



The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Boarding School Survivors during blanket ceremony at closing of 2nd Annual Boarding School Healing Conference: Honoring Native Survivance, in Tulalip, Washington.

Photo credit: Adam Sings In The Timber

STAFF*

Christine Diindiisi McCleave, M.A.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
(Turtle Mountain Ojibwe)

Rose Miron, Ph.D.
PROGRAM MANAGER
*for fiscal year 2018-2019

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(Cherokee Nation)

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Sarah Eagle Heart
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*for fiscal year 2018-2019

Letter from the Board President and Executive Director

2019 has been a monumental year for the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). In March, NABS convened a Leadership Planning Summit, bringing together leaders and visionaries consisting of board members, staff, partners, and several boarding school survivors. The summit was hosted in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, on the lands of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan near the site of the boarding school that once operated there, to develop a 10-Year Strategic Plan for NABS. Facilitated by Kauffman & Associates, Inc., the planning process produced a 2020-2030 plan that consists of four strategic pillars that will guide us in our work:

1. **Initiate a global advocacy campaign**
2. **Embody indigenous healing practices and values**
3. **Expand the organizational infrastructure and network**
4. **Develop an accessible national education platform**

Our Mission and Vision remain the same.

Vision: Indigenous cultural sovereignty.

Mission: To lead in the pursuit of understanding and addressing the ongoing trauma created by the U.S. Indian Boarding School policy.

NABS saw changes in staff during 2019. Recently, we welcomed to the team Stephen Curley (Diné) as Director of Digital Archives, Dr. Samuel Torres (Mexica) as Director of Research and Programs, and Vance Blackfox (Cherokee) stepped down from the Board to join NABS as Director of Communications.

Please take time to read this year's annual report for more detailed information on NABS's programmatic activities and financials over the past year. We are grateful for the support of our Coalition Members, Partners, and Funders. Together we will continue to bring education, advocacy, and healing to our communities across Turtle Island.

Sincerely,
Vance Blackfox, *President of the Board, FY 2018-2019*
Christine Diindiisi McCleave, *Executive Director*



Left to right: Theresa Halsey, Boarding School Survivor (Hunkpapa Lakota), Vance Blackfox (Cherokee), George McCauley, Boarding School Survivor (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska), Christine McCleave (Anishinaabe), Shannon Martin, Executive Director, Ziibiwing Center (Ojibwe & Potawatomi), Rose Miron, Freddie Lane, Lummi Tribal Council/Boarding School Survivor (Lummi Nation), Shannon Keller O' Loughlin, Executive Director, Association on American Indian Affairs (Choctaw), Anna Clock, First Alaskans Institute (Koyukon Athabascan), James LaBelle, Boarding School Survivor (Inupiaq), Sandy White Hawk (Sicangu Lakota), Susie Silversmith, Boarding School Survivor (Diné/Navajo), Liz Medicine Crow, Executive Director, First Alaskans Institute (Tlingit & Haida), Dr. Marie Wilson, Commissioner, Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Joannie Suina Romero (Pueblo of Cochiti), Don Wharton, Senior Attorney, Native American Rights Fund, Julie Cahoon (Salish and Pend d'Oreilles), Iris PrettyPaint, Kauffman & Associates, Inc. (Blackfoot Nation).

Programs and Accomplishments

Education

NABS continues to lead the pursuit of understanding and addressing boarding school trauma in the U.S. with the creation of the National Indian Boarding School Digital Archives (NIBSDA). NABS hired a Director of Digital Archives and our first digital archive project will kick off in December 2019 with the Upper Sioux Community in Minnesota. The community partnership project will focus on the records of the Pipestone Indian Boarding School and is funded by the Minnesota Humanities Center.

In April 2019, NABS launched the first of its kind research study on Native American Child Removal in the U.S. in partnership with the University of Minnesota and the First Nations Repatriation Institute. The study will be an important part of our efforts to learn more about how boarding schools impacted rates of adoption and foster care in our communities and how these instances of child removal impacted health and well-being. The data we collect will be an important part of our efforts to spark a national conversation on these issues and cultivate opportunities for healing. It will help us continue to inform policy reform, best practices in social work and healthcare fields, and community-led healing initiatives.

NABS also continues to do independent research into boarding schools and its impacts. We will publish a report summarizing research to date in 2020.

CALL FOR SURVEY PARTICIPANTS!



Child Removal In Native Communities: An Anonymous Survey
z.umn.edu/child-removal-study



The Child Removal Survey will remain open to Spring of 2020. Please consider taking the survey and sharing the link with relatives. Paper copies available upon request.



Pictured from left to right at United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland: Marsha Small, Tsistsistas, Independent Researcher; Christine McCleave, Turtle Mountain Ojibwe, Executive Director, National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition; Heather Whiteman Runs Him, Absaalooke, Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund; Eleanor Hadden, Tlingit/Haida/Tsimshian, Independent Researcher.

Advocacy

In Spring of 2019, NABS filed a submission with the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (UNWGEID) detailing a number of children who were taken into federal custody and whose fate and whereabouts remain unknown to this day. The filing outlines how the U.S. has never acknowledged, accepted responsibility for, nor shown accountability for the many children that did not return home from federal Indian boarding schools. Our partners on the filing include the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA), the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and independent researchers.

