



LONE STAR
BALLROOM A2

2020-21

ANNUAL REPORT

INSPIRING HOPE.
CHANGING LIVES.

Celebrating 45 Years!



Inspiring Hope. Changing Lives.

UNITY HAS TOUCHED
THE LIVES OF MORE THAN

255,000
NATIVE YOUTH
SINCE 1976.



● ABOUT UNITY

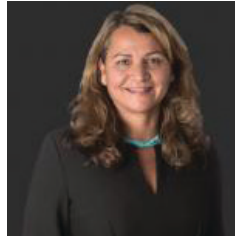
ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION / MISSION

UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement.

UNITY is a national network organization that empowers and serves Indigenous youth between the ages of 14 and 24 through personal development, citizenship, and leadership. Established in 1976, UNITY has a 45-year track record well-regarded for its positive impact on the lives of Indigenous youth.

COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

LORETTA TUELL, J.D.
CHAIRMAN



After a tumultuous year in 2020, the work honoring and fulfilling UNITY's mission — to foster the spiritual, mental, physical, and social development of American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native youth, and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native American through greater youth involvement — was even more vital as we entered 2021. Despite a funding shortfall due to the pandemic, we were committed to continuing to offer year-round programming, whether virtual or in-person, to serve the needs of our youth councils and members.

Over the past year, the buzzword for all organizations, including UNITY, has been “virtual.” As such, we adapted our programming and offerings to accommodate this new world, with much success. You'll notice that our website has a new look, and we've revamped our Wellness Warriors app. Our midyear conference went virtual for the first time in April, with excellent results and positive feedback.

Nevertheless, we were excited to see our national conference return to an in-person format in Dallas, Texas, this year. The planning was different, as we remained mindful of COVID safety protocols and best practices and the need to keep our more than 750 attendees safe and healthy while providing the programming and networking opportunities they love. Even though our numbers were down from previous conferences, it was an essential step in moving through the challenges of this new

landscape and allowing our youth to come together as a community after a long period of isolation and uncertainty.

Our virtual meetups continued in the fall, with sessions hosted by the National UNITY Council Executive Committee.

As an organization, we continued to grow and innovate, adding a youth programs division that includes a manager and coordinator focused on exploring the topics important to our Native youth and developing relevant programs. We've built partnerships with organizations like IllumiNative and Bowman Consulting to expand our reach and breadth of services and knowledge.

Most of all, I'd like to express my gratitude to our staff, leadership team, and youth for persevering, helping us build a strong UNITY organization, and innovating as a community to overcome the challenges of the past year to emerge even stronger than before. I am also grateful for the commitment and support of our partner agencies, financial supporters, and volunteers. Their work is reflected in this Annual Report and, most importantly, UNITY's mission and programs.

UNITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES

Loretta Tuell, J.D., Chairman
Tyler English-Rush, Secretary/Treasurer
Elke Chenevey, Member
Kyle Doney, Member
Henry Lozano, Member
Lori Winfree, Member
Izaiah Fisher, EC Co-President & Member
Audriana Mitchell, EC Co-President & Member

UNITY GREETINGS

MARY KIM TITLA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Goodbye 2021 and hello 2022! What a year it's been for UNITY! Like everyone else, we rode the waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to our fantastic team's resilience and the unwavering support of our UNITY family and partners, we made it through! As I celebrate my eighth year as executive director, I reflect on the past year with pride and hope. Pride in the fact our UNITY youth leaders have risen and continue to rise to the occasion, to connect, encourage and empower Native youth across the country virtually and in person. When Native youth thrive, our hopes soar!

This report reflects the awe-inspiring efforts of our youth leaders, staff, trustees, support team, and others who stand with UNITY and support its mission "to foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social needs of American Indian and Alaska Native youth and to help build a strong, unified, and self-reliant Native America through greater youth involvement." UNITY can fulfill its mission through programs such as the National UNITY Council and its executive committee, Earth Ambassadors, 25 Under 25 Leaders, Healing Indigenous Lives Initiative, peer guides, and UNITY News.

These pages are only a glimpse of what UNITY can achieve, which would not be possible without our incredible supporters, community partners, and volunteers. Thanks to continued support, UNITY can inspire Native youth leaders and change lives to adequately address their identified top ten issues, which are highlighted in this report.

