



NAFFA 2024 Annual Report



Albert Pooley

It is my pleasure to present the Native American Fatherhood and Families Association's 2024 Annual Report.

We are now over 3,000 facilitators strong throughout the United States and Canada. We continue to grow with our online and onsite training.

Many individuals, families and communities have been strengthened this past year through the Fatherhood is Sacred®/Motherhood is Sacred®, Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships®, Addressing Family Violence and Abuse© and Suicide Prevention© curricula.

Exciting events are in store for 2025 as NAFFA will be implementing a new youth curriculum as well as a treatment modality for recovery and re-entry. We are also starting up our S.A.F.E Parent Resource Center for 2025.

NAFFA now has our own cell phone application (app) for Android or Apple cell phones which can be found at your phone store.

Check out our website for more information at www.nativeamericanfathers.org

NAFFA Staff

- Albert Pooley: President/Founder
- Karra Papa: Executive Director
- Cheryl Honnie: Director of Training
- Malcolm Redhair: Facilitator Coordinator
- Neil Tift: Family Engagement Coordinator
- Valerie Hollobaugh: International/Public Relations Coordinator
- Sam Rossi: Financial Specialist
- Jill Mendoza: Youth Program Director
- Melody Billy: Youth Program Coordinator
- Tasha Johnson: Executive Administrative Assistant/Events Coordinator
- Jane McCord: Grant Coordinator
- Susan Sharp: Receptionist
- Susan Ellsworth: Administrative Assistant
- Mike Sharp and Nevy Arizona: Grounds Keeper/Maintenance

NAFFA Wellness Staff:

- Jeri Long: Partnership Manager
- Cheryl Curry: Wellness Coordinator

Office Address
525 West Southern Avenue
Suite # 100
Mesa, AZ 85210
Office: 480-833-5007
Fax: 480-833-5009

Overview of NAFFA

Established in 2002, Native American Fatherhood & Families Association (NAFFA) works with over 300 tribes and tribal agencies across the country and Canada, trained over 2,000 certified facilitators who have helped over 70,000 fathers and mothers strengthen and keep their families together, with limited direct federal or state funds.

It is the goal of NAFFA to create a synergistic environment and deliver information in the form of workshops, keynotes, webinars, presentations, seminars, professional training and social engagements that showcase and address the most recent information relating to building strong families and healthy communities.

Based in Arizona, NAFFA provides programs to strengthen, keep and unite Native American families through responsible fatherhood and motherhood. These unique programs create a passion in parents to take a leadership role in keeping families happy and safe. Through the programs' successes, NAFFA has found that their purpose and methods extend to people of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

An added element in 2024 was our sister organization, International Association of Families (IAF), which opens the doors to strengthen and reunite all families. All four curricula will be relevant to all cultures and peoples. Training will start in 2025 specifically in the IAF format of Fatherhood is Sacred® and Motherhood is Sacred®.

NAFFA's four courses include:

Fatherhood Is Sacred®, Motherhood Is Sacred® (FIS/MIS)

This is NAFFA's foundational program that helps strengthen families by empowering and uplifting fathers and mothers. The program teaches core principles to help strengthen them as parents. Native people believe in the sanctity of many things; animals, mountains, burial grounds, etc., but the most sacred is our role as a father and our role as a mother. FIS/MIS is a program for those wanting to improve family relationships, prepare them to become responsible parents, reduce recidivism and substance abuse, and improve safety for our children. We have the vision to pave our way into a future where fathers and mothers will experience a truly happy family. This course is uniquely designed with culturally relevant material to teach parents the vital impact of being responsible in each child's life.

Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships® (LGSR)

This curriculum briefly covers the foundation laid in Fatherhood Is Sacred®, Motherhood Is Sacred®. The program teaches the importance of linking generations to strengthen one's self-worth and identity. The significance of one's personal identity is critical in forming and maintaining healthy relationships. We discuss various forms of relationships: parent/child, spouse/significant other, friendships, workplace, etc. Included in the program, we address how to select, maintain, or dissolve marital relationships. This course provides tools that will bring happiness, stability, and security to individuals and families.

Addressing Family Violence and Abuse© (AFVA)

NAFFA identifies domestic violence as **true identity theft**. Identity theft is illegal. This course covers how to support families struggling with domestic violence and describes the innovative and

culturally relevant ways that address this vital issue. In addition, we discuss universal principles and provide unique insight into the challenges faced in dealing with this matter. The training will define this devastating problem, explore contributing factors, and discuss sensitive ways in which victims and abusers overcome the cycle of abuse. We address the necessary component of developing courage, which is critical for change to come. Changing fear to becoming fearless (courageous).

