



CROW CREEK SIOUX TRIBE



TO: Lyle Rustad, Exec Director; Ed Lohnes, board chair
Diversity Foundation Inc., PO Box 7577, St Cloud, MN 56302

FROM: Conkicakse Presbyterian Church
Crow Creek Sioux Dakota Tribe
Fort Thompson, SD 57339
Erick Voice, (Crow Creek Dakota)

RE: Request for Assistance "Toys for Tots"

Hau Koda, Hello my friend, Mr Rustad. I find very disheartening that the USMC Reserve Unit in Minneapolis will no longer provide TFT for our children on the Crow Creek Dakota Reservation. which I understand, is a USMC policy of no further TFT to Reservations outside of Minnesota.

Our church has been greatly blessed by the aid of the USMC Reserve for giving our children the happiness and joy of receiving gifts for Christmas for the past 13 years, as a former US Marine myself & my father a Korean War Marine Veteran and all the other USMC Veterans here on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation, we were proud of the USMC Reserves for years helping our less fortunate, often forgotten children living here at Crow Creek, where the poverty level is one of the highest in the United States, with average household income well under \$10,000 a year.

We are once again seeking Diversity's help and assistance in Crow Creek's request to the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots program, in Minnesota and with National HQ Office in Virginia to help bring some Christmas joy & happiness to our children here at Fort Thompson, South Dakota. In history, Our Dakota (Sioux) people were forcefully exiled here from Minnesota in May 1863 by river boats from Ft Snelling POW camp, down Mississippi to St Louis, Missouri then out here to Crow Creek SD, which was then, a US Government POW camp, following the Minnesota uprising & US-Dakota War in 1862. On December 26, 1862, 38 of our Dakota Sioux Warriors were hanged in Mankato by the US Government. (The largest mass hanging in US history)

Our surviving people (mostly women and children) were imprisoned outside Fort Snelling over harsh winter (where hundreds more my relatives suffered and died) until forced exile to Crow Creek in Spring of 1863. Today so many of our people continue to suffer PTSD affects from the aftermath of that 1862 US-Dakota War. We are among the poorest reservation in the United States with no economic growth and nearly 3rd world conditions. we would again greatly appreciate your Diversity foundation's efforts, to work on Crow Creek's behalf, to help in our request to once again deliver Toys for Tots from USMC or other contributing organizations so our Tribes families & children will "not be forgotten" and can again receive these Gifts of "Hope & Happiness" for Christmas, in our otherwise bleak and depressing reservation life.

May God "Wakantaka" guide you and touch the hearts of many organizations to provide these precious gifts of Love and Happiness for the Less fortunate. God Bless and Happy Holidays.
Aho Anpetu Was'te. Have a Good Day.

Semper fi,
Your Koda, Rick



200 First Street SW
Rochester, Minnesota 55905
507-284-2511
mayoclinic.org
April 8, 2016

Dear Chairman Vig, Vice chairman Anderson, and Secretary/Treasurer Brewer:

I write this letter in support of Diversity Foundation's application to you for support of its ambitious projects. I am aware of the Foundation's desire to transfer, digitize, edit and archive its extensive collection of interviews and films of Native elders and Native events across southern Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Manitoba, Canada—even as it continues to document, record, and film. I also am very aware of efforts to develop sustainable housing and economic enterprises with tribes. For example, I know Diversity has invested a lot of recent effort on: 1. producing a movie and book on Mr. Vern Ashley's life and his desire for a better future for Native people and 2. a sustainable housing project based on Mr. Ashley's vision for a healthier living community reflective of traditional values.

Diversity Foundation first contacted me in 2004 because of my work at Mayo Clinic with tribes and urban Native populations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Arizona, New Mexico, and Alaska.

I share some of my credentials here to assure you that I would not lightly recommend Diversity Foundation to you if I were not familiar with the needs and priorities of Native populations.

