the various lines are," said Housing Director Jim Coleman.

"GIS creates visual aids to see prior utility placement and to know what resources are there," Bussler said. "It streamlines the process for analyzing future development. We can see tie-in points or water mains, transformers for electricity; it allows us to make educated decisions about commercial and residential development."

He's also taken on archiving responsibilities, organizing a comprehensive tribal property holdings book. Compiling such documents as land titles, surveys, blue prints, land classification, and tax ID numbers in one place provides a powerful tool for land use.

"Now land acquisition analysis with Land Use Board is easier, and they can make educated decisions on purchases," Bussler said.

Bussler admits he had a steep learning curve when he took on this position, but there were many opportunities for training and conferences, and lots of learning the ropes with on the job experience. With instructor-lead and online courses, he's earned 18 certifications in GIS so far.

"It feels great to use these skills and to see what I can do with all this training," he said. "Knowing that I'm doing this for my tribe, that I am blood to this place, there's no other place I'd like to be doing this. I'm very proud."



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/adults/gis

Apprentices progress through program

Now in its fourth year, the tribe's Carpenter Apprenticeship program has 15 Pokagons and spouses engaged in learning and practicing a new trade on the job and in the classroom. In 2014, apprentices worked on such projects as a gazebo for the healing garden at Rodgers Lake, a community service roof repair in South Bend, and renovations at Four Winds New Buffalo.

"I'm learning new things on the computer, using Microsoft Excel and Word," said Dustin Dixon, one of the three fourth-year students. "In business class we look at the stock market and graphs keeping track of materials and supplies, being more aware of managing money."

Tim Downing is in his third year of the apprenticeship program. One day a week he and the other six third-year students are in class, and other days they work on job sites. He recently renovated the Timbers restaurant and some restrooms at Four Winds New Buffalo.

"It's going good," he said. "There's a lot of work coming up."

When Dixon finishes in the spring 2015, he says he's going to be a contractor.

"It'll be a small business to start off with, me and a couple other apprentices. I'll keep getting my hours in."

Downing plans to get his business contractors license after finishing his fourth year in the program. When an apprentice reaches 8,000 work hours, he or she can obtain a Journeyman Carpenters card.

"I think more people should get into it," Dixon said.

"[The program] is a real good opportunity, for everybody," Downing said. "It teaches a skill, something you'll use always in your life. And then it lets us give back to the tribe for its investment in us."

15
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kwëwëk





Tribal citizen employed through WIA program

Pokagon Amanda Kedik needed a job. After working in optics for 15 years, Kedik moved and joined the Band as a temp. When Social Services created a front desk receptionist position, Kedik jumped at the opportunity. To apply, she had to first enter the WIA program (Workforce Investment Act), and the program gave Kedik much more than she expected.

WIA is a federally funded training and job placement program. Through it, the Band provides resume help, schooling and training opportunities, and other supportive services for self-sufficiency and employability to not only Pokagon Band citizens but members of any federally recognized tribe in the ten-county service area. Kedik was one of 100 tribal citizens to take part in WIA in 2014, and one of 48 of the considered “active participants.”

Kedik worked in Social Services for five months, thankful to have a steady job and continued support through WIA, when she heard of

the optical specialist position in the new Health Center. She knew that was where she wanted to be.

Kedik needed to have her resume together to apply for the optical position, and WIA guided her through it. Traci Henslee, workforce training & resource specialist, helped Kedik round out her resume and practice using Microsoft programs like Word and Excel.

Kedik applied for the optical specialist position full of confidence with her new skills and proper resume. She started as the optical specialist when the Health Center opened in November, ending her WIA journey right where she wanted to be.

“I didn’t go all the way with WIA, but I would have,” Kedik said. “I know without a doubt that if this wasn’t my stop off, I would have.”

Higher education student finds a way to achieve goals

Taneesha Weems is a busy woman. She's mom to a toddler and an infant; she's an honor roll student in a full-time master's program in social work at Wayne State University; she's working a job and an internship.

Her Pokagon higher education scholarship takes one worry off her plate.

"The big one for me is the finances; it's been huge in determining whether and when I went on to my masters," she said. "They like (us) to succeed in education, and I took advantage of that. I'm just really grateful."

"She is a student that is committed to giving back to our citizens," said Joseph Avance, higher education specialist. "She completed an internship with the Education Department and did a great job."

Weems enjoyed teaching summer school and being in the classroom with kids during her internship with the Band. In her social work studies, Weems is focusing on assisting families.

"I'd like to work with tribal communities, keeping kids in the tribal communities," she said. "To see how much the tribe cares about their kids helped me go toward keeping that family system together."

Weems is determined to be successful, and the support of the Education Department gives her an edge.

"They do a really good job of being available. Joe is always there and a huge help," she said. "Without the open communication, it would have added to my stress."



Language Program saving Bodewadmi-mowin

Christine Morseau remembers as a child hearing Julia Wesaw and Agnes Rapp speaking the native language to each other while making baskets.

“I would hear them laughing, but I didn’t know what they were saying.” These days, thanks to three language classes a week, she probably could.

Christine studied Potawatomi for years with Frank Barker, but feels like this year she’s making big progress.

“Right now I know so much more than I did then,” she said. “For some reason everything is starting to click. I’m expanding my vocabulary to put sentences together.”

Serrina O’Brien is another student taking advantage of the language program.

“If our language dies, then a part of us and our culture, heritage, and history dies too,” she said. “I don’t want to contribute to the goals of the boarding schools if I have the power and the opportunity to learn it.”

She goes to class once a week at the Community Center and to the workshops held each month by the language apprentices Kyle Malott and Carla Collins.

