



**RUNNING STRONG**  
for **American Indian Youth**<sup>®</sup>  
AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH RUNNING STRONG<sup>®</sup>



2019-2020 Biennial Report

# Who We Are



## Our Mission

Running Strong strengthens Native American youth by creating sustainable generational change and giving families the tools and hope to build a better life. We believe in the power of Native youth to strengthen their communities, overcome economic challenge and poverty, and develop deeper cultural identities.

## Programs

- Dreamstarter®
- Organic Gardens and Food
- Youth and School Support
- Clean Water
- Culture and Language
- Critical Needs and Emergency Assistance
- Social Enterprise

## Board of Directors

Running Strong is governed by a seven-member volunteer Board of Directors

- **James J. O'Brien, Esq.**, Chairman, Founder, *O'Brien Law LLC*
- **Emil Her Many Horses** (Oglala Lakota), Director, *Assistant Curator, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian*
- **Ashley Wahiaronkwaw Morris** (Mohawk of Kahnawake), Secretary, Youth Board Member
- **Clyde B. Richardson**, Director, *Retired*
- **Elayne Silversmith** (Diné), Treasurer, *Librarian, Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian*
- **Loretta Afraid of Bear Cook** (Oglala Lakota), Director
- **Rear Admiral Eric C. Jones**, Director, *U.S. Coast Guard Executive Assistant to USCG Deputy, Commandant for Operations*

## Running Strong Staff

### Our Headquarters Team

- **Billy Mills** (Oglala Lakota), *National Spokesperson*
- **Bryan Krizek**, *CEO*
- **Paul Krizek, Esq.**, *General Counsel*
- **Bieu Do**, *CFO*
- **Lauren Haas Finkelstein**, *Executive Director*
- **Sydney Farhang** (Oglala Lakota), *Deputy Director*
- **Hanna Hayden**, *Communications Manager*
- **DeAnna Bear** (Lenape/Shawnee), *Grants and Social Enterprise Manager*
- **Dave Frank**, *Fulfillment Manager*

### Our Field Team

- **Tom Kanatakeniate Cook** (Akwasasne Mohawk), *Field Coordinator*
- **Stacie Lee** (Cheyenne River Lakota), *Summer Food Service Program*
- **Dave Lone Elk** (Oglala Lakota), *Field Coordinator*
- **Ken Lone Elk** (Oglala Lakota), *Field Coordinator/Water Project Director*
- **Rose Fraser** (Oglala Lakota), *Field Coordinator/Oyate Teca Director*
- **Mary Little Sky** (Cheyenne River Lakota), *Backpack Food Coordinator*
- **Karen Lone Elk** (Oglala Lakota), *Program Associate*

# Letter From Billy & the Staff

Dear Friends of Running Strong,

We at Running Strong for American Indian Youth® proudly present our 2019-2020 Biennial Report to share the good work that you make possible. Together, we invest in Native community-led efforts to provide clean running water, healthy food and organic gardens, daily essentials like backpacks filled with new school supplies, warm winter coats and boots, and dental care, for our American Indian youth. We empower Native children to dream, share in their culture and language, and grow up healthy members of the next generation, RUNNING STRONG and proud of who they are.



Running Strong was cofounded over 30 years ago by Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) and Gene Krizek as a “giveaway” to Native people in celebration of his 10,000 m. Olympic Gold Medal. Billy still visits with Native communities across the country to empower Native youth to not give up and believe in the power of dreams. In 2020, we overcame the onset of the global coronavirus pandemic to continue our mission of meeting the critical needs of Native American families. You will read more about the challenging times our team and our partners met in the pages to follow and will be inspired by the ways in which we overcame this devastation together.

Our work continuously adapts to meet the needs identified by the Native communities we serve. Each year we face unique challenges. Rather than be discouraged, we seek new opportunities to help even more Native children. We strive for excellence and are committed to completing our mission with efficiency, transparency and integrity.

We are in a time of rejuvenated strength in Native communities today. In 2020, Billy and Running Strong lent our strong support to the battle against the coronavirus being fought in cities and homes across the country but none so more so than our Native American communities – especially rural and remote reservation-based populations. With the help of our supporters like you, we were able to secure hundreds of gallons of hand sanitizer, distribute more than 100,000 pounds of food to families living under lockdown, and continue connecting families to running water at a time when hand-washing is one of the first lines of public health defense. Though our Native communities have faced among the most tragic losses from the pandemic, they have also demonstrated stunning resilience in the face of widespread uncertainty and suffering, coming together to preserve culture and tradition like never before.

As you read, we hope you share our pride in the incredibly important work that we do to empower and care for these children. With Billy and all of us here at Running Strong, we thank you for your generous hearts and loyalty to our cause. You honor us with your support and loyalty. Wopila! (“Thank You” in Lakota).

# Spotlight on Billy Mills

On October 14, 1964, Billy Mills (Oglala Lakota) shocked the world with a historic upset in the 10,000-meter Olympic race in Tokyo, securing the gold medal and setting a new world record time of 28 minutes 24.4 seconds, Billy became the only American ever to win a gold medal in the 10,000 meter event. Daily Running Strong celebrates Billy's incredible victory and the legacy he created in the aftermath of his win.

Raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, Billy lost both parents by the early age of 12. Confronted with challenges and obstacles that many Native children continue to face today, Billy channeled his energy into running and continued to run throughout high school, college, and in his time as a U.S. Marine.

In Lakota culture, when one achieves success, it is customary to honor the support system of friends and family who helped them achieve this goal by hosting a "giveaway" to express gratitude. Seeking to give back to his community home of Pine Ridge and Native communities across the country, Billy co-founded Running Strong for American Indian Youth® in 1986 with Gene Krizek of Christian Relief Services "to give opportunity; to give hope" and to create a brighter future for the next generation of Native children.

Serving as our National Spokesperson for well over three decades, Billy continues to visit with Native communities over 300 days of the year to promote Running Strong's work, inspire Native youth to realize their dreams, and encourage healthy lifestyles among Native communities.