I'm incredibly proud of this organization's 45-year journey, and I look forward to how it will impact more lives. With good intentions, we strive to do significant work to better all tribal communities, finding thoughtful, effective, and innovative ways to support Native youth so we may help facilitate positive change in their lives and provide tools to help them reach their goals.

UNITY TEAM

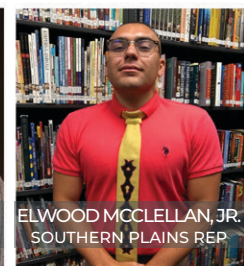
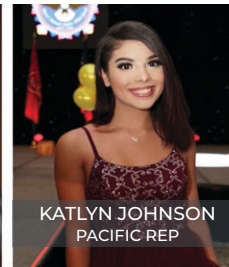
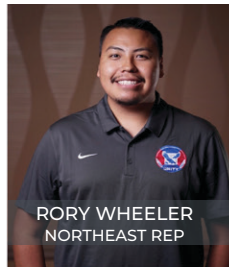
Mary Kim Titla, Executive Director
LorenAshley Buford, Program Manager - OJJDP
Greg Mendoza, Youth Programs Director
Jared Massey, Media Specialist/Program Assistant
Tami Patterson, Office Manager
Caleb Dash, Production Assistant
Will Mosley, Communications Assistant