“It’s so cool when you see them having conversations in the language; It’s encouraging!” She could tell when they were speaking they weren’t pausing to translate, they were thinking in Potawatomi.

“I want to be able to speak it as proficiently as possible, and when I have children I want to be able to speak it with them. This makes you feel closer to the culture, like you’re contributing to revitalizing it.”

Morseau attends three classes a week: Monday’s elders class, Tuesdays in Dowagiac, and Thursday in South Bend, with instructor John Winchester.

“I just always wanted to learn it. It seemed so hard, but now, I’ll be driving down the road and see something, and I think, ‘I can put that into a sentence!’ I’ll just have something floating in my head. I think of words all the time. Something is telling me I must be learning it.”

“I like it. I will keep it up. I love to lay tobacco down and say morning prayers in Potawatomi.”

18

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To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/adults/language





PHS patient appreciates all of the help

“As a social worker, I’m always trying to find alternatives,” said Melody Pillow, the medical social worker at Pokagon Health Services.

Each day, Pillow works with patients at PHS, offering support in ways specific to their circumstances. In one patient’s case, this work has made a world of difference.

Joseph Walters moved to Dowagiac from Pontiac, Michigan in 2014 to have better access to the tribe’s health services. Cataracts have dramatically decreased his vision, and complications from diabetes and high blood pressure cause additional problems.

Working with community health nurses and the PHS dietician, Pillow helps address Walters’ medical and social needs. One hurdle involved lots of paperwork: applying for security/disability benefits and expediting the long-delayed transfer of his benefits case to Cass County. Walters has trouble seeing small print and needed assistance to fill out paperwork and pay his bills.

“It took ten hours of work for one application,” she said.

It’s a lot of work,” agrees Walters. “You really have to use your brain, so I’m glad she’s here,”

Since becoming a patient at Pokagon Health Services, Walters’ medical conditions have stabilized.

“Jessica the nurse visits and helps with my medication and takes my blood pressure, tests my sugars,” he said. The dietician helps him create meal plans to watch what he eats.

“He’s controlling his sugars, always makes his appointments with medical providers, and is taking care of himself,” said Pillow.

“Melody and Jessica have been the best thing that have happened to me,” Walters said. “I appreciate anything they do.”

“When he gets his [disability] determination and access to lots of other services, he’ll have a better life,” Pillow said. “That’s my reward.”

A winter landscape featuring a river flowing through a snowy forest. The trees are bare, and the ground is covered in snow. A large, fallen tree trunk lies across the river. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is peaceful and serene.

The white of the snow reflects the lightening of our elderly crown. In the north, we find peace because we've brought life full circle. We continue to learn from our grandbabies and pass along our stories until our journey is complete and we return home to the spirit world.



Regalia program prepares and inspires participants

The start of the regalia program in 2014 marked the opportunity for more citizens to create their own regalia, learn the cultural teachings and significance of regalia, and dance proudly around the circle.

The Language and Culture Department provided materials for citizens so they could practice key techniques like operating a sewing machine, stitching, taking body measurements, heat bond appliqué, and ribbon work. These materials helped citizens see the possibilities for their regalia.

“Regalia is a big commitment and takes many hours to complete,” explained Language Coordinator Rhonda Purcell. “We were able to show citizens that we could provide the supplies that they needed and the support they were looking for to finish what they would start.”

Elder Ruth Salvidar attended classes, and eventually completed a pair of moccasins.

“The soft leather was easy to cut and easy to sew,” Saldivar said. “Anytime there are classes with bead work, drum making, rattle making, I’m all for it. My kids are all working, so I go to the classes and will let them know how to do it. I hope to one day have my regalia. It’s a lot of fun.”

The regalia program offered socialization and cultural learning, two of the more important goals of the Language and Culture Department, Purcell said.

“Strengthening relationships within the community while we also strengthen our cultural knowledge and identity.”



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/elders/regalia



Natural Resources makes use of downed trees

This fall the DNR made use of some of the downed wood at Édawat and provided firewood to citizens. DNR team members cut and distributed wood to 49 families during the last quarter of 2014.

Judy Norberg, an elder who lives in Coloma, got a whole load.

“That was so nice,” she said. “Hopefully next year we can do it again. It’s so helpful, and saves on the gas bill.”

“This was a limited opportunity, and the DNR was glad to see citizens take advantage of it,” said Jennifer Kanine, director of Natural Resources.

One Story creates one community

Dowagiac resident Phyllis Petersen and her husband have lived in town for 45 years. They've traveled west and experienced native culture there, so coming home, Petersen desired to learn about her neighbors, the Pokagon Band. One Story provided her the opportunity.

One Story, or Ngot Yajmowen as our native Potawatomi speakers named it, is a community-wide reading program that seeks to unite participants through a common learning experience of delving into one story that began in spring 2014.

Kristie Bussler, educational resource specialist, received information on a national reading grant, but it just didn't meet the needs she saw in our community. Bussler was inspired to start the Band's own reading program and recruited influencers in the Dowagiac community to build it with her.

"We have all of these very strong entities," Bussler said, referencing the library, museum, college, and art festival. "And I thought, here we are, all working toward a current goal, but we're all working separately... why would we not pool our resources and work together to make something fantastic."

The board, composed of Bussler and representatives from the community, unanimously chose *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich

as the program's first book because of its focus on the Native American experience and complex themes. The breadth of its topics: native law, family, violence against women, justice, created opportunity for diverse events.

"I didn't want (the program) to be limiting," Bussler said. "I wanted it to be able to encompass all kinds of people."