## Celebrating Billy's Legacy through Dreamstarter®

On the 50th anniversary of his Olympic win, Billy Mills announced a new dream: to help the next generation of Native youth achieve their own. Each year for the past six years, Running Strong has awarded \$100,000 in grants to ten Native youth to bring to life dreams for their communities through our Dreamstarter® program. Launched in 2014, Dreamstarter® is currently entering its sixth year for dreams revolving around the theme of Health and Wellness. Over the course of the past six years, our Dreamstarters have served over 25,000 people in Native communities across the country, working with 36 tribal nations within 23 states. By distributing over \$530,000 in grants to bring these dreams to life, Running Strong is committed to empowering the next generation of Native youth. On the following pages you will learn more about our fifth and sixth classes of Dreamstarters, who are making a difference in their communities today, as well as the new programs born out of Dreamstarter®.



# Dreamstarter®



# 2019 Dreamstarter® Entrepreneurship



**Kevin Belin, 31**  
**Navajo Nation**  
**Crownpoint, NM**

*Hashké - Hozhó Design & Collaborative*

Kevin's dream, "Hashké - Hozhó Design and Collaborative," is to create virtual and physical educational resources for the modern classroom to teach the Diné (Navajo) language and foundational cultural knowledge.

**Freddy Gipp, 27**  
**Apache Tribe of Oklahoma**  
**Lawrence, KS**

*Powwow+ (Powwow Plus)*

Freddy's dream is to establish annual powwows for the urban Native community of Lawrence, KS, creating an opportunity for the local Native community to engage with their culture as well as for investment and economic impact.

**Taylor Eddie, 18**  
**Navajo Nation**  
**Spanish Fork, UT**

*A Complete Agricultural Experience*

Taylor's dream is to introduce agriculture as a business career to students in the Nebo School District Title VI Indian Education program. Taylor will teach younger students and peers hands-on practices and the economic and cultural importance of a career in agriculture.

**David Fraser, 27**  
**Oglala Lakota**  
**Kyle, SD**

*Dave's Tire & Repair Shop*

David's dream is to start a locally owned and operated tire repair shop in his community on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The nearest repair shop is 50 miles away, and with loose, unpaved roads, the need for tire repair is great.

**Hope Gamble, 17**  
**Navajo Nation**  
**Nazlini, AZ**

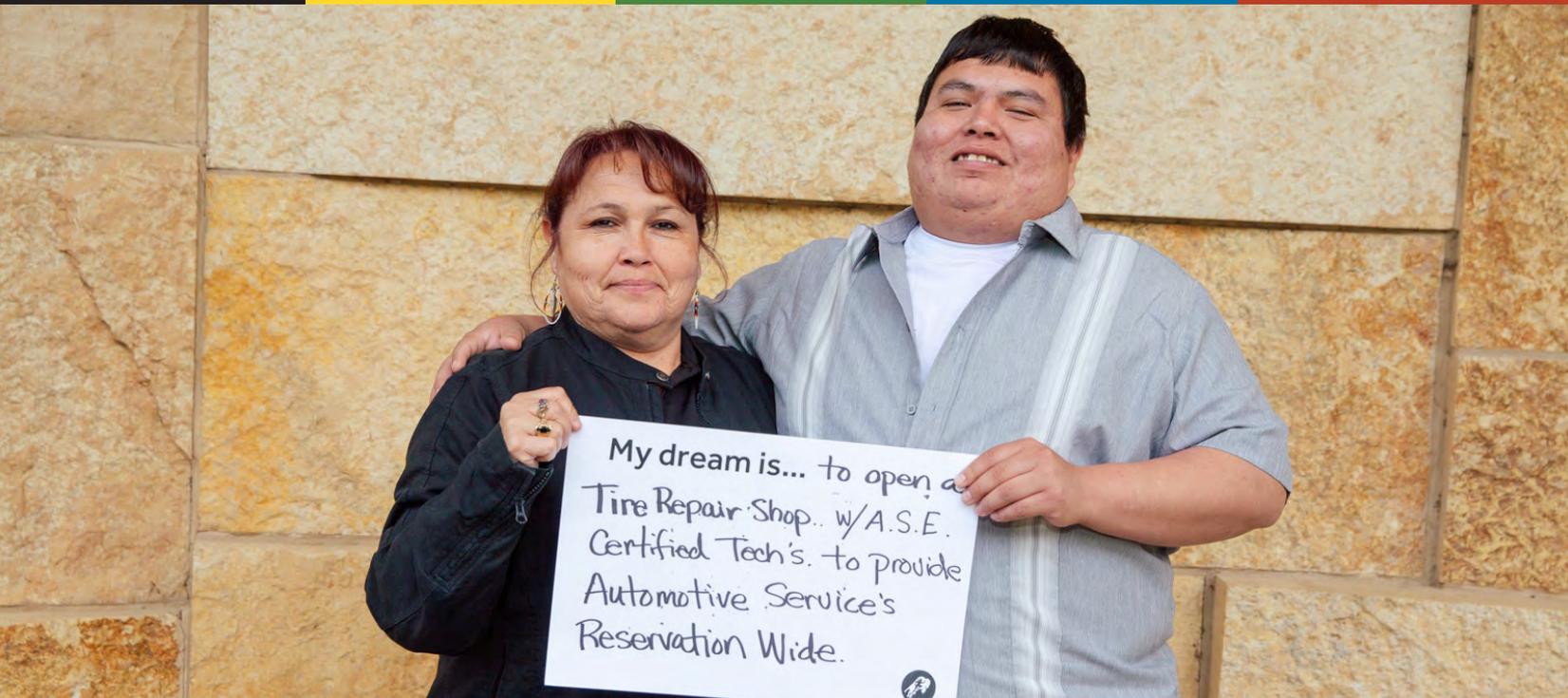
*H.O.P.E. (Heroes of Positive Endurance)*

Hope's dream is to produce and sell a new comic form of the Navajo creation stories. She will also educate and encourage youth in her community to explore healthy self-expression through art workshops at neighboring schools.