Suicide Prevention© (SP)

Suicide Prevention is a course that discusses the importance of hope and helps individuals recognize the beauty of life and living. Hopelessness is the reduction of hope and despair is the absence of hope, a state which affects our body, mind, and spirit. This course emphasizes strategies that help prevent suicide. Additionally, it identifies a range of factors and situations that can increase the risk of suicide. Furthermore, it provides ways to process the death of a loved one by better understanding ways of coping and healing from loss.

NAFFA Partners:

- 1. NABEDC:** www.NABEDC.com Contact: Christina Cercado Gonzalez / christina @nabedc.com



Maintaining our fifth year with NABEDC, NAFFA continues to help those American Indians, Alaska Native, and Native Hawai’ian (AIANNH) business owners and entrepreneurs. Goals for NABEDC include fostering relationships and understanding the importance of entrepreneurship with those they nurture in their program.

NABEDC has helped establish a total of 478 business owners, entrepreneurs, and community partners in less than one year in operation which far exceeded their goal. This was based upon outreach efforts, community partnerships, and attending numerous events in person (pre-COVID-19) and online webinars. Visit www.NABEDC.com for more information.

- 2. BioMetrica Systems :** Contact: **Ka and Wylly Wade**

This organization provides continuous monitoring of individuals or groups of individuals for lawful investigations, national security or workplace safety locating missing or exploited persons.



- 3. Waterford.org:** Contact: **Tiarrha Huerta:** tiarhahuerta@waterford.org

This organization teaches children the skills they need to be prepared for kindergarten through their UPSTART program. This program is available at NO COST to families of all backgrounds and is proven to be effective. All children who receive their academic start with Waterford UPSTART begin on the path toward success.



Waterford is based out of Salt Lake City, Utah.

- 4. Kids Need to Read:** Contact: **Jessica Payne:** Jessica@kidsneedtoread.org
<http://www.kidsneedtoread.org/>

Kids Need to Read works to create a culture of reading for children by providing inspiring books to underfunded schools, libraries, and literacy programs across the United States, especially those serving disadvantaged children.



5. Arizona Law Enforcement Outreach and Support

Contact: **Cindy Hill** <http://www.arizonaleos.com/>

Arizona Law Enforcement Outreach & Support is the first of its' kind. Collaboration and Fundraising Hub" for Arizona law enforcement and community members. They create new outreach programs and collaborate with existing programs that allow the law enforcement and the community at large to strengthen positive bonds and serve community needs.



6. Palo Verde Republican Women

Contact: **President: Cindy Hill:** PVRWPresident@gmail.com

A like-minded group of conservative republican women working together to better our community.



7. Hopland Band of Pomo Indians

Contact: Sonny J. Elliott Sr. – 707-472-2100 <https://www.hoplandtribe.com/>

A community of Hopland Band of Pomo Indians located in the southeast Mendocino County of California. They are a community who help each other and practice the traditions of their forefathers.

8. Indigenous Wellness Alliance Inc.: Diana Billy-Elliott [/diana@iwainc.org](mailto:diana@iwainc.org)

The alliance offers impactful community social services aimed at promoting wellness and support for indigenous populations in Ukiah, CA. <https://iwainc.org/>

9. Inter-Tribal Council of California Contact: Connie Reitman

<https://itccinc.org/>

This council of 35 tribes in California develops and administers a wide range of programs to promote economic, educational, cultural, legal and social advocacy.



10. Monovo: Contact: Jake Poulsen: jake.poulsen@monovotech.com

A company which has developed a virtual health system that integrates devices software, data and human infrastructure to deliver personalized care and support.

11. Hope and Healing Treatment Addiction Center: Michael Cunningham:

michaelc@azhopeandhealing.com

An outpatient/inpatient addiction treatment drug and alcohol counseling organization. They are dedicated to the sobriety and well-being of their clients, ensuring they receive the help they need to reclaim their lives.

Native American Fatherhood and Families Association Board of Directors



- 1. **Thomas Intrieri:** Peoria Chief of Police
NAFFA Board Chair



2. **Steve Chucri:** Arizona Restaurant Association
NAFFA Board Secretary and Treasurer



3. **Kevin Pooley:** Salt River Pima Maricopa Prosecutor
Office in Domestic Violence



4. **Rodney States:** Attorney at Jellison & Robens, PLLC



5. **Amy Fa'atoafe:** Natsuhealth: Clinical Director for Warrior Heart Recovery

New Staff Hired in 2024:



Karra Papa
Executive Director



Jill Mendoza:
Youth Program



Jeri Long
Partnership Manager



Cheryl Curry
Wellness Coordinator



Jordyn Papa
Social Media Specialist



Nevy Arizona
Maintenance

Tasha Johnson
Admin. Assistant/
Events Coordinator

NAFFA's Training Department:

Overview of NAFFA's Impact in 2024

NAFFA certified facilitators:

Fatherhood Is Sacred®, Motherhood Is Sacred®: 229
Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships®: 40
Addressing Family Violence and Abuse©: 33
Suicide Prevention©: 86