● YOUTH PROGRAMMING

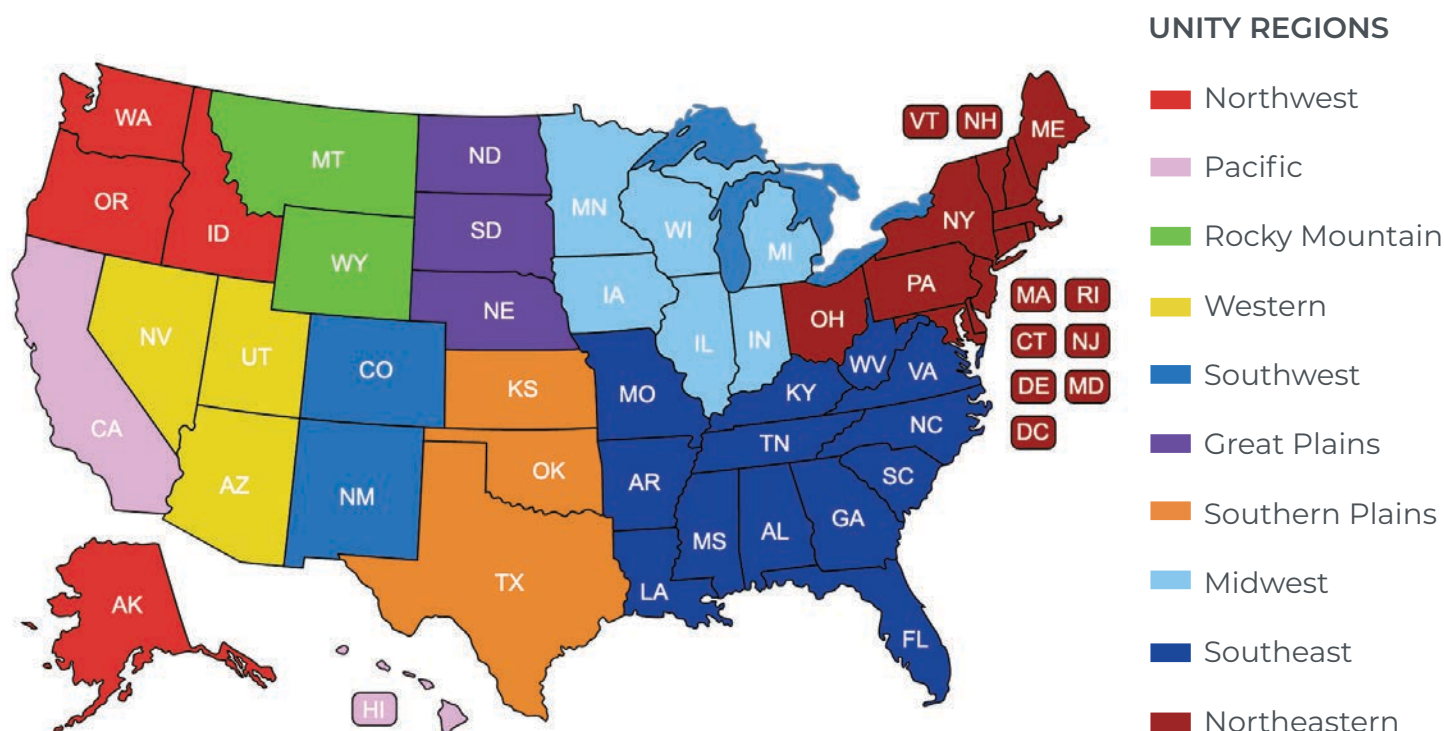


2021 NUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



NATIONAL UNITY COUNCIL (NUC)

The heart of UNITY is its affiliated youth councils, which are sponsored by tribes, Alaska Native villages, high schools, colleges, urban Indian centers, and others. Youth Councils engage in annual reports in four areas – cultural preservation, environmental awareness, healthy lifestyles, and community service. UNITY has many affiliated youth councils, at 325 in 36 states. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic greatly affected youth council activities resulting in a lack of participation. UNITY is working with Regional Representatives to reconnect and recharge youth councils through Regional Meet Ups. UNITY is the only national organization to have a formal network of youth councils. Members of each UNITY-affiliated youth council appoint two individuals (one young woman, one young man) to serve as representatives on the National UNITY Council (NUC). Native youth throughout the United States, who are UNITY affiliates, elect individuals to serve as Regional Representatives on the National UNITY Council Executive Committee. The ten geographical areas are Great Plains, Midwest, Northeast, Northwest, Pacific, Rocky Mountain, Southern Plains, Southeast, Southwest, and Western. Two youth are elected by the NUC membership each year to serve as National UNITY Council Co-Presidents.



NUC RESOLUTION FOR 2021

UNITY's strength is found within youth-driven national campaigns. The National UNITY Council annually votes on the top 10 issues facing Native youth in Indian Country. One of the topics is selected as a national initiative. When the NUC passes a resolution, the affiliated youth councils are encouraged to host local community service projects addressing the resolution priority during that calendar year. Youth Councils are encouraged to also address local priority issues.

NUC Resolution gets NCAI support for a National Native Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative

The 2020-21 NUC Executive Committee presented a resolution before the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) outlining the *I Will Live* initiative, which aims to bring further attention to the American Indian and Alaska Native suicide epidemic amid the Global COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Committee actively participated in the NCAI resolutions process during the NCAI Convention, which was held virtually in October 2021. The resolution went through the Human Resources and Health Committee, receiving unanimous support before being approved at the last General Assembly. The resolution supports the *I will Live* initiative to inspire collective action, to bring about wellness and mental health cultural teachings to empower others to actively pursue a balanced lifestyle and provide resources to reduce suicides in Indian Country.

NUC REGIONAL MEET-UPS

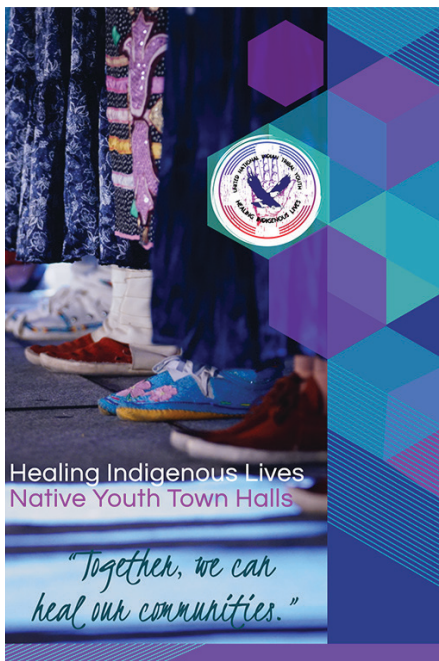
The NUC Executive Committee hosted spring and fall Regional UNITY Meet Ups, which served to connect with youth, brainstorm to address community challenges/needs, and have fun! Youth councils and advisors were invited to grow relationships and work towards common goals. Not only was this a valuable leadership development and networking opportunity for UNITY youth leaders to connect with youth in their regions, but they also sought feedback on current initiatives. Together the youth determined the essential regional needs for the following year.