**Jacob Crane, 31**  
**Tsuut'ina Nation**  
**Provo, UT**

*The Arrow's Journey Indigenous Initiative*

Jacob's dream is the "Arrow's Journey Indigenous Initiative" – an all-Indigenous-lead media production team designed to inspire and empower Indigenous people through an online series, "The Arrow's Journey", and create a new form of video storytelling.



**Aukea Kai Ka'aekuahiwi, 17**  
**Native Hawaiian**  
**Kapaau, HI**

*The Swine Project*

Aukea's dream is to expand his organic swine business. By building a community *imu* (traditional Hawaiian underground barbecue pit), other families can now produce and sell traditional smoked pork products. The public *imu* helps youth in his community by giving them the tools needed to generate their own income.

**Parrish Pipestem, 17**  
**Eastern Band of Cherokee**  
**Indians Tulsa, OK**

*Pipestem Reselling and Investments*

Parrish's dream is to invest in Native entrepreneurs. By investing in the businesses of Native youth, he will impact their communities and help encourage his peers that they are not too young to start a business.

**Carl Petersen, 22**  
**Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe**  
**Parade, SD**

*Northern Plains Games*

Carl's dream is to create a language-based video game by Native people, for Native people. His game, "Kaga Tipi" (Tipi Builder) engages today's youth in learning and preserving the Lakota language through the fun of gaming.

**Joshua Smith, 31**  
**Osage Nation**  
**Portsmouth, VA**

*Ekowah Coffee*

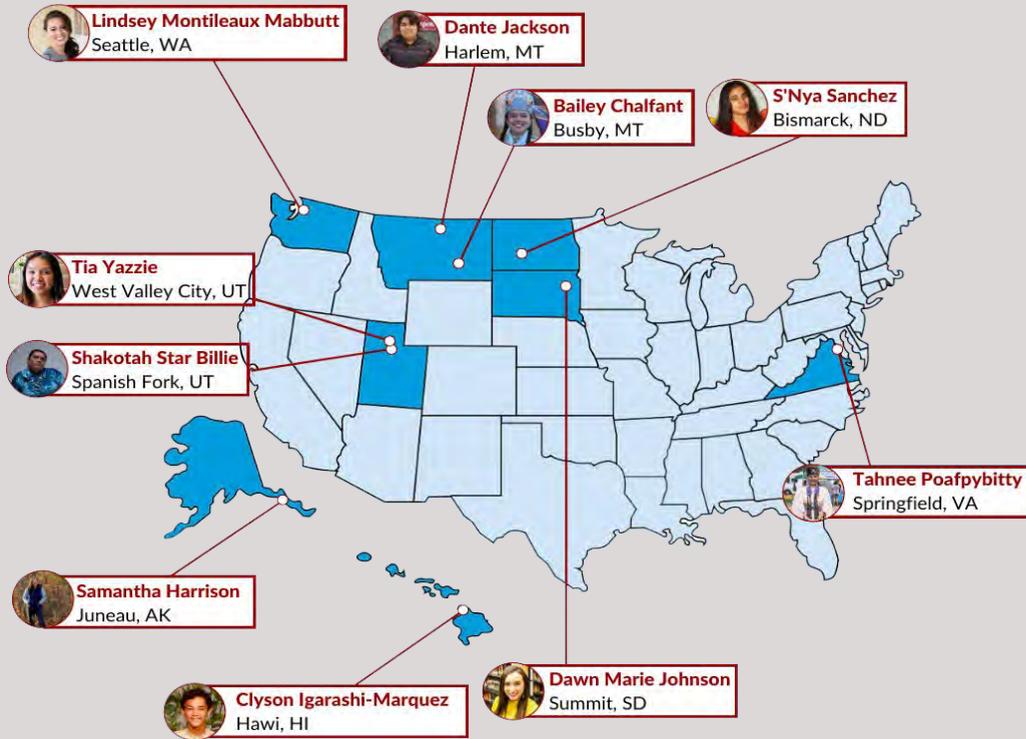
Joshua's dream is to build a Native owned, socially conscious coffee roasting company. Ekowah Coffee provides high quality, delicious coffee to companies in the hospitality industry as well as for individual purchase online in the growing specialty roast coffee market. A portion of all Ekowah profits will support Native organizations.

**"Ekowah Coffee will be a uniquely Native business not because of its branding or even its Native ownership, but because of the values that direct the business. To us, this means finding a way to promote Native interests and communities from all points of business, starting with the suppliers we source green beans from."**

**- Joshua Smith**  
**2019 Dreamstarter**



# 2020 Dreamstarter® Health & Wellness



## Lindsey Montileaux Mabbutt, 26 Oglala Sioux Tribe Seattle, WA

*Native Youth for Health Professional Career Exploration*  
Lindsey's dream is to reach high school and undergraduate students in Washington State and inspire them to reach for careers in dentistry and medicine. She will help them through the daunting application process as well as hands-on experience with dental training instruments.

## Dawn Marie Johnson, 29 Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Summit, SD

*Mental Health and Wellbeing Kits*  
Dawn Marie's dream is to curate and distribute mental health and wellbeing kits for 7th through 12th grade students in her South Dakota community. These resources will include local behavioral health agency information, information on addiction, healthy alternatives to stress, healthy eating habits, and life skills.

## Shakotah Star Billie, 20 Navajo Nation Spanish Fork, UT

*Youth Are the Answer to Our Ancestors' Prayers*  
Shakotah's dream is to help the Native American community in

in the Nebo School District area recognize their Hozhó ("Being at one with and a part of the world around you") by teaching five different types of wellness: spiritual, cultural, physical, mental, and environmental.

## DREAMSTARTER IMPACTS 2019-2020



OVER **25,000**  
PEOPLE SERVED



IN **23** STATES



OVER **36**  
TRIBES IMPACTED



**\$459,324.23**  
DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED

**Dante Jackson, 16**

**Fort Belknap Indian Community  
Harlem, MT**

*Mentoring for Maturity*

Dante's dream is to begin a mentoring program for elementary students to motivate them, provide encouragement to develop maturity, learn good work ethic, and practice good mental health.