Cheryl Honnie
Director of Training

Additional training 2024 review

- (1) January 17-19, 2024, FISMIS, Fortaleza Atravez Barreras, Virtual
- (2) May 28-30, 2024, FISMIS, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Winnebago NE.
- (3) August 19-21, 2024, FISMIS, Bear River Band of Rohnerville, Loleta CA
- (4) September 9-13, 2024, FISMIS/ LGSR, Nat-Su Behavioral Health, Tooele UT
- (5) September 24-2024, SP, Great Plains 988 Tribal Response Oyate Health Center, Rapid City SD.
- (6) October 15-17, 2024, FISMIS, Yakama Behavioral Health, Toppenish WA

Certified Facilitator Trainers:

NAFFA is increasing the number of certified facilitator trainers to help with the expansion of our programs and services across the US and Canada. They include:

Mike Duncan: Round Valley Indian Tribes, Woodland California

Katie Ray: Round Valley Indian Tribes, Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indian Tribe (Lakeport, CA)

Ian Petershoare: CCTHITA Tribe, Juneau, Alaska

Terry Medina: Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Winnebago, Nebraska

Stephanie and Joseph White Eagle: Ho-Chunk Nation, Baraboo, Wisconsin

Jean Swanson: Sitka Tribe of Alaska, Sitka Alaska

Cheryl Bearchild: Choctaw Nation of OK, Karuk Tribal TANF, Yreka California

Chris Kill: San Carlos Apache, Fountain Hills, AZ

Collin Bird: Saskatchewan, Canada

Cheryl Honnie: Diné (Navajo), Rough Rock, AZ

David Pratt: Gila River Indian Community, Sacaton, AZ

Malcolm Redhair: Navajo—Window Rock, AZ



Malcolm Redhair:
Facilitator
Coordinator

Online Recertification: The recertification of our curricula is very important to keep the integrity of NAFFA's curricula and the standard of teaching consistent. The cost of travel and time away from employment makes Mesa office recertification very difficult. Our online bi-monthly schedule of recertification meetings has been very successful for facilitators as they are able to reconnect with NAFFA and review the important points of our four curricula.

NAFFA Wellness Department:



Cheryl Curry
Wellness Coordinator



Jeri Long
Partnership Manager



Neil Tift
**Family Engagement
Coordinator**

NAFFA Wellness LLC was established in December 2023 for the purpose of launching treatment programs to serve individuals struggling with addiction and mental health concerns. All four NAFFA curricula have been the highlight of these programs with the addition of master level professionals, peer support specialists and case managers.

In February 2024 Neil Tift joined the team as a trainer/facilitator. Jeri Long joined in May 2024 as partnership manager and Cheryl Curry started as the Wellness Coordinator in October of 2024. The first program launched was the Intensive Virtual Program. NAFFA Wellness has teamed up with Monovo to oversee the medical and psychiatric needs of the participants. See <https://www.aznaffawellness.com>

Transforming Tomorrow's Youth

On October 1st, 2024, Native American Fatherhood and Families Association received a federal grant from SAMHSA to build a youth program based upon their existing curricula. NAFFA's Transforming Tomorrow's Youth Program is currently being built from the ground up. Our team is working to develop a program that will help Native youth as they struggle with substance abuse, suicide, and mental health issues. We want to help the youth recognize their self-worth, identity, and purpose by connecting them back to their heritage.



Jill Mendoza
**Youth Program
Director**

The Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) process set forth by SAMHSA includes five steps: assessment, capacity, planning, implementation, and evaluation. For year one of the grant, we are aiming to serve 150-200 Native youth, invited from the San Carlos Indian Reservation and Native youth attending the Mesa Public School District. We will be conducting our "Community Needs Assessment" in February in San Carlos. We will work with a multidisciplinary council, formed of various community members, to assess the strengths and gaps in existing programs serving Native youth in their areas.

We have already begun to adapt our existing curriculum into an engaging, interactive format that is culturally relevant. The curriculum will consist of 15-17 sessions provided over three days of lesson plans and activities. Each lesson plan outlines specific objectives to be achieved. There are assignments for each session, with a culminating culture-based final project at the close of the semester. The curriculum aims to connect the Native youth to the values and principles honored in their culture, while helping them gain the tools necessary to build a happy, safe, and successful future.

Why is NAAFA’s Transforming Tomorrow’s Youth Program so important? The statistics, stories, and need speak for themselves. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), “Suicide is the second leading cause of death among American Indian and Alaska Native youth ages 8 to 24, and American Indian and Alaska Native youth aged 10-24 have the **highest rate of suicide** of all demographic groups.” And according to American Addiction Centers, “1 in 5 Native American young adults (aged 18-25 years) has a substance use disorder.”