Petersen feels her Dowagiac community is closed and difficult to break into, but she's felt nothing but included and welcome at the Band's pow wows and One Story events. She says she's grown greatly through interacting with Potawatomi culture.

"Not only in information, but also in respect, respect for a different culture," Petersen said.

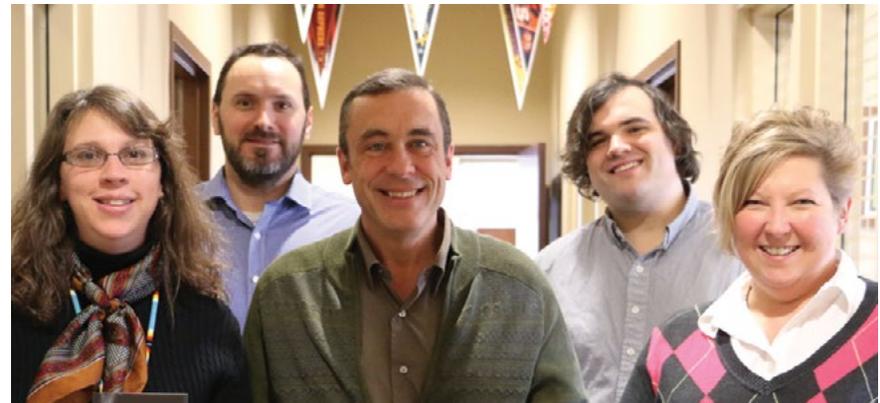
Petersen and Bussler think One Story's greatest success is bringing people together who have learned from one another's perspectives and experiences.

"We went from ground zero to having a full blown program," Bussler said. "We designed it along the way and let it grow kind of organically."

Much like the One Story logo, a tree with roots that came together to form a strong trunk, then branched out to create something diverse and beautiful.



To view online multi-media content, visit: www.pokagonband-nsn.gov/annual-accomplishment-report/elders/one-story





Health Services providing personal, integrated care

Elder Michaelann Gartner shimmied through the old clinic regularly, laughing with Clinic Manager Cindi Zwar and always feeling like the staff understood her needs and were doing everything to successfully make her well.

Living with diabetes and fibromyalgia, Gartner receives regular care from Pokagon Health Services (PHS). Gartner reports her numbers weekly and receives insulin based on the needs of the previous week. She has also been able to try several different medications for her fibromyalgia, thanks to a dedicated and caring staff.

“They did so well in the little building, making do,” Gartner said. “They really care about you. You can tell.”

The new Health Center—at 36,000 square feet and with eight different physical and mental care options—has further enhanced Gartner’s medical care.

Walking around the track at the Wellness Center alleviates pain caused by her fibromyalgia. The nutritionist is available to her for diet and exercise monitoring. The shoes made for native feet worked wonderfully for her.

“They well deserve this new building,” she said. “It’s like a community center.”

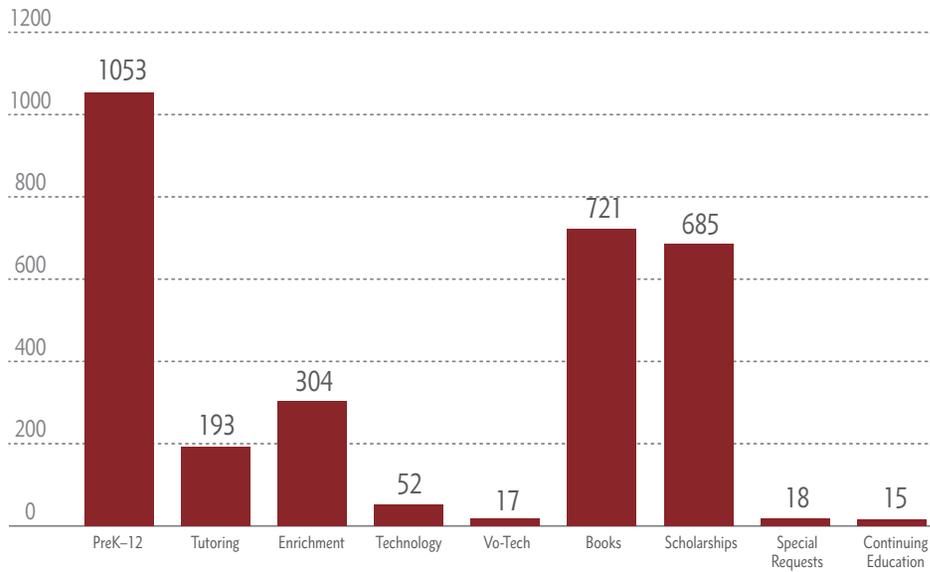
From the quality medical care Gartner receives to the educated and personable staff she meets, Gartner appreciates each visit, and she has rarely had to go outside of PHS to receive care.



