

"To assist American Indian youth and families to thrive in safety, wholeness, and a healing place within the community."
Mission Statement

Ain Dah Yung Center Campaign Newsletter



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1



The Medicine Wheel is sacred, the Native people believe, because the Great Spirit caused everything to be round. The Sun, Sky, Earth and Moon. Thus, man should look upon the Medicine Wheel (circle of life) as sacred. It is the symbol of the circle that marks the edge of the world and therefore, the Four Winds that travel there. It is also the symbol of the year. The Sky, the Night, and the Moon go in a circle above the Sky, therefore, the Circle is a symbol of these divisions of time. It is the symbol of all times throughout creation.



Ain Dah Yung
(Our Home) Center
1089 Portland Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104
651-227-4184
www.aindahyung.com

When Neighbors make a difference...

Ain Dah Yung is proud to be a member of your neighborhood and it would be an honor to showcase that this community will not tolerate kids being homeless and that every child deserves safety and security.

Homelessness...is a critical issue for American Indian youth, who like other youth of color, are disproportionately represented in the homeless population. The Wilder Research Center 07 Point-In-Time Survey Reported that from 2003 to 2006, American Indian youth represented 22% of homeless youth, although they only represent 2% of the Minnesota youth population.

Ain Dah Yung (ADY) is one of the longest lasting American Indian programs in the Twin Cities and in the country. Ain Dah Yung has worked hard to establish an

excellent reputation as an ethical, well-run non-profit with exemplary financial and community accountability.



On a typical night in Minnesota, there are an estimated 600 youth under age 18, and even more young adults who are homeless and on their own.

Ain Dah Yung is also your neighbor...24 hours a day, 7 days a week, our shelter is there, ready to open our doors to these youth who need a safe, warm place to stay. These children are frightened, cold, hungry and feeling hopeless. We make sure that they are fed, have warm clothes, and get a

good night sleep. Ain Dah Yung listens to these kids. Our trained shelter staff understand what they are going through, and we immediately provide them with support and put together a plan that either helps them reunite with their families or find a safe alternative.

Many of these kids leave their homes because parents choose drugs over them, sometimes they are kicked out because families do not have the means to adequately care for them. Most of them are just trying to find a way to survive...it's not their fault, they're just children.

We are inviting you to partner with us, to help ensure that these kids have not only their basic needs met, but are provided with numerous skills and resources to be successful members of our community.

Ain Dah Yung...a holistic approach...

Here's how your partnership makes a difference in the lives of our community kids:

- Emergency Shelter Services for youth who need their essential needs met.
- Prevention programming providing culturally relevant training and support to deter kids from developing self-compromising behaviors such as drug abuse, suicide, and

gang relations.

- Education and employment training so that youth can work towards self-sufficiency and independence.
- Street Outreach so that homeless youth know where to turn for help.
- Family Preservation and Reunification services that provide family counseling

and advocacy.

- Indian Child Welfare Advocacy and Compliance programming to prevent the dissolution of American Indian families and to reduce the number of Native youth in out-of-home placement.

No where else does your dollar do so much!

“Thanks to ADY, I graduated and have a promising future...”



Colton with his ribbon shirt gifted to him upon graduation by Ninijanisag.

Ninijanisag, Ain Dah Yung’s Prevention Program is designed to deter self-compromising behaviors such as drug abuse, gang relations and violence amongst our younger youth. We also provide aftercare services for youth who come to our shelter and are looking to start a new life.

“If it weren’t for ADY, I wouldn’t have graduated from high school” states Colton LaBette. Colton came to our Shelter in 2007 as a homeless youth, failing school and with a disheartening sense of hopelessness. ADY embraced this child with safety, security and surrounded him with positive

role models while he awaited a transitional housing option. ADY also connected him with our Ninijanisag program which engaged him in multiple Native traditional teachings as well as provided him with tools for living a healthy lifestyle.

Colton quickly became a Peer Educator, mentoring other youth and has also become a member of ADY’s Youth Drumming and Singing Group which travels throughout Minnesota performing at various Native events.

“Ninijanisag taught me to have pride in my Native culture and how our culture is about respect, honor and dignity.

These teachings helped me to leave the life I was living and begin to reach for goals that will help me do the positive things that I want to do.”

Colton graduated from High School with honor roll grades and now aspires to enroll in Community College in spring of 2010. He has recently been gifted two grass dance outfits where you’ll find him dancing at many of our local Pow Wow’s.

Colton is now a leader and remains a positive role model for youth in the Ninijanisag program as well as other young men in our community.

A Reputation of Excellence and Community Accountability

Ain Dah Yung is the only 24-hour emergency shelter facility for any youth in Ramsey County and the East Metro, and is the only American Indian youth emergency shelter available to American Indian youth in the Twin Cities metro area.

In June of 2008, Ain Dah Yung (Our Home) Center was presented with the Grotto Foundation American Indian Family Empowerment Program’s “Non-Profit Award of Excellence.” In August of 2007, Ain Dah Yung was visited by Mrs. Laura Bush (then First Lady) and recognized as a critically

important agency for children, youth, and families. Ain Dah Yung’s transitional living program, the Youth Lodge, was highlighted at their annual conference in Minneapolis in 2007 as a national model organization for other providers.

Ain Dah Yung children and youth who are part of the

Ain Dah Yung Drum Group are repeatedly invited to perform at events locally and regionally. The drum group was recently honored to perform at the closing ceremonies of the National Indian Child Welfare Association national conference in 2008.

Here’s how you can be a Partner for homeless youth this Holiday Season...

The National Indian Child Welfare Association reports that the suicide rate among American Indians ages 15 – 24 is 2-3 times higher than the general U.S. rate for the same group.



It is so difficult to image that there are hundreds of homeless children on our streets. However, you can help ensure that they have a safe place to go and a chance at survival.

Please visit our website at www.aindahyung.com and click on “Yes!...”

I want to be a partner for homeless youth” or mail your tax deductible contribution today to the address shown on this newsletter. Give your Holiday Season that extra warmth knowing that you have played a role in making sure that this

year... children who are homeless will also have a hot meal, a warm place to sleep and positive role models around them that will make sure their needs are taken care of.

Thank you for joining us in doing everything we can to give these children hope this Holiday Season!

Ain Dah Yung-Ojibwe for “Our Home”

Questions? Call Deb Foster at 651-227-4184 or e-mail at deb.foster@aindahyung.com