**Samantha Harrison, 29**

**Tribal Nation Native Village of Kotzebue  
Juneau, AK**

*Ikayuqti X Healers*

Samantha's dream is to start a business designing and selling medical scrubs that demonstrate Indigenous medicine models and the work health care professionals do to promote all forms of healing within her community.

**Clyson Igarashi-Marquez, 16**

**Native Hawaiian  
Hawi, HI**

*Ka Lei Ke'ia 'Aina Loha ("Lei from this Loving Land")*

Clyson's dream is to open a nursery for Native Hawaiian plants where people can pick plants for lei making, reforestation, coastal preservation, la'au lapaau (herbal medicine), and other uses. Clyson wants to share the importance of traditional Native plants with his community.

**Tahnee Poafpybitty, 30**

**Comanche Nation  
Springfield, VA**

*Native Vision*

Tahnee's dream is to set up a traveling optometry clinic which will visit regional reservations and tribes to provide their youth with comprehensive eye exams, prescriptions, and much-needed new eyeglasses.

**S'Nya Sanchez, 16**

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe  
Bismarck, SD**

*Leave the Couch Project*

S'Nya's dream is to help Native youth get off the couch in the summer months and get involved in both cultural and physical activities. S'Nya will coordinate group activities like lacrosse and stickball tournaments, archery practice, and home cooking classes.

**Tia Yazzie, 22**

**Navajo Nation  
West Valley City, UT**

*Red Mesa Warriors*

Tia's dream is to create a mental and behavior health support group for Native youth ages 12 to 25 in Salt Lake City, UT. Youth battling family loss, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse, and other struggles will be able to connect with both peer support groups and mental health professionals.

**Bailey Chalfant, 20**

**Northern Cheyenne  
Busby, MT**

*Nehtonetomohtahe, How Are You Feeling?*

Bailey's dream is to create a safe space for Northern Cheyenne youth through weekly meetings designed to build trust, feed their bodies and souls, and discuss mental and physical health issues that they are dealing with in their own ways. Bailey will supplement these support groups with "bundles" of mental health resources and traditional healing medicines.

**Learn more at [www.IndianYouth.org/  
Dreamstarter/2020Dreamstarters](http://www.IndianYouth.org/Dreamstarter/2020Dreamstarters).**

---

**"This project will touch the lives of the Native youth and their families in positive ways. I understand that I might not be able to change all their lives drastically, but if I am able to help one person, child, or family then I believe that is a huge accomplishment in itself."**

**– Tia Yazzie, 2020 Dreamstarter**



# Expanding Dreamstarter®

Following the overwhelming success of Dreamstarter®, Running Strong has introduced four companion programs: Keeping the Dream Alive, Dreamstarter® Teacher, the Dreamstarter® Scholarship and Dreamstarter® GOLD.

## Keep the Dream Alive

At Running Strong, we recognize the importance of Native youth's dreams and the lasting impact they impart on Native communities. To give them an opportunity to sustain these dreams, Keeping the Dream Alive allows past Dreamstarters to apply for \$5,000 grants to continue to impact their communities by extending their projects beyond the end of their grant year.

## Dreamstarter® Teacher

In 2017, Running Strong launched Dreamstarter Teacher to continue investing in the futures of Native youth. Each year, \$25,000 in small grants is given to teachers who serve Native American students and are passionate about seeing them follow their dreams. Grants are used to fund unmet school or classroom needs, including resource materials, supplies, school gardens, professional development, field trips, guest speakers, and more.

---

**"Thank you so much for the opportunity to give these experiences to my students. I have seen so much growth in their understanding of their culture and the land they live on. The respect for their bodies and the land they can cultivate is slow-coming but it is definitely there."**



**- Connie Michael**

**2019-2020 Dreamstarter Teacher**

---





---

**"Thank you Running Strong, The Earl and Ann Broady Foundation, and all the other donors for creating this opportunity and making me a recipient of this scholarship. Words cannot express the importance and impact scholarships like this have for our Indigenous youth. As Billy Mills says, in Indian Country there is a poverty of dreams. So, providing these opportunities allows myself and other Native students to keep dreaming and making a positive impact for our people."**

**- Noah Hotchkiss  
2015 Dreamstarter**



### **Dreamstarter® Scholarship**

In 2019, Running Strong began a new initiative to help Dreamstarters realize their educational futures. Thanks to the generosity of the Earl and Anna Broady Foundation Running Strong awards eligible Dreamstarters with \$5,000 scholarships to help them continue to achieve their dream of an education, with 8 scholarships awarded for the first class. We hope to raise additional funds to continue building this important education fund.

## Dreamstarter® GOLD

In 2020, we introduced Dreamstarter® GOLD, a new initiative to further invest in the dreams of our Dreamstarters. From our first 50 Dreamstarters, five were selected to receive \$50,000 each to build on their dreams or pursue new ones.

Dreamstarter® GOLD recipients are a collective of Indigenous leaders working throughout the country to implement positive change for present-day and future Native youth. These leaders are committed to pursuing their dreams on their terms, promoting wellness for themselves and their communities, reimagining what it means to be Indigenous, and reinforcing connections between one another and the land.

### **Dr. Cristin Haase, DMD, 30** **Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe** **Phoenix, AZ**

#### *AI/AN Health Professions Workshop*

Cristin's Dreamstarter® GOLD dream expands her original Dreamstarter® project from 2015. The AI/AN Health Professions Workshop aims to increase the number of American Indian and Alaska Native healthcare providers by hosting an admissions workshop for interested students. A.T. Still University of Health Sciences will work with and mentor AI/AN youth interested in health professions to prepare them for the rigorous application processes for doctor of dental medicine, doctor of osteopathic medicine, doctor of physical therapy, athletic training, and physician assistant professional degree programs.



### **Noah Blue Elk Hotchkiss, 22** **Southern Ute/Southern Cheyenne/Caddo** **Durango, CO**

#### *Tribal Adaptive Organization*

Noah's Dreamstarter® GOLD dream builds off his original Dreamstarter® project by expanding, publicizing, and creating a strategic masterplan for his 501c3 organization, Tribal Adaptive Organization. Tribal Adaptive improves the lives of Native Americans with disabilities by addressing misperceptions and barriers to the disabled in Indian Country and encourages healthy, active lifestyles for Native wheelchair users via wheelchair sports clinics and teams.