Our vision is to introduce an engaging, life-changing, and culturally relevant youth curriculum that will help our Native youth face the ongoing pressures of substance abuse and the reality of mental health struggles. We are currently developing the curriculum and already have our first Gathering of Native Americans event scheduled for the end of February. Native students from San Carlos and Mesa Public Schools are invited to a special viewing of the film *Rez Ball*. Kusem Goodwind, an actor from the film, will be addressing the youth on suicide prevention before the film, and hosting a question-and-answer session, along with a meet and greet, after the film.

We are also in the process of creating community partnerships to better serve Native youth. We will be developing a youth advocacy group to assist us well. We want to help spread awareness of existing mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention resources available in communities, and work to create an effective suicide crisis team for youth in these areas.

The assessment, capacity, and planning portions of the grant are going well, and we are looking forward to the implementation of our program. Mesa Public Schools is looking to implement the curriculum this summer, while San Carlos will begin our program at the start of the 2025-2026 school year. NAFFA’s Transforming Tomorrow’s Youth program allows us to bring a message of hope, and the guiding principles of creating a safe and happy family, to the younger generation.

International Relations Department: International Association of Families (IAF)



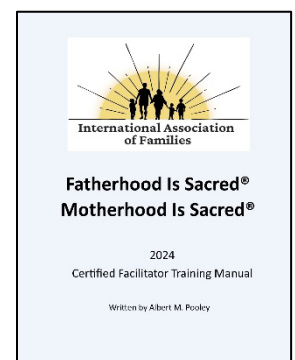
International Association of Families is NAFFA’s sister organization to spread the message of strengthening families to all cultures, geographic regions and people.

Valerie Hollobaugh:
International Relations
Coordinator

IAF Focus is in 3 areas:

IAF Curriculum and Training for
Nonnatives:

With a focus on all cultures and people, NAFFA’s curricula will strengthen, keep and unite families for IAF. This worldwide program of Fatherhood is Sacred® and Motherhood is Sacred®, Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships®, Addressing Family Violence and Abuse© and Suicide Prevention© will be adapted to a global focus through language translations. Training is planned for all those who would like to facilitate for their communities.



Training for IAF Fatherhood is Sacred®/Motherhood is Sacred® will be offered January 28-30, 2025; April 22-24, 2025; June 10-12, 2025 and October 28-30, 2025

United Nations Influence



As an NGO (nongovernment organization), NAFFA has joined a coalition of pro-family NGO's who promote the strengthening of parenthood. NAFFA has been included in the United Nations summit, the Commission on the Status of Women and the coalition's Conference on the State of Women and Family in New York City each year. Al Pooley presented “Indigenous Healing to Empower Women and Families” to a group of women and men from around the world on March 14, 2024

Prison Program/Re-entry

NAFFA has always had a good relationship with local jails and prisons. Our programs are used inside many tribal courts and prisons around the country. In 2024, NAFFA has been in discussion with two private prisons, Core Civic and GEO, as well as the Arizona's Department of Corrections, to start teaching our curricula inside each prison complex to help men and women to strengthen and prepare for release.



Interns:

1. **Monique Bell:** Arizona State University for master's in social work
2. **Robert Sparks:** Brigham Young University-Idaho for bachelor's degree in Marriage and Family Studies
3. **Jenel Shephard:** Grand Canyon University for Master's Degree in Social Work.
4. **Shaya Curley:** Arizona State University for a bachelor's degree in Sociology.
5. **Tasha Johnson:** Arizona State University for Interdisciplinary Studies degree

Outreach through Conferences:

1. Phoenix - Unity Conference: February 2024-Melody Billy attended
2. Washington D.C. - Zero to Three Retreat: February 2024- Neil Tift presented while Malcolm Redhair and Austin Black attended.
3. New York - Commission on the Status of Women for the United Nations: March 2024. Albert Pooley, Valerie Hollobaugh and Melody Billy attended.
4. New York - Conference on the State of Women and Family: March 2024. Albert Pooley presented, Valerie Hollobaugh and Melody Billy attended.
5. Phoenix – Annual American Indian Suicide Prevention Convening: Albert Pooley presented. Malcolm Redhair and Jeri Long attended.
6. Suquamish, Washington – Healing Together Conference in June. Karra Papa and Cheryl Honnie presented. Valerie Hollobaugh with daughter Lydia Slezak and Jeri Long attended. Lydia Slezak taught Art Therapy during the Healing Village Day.
7. Phoenix – Child Abuse Prevention Conference in July. Neil Tift presented, Malcolm Redhair presented, and Melody Billy attended.

