



STRENGTHENING FAMILY CIRCLES

1001 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 T: 612-722-8722 F: 612-722-8669 diw.gmcc.org

Summary

Provides classes, counseling, community outreach and additional support in parenting, affordable housing, sexual exploitation, domestic violence and spiritual practices.

Program areas

Anpa Wasté and Anpa Wasté-Numpa

“New Beginnings” is a three-unit housing complex for young, homeless American Indian mothers and their children. “New Beginnings Two” is a nine-unit apartment complex for young American Indian mothers struggling with long-term homelessness. Both housing facilities are in South Minneapolis and residents receive a variety of support services.

Family Violence Services

Working with individuals to end family violence through culturally-sensitive group and individual counseling in violence support, anger management and other areas. The project employs an American Indian advocate at the Hennepin County Domestic Abuse Service Center to help clients file orders of protection and navigate the legal system.

Father’s Services

Offers advocacy, cultural activities and parenting support to American Indian fathers. The program partners with the Goodwill Easter Seals FATHER Project to provide educational, legal and job-related resources.

Parenting

Incorporating cultural activities and teachings, a group meets weekly covering a variety of parenting-related topics. The in-home parenting worker provides support to clients referred by Child Protection Services and community organizations. The culturally-specific parenting curriculum covers child development, conflict resolution, child behavior and establishing rules and boundaries.

Phoenix Project

In partnership with the Minnesota Indian Women’s Resource Center, the program offers a variety of early-intervention services to young American Indian girls and boys who are at risk for or who have been sexual exploited or trafficked into a life of prostitution.



“We have been given the strength to never give up and to accomplish our goals, not only for ourselves, but for our children as well.”

A couple participating in Strengthening Family Circles programming

Street Works

A diverse collaborative of youth support agencies using street-based outreach to provide access to resources, opportunities for homeless youth and youth that are at-risk of becoming homeless.

Wiidookodaadig (Helping Each Other)

Provides crime victims with traditional counseling and support to aid them in their healing process. The program sends two traditional spiritual mentors to meet the spiritual needs of American Indian men and women at adult correctional facilities.

Facts and Stats

- Clients living at Anpa Wasté and Anpa Wasté Numpa agree to participate in DIW programming, to work on goals established during an initial intake and work or attend school full-time.
- In 2009, DIW staff helped to secure almost 450 orders of protection.
- Wiidookodaadig offers regular sweat lodge ceremonies, dark room healing ceremonies, naming and traditional counseling.
- In 2009, Strengthening Family Circles partnered with Lindquist and Vennum, a local law firm, to provide winter coats for the program's adult clients and their children.
- The program served more than 2,000 clients in 2009.

Director

Suzanne Tibbetts Young, 612-722-8722 x350, stibbetts@diw-mn.org



“For the women and children who live here, Anpa Wasté-Numpa is a safe and stable home. A place where they can pursue their goals with the support of their community.”

Noya Woodrich, DIW Executive Director