**Riel LaPlant, MA, 28**

**Blackfeet  
Seattle, WA**

*Tahlequah's Warning*

Riel's Dreamstarter® GOLD dream is to promote interest in STEM careers and cultivate strong self-identification with Indigenous identities among his urban high school students. Together, they will design a project-based solution to support keystone species conservation -- salmon and orca -- using local traditional Indigenous scientific methods.



**Dr. Sara Merrick, 28**

**Hoopa Valley Tribe and Shinnecock Nation  
Eureka, CA**

*Hupa Language Immersion Summer School*

Sara's Dreamstarter® GOLD dream is to transform her original Dreamstarter® project of a one-week Hupa Language Immersion camp into a four-week long Summer School for 30 Hupa youth ages 5-10 and their families. The camp teachers, comprised of Sara and local Hupa speakers, will teach conventional school subjects in a uniquely Hupa way through culturally based activities and the Hupa language.



**Jeremy Dennis, MFA, 30**

**Shinnecock Indian Nation  
Southampton, NY**

*On This Site*

Jeremy's Dreamstarter® GOLD dream is to preserve sacred and historical landscapes surrounding ancestral tribal Shinnecock territory on Long Island, NY using digital photography and storytelling. His GOLD dream expands on this effort by hosting free workshops for local youth to learn digital photography and historical preservation through digital documentation. He has preserved several local sites from development due to this effort since his original Dreamstarter® grant in 2016.



# Oyate Teca Project & Medicine Root Garden





We were proud to formalize a partnership with one youth center, the Oyate Teca Project, as a new program partner in 2016. The Oyate Teca Project is among the most widely respected organizations on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The nonprofit organization, launched in 1991, is committed to enhancing the well-being of children and families by offering effective programs and activities.

The Oyate Teca Project provides ongoing constructive school enrichment programs where children can engage in social and recreational activities. These programs are extended into the summer and also offer mentoring support for children as well as their families. With the additional support of Newman's Own Foundation, Oyate Teca operates the Medicine Root Garden which produced 25 tons of fresh produce in the 2019 and 2020 harvesting seasons for local distribution. The Medicine Root Gardening Program also conducts an annual nine-month long course to teach community members how to start and maintain their own gardens. Rose Fraser is the Executive Director and Running Strong's field coordinator for the project. Whether they are meeting for art classes in the youth center, digging in the community garden or just having family fun, youth at Oyate Teca are engaged, respected and cherished.

# Mni Wiconi (*Water is Life*) & Diné Naabeehó Tó (*the Navajo People's Water*) Water Connections



When Running Strong for American Indian Youth® began in 1986, getting clean, safe drinking water to the residents of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was one of our first priorities. Previously, Running Strong satisfied this need by drilling over 400 water wells before transitioning to the water line connections, repairs and septic system installations we do to meet this critical need today. Following the success of our Mni Wiconi program on Pine Ridge, Running Strong piloted an expansion of our water projects to the Navajo Nation, Diné Naabehó Tó (the Navajo People's Water). In 2020, Running Strong connected 13 households to water in three Navajo communities, providing 92 individuals with access to clean, running water.

Still, for many residents access to potable water remains unattainable. For some residents, who may live as close to just over 100 feet of the service line, the costs to run a line to their home and tap into the main line are far out of reach. Many of these families have been waiting and living without running water in their home for years.

Water recipient Grace Rooks, who was featured in CNN's Go There episode about Running Strong's water programs, cares for her grandson in their mobile home and has gone without access to water for over a decade. Her grandson suffers from eczema and needs extra bathing to manage his condition, which requires Grace to haul hot water by the bucket to fill their bathtub. When she finally connected to the water line in November of 2019 she said, "I told him [my grandson] I was so happy I was going to take a shower all day long.

A new partnership with the Boulder Rotary Club has provided much needed support to match our efforts to provide families with clean, safe drinking water on Pine Ridge. To support this ambition, Boulder Rotary Club has been raising money to provide up to \$3000.00 per household connection that Running Strong completes. We hope to connect 30 homes and the Boulder Rotary Club is working with other Rotary clubs to join our efforts. Rotary International's mission, "Service Above Self," aligns powerfully with Running Strong's commitment to ending water scarcity for all on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Generous support for our Pine Ridge water program was also provided by the Conrad N. Hilton and Wallace Foundations.

To date Running Strong has completed over 600 water connections, water wells, and septic tank installations on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Navajo Nation.



---

**"It's such a basic thing, and a lot of people can't believe how many in Indian Country don't even have running water. But when you dig for a connection and hook up a family with running water for a first time, you're creating hope. You're changing their lives."**

**- Ken Lone Elk, Running Strong's Mni Wiconi Water Program**

---

# Youth, Culture, and Language



Running Strong for American Indian Youth® is working to uplift Native American youth and raise a new generation of young people who develop deeper cultural identities and pride in their heritage. We help Native communities develop youth programs that provide safe, nurturing spaces with healthy activities for children and teens, provide assistance to schools, youth centers, and annual youth camps that do not have the resources to adequately serve Native youth, and support communities across the country that are working hard to preserve culture and revitalize language. At the Yuchi Language Project in Sapulpa, Oklahoma, Euchee tribal members conduct children's immersion programs, language camps, and after school activities to preserve and share this incredible unique language "Breath to breath". At the Brave Heart Society in South Dakota, Yankton Dakota elders teach cultural ways of knowing to coming generations by holding traditional coming of age camps, community gardens, the Waterlily Storytelling Institute, and more.

### Brave Heart Society

Our partner since 1994, the Brave Heart Society celebrated 25 years of cultural leadership in December 2019 with a gathering and visit by Billy Mills.