I have worked professionally and collaboratively with tribes since 1999. My work involves tribally-directed research to improve breast cancer screening among women who do not observe mammographic guidelines. This work has involved tribes in Minnesota and Wisconsin. I also have worked on prostate screening and cancer education projects in Minnesota, southwest in Alaska. I chair (since 2004) the Native American Interest Group (NAIG). NAIG brings Native and non-Native speakers to Mayo to speak on health research matters of importance to Native people. I direct Native American Research Outreach (NARO) within Mayo Clinic's Office of Health Disparities Research and have done so since its inception in 2013. As NARO director, I have facilitated efforts by two tribes and a Mayo physician to obtain Federal funding for a project to improve colorectal cancer screening. I currently am working with Native and non-Native investigators and tribal and urban Indian health leaders to facilitate projects related to HPV screening and obesity and sleep apnea. As NARO director, I also have developed formal partnerships with four tribes, the American Indian Cancer Foundation, and Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council on behalf of Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center. NARO continues to reach out to other tribes and urban Indian organizations to set up more mutually beneficial partnerships. Since 2006, I have been fortunate to be a regular attendee at the quarterly meetings of Tribal Health Directors and the Minnesota Department of Health. (To be able to meet these last two years at the SMSC Link Center has been a blessing to all who attend.) From 2004 through its signing in 2006, I co-authored the Mayo Clinic-Indian Health Service memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Leo Nolan, then the IHS Senior Policy Analyst for External Affairs, under the then Director, Charles Grim. The MOU was renewed indefinitely under the directorship of Yvette Roubidoux in 2011. In 2006, I organized a response by my church to an elder-initiated request to help restore the historic cemeteries on the Crow Creek reservation. Next month we will begin our tenth year of working on this tribal priority, which the elders named the *Crow Creek Dakota Hunkpati Cemetery Restoration Project*. Each year, members of Trinity Presbyterian Church make seven visits to the reservation to spray, mow, trim, fence, restore monuments, and document all the graves and potential graves in five cemeteries. Eventually, we hope to transition this work over to a team in Fort Thompson that will turn this work into a profitable business serving the three districts on the reservation. We also hope to provide the tribe with an interactive Website which can be maintained by the tribe and used by the community to locate loved-ones buried in the five cemeteries.

It is in the context of my experiences that I recommend Diversity Foundation's application to you. Mr. Rustad and Mr. Lohnes (respectively, Diversity's Executive Director and Chairman and CEO) originally approached me in 2004 to

see if the Foundation could facilitate reconciliation between Mayo Clinic and the Dakota people. This was consistent with work I was tasked to carry out by the then Mayo Clinic Cancer Center director. He asked me to research Mayo Clinic's history with the Dakota people in anticipation of discussions requested by Prairie Island elders to explore reconciliation between Mayo Clinic and the Dakota people, beginning with Prairie Island. For reasons of timing and leadership changes, the discussions did not move forward as hoped, but there was movement that continues today. That work *has* been facilitated and tirelessly encouraged by Diversity Foundation. While not Mayo employees, Mr. Rustad and Mr. Lohnes have supported and provided the publicity that led to the emergence of the Mayo Employee Resource Group, *Celebrate Dakota!* The group was co-founded by two Dakota-Norwegian sisters employed at Mayo Clinic, Betty Smith and Shirley Greising. Diversity also supported the sisters' efforts to found the community organization, *Greater Rochester Area Dakota Supporters* (GRADS), and has provided support and publicity for the recognition and protection of Rochester City's Indian Heights as sacred ground. Efforts by Diversity Foundation to promote reconciliation of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Winona, Mankato, Pipestone, and other communities with the Dakota people are numerous and difficult to catalogue in any meaningful way because of the broad scope of Diversity's vision and their sense of urgency to do a lot with minimal resources and staff. I will say that the Foundation has perhaps the most far-reaching set of activities and influence of any similar organization working in this state or any neighboring state on behalf of tribes.

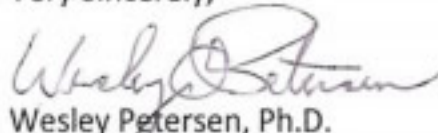
Since I became familiar with the Diversity Foundation, I am aware of:

- multiple efforts to document events that celebrate Dakota/Lakota history
- ongoing efforts to document the lives and history of influential elders, tribal leaders, and everyday people who have made heroic efforts to improve lives in their communities, often under trying circumstances;
- ongoing support for reconciliation efforts—such as those in Winona with the Winona-Dakota Homecoming and in Mankato with documentation of the annual Dakota 38 memorial ride;
- generosity, even when the givers have nothing for themselves;
- yearly organization of, and participation in, the Christmas Toys-for-Tots outreach to tribes in the Dakotas and Canada (often at substantial personal expense);
- continuous efforts to get Dakota young people enrolled in college programs at Winona State, St. Mary's University, and Southeast Community and Technical College;
- publicity for students who successfully make the transition to college life
- continuous efforts to encourage churches (such as our own) and other community organizations to develop relationships with tribes;
- a sustained effort to set up long-term economic enterprises to support poorer tribes—such as the creation of a Native American Art Exhibit and store in Rochester.
- regular participation in Rochester's *Thursdays on First* at which Diversity staffs a booth to promote and sell the work of Native artists; and
- collaborative efforts with tribes to explore and develop sustainable economic enterprises such as fish farming and wind energy.