UNITY WELLNESS WARRIORS

The UNITY Wellness Warriors Project aims to carry out a national campaign with the following objectives.

1. To increase the awareness for and benefits of vaccinations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and promote individual and community wellness;
2. Acquaint youth and adult participants via virtual learning (webinars/workshops) with ways in which their respective communities can effectively address COVID-19;
3. Encourage and help youth councils and individuals become Wellness Warriors by planning and carrying out a youth-led service project to promote vaccinations and promotes a healthy immune system;
4. Widely distribute the existing Wellness Warriors free app(lication) that youth and the general Native population may use to learn more about COVID-19, learn about available community resources, and access tools to develop a wellness-related PSA; and
5. Create a publicly accessible area on the UNITY website and social media pages where the nation's Native population may find the project and helpful Covid-19, health and wellness-related information, links to resources, and suggestions for promoting community safety.

HEALING INDIGENOUS LIVES INITIATIVE TOWN HALLS



In partnership with The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), UNITY hosted four virtual Town Halls under its Healing Indigenous Lives Initiative (HILI) program. HILI supports and enhances Native youth engagement, coordination, and action related to juvenile justice and delinquency prevention in Indian country. The Town Halls were open to Native youth ages 14-24 years old and were facilitated by UNITY Peer Guides from each of the four time zones. Youth shared stories and discussed topics, including the significant impact of family incarceration, and dropping out of school. As a result, Youth Councils across the nation are learning how to develop personalized plans to create safer communities.

CIRCLE OF EARTH AMBASSADORS

In celebration of Earth Day and collaboration with the National Museum of the American Indians (NMAI), UNITY announced its 2021 Class of Earth Ambassadors! During the NMAI Youth In Action Live Broadcast, the announcement was made on April 22, 2021.

Our Earth Ambassador and 25 Under 25 national honoree Marco Ovando (Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of NV) spoke to discuss how traditional ecological knowledge plays in the lives of farmers and entrepreneurs.

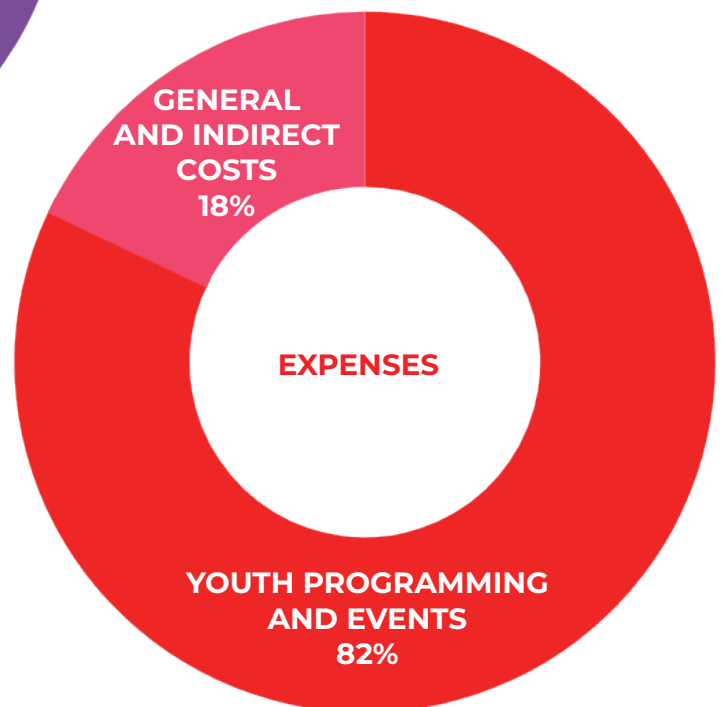
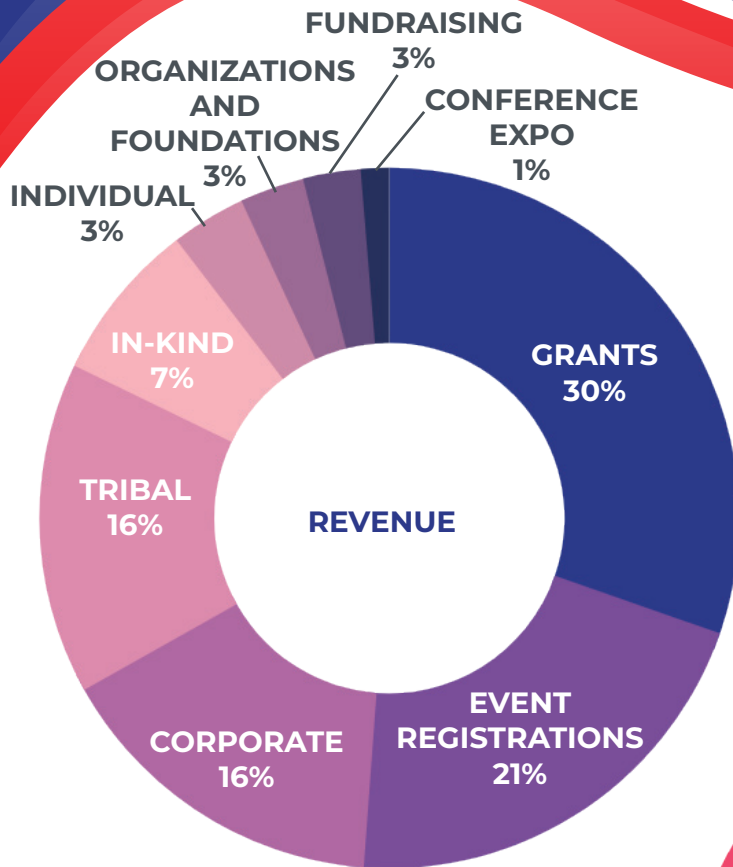
The Earth Ambassadors meet monthly to share environmental platforms and conduct community efforts. The cohort of ambassadors participated in a U.S. Department of Interior listening session on Tribal Youth and Climate Change in October 2021. The session included mind-mapping exercises on “How is climate change impacting your tribal nation and community,” “How can you help connect people of all generations to work together to solve community problems with honor and respect for the land and environment?” and