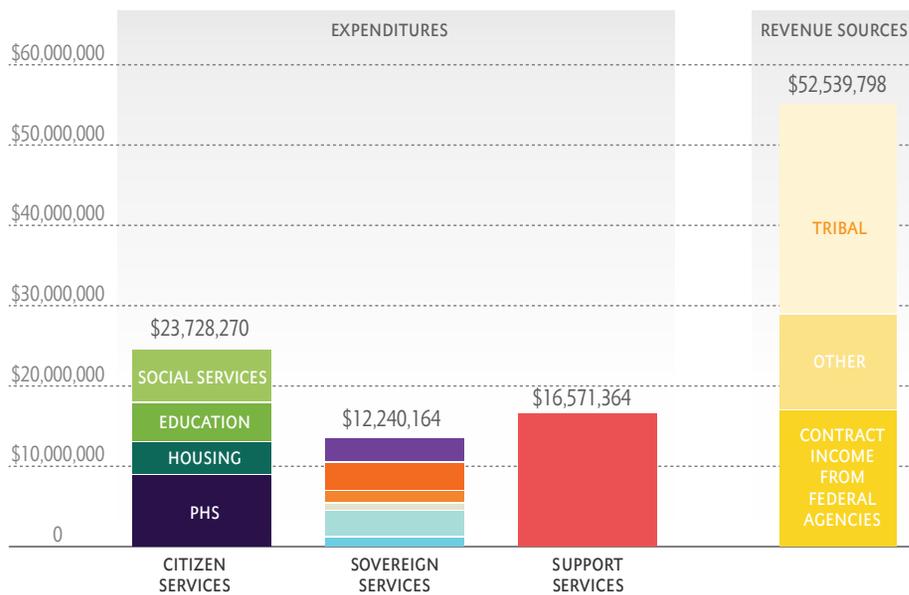
Program and Service Statements + Statistics

EDUCATION

Number of Citizens in Programs



FINANCE



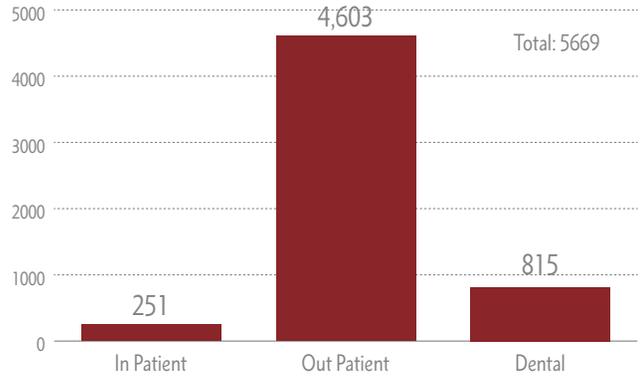
- Sovereign Services
- BCCC
 - Gaming Commission
 - Language & Culture
 - DNR
 - Tribal Police
 - Courts



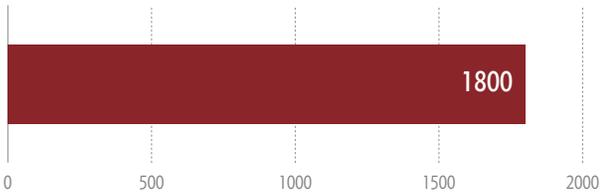


POKAGON HEALTH SERVICES

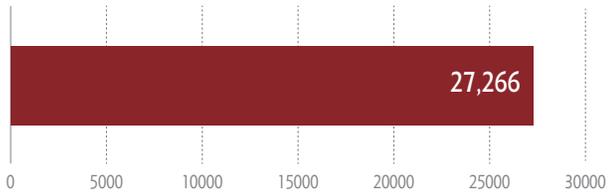
Purchased and Referred Care | Number of Claims Paid



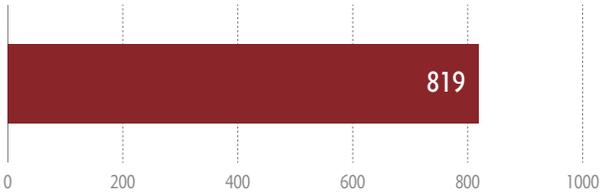
Behavioral Health | Number of Patient Visits



Pharmacy | Number of Prescriptions Filled

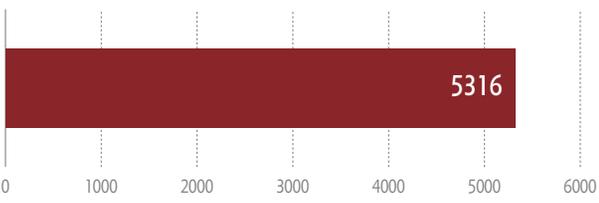


Community Outreach | Number of Home Visits

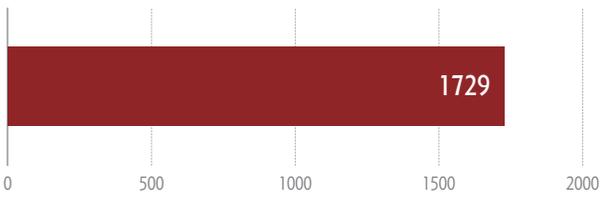


27

Clinic | Number of Patient Visits



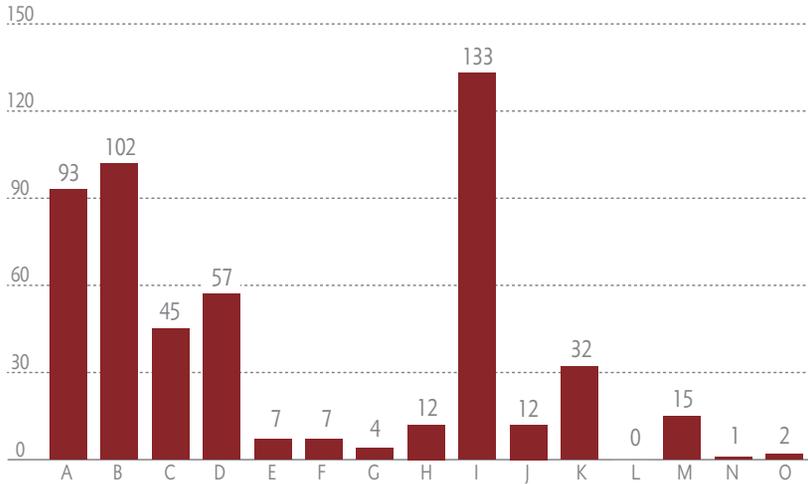
Transportation | Number of Scheduled Trips



This year the Band made history with the opening of its own health center in November. The 36,000 square foot facility offers behavioral health, pharmacy, a clinic, community outreach, dental, and optical services, a wellness center and traditional healing—all on tribal land.