I conclude by saying that the fervor and optimism with which Diversity approaches projects is inspiring. If reach, energy, dedication, and persistence are reasons to support the Diversity Foundation's work, the SMCS Business Council will not be disappointed with the efforts of Diversity Foundation.

Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss Diversity Foundation further.

Very Sincerely,



Wesley Petersen, Ph.D.

Native American Research Outreach
Office of Health Disparities Research
Mayo Clinic
Office: 507 266-2204
Cell: 507 358-8414

Santee Sioux Nation

TRIBAL HEADQUARTERS

Chairman: Roger Trudell
Vice-Chairman: Sidney Tuttle
Treasurer: Derek LaPointe
Secretary: Stuart Redwing



108 Spirit Lake Ave. W.
Niobrara, NE 68760-7219
Phone: (402) 857-2772
Fax: (402) 857-2779

To whom it may concern,

As Chairman of the Santee Sioux Dakota Nation, I want to thank the Diversity Foundation & Twin Cities USMC Reserves TFT Program for many years including Santee families & children in their Reservation Program. With high unemployment & majority below the poverty line, Toy for Tots has been a huge blessing to families here: True symbols of "Joy and Hope at Christmas. It's more urgent because, as a US Army Vietnam combat veteran, I'm conscious that many on our reservation also suffer from Intergenerational PTSD-not only from war but from the US-Dakota tragic history of injustices and failed US treaties & policies. It's a crisis epidemic on our reservation yet today.

Years prior to USMC TFT, I recall "Santa" & Diversity Foundation (DF) working together with the late Rod Steiner, a Santee elder, organizing Household & Used Toy Drives from communities across southern Minnesota, where our Dakota people had lived and called our "Ancestral Homeland" for thousands of years until the US government's 1851 Laramie Treaties, forcing us to small reservations (prisons) in western Minnesota. There, our Dakota relatives were soon starving from US failure to honor the Treaty & deliver promised food & rations. The 1862 US-Dakota War resulted, "Dakota 38" mass hanging at Mankato, 1600 Dakota survivors (mostly women & children) then imprisoned at Ft. Snelling, where another 300 died. Spring 1863: Remaining 1300 herded onto crowded barges, exiled to SD's desolate Crow Creek POW camp. Many escaped here to Santee, but the continued US oppression and failed promises has many of our Dakota people still struggling today.

DF, addition to delivering TFT to reservations, also helped me & the Santee Council arrange for six Dakota students to be enrolled in Winona (MN) Colleges. Our Santee community has also partnered with DF's other ongoing Reconciliation & Outreach Programs, helping organize their annual Dakota Homecoming In Winona (was named Wapasha Prairie after our Legendary Chiefs' Wabasha I,II,III) in 1863, Chief Wabasha III was exiled from Minnesota & major role of Santee Reservation history: as our Head Chief until his death in 1876. In late 1990's, Chief Ernie Wabasha VI, invited DF Exec. Director Rustad & film crew here for Wabasha family reunions, to record elder's stories & unwritten history. DF also filmed our Pow Wows & interviewed other Dakota elders, now passed to the Spirit World. DF has hundreds of hours of elder stories & partners with California filmmakers to produce a series of short historic documentaries for Native & non-Native schools & audiences.

I've also been involved with DF's various other reconciliation & outreach events, which included filming Crow Creek's first ever Dakota Memorial in 2002; dedicating Dakota Artist/Sculptor JoAnne Bird's -Chief Wabasha II sculpture at National Eagle Center in Wabasha; also Rochester's 1st Native American Art Exhibits (JoAnne Bird's original work); proposed "Authentic Native American Store and "Living History" Interpretive Center" in Rochester (co-initiated with Santee's late Rod Steiner). This Unique Center presents the history & stories of all 11 Minnesota tribes, telling our Indigenous side of history, targeting the Mayo Clinic's millions of patients & visitors, from around the world each year.

Our Santee Community remains grateful for DF & USMC's many years helping provide TFT & Happiness to our Santee tribal families and youth. However, this year the Mpls Marines are no longer allowing TFT to leave the state of Minnesota. Therefore we support DF's effort, helping identify other supportive organizations & sponsors, willing to step up, helping Santee "Keep Toys for Tots Alive".