8. Phoenix -Office of Indian Education Stakeholder Summit in July. Neil Tift presented. Cheryl Honnie and Jeri Long attended the resource fair during the summit.
9. Mahnomen, Minnesota-White Earth Reservation: 20th Annual Brain Development Conference, August 1 and 15th. Albert Pooley presented Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships.
10. Atlanta, Georgia- International Fatherhood Conference, August 16-18. Neil Tift presented “Assessment Guide on Father Inclusive Practices” and staffed a NAFFA display table.
11. Fresno, California- Indian Child Welfare Act Conference, October 1-3. Albert Pooley Kenote was Gaining Strength Through Adversity, workshops The Ability to Change and Returning Greatness to our Native People
12. Oregon- Indian Child Welfare Act Conference, October 15-17. Albert Pooley presented The Core of NAFFA Wellness, Fatherhood is Sacred®/Motherhood is Sacred® and Supporting Through Service and Goodness.
13. Ukiah, California- Indigenous Wellness Alliance Open House, October 11-13, 2024, Albert Pooley presented Addressing Family Violence and Abuse© and Karra Papa attended.
14. Covelo, California – Day of Wellness, December 15, 2024, Albert Pooley attended.

Grants and Charitable Funding Received: All NAFFA grants have been expended according to outlined purposes.

- Season for Sharing, \$7,500 to establish a Parent Resource Center, granted March 2024
- AZ Gives (through AZ Community Foundation), \$2,500, unrestricted, granted April 2024
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, \$250,000 to provide a substance use prevention and suicide prevention program for Native Youth, 1 year grant with renewal for up to 5 years, granted August 2024
- Thunderbird Charities, \$10,000 to operate a Parent Resource Center, granted December 2024
- JustReinvest, \$75,000 to provide reentry services to 100 individuals over 18 months, granted December 2024
- Private donation, \$30,000 for general nonprofit operations to strengthen families, granted Fall 2024
- Gila River Gaming Grant, \$203,000 for Parent Resource Center, expended from 2019 to 2021.

Native Hoop Magazine: This beautiful publication has requested NAFFA to contribute monthly articles about Native issues and strengthening the family. NAFFA submitted 7 articles in 2024.

See: <https://nativehoop.org/>

Podcast: Native Roots: Strong Families with Al Pooley

In a captivating interview, Albert Pooley delved into the rich tapestry of Native American representation in cinema with legendary actor Wes Studi. Al, who is known for his insightful inquiries, navigated the conversation with finesse, drawing out Studi's experiences and perspectives with profound respect. Studi, a trailblazer in Hollywood, offered poignant reflections on the evolution of Indigenous roles in film, from stereotypical portrayals to more authentic and nuanced depictions. His candid insights shed light upon the challenges faced by Native actors and the importance of reclaiming narratives to accurately reflect the diversity and complexity of indigenous cultures. See link to watch podcast:

<https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/webinars>



Webinars: NAFFA continued the bi-monthly webinar series in 2024. Topics included the International Association of Families, Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships®, Addressing Family Violence and Abuse®, The Process of Healing, Strengthening Families and the Three Pillars of Change. These webinars were presented in January, March, May, July, September and November and can be found at <https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org>

Bi-Monthly Buzz Meetings with Zoom: With over 2,000 facilitators, NAFFA stayed in touch with our facilitators by scheduling periodic Zoom meetings. These meetings were an hour and a half and provide facilitators with an opportunity to visit with other facilitators online, share ideas and receive instruction from Al Pooley and Malcolm Redhair, our facilitator coordinator.

Events:

Faith/Community Based Breakfast

NAFFA sponsored our 6th annual Faith Community breakfast on February 14th for members of the area religious and nonprofit community groups. Al introduced NAFFA and its programs with a power point presentation which was well received.



Criminal Justice Breakfast



NAFFA sponsored our 6th annual Criminal Justice breakfast on February 15 which was well attended by surrounding police departments, judges and probation officers. This included Mesa PD, Gilbert PD, Apache Junction PD, and Tempe PD and justice departments from Phoenix.

Healing Together Conference

The third annual Healing Together Conference took place in Suquamish, Washington on June 11-13, that brought together five Native American organizations: Wellbriety Movement White Bison, Native Wellness Institute, Native Dad's Network, American Indian Cancer Foundation and NAFFA.

With five exemplary organizations of Indigenous programming, this conference was unlike any other. The combined professional experiences, skills, approach, and use of Indigenous cultures as well as the prevention, intervention, and treatment workshops filled the void in education and services and addressed wellness for many. This conference was a powerful and appropriate response to communities worldwide. There were over 350 in attendance from Native tribes across the country for this three-day conference. Karra Papa, Cheryl Honnie, Jeri Long and Valerie Hollobaugh (pictured at right) from NAFFA staff were in attendance. A special guest, Lydia Slezak attended with NAFFA staff to provide the art therapy classes for the Healing Village event. The Healing Village was a new event added to the conference providing wellness stations in sound therapy, talking circles, guided meditations, making necklaces, bath salts, lava bead bracelets, journaling and more. It was an enjoyable conference and well worth the time in attending.



