We Are Still Running Strong

“Running Strong works every day so a young Native child can dream and pursue the dream.”

Billy Mills, 2011

Highlights from 2011

- 13,200 nutritious food boxes distributed, each 25 lb. box with enough to feed a family of four during the last week of the month when food runs out (Cheyenne River, Pine Ridge, Crow).
- 4,325 kids received backpacks filled with school supplies, ready to start the school year (Nationwide).
- 29 people, including 14 children, can now drink their own water from seven new water wells (Pine Ridge).
- A family of eight, including six kids, has water again with a new submersible tank, pressure pump and plumbing (Crow).
- A new 28’ x 48’ greenhouse grows seedlings for 16 community gardens (Pine Ridge).
- 196 tilled gardens, started with 24,000 seedlings, grow organic veggies (Pine Ridge).
- 5,376 nutritious lunches fed hungry kids in five communities all summer (Cheyenne River).
- Six young women participated in a revived Isnati (Coming of Age) ceremony (Yankton).
- 1,289 families stretched their heating dollars with our emergency heat match (Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River).
- 112 community members learned and relearned their Euchee language and culture (Euchee).
- A Lakota elder moved from his trailer to a brand new two-bedroom house (Pine Ridge)!
There was a kid here on the Rez. He was pretty tall but weighed about 350. His mom is an alcoholic. He lives in Kyle, where we started our first community garden. It took him a year of watching us outside his window before he approached us. The first time he hung out with us, we went for a short walk and he quickly got tired and overheated. We found some ceyaka growing in the wild and we made him some tea from it. He drank it hesitantly but instantly felt better. He asked what it was and we told him that it is a plant that his ancestors have used for centuries. That got him hooked-- that cultural connection. Now, he is even taller, very slim, playing sports, and really involved in the gardens. He started a dog rescue project in his community, walking all over the area for his mission. That one walk with us and that one cup of tea changed his life.

Jason
Rainbow Tree Executive Director

While self-sufficiency remains the ultimate goal, many reservation families run out of food at the end of the month. Running Strong donated 13,200 “Friendship Boxes” on Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River and Crow, each with enough food to feed a family of four for a week.

Friendship Boxes

Last winter, there were three or four families living together. The snow was deep and they did not have the means to come get food. I went to get the food and took it to their house. It was so cold that they had blankets on their windows. Seeing the kids greet me at the door, waiting for their food, and knowing that they were going to be ok was so wonderful.

Billie, Cheyenne River Reservation
Supplemental Food Distribution Coordinator

Tools to Succeed in School

A young boy really needed a new winter coat. The zipper on his coat broke and his mother told him that she could not afford to buy him a new one. He tried to fix his coat but the only way he could keep it together was to use safety pins and that was too hard for him to do. His mom is a single mom who works two jobs and struggles to make ends meet. He was so happy and proud of his new coat and his mother was very thankful for our help.

Pat, Indian Youth of America
Seven new wells, water hook up and well repair mean nine Native families no longer have to haul water. By drilling with American Indian-owned Wild Goose Well Drilling, we also put local Native workers to work.

“I want to go to school. I don’t want to haul water.”

Janis, Pine Ridge

Running Strong builds greenhouses so that community garden programs can get a jump on the short growing season, including a new 28’ x 48’ greenhouse for Can Wigmunke (Rainbow Tree) on Pine Ridge. We also support community, children’s and traditional gardens nationwide with tilling, seeds, seedlings and gardening tools so that Native communities can grow their own healthy food.

Summer Food

Many reservation children go hungry during the summer without a free school lunch. In partnership with USDA, Running Strong fed kids in five Cheyenne River communities a nutritous lunch during the summer. That’s 5,376 meals! All kids received a backpack full of new school supplies and a kickball at summer’s end.

