



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

1001 East Lake Street, Minneapolis, MN 55407 T: 612-722-8722 F: 612-722-8669 [diw.gmcc.org](http://diw.gmcc.org)

## Summary

Encourages well-rounded success by providing youth with a wide variety of learning opportunities, including Native language and cultural enrichment, after-school tutoring, homework help, recreational, environmental and artistic activities.

## Program Areas

### Academic & Activities Program

Encourages American Indian youth 7-17 years old to succeed in school and in the community by offering homework help and tutoring, culture and language instruction and prevention for at-risk behavior.

### Summer Program

Provides environmental teaching, culture & language learning and healthy activities throughout the summer months for American Indian youth 7-12 years old. Activities are focused on a weekly theme and include daily field trips and art projects.

### American Indian Math Project

Serving students at Anishinabe Academy, this 21st Century Community Learning Center provides culturally relevant math curriculum, intervention support and tutoring for 5th-8th grade students as well as incentive field trips and family events.

### Agindaasodaa! (Let's Read!)

Aims to bring reading levels to grade-level competency using a proven curriculum and other methods. Staff works with the students and teachers in the K-3rd grade classrooms at Anishinabe Academy. This is a United Way Reading by 3rd Grade Initiative.

### First Language Project

Teaches conversational Ojibwe skills that youth ages 7-17 can take home and to their communities. This program focuses on teaching grammar patterns, common phrases and vocabulary through the use of games, activities, cultural events and various types of social gatherings.

### Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention Program

Teaches about American Indian culture and life skills as preventative measures against alcohol, tobacco, and drug abuse. Serving youth 7-17 years old, the program also incorporates aspects of traditional and contemporary indigenous culture.



*“The strongest aspect of all of our programs is the relationship we build with our families.”*

Louise Matson, director of Youth Leadership Development Program

## **Be@School**

Works directly with Anishinabe Academy, staff, parents and students to track, monitor and improve school attendance for American Indian youth in grades K-8.

### ***Facts and Stats***

- Based on teacher surveys from the 2008-09 school year, 75 percent of those involved in the American Indian Math Project improved their math scores.
- Most of the youth participating in YLDP live in South Minneapolis but represent tribal communities across the Midwest.
- According to parent/guardian surveys, 88 percent of the youth participating in the tutoring program improved or maintained average or better grades in 2009.
- Volunteers donated more than 770 hours to YLDP in 2009.

### ***Director***

Louise Matson, 612-722-8722, x370, lmatson@diw-mn.org



***“I always think about the future of the kids. They need a place where they can come have fun and learn with caring Native teachers.”***

Chiffon Potter, youth worker and volunteer coordinator for YLDP