“What types of projects would make a difference in your tribal community to help climate change impacts?” The Earth Ambassadors attended the 2021 National UNITY Conference in Dallas, where

they facilitated four workshops called “Water for Life.” UNITY was excited to present and recognize the newest class of UNITY Earth Ambassadors at the conference. For the first time on stage in front of a live audience, safely during a pandemic, UNITY presented the latest class of Earth Ambassadors with crafted wooden medallions as gifts to begin their tenure in the program.



● FINANCIAL REPORT



2020-21 FUNDERS & FRIENDS OF UNITY

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
 Alabama Coushatta Tribe of Texas
 Ancestral Medicines
 Apple, Inc.
 Arizona Public Service
 Bank of America
 Bowman Performance Consulting
 Chairman Aaron Payment
 Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-wuk Indians
 Comcast NBC Universal
 Common Counsel Foundation
 Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde
 Cook Native American Ministries Foundation*
 Dallas Indian Mission
 Danica Liang
 David Vicente
 Dept. of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice
 and Delinquency Prevention
 Elke Chenevery - UNITY Council of Trustee
 Gila River Indian Community
 Glenn and Jan English
 Henry Lozano - UNITY Council of Trustee
 Idea Foundation - Indigenous Dominance
 in Education and Athletes*
 IllumiNative, Inc.*
 Indigenous Institute of the Americas
 Inter-Tribal Council of AT&T Employees
 Jason Coochwyte
 John Mosley and Mary Kim Titla
 Joshua A. Mease^
 Kyle Doney - UNITY Council of Trustee
 Loretta Tuell - UNITY Council of Trustee
 Lori A Winfree - UNITY Council of Trustee