NABS's Executive Director also attended the 12th session on the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) at the United Nations in July and read an intervention to the EMRIP asking them to get involved in our filing to the UNWGEID on children who went missing at Boarding Schools. We also hosted an international panel on the need for boarding school acknowledgement and reparations by the U.S. government and included experts Heather White Man Runs Him from NARF, Andrea Carmen from IITC, Les Malezer from National Congress of Australia's First Peoples, and Former TRC Commissioner Chief Willie Littlechild from Canada.

Healing

In November 2019, NABS held its 2nd Annual Boarding School Healing Conference in Tulalip, WA. The conference theme was "Honoring Native Survivance" and was co-hosted by the Tulalip Tribes. As over 250 participants gathered from all over Turtle Island, we honored the sentiment expressed by Gerald Vizenor that "Survivance is more than mere survival—it is a way of life that nourishes Indigenous ways of knowing." Boarding School Survivors, descendants, our children, and our allies gathered and shared testimony, tears, laughter, and songs. As Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart describes in the process of transcending historical trauma, the first steps are to confront and understand the trauma. NABS and our members and partners continue to pursue truth in history in order to confront the trauma created by the U.S. Boarding School Policy to ultimately support our own communities leading in the healing for our peoples.



NABS Executive Director, Christine McCleave, presents on the work of NABS to participants gathered in Tulalip.

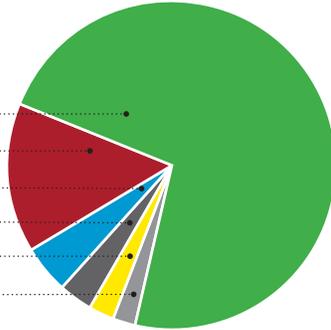
Financials as of September 30

2018

Source of Funds

- \$238,674 Foundation Grants
- 48,755 Special Events
- 15,555 Church Giving
- 10,196 Individual Contributions
- 9,041 Earned Revenue
- 6,500 Tribal Giving

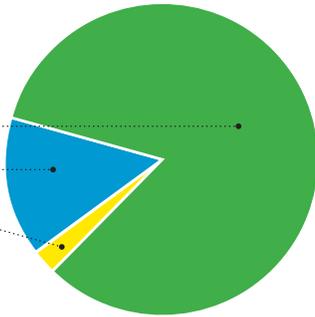
\$328,721 Total Funds



Use of Funds

- 85% Programs
- 12% Administrative
- 3% Fundraising

\$383,840 Total Spent

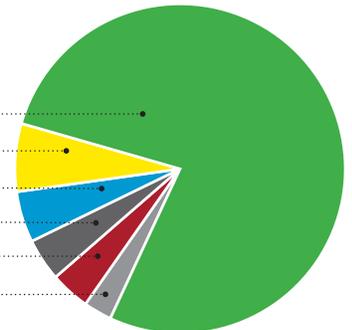


2019

Source of Funds

- \$314,200 Foundation Grants
- 26,532 Earned Revenue
- 21,349 Church Giving
- 16,768 Individual Contributions
- 15,882 Special Events
- 10,400 Tribal Giving

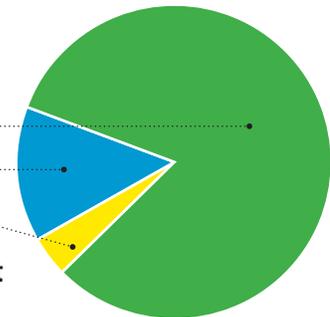
\$405,131 Total Funds



Use of Funds

- 82% Programs
- 14% Administrative
- 4% Fundraising

\$383,417 Total Spent



Boarding School Survivors honored in a blanket ceremony at the 2nd Annual Boarding School Healing Conference: Honoring Native Survivance held in Tulalip, Washington.

Photo credit: Adam Sings In The Timber

2019 Funders

- Better Way Foundation
- Boulder Meeting Society of Friends
- Christ Church Cathedral
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Forest County Potawatomi Tribe
- Interfaith Network for Indigenous Communities
- Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
- Native American Rights Fund
- Native Americans in Philanthropy
- NoVo Foundation
- Prairie Band Potawatomi
- Prairie Island Tribal Council
- San Manuel Tribe
- The Keneda Fund
- The UTE Indian Tribe
- Tulalip Tribes
- Tz6-Nah Fund

Individual Donors gave \$16,768!

2019 Partners

- American Indian Catholic Schools Network
- Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums
- Association for American Indian Affairs
- Dickenson College Digital Archive
- First Alaskans Institute
- First Nations Repatriation Institute
- Genoa Indian School Digital Archive Project
- Independent Indigenous Film and Media
- International Indian Treaty Council
- National Congress of American Indians
- National Indian Child Welfare Association
- National Indian Education Association
- Native American Rights Fund
- Seneca Media & Communications Center
- The Tulalip Tribes
- University of Minnesota
- University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program Tribal Justice Clinic

THANK YOU!

National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

2525 E. Franklin Ave., Suite 150, Minneapolis, MN 55406 | info@nabshc.org | 612.354.7700 | boardingschoolhealing.org



The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization incorporated in June 2012 under the laws of the Navajo Nation.