Sincerely yours,

Roger Trudell, Chairman
Santee Sioux Nation



SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE

Myra Pearson
Chairperson
Cell: 701-230-4975

November 28, 2017

Lyle Rustad, Executive Director
Diversity Foundation Inc.
PO Box 7577
St. Cloud, MN 56302

Dear Lyle,

The Spirit Lake reservation is much appreciative for the years Toys for Tots were provided to our children for the holidays by the USMC Reserve Unit of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Toys for Tots has aided our children and youth with much happiness during the holidays. Half of our 7995 enrolled members live on the reservation. As the unemployment rate rises many families rely on assistance from our tribe and state.

As many other Sioux tribe, of our families have ancestors and Tribal Chiefs who were forcefully exiled from Minnesota to where we now live. Today, Spirit Lake houses a historic cavalry fort on our reservation that was built in the 1800's. This fort is a reminder of our past, but we must look to the future as Native Americans to be strong once again.

We appreciate your efforts in the organization and disbursements of toys throughout the reservations. All from the blessings and kind hearts of your Diversity Foundation workers. Once again, we would like to request the Toys for Tots for Spirit Lake.

Please give me a call at the above number, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Myra Pearson, Chairwoman

SANTEE SIOUX TRIBAL HOUSING AUTHORITY



Phone (402) 857-2656
Fax (402) 857-2608

RR. 302, Box 5259
405 Redwing Street
Niobrara, NE 68760-8643

November 17, 2017

Mr. Lyle Rustad
Diversity Foundation
St. Cloud, MN

Re: Support for Toys for Tots

Lyle:

In the past we have had the blessed opportunity to participate in your Toys for Tots program administered by the Diversity Foundation. We have heard that those days may have ended with 2016 Holiday Season. Sadly, the children of the Santee Sioux Reservation will suffer.

The Santee Sioux Reservation in Nebraska is a very economically depressed area with more than 50% unemployment rate and the majority of the reservation population living below the poverty level.

The Tribe was banished from its homelands in Minnesota in 1862 and were sent to other states, with some bands escaping to Canada. This banishment has truly made us a multi-state and dual nation entity. It would only seem fair, since the Toys for Tots Program is a nation wide program that the Santee Tribe and its numerous bands be allowed to participate regardless of geographical location.

We don't believe that it reflects well on a governmental agency to continue with admonishing the Tribe because of the Federal government's failure in 1862 to honor its treaty obligations.

Therefore sir, we commend and support your efforts to fight for what's right and help the children of the exiled. I hope your pleas on our behalf will be honored.

If you have any questions, please call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Warren L. Mackey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Warren L. Mackey
Executive Director



P.O. Box 38
Griswold, Manitoba
R0M 0S0
Phone: 204-855-2671
Fax: 204-855-2544
Toll Free: 1-866-721-0293

November 23, 2017

Lyle Rustad
Diversity Foundation
St. Cloud, MN

I would like to begin by taking this opportunity to say wopida tanka (thank you) for including Sioux Valley Dakota Nation in the Toys for Tots program for so many years. I know this program began many years ago with yourself and my late father. I was sad to hear that it may not continue for the 2017 holiday season.

Sioux Valley is a community of over 2000 Dakota people. Like many other indigenous communities, we have high unemployment rates, and many of our families rely on social assistance to make ends meet every month. Our people have limited access to resources and Toys for Tots has always been so beneficial and a blessing for all our children and families in need.

For many generations we have maintained our historical connection to all our Dakota relatives in Minnesota, and despite our distance we continue to maintain those relationships today.

I personally thank you Lyle for your continued work for all the Dakota. You are truly one of a kind and our community supports all your efforts on our behalf. If you have any questions, please contact me at (204) 512-0847. Pidamaya ye.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bone
Council
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation



UNITED TRIBES
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

3315 University Drive, Building 9A
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504
701.255.3285 | www.uttc.edu

November 20, 2017

Lyle Rustad, Executive Director
Diversity Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 7577
St. Cloud, Minnesota 56302

Dear Mr. Rustad:

United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is very appreciative for the opportunity to partner with the Diversity Foundation, Inc. and the United States Marine Corps (USMC) Toys for Tots program to bring toys to the UTTC children this past Christmas. The work of the Diversity Foundation, Inc. and the USMC is critical to assisting our students in recognizing the importance of excelling in their education while maintaining their roles as parents during the holiday season. We were able to gift 250 children ages 0-15 years of age with two toys each in last year's effort. We are hopeful we will be able to be included in your good work this year once again.