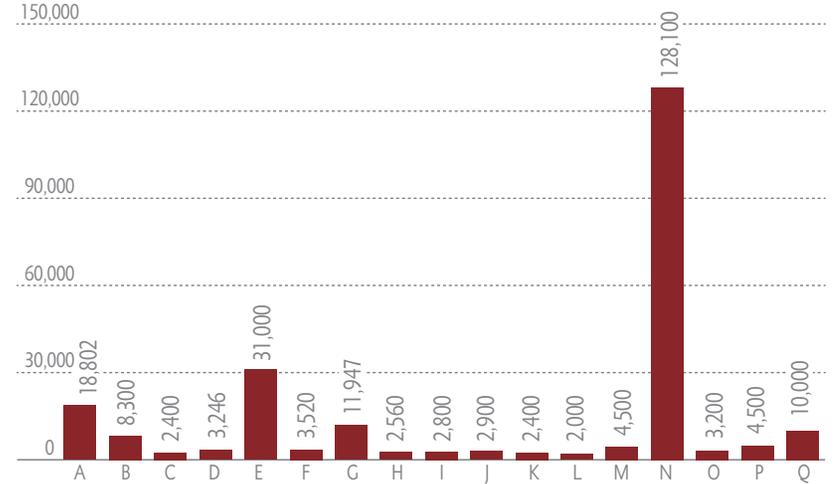
HOUSING AND FACILITIES

Number of Citizens in Programs



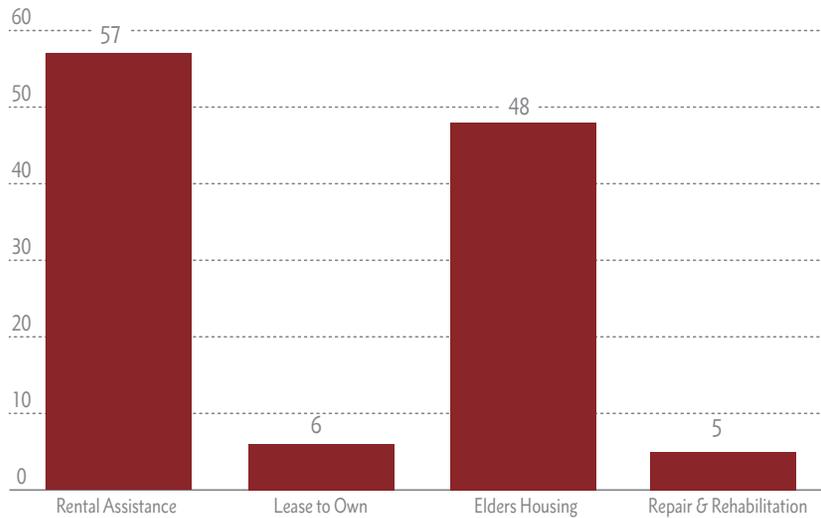
- A. Rental Assistance
- B. Student Rental Assistance
- C. SRA Inside
- D. SRA Outside
- E. Homeless Prevention
- F. Home Ownership
- G. Repair & Rehabilitation
- H. Water & Sewer Improvement
- I. Counseling Services
- J. Lease to Own
- K. Elders Housing
- L. Transitional Housing
- M. Townhomes
- N. Foster Care Home
- O. Other Housing

Square Footage per Facility



- A. Administration Building
- B. Community Center
- C. Dailey Road Pole Barn
- D. Edwards Street Office
- E. Health Services
- F. Maintenance Barn
- G. Social Services Offices
- H. Elders Hall
- I. Housing Office
- J. Gage Street Lake Facility
- K. Natural Resources Building
- L. Tribal Court Building
- M. Tribal Police Buildings
- N. Housing Units
- O. South Bend Office
- P. Head Start Building
- Q. Other