Seminars:

Hawaii Strengthening Families Seminar was held on February 1-2 at Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu. The “Core of NAFFA Wellness” was discussed by Albert Pooley (right) and Revitalizing our Health was presented by Robert Jonhstun, the CEO of NAFFA’s partner: Monovo. Robert showed participants how Monovo’s virtual health system improves patient outcomes, especially in rural areas. A Wellness panel was conducted with Al Pooley, Robert Johonstun, Elizabeth Bryant and NAFFA facilitator Cheryl Bearchild.



Billings Montana Suicide Prevention Seminar was on June 6-7 in the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. NAFFA partnered with the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council for this two day event help participants to learn more about the Core of NAFFA’s Wellness as well as suicide prevention. Special guest speaker, Jeri Long to discuss NAFFA’s behavior health program as well as Michael Cunningham from our new partner Hope and Healing Treatment Center spoke along with Jake Poulsen from Monovo.

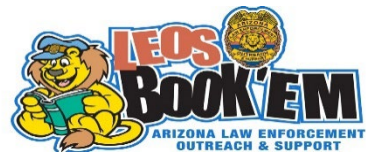


Albuquerque’s Strengthening Families Seminar was held on August 8th at the Isleta Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, New Mexico. NAFFA staff attending were Al Pooley, Karra Papa and Cheryl Honnie. The presentations addressed a variety of aspects in strengthening families: The Core of NAFFA Wellness and Restoring Family Unity. Michael Cunningham introduced NAFFA’s newest partnership with Hope and Healing Addiction Treatment Center. Valerie Hollobaugh presented information about the International Association of Families (IAF) through Zoom. NAFFA’s facilitator, Estefanita Calabaza sponsored a healing art class that gave participants the opportunity to create interesting art mediums as they learned to heal from anxiety and stress.



LEOS Book ‘EM

NAFFA partners the Law Enforcement Outreach and Support (LEOS) organization and “Kids Need to Read”, sponsored a “Book ‘Em event once a month. Volunteer



Mesa Police officers read to children from picture books donated by “Kids Need to Read”. Popcorn and drinks were served, and children were given books to bring home.

Humanitarian Aid: San Carlos Fire: Due to an arson fire on the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation on July 10th, 2,162 acres of land were burned and 21 homes destroyed, along with 13 other structures. This left 73 tribal members homeless. Several organizations, including NAFFA, sprang into action requesting donations to be delivered to San Carlos on Sunday, July 14.

The response was incredible, as many volunteered helpful supplies dropped off at the NAFFA office: 60 cases of water, 5 cases of Capri sun drinks, food, medical supplies, dog food, personal hygiene supplies, toys and a

mountain of 35-gallon bags full of clothing. On Sunday, July 14th, three full pickup trucks, and a hitched trailer loaded with the rest of supplies were delivered. Thank you, Jeri Long and Cheryl Honnie, from NAFFA Staff with



their families and Philip Robert, NAFFA facilitator, (pictured above) drove and dropped off donations.

20th National “Fatherhood is Leadership” Conference

November 13-15, 2024, at Double Tree by Hilton in Mesa

This year was a special year for our national “Fatherhood is Leadership” conference. Celebrating our 20th year of conferences, we included a special celebratory dance on Thursday night, November 14th with a special DJ, Shawn Martinex, an NBA award winner and official DJ for Nike N7. We also sponsored a dance contest with cash prizes and a special musical performance from Alice Cooper’s Solid School of Rock band “One Way Sky”.

Keynote Speakers:



Roselyn Tso: Indian Health Services Director

Keynote speaker Roselyn Tsos presented “Understanding the Structural and Social Drivers of Health and Impact Fathers Have on the Health and Well-Being.” Her passion for good health was obvious as she spoke of what parents can do to keep their children healthy.

Melissa Buffalo: American Indian Cancer Foundation CEO

Melissa Buffalo spoke on “The Harmful Effects of E-Cigarettes” Most people think since they are inhaling vapor, there are no health risks for e-cigarettes. As Ms. Buffalo explained, there is a greater chance of nicotine addiction and respiratory health risks, as well as a negative impact upon mental health. She suggested we must guard our youth against the harmful health effects of e-cigarettes.



Plenary Presentations:

Day 1 Plenary



Albert Pooley: Wellness Modalities

NAFFA's new wellness modality was introduced by Albert Pooley who has developed a 17-session program for not only recovery organizations but also re-entry institutions. This program will assist those seeking to heal their trauma and become independent, self-reliant individuals. Incorporating the principles taught from all four of NAFFA's curriculum, this modality will uplifts and encourage individuals with the necessary truths to begin a journey of hope and healing toward positive change.

Day 2 Plenary



Diana Billy-Elliott and Hands Lopez: Power of Change

Indigenous Wellness Alliance's (IWA) President and Founder, Diana Billy-Elliott, as well as Board Member, Hands Lopez, presented on the Power of Change by sharing their personal testimony. They added how the concepts of the Power of Change embodied the comprehensive services IWA offers.