We recently celebrated the Society's 16th Annual Waterlily Storytelling Institute gathering as well as the 22nd Annual Isnati Awica Dowanpi Rites of passage for 17 girls. In partnership with 350.org and the Chorus Foundation, Running Strong supported their Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls event serving over 500 people -- 300 of whom were children under the age of 18. In 2020, Running Strong was the recipient of a Bush Foundation Community Innovation grant to support the Brave Hearts' efforts on



the Mni Wizipan Wakan Project to restore and preserve the Missouri River Cultural Bioregion. From holistic community wellbeing to the individual's relationship with their indigenous identity, the Brave Heart Society is committed to "calling home the culture."

**"We are so grateful for the 20 year support that Running Strong has given us. It is unheard of to have such long term funding. You have changed a complete generation."**

**- Faith Spotted Eagle,  
Brave Heart Society**

# Critical Needs, Emergency Programs, and COVID-19 Response





What many Americans consider “critical needs” - food, winter clothing, school supplies, toothbrushes, and warm housing - can be unaffordable luxuries for many American Indian families. These families are often unable to meet their basic needs due to poverty, high unemployment, and remote living conditions. It can be a struggle to put food on the table every day, pay utilities, and keep a roof over their heads. Running Strong addresses this issue for thousands of families every year by supplementing these necessities for those who are most in need – a disparity which was particularly exacerbated by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

### **School Supplies, Winter Clothing, and Hygiene Items**

Ever year, Running Strong provides thousands of brand new items to Native American families: elementary and junior high backpacks filled with all the school supplies they need to be successful in the upcoming school year, winter clothing to keep children warm and dry during the cold winter months, and dental kits, soap, masks, and hand sanitizer to meet oral healthcare needs and provide much needed safety during the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

### **Healthy Food**

Ensuring families have healthy, nutritious food readily available is also a long-standing priority of Running Strong. In 2019 and 2020, Running Strong distributed over 921,992 pounds of food – frozen turkeys and dry food boxes to those in need, including boxes for holiday meals, weekend backpack food for low-income students and their families and summer meals for youth while they are out of school, as well as additional emergency food shipments during the spring and summer of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

## Heat Match

We also keep homes warm with our Emergency Heat Match each winter. Our Heat Match program matches families from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation up to \$100 to pay heating costs. In 2020, thanks to a donation from Cerner Government Services, we introduced a Veteran's Heat Match to ensure our Pine Ridge Veterans would not go without heat after sacrificing so much for their country.

## Home Repairs

Running Strong knows many critical needs start from within the home. Our Home Repairs program brings Native communities better living conditions and relieves a heavy strain on families who may be caring for elders, parents who may be out of work, or grandparents who may be caring for several generations under one roof. Grant funding from Running Strong enables our partner on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, Oglala Sioux Tribe Partnership for Housing, to repair homes that offer dangerous living situations, especially during the freezing winter months on the plains.

**"Running Strong is an amazing organization that is run efficiently. They always come through and during the right season to relieve tribal families of items that they would have had to purchase. This is greatly appreciated in a depressed tribal community that is hurting economically!"**

**-Dr. Wenonah Haire, Catawba Cultural Center**



## CRITICAL NEEDS MET IN 2019-2020



**5,000**

STUDY STRONG KITS  
DISTRIBUTED



**9,452**

COATS DISTRIBUTED



**6,275**

DENTAL KITS  
DISTRIBUTED



**1,081**

FAMILIES SERVED  
THROUGH  
'HEAT MATCH'



**921,992**

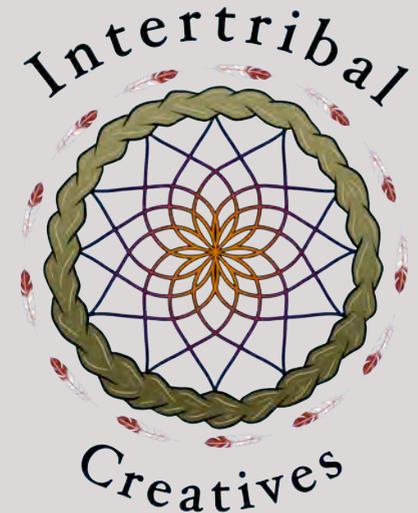
POUNDS OF FOOD  
DISTRIBUTED

# A Look at What's Ahead

## Intertribal Creatives

In December 2020, Running Strong for American Indian Youth opened doors on our first physical storefront, Intertribal Creatives. The Intertribal Creatives gallery houses and sells authentic Indigenous visual art, handmade jewelry, and other forms of self-expression from Native artisans, entrepreneurs and creatives from across the country.

Located in the heart of Old Town, Alexandria, Virginia, Intertribal Creatives is a safe space to celebrate the art, culture, business and community work of Indigenous people. Future use of the space includes community programming, cultural events, tribal workshops, and visiting artists.



Old Town Alexandria is itself located on ancestral Piscataway and Anacostan land, and centered near Washington, D.C., the hub of governmental and societal changes. While Intertribal Creatives still occupies a physical storefront in Old Town, Alexandria, current offerings are featured for purchase on the official Running Strong website at [store.IndianYouth.org](http://store.IndianYouth.org).

## New Oyate Ta Kola Ku (Friend to All Nations) Community Center for the Oyate Teca Project

Running Strong is always looking to the future while meeting immediate needs. We invest in infrastructure to invest in Native communities and their youth. Currently we are working on raising funds for the construction of a new 16,000+ sq. ft. Community Center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to house programming led by Oyate Teca (Youth Nation) Project. Surrounded by Oyate Teca's Medicine Root garden and greenhouses, this brand new facility will have art, music and sewing space, teaching kitchens, an indoor basketball court, Farmers' Market and more! It is being named to honor our co-founder, Gene Krizek, whose name Oyate Ta Kola Ku or Friend to All Nations, embodies the values that Oyate Teca lives every day. Groundbreaking is planned for 2021!

## Critical Assistance for Veterans

Respect for Veterans is central to Native communities, with American Indian and Alaska Native Americans serving in the military in higher percentages than any other ethnic group. Yet many of these vital Veterans and their families struggle both during and after their service. Rural locations mean that even a trip to the VA Hospital can mean hours in the car. While we have long collaborated with Veterans groups as a community resource, we are working to provide extra support, including additional funding set asides for Veterans in our Heat Match on Pine Ridge by connecting local Veterans groups with national Veterans resources.