Waiting List by Program





Édawat Phase III

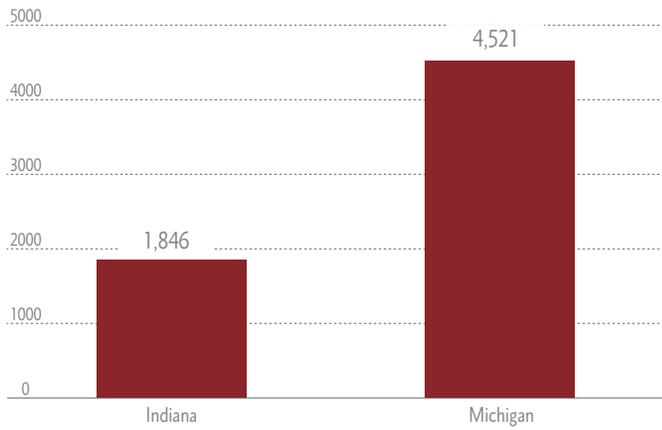


Administration Building

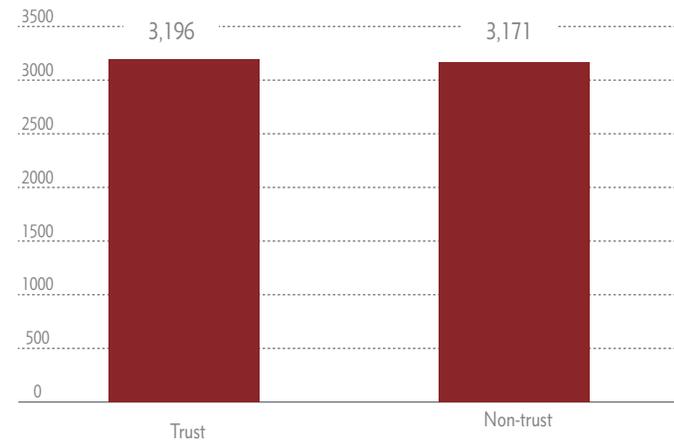


North Liberty Field Station

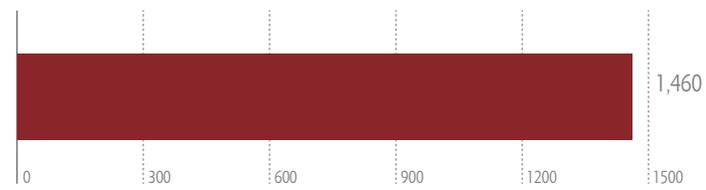
Acreage by State



Acreage by Trust



Maintenance Orders



HUMAN RESOURCES

27 of **53** new and/or replacement hires were Pokagon Band citizens or spouses for a **51%** preference hiring rate.

LANGUAGE & CULTURE

Tribal Historic Preservation Data (for October – December)

61 consultations for historic site preservation

10 examples of Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation (NAGPRA) work

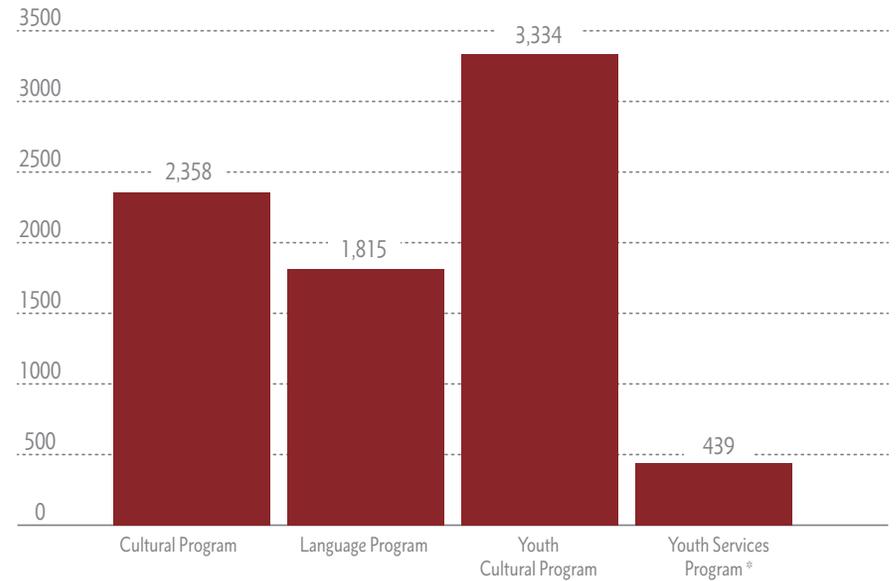
14 examples of items archived

5 examples of community preservation outreach

45 educational presentations or interactions

30

Total Participation in Language & Culture Programs



* Youth Services Program data for July – December 2014

Citizens gathered at Rodgers Lake for a festival to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Band's sovereignty and its Restoration Act September 20.



SOCIAL SERVICES

408 Pokagon households received Low Income Heat and Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), a seasonal heating assistance payment to citizens within the service delivery area. In 2014 **\$123,513** was expended.

515 households benefited from the Pokagon Band Commodities Program, which distributes monthly food supplies to Native American individuals and families within the service delivery area. The total federal share of the budget was **\$119,002**.

426 Pokagon households received assistance from Child Care Development Funds for parents participating in an approved educational plan, employed or training for employment within the service delivery area. **712** children were in care under this program. The average subsidy payment was **\$211**.

78 assistance payments were made through Administration for Child and Family to prevent the breakup of the family, and assist in reunification of families disrupted by the court. For 2014 **\$19,383** was received through Part I of this program. For Part II **\$27,572** was received.

The department processed **31** requests for the Pokagon Band Burial Fund to provide financial assistance with funeral and related expenses at the time of death of a Pokagon Band citizen, spouse, non-member parents, and children who were eligible for enrollment with the Pokagon Band.

78 participants received Supplemental Assistance to supplement, but not replace, federal, state and county assistance programs. In order to qualify, an applicant's household income, among other requirements, must be less than **\$13,500**.

192 families and **476** children benefited from the Pokagon Band Healthy Families Program.

194 documented referrals were provided to Pokagon citizens for case related purposes, referrals to service providers, and distributing benefits of income maintenance programs of which the Band is the direct grantee.

Tribal Council and CITGO provided **\$112,500** for **438** payments providing seasonal heating assistance through the Supplemental Heating Program.

440 households were assisted and **\$166,530** was expended for the Emergency Services Initiative, which helps citizens with such emergency situations as car repairs, utility disconnects, or eviction notices.

The elders Title VI lunch program served **3,834** meals and provided **1,928** take-home meals.

429 individuals, **five** departments, and **11** programs benefited from Bodewadmi LAUNCH. The aim of this project is to enhance five core strategies to promote young child wellness:

1. Screening and assessment in a range of child-serving settings.
2. Integration of behavioral health into primary care settings.
3. Mental health consultation in early care and education.
4. Enhanced home visiting through increased focus on social and emotional well-being.
5. Family strengthening and parent skills training.

This is a consortium involving the Pokagon Band, Nottawaseppi Huron Band and Match-e-be-nash-she-wish (Gun Lake) Band.