Day 3 Plenary



Karra Papa: The Importance of Education in Families

Jill Mendoza: Transforming Tomorrow's Youth

NAFFA's Executive Director, Karra Papa, informed the audience on the importance of education. With her extensive experience in the educational field, she highlighted the importance of work and learning.

Jill Mendoza echoed this information and how it will be delivered in NAFFA's new Transforming Tomorrow's Youth Program. She stated that the training program will be available in the summer of 2025.



Workshop Presentations: Workshop presentations were in four areas: Criminal Justice, Education, Health & Human Services, and Fatherhood and Motherhood with an added youth component this year.

1. **Sextortion:** Special Agent Emily Steel, FBI Phoenix Division
2. **Holistic Approach to Wellness- Kewa Family Wellness Prevention:** Estefanita Calabaza, Chritsina Garcis and Bryson Martinez
3. **Strengthening Native High School Youth through a Responsible Approach:** Cheryl Haozous
4. **NAFFA Facilitator Resource Session:** Cheryl Honnnie, Malcolm Redhair and Valerie Hollobaugh
5. **Providing Native Solutions to Preserve Traditions:** Arrow Funmaker and Hunter Eary Waakejahuuga
6. **Where are the Dads?:** Keith Schumacher
7. **Supporting Dads in Family:** James Worthy and Eugene Schneeberg
8. **How DNA Testing is being Used to Help Identify our Mission and Indigenous Relatives:** Mark Pooley
9. **Wellness Modalities:** Albert Pooley
10. **Trafficked: What Happened to Our Most Vulnerable:** Reva Stewart
11. **Youth Workshop- Leaders Raising Leaders, the Next Generation of Us:** Laura Wong
12. **Decolonizing Trauma Work:** Renina Faridnia
13. **Filmmaking and Beyond:** Travis Holt Hamilton

Lunch Time Cultural Sharing:

Danza Huitziling Group: This is a family dance group that shared their cultural dances. Guillermina Garca brought beautifully, dressed dancers performed and wowed the crowd during the Wednesday afternoon lunch.



Horracks Family Dancers



After a last-minute change in scheduling, the Horracks Family Dancers came to the rescue. They provided their traditional Navajo basket and gourd dancing. They then amazed the crowd with their expert hoop dancing. They also



offered a sign-language performance of the song ‘Go My Son’, written by Arlene Nofchissey and Carnes Burson.

National Conference “Fatherhood is Leadership” Sponsors

Organization:	Sponsor Level	Amount of Sponsorship
Cholla Behavioral Health	Veterans Donation used for special presentation	
Cook Native American Ministries	Frybread Luncheon	\$3,000
Molina Healthcare	Frybread Lunch	\$3,000
Desert Diamond Casino	Agate	\$5,000
Hope and Healing Recovery	Donation	\$2,500
Indigenous Wellness Alliance	T-Shirt Sponsor	Donating T-shirts
National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse		\$5,000
Valley Leadership	Scholarship Sponsor	\$2,500
Waterford	Donation	\$2,000
Casino Arizona	Bag Sponsor	\$3,500
Bumblebee Health	Agate Sponsor	\$5,000
NAT-SU Behavioral Health	Scholarship/Frybread	\$8,000
Governor’s Office of Faith And Youth Families	Agate	<u>\$5,000</u>
	TOTAL:	\$44,500

Precious Gem Awards Luncheon

NAFFA had the opportunity to present four amazing people the “Precious Gem” award in honor of their life work. It was an honor to present these awards and learn of their unassuming, great examples of compassion, perseverance and positivity. These recipients have been a light to the world.

Precious Gem Awards

Thursday, November 14, 2024
Double Tree by Hilton Phoenix Mesa

Lunch time on November 14, four local community individuals were praised for a special award highlighting their service to the community.



Jessica Payne
Executive Director of Kids Need to Read

Agate Award: In recognition of your role as an advocate for children, exhibiting calmness of body and mind and a pure heart.



Lee Yaiva, Laura Pahules, Jessica Payne and Dr. Anthony Newkirk stand with AL Pooley after receiving their Precious Gem Award



Dr. Anthony Newkirk
Founder and CEO of Warrior's Code



Laura Pahules
Founder/President of Control, Alt, Delete: Reset from Abuse

Rhodonite Award: In recognition of your desire to bless others in safety after emerging from adversity with hope and gratitude.

Rose Quartz Award: In recognition of your positivity and love for all people, as well as your small and large acts of kindness to others in health and healing.



Lee Yaiva
CEO of Scottsdale Recovery Center

Social Media

NAFFA has been active on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, Youtube and Instagram in 2024, posting inspiring messages, videos and events for our Parent Resource Center, seminars and workshops. Join us on any of those sites and receive inspirational message every day from NAFFA.