**For the latest updates visit [www.IndianYouth.org](http://www.IndianYouth.org).**

# Legacy: Circle of Life



In 1986, Olympic gold medalist Billy Mills co-founded Running Strong for American Indian Youth® as a way to give back to his Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to Native Americans throughout Indian Country.

During the past three decades, Billy has been doing just that. He's raised more than \$40 million to support programs that provide food, shelter, heat, educational opportunities for children and much more, which will improve the lives of Native Americans and help them build better futures for themselves and their families. Today, Billy still spends hundreds of days each year continuing to inspire young and old alike to dream big, spreading the message: "God has given me the ability. The rest is up to me. Believe. Believe. Believe."

But Billy realizes he cannot go on forever, which is why he became the very first member of Running Strong's Circle Society, whose generous members are shaping the future of our charitable organization by indicating Running Strong for American Indian Youth® as a beneficiary through a bequest in their will or as beneficiary of their life insurance policy or investment account.

As a member of the Running Strong Circle Society, Billy and fellow members will continue to support our mission—impact Native American lives—for years to come.

"I ask you to do the same—leave a legacy of your own

---

**"We all have the opportunity to make our own giveaway. My giveaway allowed me to become part of something greater than myself. I humbly invite you to join me in doing the same – to create a legacy of your own that will benefit Native American youth for years and years to come, and begin a new life in the hearts of others."**

**- Billy Mills**

---

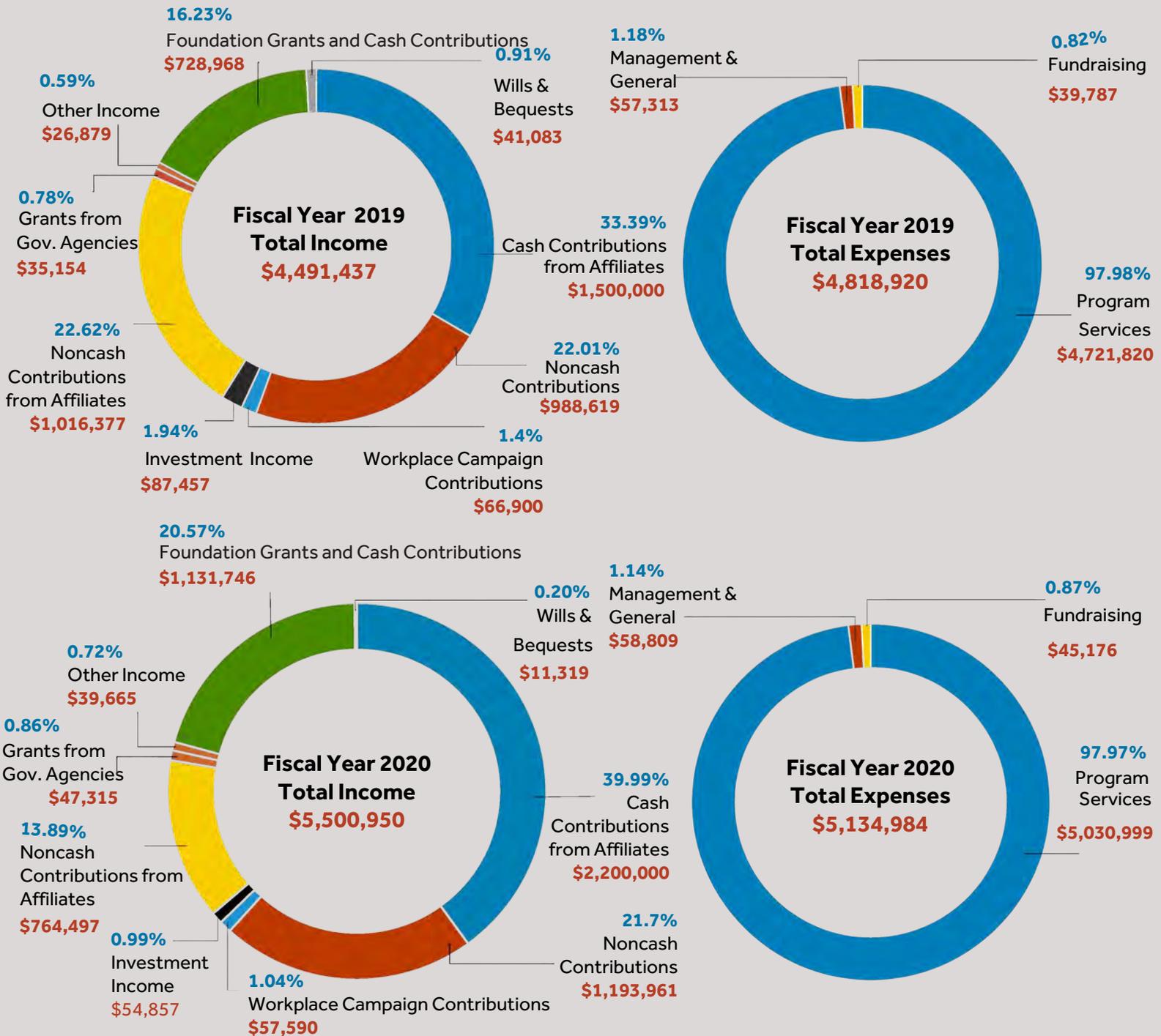
that will benefit Native American children for years, decades, to come. There is no greater gift I know," says Billy.

For more information, visit [www.IndianYouthCircleSociety.org](http://www.IndianYouthCircleSociety.org) or contact our team at [info@IndianYouth.org](mailto:info@IndianYouth.org).

Running Strong for American Indian Youth®  
Tax ID #: 54-1594578

# Financials

The financial results depicted are derived from the Running Strong for American Indian Youth® June 30, 2019 and June 30, 2020 financial statements which contain an unqualified audit opinion. Our complete, audited financial statements can be obtained online at [www.IndianYouth.org](http://www.IndianYouth.org) or by calling (703) 317-9881.