298 forms of service—from case management, training to awareness events in the community—were provided through the Domestic Violence program and the Office of Violence Against Women.

The foster care/adoption recruiter offered **147** examples of service in 2014. Since the start of this program in July 2013, **26** families inquired about becoming foster parents, **11** have attended orientation, and **6** are fully licensed. During that same time frame, **5** homes became adoptive homes.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The DNR placed and geographically marked **50 bluebird houses** on tribal properties. Staff built other bird houses, including **35 wood duck boxes** and **15 kestrel boxes**. These boxes will be marked and placed on tribal lands that are appropriate for the species early in 2015. The DNR also geographically marked the bat houses located in the Rodgers Lake area. The funding for the materials were provided through a Circle of Flight grant. This grant also supports funding for mowing firebreaks at the North Liberty property and the continued management of the native prairie areas.

DNR team members met with the United States Department of Agriculture's division of Natural Resource Conservation Service to discuss creating a site management plan for the North Liberty property. The department is determining the costs associated with building **observation platforms** at North Liberty so that citizens can enjoy viewing wildlife and lands from a different perspective using funds secured through a Department of Interior United States Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife grant.

The DNR was able to re-treat **500 black ash trees** as well as **200 new black ash trees** in order to help preserve the black ash that are on tribal properties. Baskets and black ash products are on display in the DNR office to show the types of artisan works that can

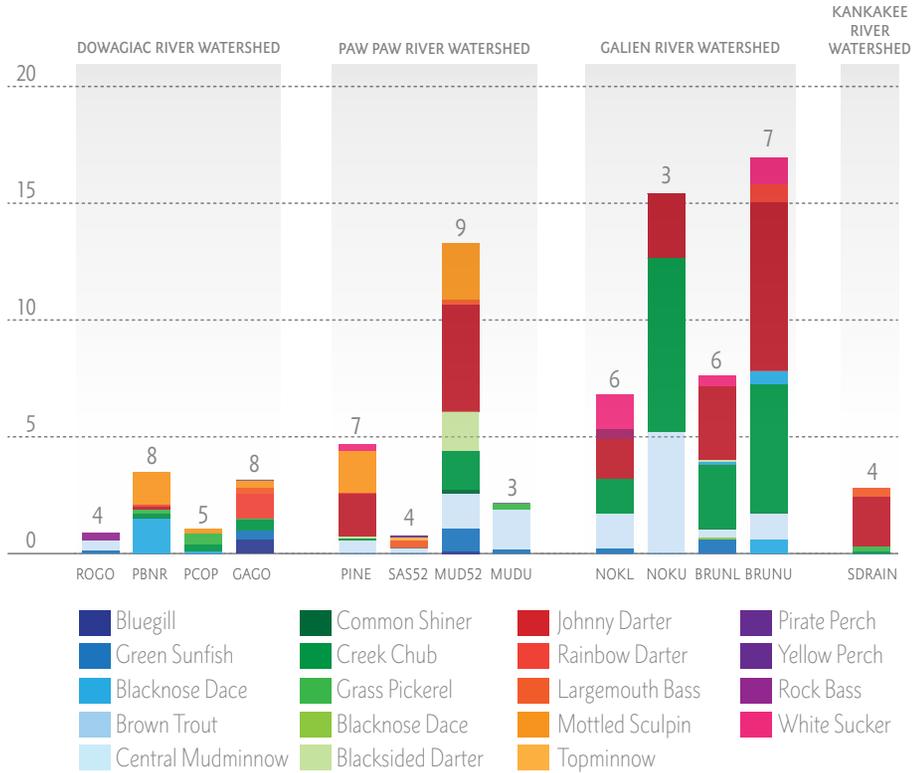
be made with black ash trees. These tasks were accomplished with the assistance of a United States Department of Agriculture's division of Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) grant. The department also began working with USDA-APHIS in order to pursue releasing stingless wasps that attack the emerald ash borer in 2015.

Work continues in the DNR's water monitoring program, which is supported through an EPA Clean Water Act (CWA) grant and tribal funds. The water monitoring program assess streams, rivers, and lakes on tribal lands to see if they are safe and healthy. A highlight from 2014 was the **first fisheries surveys** completed on all the tribe's wadeable streams. The DNR secured the CWA grant for another two years.

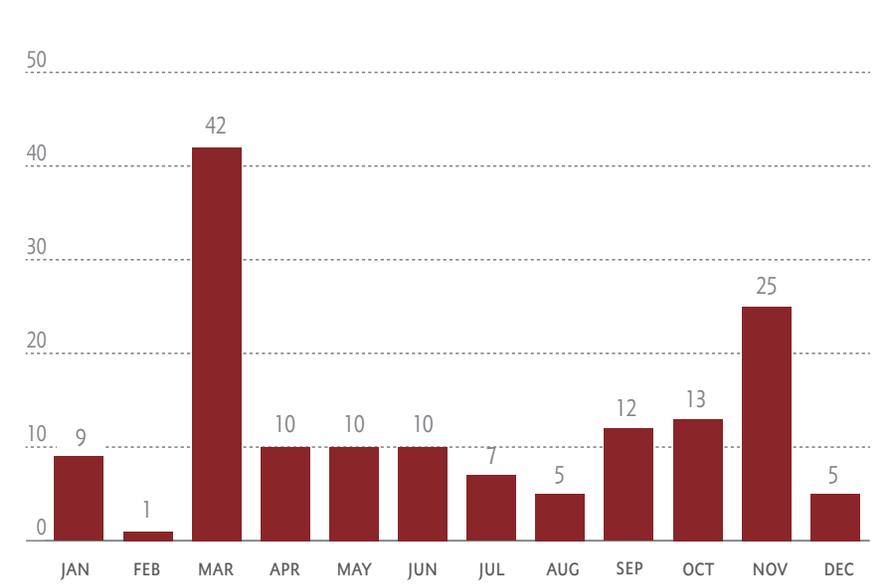
In an effort to improve fish habitat on the Rodgers Lake campus, the DNR has nearly completed plans to restore the stream that connects Rodgers Lake to the Dowagiac River. The first phase of the restoration project is to change the muck and duckweed pond near the campground pavilion back into a small free flowing creek, which will allow fish movement throughout the creek. Funding for this project has been provided by BIA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funds.