Michael Preston
 Morongo Band of Mission Indians
 Mr. and Mrs. Marquez Quintero
 National Center of American Indian
 Enterprise Development
 Nike N7 Division
 Norman H. DesRosieers^
 Pala Band of Mission Indians
 Poarch Band of Creek Indians
 Prairie Island Indian Community
 REDW LLC
 Salesforce
 SAMHSA - Substance Abuse
 and Mental Health Services*
 San Carlos Apache Tribe
 Smithsonian National Museum
 of the American Indian
 Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians
 South Point Hotel and Casino
 Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation
 The Chickasaw Nation
 The Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation
 Three Affiliated Tribes
 The Ronald Maese Peralta Foundation
 Thomas G. Haskett
 Three Affiliated Tribes 4 Bears Casino
 Titan Facilities LLC
 Tohono O'odham Nation
 Tribal Alliance of Sovereign Nations
 Tribal Tech, LLC
 Tribal Youth Resource Center
 Tyler Rush - UNITY Council of Trustee
 United Auburn Indian Community
 Urban Inter-Tribal Center of Texas
 Urias Communications
 Wells Fargo
 Whiteskunk Accounting & Consulting LLC

**In-Kind Donation*

^Memorial Donation

MIDYEAR & NATIONAL CONFERENCES

328
PARTICIPANTS

MIDYEAR

APRIL 23-24 2021
Virtual Conference

845*
PARTICIPANTS

NATIONAL

JULY 2-6, 2021
Dallas, Texas

*Limited capacity

PARTICIPATION BY UNITY REGION

8%

GREAT PLAINS

1%

ROCKY MOUNTAINS

4%

MIDWEST

4%

SOUTHEAST

1%

NORTHEAST

25%

SOUTHERN PLAINS

15%

NORTHWEST

5%

SOUTHWEST

18%

PACIFIC

20%

WESTERN

UNITY STATISTICS



37

VIRTUAL

Number of virtual webinars and activities hosted in 2021.

2,029

PARTICIPANTS

Number of virtual participants.

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS



4,590
TWITTER



4,554
INSTAGRAM



22,074
FACEBOOK

YOUTH PARTICIPANT AGE

66%

14-17 years old

34%

18-24 years old

GENDER OF PARTICIPANTS

69%

Female

29%

Male

3%

Non-binary
or Two Spirit

1%

Preferred to
not answer

TOP 3 ISSUES

Youth identified as concerning and impacting success in communities.

1

Suicide

2

Drug Use
& Alcohol Abuse

3

Human Trafficking
& MMIWG2S



Inspiring Hope. Changing Lives.

● WAYS TO SUPPORT UNITY

GIVING TO UNITY

UNITY relies on the generous support from Tribal communities, corporations, organizations & foundations, grants, and individual donors to provide our Native American and Alaska Native youth with culturally-relevant leadership development training and experiences.

Individual Donors are just as important. Something sparked for them to give; they believe in the UNITY mission. Many have experienced the positive effects of UNITY in their personal or community life. Individual donors are more than

stakeholders, they are part of the UNITY family.

Your commitment to UNITY is greatly appreciated and allows us to have a direct impact and reach more than 4,000 youth and advisors each year from rural and urban communities across the nation.

MONTHLY GIVING

Consider a recurring monthly donation. Are you a UNITY Alumni wanting to pay it forward or new to UNITY? Together we can give to Native youth in a significant way with recurring donations.



CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIPS

Each year, UNITY hosts two signature events, UNITY Midyear Conference in February with more than 400 participants, and the National UNITY Conference in July with more than 2,000 participants. Various conference sponsorship levels are available with deliverables ranging from your company logo inclusion on materials, welcome message, reception host, naming rights, and more. Contact UNITY for the latest sponsorship opportunities for an upcoming UNITY event.

FISCAL/YEAR-END GIVING

End of the fiscal/year giving is an opportunity to contribute to the advancement of Native American and Alaska Native youth. If you represent a youth program or organization, the fiscal year ends vary. There may be funds available towards conference registration fees or providing a

UNITY training session for your community or organization.. Contact the UNITY office to request an invoice for upcoming UNITY conference and exhibitor registration or set up a UNITY event.

EMPLOYEE MATCH PROGRAMS

If your employer has an Employee Match Program, consider selecting UNITY as your designated charity, and recruit co-workers to select UNITY as their designated charity too.

WISH LIST

UNITY accepts donations of many kinds. We appreciate In-Kind contributions that enhance the experience for our youth and offset budget costs to better allocate funding to direct services for Native youth programming. Contact UNITY for the current needs.

UNITY is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and your donation is tax-deductible within the guidelines of U.S. law.



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