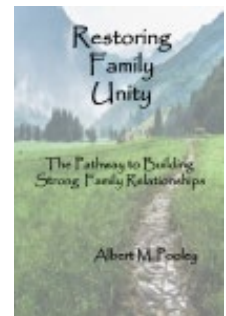
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/naffastaff>; <https://www.facebook.com/Native-American-Fatherhood-Families-Association-203941116285466/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NAFatherhood>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13571111/>
- Pinterest: <https://www.pinterest.com/nativeamericanfatherhoodandfam/>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@AZNAFFA8/videos>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/nativeamericanfatherhood/?hl=en>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Native_American_Fatherhood_and_Families_Association

NAFFA's Blog: <https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/blog> Check out our blog posts that offer inspiring messages for families.

NAFFA Online Store:

Our NAFFA Store sells t-shirts, framed Native pictures, cooler carry bags and more. See our online store at: <https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/shop-1>

Restoring Family Unity: This book has been published since 2021 and has been a popular gift for many facilitators for those who finished their courses. It offers information of NAFFA's programs and includes stories of those who have changed their lives for the better. A great gift for those who cannot attend classes.



Overview: Alcoholism, drugs, gangs and detachment are major issues in many families. Fatherhood is Sacred®/Motherhood is Sacred® by Albert Pooley who has been offering parents a role model not used by many therapists for the past 17 years. *Restoring Family Unity: The Pathway to Building Strong Family Relationships* is Fatherhood is Sacred®/Motherhood is Sacred® in book form.

Understand how parents can lay the foundation against divorce, drugs, alcoholism and gangs. Learn the five principles important for parents to keep their children safe and happy. Read about the many lives changed when they followed this program. See the vision of a better world with stronger families.

Total Book Sales for 2024: 130 books sold (645 books sold total since August 2021)



NAFFA 2025 EVENTS



UPDATED 1/21/2025

Webinars

- Jan. 14, 2025
- Mar. 11, 2025
- May 13, 2025
- Jul. 15, 2025
- Sept. 16, 2025
- Nov. 18, 2025

Bi-Monthly Buzz

- Jan. 15, 2025
- Mar. 12, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- Jul. 16, 2025
- Sep. 17, 2025
- Nov. 19, 2025

Seminars/Banquets

- Jan. 9, 2025, Honolulu, HI
- Jun. 24, 2025, Location TBD
- Aug. 5, 2025, Location TBD

Conferences

- Jun. 18-20, 2025 (HTC)
- Nov. 5-7, 2025 (FIL)

Other

- Feb. 13, 2025, Comm. Networking Breakfast
- Jun. 15, 2025, 13th Annual NARF Day

Recertification

- Feb. 11, 2025
- Apr. 15, 2025
- Jun. 24, 2025
- Aug. 19, 2025
- Oct. 14, 2025
- Dec. 16, 2025

Three ways to recertify:

1. National Conference attendance
2. Two-hour Zoom meeting
3. Three-day Training, virtual or in-person

 www.nativeamericanfathers.org/events

 info@aznaffa.org

Training

*in-person only

FISMIS (Fatherhood Is Sacred/Motherhood Is Sacred)

- Jan. 6-8, 2025, **Honolulu, HI***
- Mar. 24-26, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- May 5-7, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Jun. 23-25, 2025, **Location TBD***
- Jul. 8-10, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Oct. 20-22, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Nov. 18-20, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual

LGSR (Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships)

- Jan. 6-8, 2025, **Honolulu, HI***
- Feb. 3-5, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Apr. 9-11, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Aug. 4-6, 2025, **Location TBD***
- Sep. 22-24, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Dec. 8-10, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual

AFVA (Addressing Family Violence and Abuse)

- Feb. 5-7, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Apr. 7-9, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Aug. 4-6, 2025, **Location TBD***
- Sep. 24-26, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Oct. 22-24, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual

SP (Suicide Prevention)

- Jan. 6-8, 2025, **Honolulu, HI***
- Mar. 26-28, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- May 7-9, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Jun. 23-25, 2025, **Location TBD***
- Nov. 18-20, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual
- Dec. 10-12, 2025, Mesa, AZ/Virtual

Wellness Modalities (Re-Entry/ Recovery)

- Jan. 27-30, 2025
- Feb. 24-27, 2025
- Mar. 17-20, 2025
- Apr. 21-24, 2025
- May 12-15, 2025
- Jun. 9-12, 2025
- Jul. 7-10, 2025
- Aug. 11-14, 2025
- Sep. 15-18, 2025
- Oct. 27-30, 2025
- Dec. 1-4, 2025

Transforming Tomorrow's Youth Program

- Jun. 2-5, 2025
- Jul. 21-24, 2025
- Sep. 8-11, 2025
- Oct. 20-23, 2025
- Dec. 8-11, 2025