2014 Wadeable Stream Fisheries Survey: Richness and Effort Results

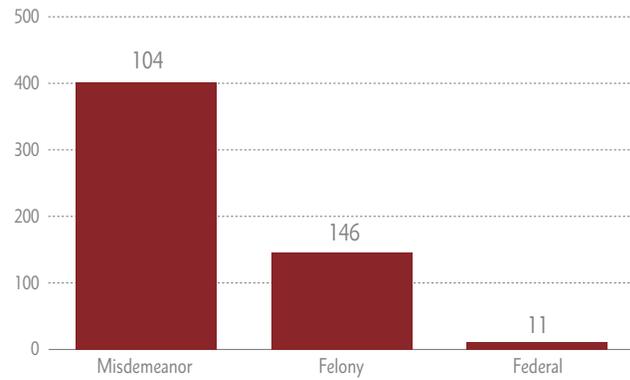


Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Permits Issued per Month

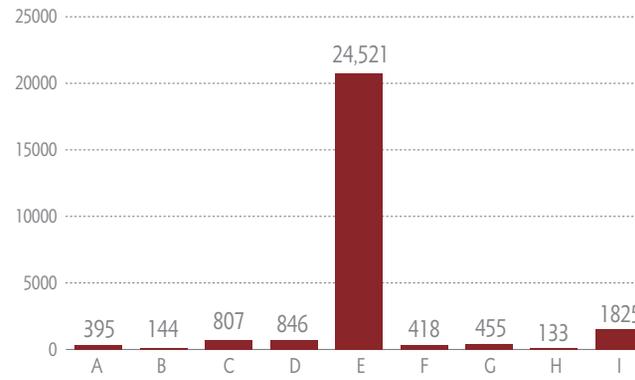


TRIBAL POLICE

Criminal Arrests

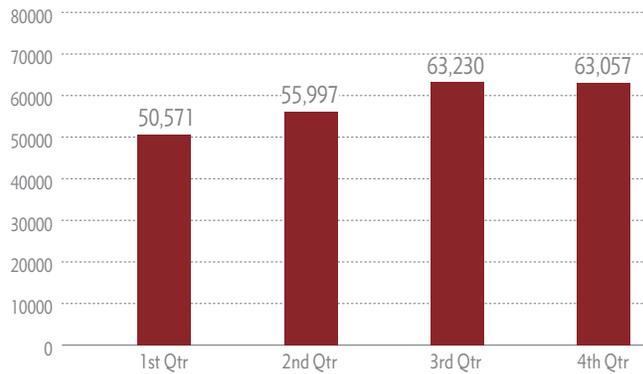


Officer Activities

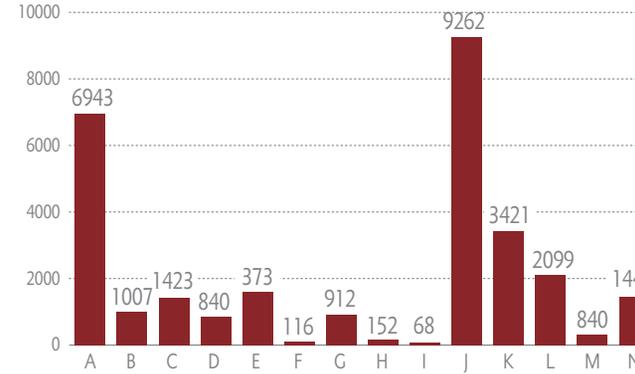


- A. Michigan traffic citations
- B. Tribal citations
- C. Traffic stops
- D. Verbal warning
- E. Property inspections
- F. Casino money escorts
- G. Community resource activities
- H. Alarms
- I. Assists other (EMS, police, fire)

Patrol Miles by Quarter

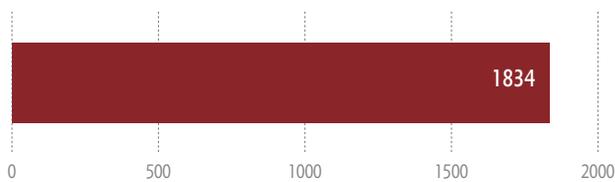


Officer Hours by Activity



- A. Administrative
- B. Assist other agency
- C. BGI
- D. Community resource
- E. Complaint/investigation
- F. Court
- G. Detective investigation
- H. Evidence processing
- I. Foot patrol
- J. Patrol
- K. Report writing
- L. Traffic
- M. Training

Number of Complaints Taken



The image features a vibrant sky at sunset or sunrise, with a dark vertical band on the left side containing white text. The sky is filled with scattered, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and yellow. A prominent, bright, vertical streak of light or smoke is visible on the left side of the sky. The horizon line is visible at the bottom, showing silhouettes of trees and utility poles.

The flow of the
medicine wheel
illustrates our
journey through
life. Each piece
signifies a life
stage, from
infancy to
elderliness.
We honor
every stage
and the lessons
and actions
connected
to each.

acknowledgments and thanks

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