Your generous support allowed us to help student parents provide Christmas presents for their children. Without this, many of the UTTC community's children would have had a very limited Christmas. Those of us who worked on the gift distribution had the opportunity to witness the reaction parents showed when being invited to choose gifts for their children. They were greatly surprised at the quality of the gifts and many of them commented they would not have been able to provide similar gifts on their own. Their joy definitely warmed the hearts of the staff assisting with this effort.

UTTC's enrollment averages 500 students with approximately a third being students with families. Currently 185 students have one or more children. UTTC provides 97 on campus family units ranging from efficiency to three bedroom units. Additional families live off campus. Eighty percent (80%) of UTTC's students are low income and receive financial aid.

Our current child population includes 149 children in the K-7 elementary school. The on-campus daycares serve children from infant to 5 years. The current population of student children in the centers is 400.

Again, our deepest thanks to your organization for helping making a wonderful Christmas for the children of our students.

On a personal note, I am a U.S. Army veteran with a 20% service connected disability and Larretta Hall, Institutional Resources Director, the coordinator for this campus initiative is also a veteran. Her contact information is lhall@uttc.edu and 701 221-1431. We are pleased to be a part of this effort and wish you well in your application on behalf of our American Indian students on our campus.

Sincerely,

Leander R. McDonald, PhD
President



This letter is written in support of the Diversity Foundation application to you for support for many needed projects. Having worked with Lyle Rustad and the Diversity Foundation since 1998, as the City Manager of Winona, Minnesota, I am aware of the long standing desire of the Foundation to transfer, digitize, edit and archive its massive collection of interviews and filming of Native elders and events across southern Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Manitoba, Canada. I am aware of and have supported efforts to develop sustainable housing, potable water, outreach efforts for children, energy, and health care improvements on reservations.

Winona has supported efforts to connect its citizens with members of Dakota tribal lands though City of Winona sponsored support and the Winona/Dakota Unity Alliance. My role as City Manager was to serve as the connecting point between the City and its citizens that constituted the membership of the Alliance. Reconciliation has been the underlying basis for our involvement and the leaders of this connection have been many Dakota elders over the years.

The glue of this entire effort has been Lyle Rustad and the Diversity Foundation. I have personally traveled with him to several Dakota reservations and have witnessed his filming efforts. It would be a terrible injustice not to codify the Foundation's material collection for posterity and in doing so preserve the images and voices of so many Dakota Elders.

I support the Foundation's proposal to you and hope that you will consider its meaning not only to the Dakota people, but, also, to the people of the United States and Canada, if not the world.

Sincerely,

Eric B. Sorensen
Retired City Manager
Winona, Minnesota
319 Pleasant Hill
Winona, Minnesota 55987



YANKTON SIOUX TRIBE

TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

800 S. Main ■ PO BOX 1153 ■ Wagner, South Dakota 57380 ■ 605.384.3641

December 7, 2017

Mr. Lyle Rustad
Diversity Foundation
St. Cloud, MN

Re: Toys for Tots Support

Lyle:

In the past our Yankton Sioux Tribal youth have been blessed by the Toys for Tots program administered by the Diversity Foundation. We have become aware that this amazing opportunity might not be available in the 2017 holiday season. I fear that if the Toys for Tots program is ended many youth will go without this Christmas.

I am sure that you know of the hardships that our reservation communities experience because of High Unemployment rates and a Majority of our membership living below the poverty level. Unfortunately our youth are the most affected by the social and economic hardships that have become just a part of life for a majority of our membership.

The Yankton Sioux Tribe exists on a sliver of its original home lands, which at one point in time extended all the way to the Great Lakes in Wisconsin. Our Nation has been exiled from our territories because of the 1862 Dakota War, which resulted in the Dakota 38 execution and our people were held in prison of war camps in Crow Creek, South Dakota as well as other reservations.

The Yankton Nation are still experiencing many difficulties that occur in Post Conflict populations. Our youth maybe separated by generations from the conflicts that occurred but their identity ties them to the Historical Trauma. I tell many of the youth on our reservation that they are a Prayer that has been answered, that was made by our ancestors, their life is proof of that.

All children are sacred and the Toys for Tots program brings light to the children, there for this program is Creator's Work. I commend you for your work and hope that Toys for Tots can continue to bring hope to our youth of the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Kip Spotted Eagle
THPO Director