Many Native kids lack the basics to help them succeed in school. Running Strong donated 4,325 backpacks full of new school supplies to Native students. 3,000 new coats with hoods, 2,084 pairs of new shoes, 3,264 new blankets and 4,933 new pairs of socks made sure Native kids stayed warm and could have fun on the playground. We also donated over 3,000 new toys to answer Santa’s wish lists.

We also support youth centers, Head Starts, and after school language and culture programs so that Native kids are safe and find pride in who they are.

To learn more about all of the programs Running Strong supports, visit www.indianyouth.com
**Cultural Language**

**Euchee**

During the Trail of Tears, the Euchee (Yuchi) people were forcibly relocated from the southeast United States to Oklahoma. Forbidden to speak their language, it began to disappear. Today, there are only five first-language speakers, all of whom are over 80 years old. But thanks to a committed group of leaders, the number of new fluent speakers is growing! Running Strong supports Euchee daily children’s language classes, cultural camps, language capture on video and thanks to a legacy gift, Running Strong funded the Euchee’s Master Apprentice program, where an adult shadows an elder for a daily immersion in the language.

**Brave Heart Society**

Brave Heart Society was formed by a group of women to help Yankton youth reconnect with their cultural abilities. Running Strong supports the Brave Heart’s language nests, cultural healings, storytelling and Coming of Age ceremonies all to nurture one of Native youth’s great advantages, their culture.

“The retreat helped me a lot with co-dependency. But mostly what I got from that week was a good feeling of support. There were participants representing five different tribes and we all came together, recognized each other’s spirits, supported each other… because we are all going through similar hardships. We saw that we’re not alone and we can be strong.”

Kevin

Cultural Healing Retreat Participant, Yankton, SD
Thank you for your invaluable support! We couldn’t do it without you.

We’d also like to thank Federal and military employees who donated through the Combined Federal Campaign and participants in state and corporate campaigns across the country for your generous support.

Our mission is to help American Indian people meet their immediate survival needs — food, water and shelter — while implementing and supporting programs designed to create opportunities for self-sufficiency and self-esteem.
2011 Financial Summary

Year Ended June 30, 2011

The financial results depicted are derived from the Running Strong for American Indian Youth® June 30, 2011 consolidated financial statements which contain an unqualified audit opinion. Our complete, audited financial statements can be obtained online at www.indianyouth.org or by calling (703) 317-9881.

**Income**

- 4.38% Grants from government agencies $228,067
- .7% Other income $36,552
- 33.74% Noncash contributions $1,756,975
- 49.22% Contributions $2,563,037
- 11.97% Cash contributions from affiliates $623,177

**Expenses**

- 1.8% Management, general, development & fundraising $82,624
- 98.2% Program services $4,543,302

**Breakdown of Program Expenses**

- Food 39.98% $1,816,304
- Water 2.23% $101,427
- Family Services 11.74% $533,275
- Housing 7.13% $324,155
- Mother & Child Health 2.37% $107,495
- Grants to Affiliates 25.20% $1,145,000
- Youth 9.43% $428,220
- Culture & Language 1.92% $87,426

**Fiscal Year 2011**

**Program Services**

$4,543,302

**Total Income:**

$5,194,763

**Total Expenses:**

$4,625,926

Thank you for your invaluable support!

Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts
All Faith Chapel
Augustana College Campus Ministry
Baker-Root Family Foundation, Inc.
Barbara S. & Allen C. Wilcox, Jr. Foundation
Boy Scouts of America Crew 10
Brecks ville United Methodist Church
Cedar Tree Foundation
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Metis Nation BC
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Mystery School
Oglala Sioux Tribe
Oneida Nation Foundation
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Regeneration Fund of RSF Social Finance
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Running Strong Tour Group (2009)
San Pedro Presbyterian Church
Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund
Seva Foundation
Seventh Generation Fund
South Dakota Child & Adult Nutrition Services
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
St. Paul’s United Methodist Church
St. Thomas of Villanova Church
State of South Dakota
The Boston Foundation
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