As a member (subordinate unit under an IRS approved group exemption) of Christian Relief Services Charities (CRSC), Running Strong for American Indian Youth® benefits in a number of ways from administrative and technical support as a cost-effective model in the areas of overhead, accounting, human resources, information technology, legal counsel and governance.



### **Donate**

Every donation—large or small—makes a difference in Native communities throughout the United States. Donating is safe and simple at [www.IndianYouth.org](http://www.IndianYouth.org), including options to support a specific program or donate automatically.

### **Stock**

A gift of stock or securities can benefit both you and Running Strong. For more information visit [www.IndianYouth.org/donate-stock/](http://www.IndianYouth.org/donate-stock/)

### **Leave a Legacy**

Please remember Native children and include Running Strong in your estate planning and have your legacy ensure that our good work continues. See page 22 or visit [IndianYouthCircleSociety.org/](http://IndianYouthCircleSociety.org/) for more details.

### **Visit Our Website!**

Our website features information about all of our programs and is easy to navigate, allowing you to effortlessly access the latest news and updates. Visit [www.IndianYouth.org](http://www.IndianYouth.org) today!

### **Match your Gift**

Double, even triple the value of your donation! Many employers generously match donations of their employees. Check with your workplace... and see the impact of your gift double or more!

### **Shop with Amazon Smiles!**

We are a verified charity on Amazon Smiles, a free service of Amazon which donates a portion of your purchase to Running Strong's programs. Start shopping with Amazon Smiles today!

### **Learn**

Read classroom lesson plans about Native American history and keep up to date on current issues affecting Native peoples today. Go to [www.IndianYouth.org/resources](http://www.IndianYouth.org/resources) to see what's new!

### **Workplace Giving**

Many individuals support Running Strong through the Combined Federal Campaign, state or workplace campaigns. (CFC#11876)

### **Running Strong e-Store**

Support Native artists by purchasing Native American-made products from Intertribal Creatives, our e-store! 100% of proceeds from the Running Strong store support our important programs in Indian Country, and the unique handmade items we sell are all Native-made and purchased at fair prices. Visit [store.IndianYouth.org](http://store.IndianYouth.org) to shop today!

**TAX ID: 54-1594578**

## Share

Follow Running Strong for American Indian Youth® on social media. Stay up-to-date and voice your views and perspectives on American Indian-related issues. Become involved in the online community and connect with organizations and people doing valuable work in Indian Country. When you share one of our posts on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, you help raise awareness about the challenges Native youth face. Ask your family and friends to like our pages and join our email list to learn about issues you care about. When we increase our followers, we increase our voice!

**Questions? Email us at [info@IndianYouth.org](mailto:info@IndianYouth.org) or call us at 1-888-491-9859**

 Running Strong for American Indian Youth

 @runstrong4aiy

 @runstrong4aiy

 Join our email list at  
[www.bit.ly/joinRSEmail](http://www.bit.ly/joinRSEmail)



## THANK YOU!

On behalf of everyone at Running Strong, we wish to thank all the individuals and organizations who make our work possible. We are grateful for your support!

---

**"You are a support system. You are a lifeline to multitudes of people. You are helping our youth achieve their dreams."**

**-Billy Mills**

---

AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH RUNNING STRONG, INC.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended June 30, 2019

(With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended June 30, 2018)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ (327,483)	\$ 596,169
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Provision for doubtful accounts	18,057	37,540
Depreciation	23,645	16,247
Unrealized gains on investments	(49,181)	(6,661)
Realized losses (gains) on investments	2,447	(99,120)
Noncash contributions	(2,004,996)	(2,348,160)
Donated relief materials	2,215,400	2,083,295
Loss from write-off of inventory	377	8,825
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Grants and contributions receivable	11,838	(22,821)
Accounts receivable	(2,616)	(1,285)
Due from affiliate	113	(113)
Inventory	2,165	(4,312)
Prepaid expenses	(4,572)	6,955
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(61,284)	64,886
Due to affiliates	37,093	(18,325)
Deferred revenue	(9,413)	20,246
	<u>(148,410)</u>	<u>333,366</u>
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of investments	(139,115)	(690,622)
Sales of investments	103,214	680,083
Purchases of property and equipment	<u>-</u>	<u>(27,128)</u>
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	<u>(35,901)</u>	<u>(37,667)</u>
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(184,311)	295,699
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>400,943</u>	<u>105,244</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 216,632</u>	<u>\$ 400,943</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH RUNNING STRONG, INC.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2020

(With Summarized Financial Information for the Year Ended June 30, 2019)

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in net assets	\$ 365,966	\$ (327,483)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided by (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Provision for doubtful accounts	19,206	18,057
Depreciation	26,932	23,645
Unrealized losses (gains) on investments	22,642	(49,181)
Realized losses (gains) on investments	(37,559)	2,447
Noncash contributions	(1,958,458)	(2,004,996)
Donated relief materials	1,979,187	2,215,400
Loss from write-off of inventory	5,888	377
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Grants and contributions receivable	(32,564)	11,838
Accounts receivable	(8,366)	(2,616)
Due from affiliate	-	113
Inventory	4,046	2,165
Prepaid expenses	(9,691)	(4,572)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	22,808	(61,284)
Due to affiliates	(9,877)	37,093
Contract liabilities	(17,393)	(9,413)
	<u>372,767</u>	<u>(148,410)</u>
NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchases of investments	(535,304)	(139,115)
Sales of investments	408,365	103,214
Purchases of property and equipment	(79,653)	-
	<u>(206,592)</u>	<u>(35,901)</u>
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	166,175	(184,311)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>216,632</u>	<u>400,943</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 382,807</u>	<u>\$ 216,632</u>
Supplemental Cash Flow Information		
Noncash investing transaction:		
Property and equipment in accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>\$ 29,245</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**RUNNING STRONG**  
for **American Indian Youth**<sup>®</sup>  
AMERICAN INDIAN YOUTH RUNNING STRONG<sup>®</sup>

