

First American Bankcard Donates \$25,000 for Native American Indian Education



L-R: Anthony Rabito, President, First American Bankcard, Inc., Chas Robbins, Director of Finance Comanche Nation Casino, Sharrod Tabbytife, CEO Comanche Nation Casino, Jim Patterson, Vice-Chairman of the Comanche Nation Gaming Board, and Jay Murray, National Sales Manager First American Bankcard, Inc.

First American Bankcard, Inc., made a \$25,000 donation to The Comanche Nation's Educational Trust Fund. Anthony Rabito, President and Owner of First American Bankcard, Inc. presented the check to The Comanche Nation Casino of Oklahoma. The presentation took place last month at the 2010 National Indian Gaming Association tradeshow in San Diego, CA.

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Releases Annual Report – Donates Over \$30 Million, Lends \$129 Million

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community recently released its annual *Donation Report*; the 52-page report details \$30,282,041 in charitable giving made by the Community in fiscal year 2009 to Indian tribes, education and youth programs, and charitable organizations. The SMSC also provided \$129 million in loans to Indian tribes during the fiscal year, which ran from October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009.

“As Dakota people, we have a long tradition of sharing with others so it is important for us to give back to the larger community. Before Indian gaming, many of us lived in poverty and struggled to survive. Times were hard. Now we are able to help others,” said SMSC Chairman Stanley R. Crooks. “The tribal membership through its actions authorized the charitable giving program.”

Over the past 12 fiscal years the SMSC has donated more than \$162.5 million to charitable organizations and Indian tribes. The *Donation Report* details economic development and other grants to 20 tribal nations, totaling \$17,530,264. Seventeen tribes each received a \$1 million tribal grant. Of those, seven are located in Minnesota. Ten other tribes in Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and North Dakota each received a \$1 million tribal grant. Grants funded housing, a tribal nursing home, a walleye fishery, tribal infrastructure, economic development, a grocery store, a youth treatment center, an elderly village, and community and administrative centers.

New to this year's Donation Report are tribal loans. In fiscal year 2009 the SMSC made \$129 million in loans to six different tribes for projects ranging from new casinos to community infrastructure development. In total, the SMSC has committed over half a billion dollars in loans and grants to Indian Country.

“We have a level of self-sufficiency that didn't seem possible when we were growing up. Our children have health care, housing, and educational opportunities that we could only dream of forty years ago. Today, we are firm in our commitment not only to our tribal sovereignty, but also to helping the larger community. As Dakota people we have a long tradition of helping others that are in need. This is part of who we are as Dakota people,” wrote Chairman Crooks in the *Donation Report*.

The SMSC gave out \$1,869,542 to Native American and charitable organizations for projects ranging from The Embassy of Tribal Nations in Washington, D.C., to winter coats, housing, mental health and chemical dependency programs, women's shelters, food shelves, medical research, public television, and capital construction.

Because Native people are mindful of the seven generations coming after them, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community gave out more than \$3,333,466 in donations for education and youth programs. Of that amount, a \$2 million donation to the University of Minnesota supported the construction of the Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza at the TCF Bank Stadium, which the SMSC helped fund the previous year with \$10 million in grants and an additional \$2.5 million for scholarships.

To help keep young people safe, the SMSC supported alcohol and chemical-free graduation celebrations at 12 local high schools. The SMSC also donated funds for winter wear, school supplies, scholarships, and activities for students at several schools.

To support and encourage traditional cultural values, the SMSC sponsored 68 cultural events including Pow Wows throughout Indian Country. The SMSC made donations to Pow Wows in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, and elsewhere.

Each year during the holidays the Shakopee Mdewakanton Community makes donations to brighten the holidays for those who are less fortunate. Focusing largely on local social service agencies, the SMSC donated to 44 organizations which provide food and gifts for families in need.

Along with a charitable giving program, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community sponsored a number of health care initiatives in 2009. The SMSC provides health, wellness, vision, hearing, and dental services to tribal members, employees, Native Americans from other tribes who live in Scott County, and their families.

The report also highlights the numerous ways the SMSC benefits area citizens, along with information about the tribe's commitment to protecting the environment through alternative energy production and other initiatives.



Susan Hall, right, Executive Director of The Angel's Depot, presents the 2010 Soup N Beans trophy to Robert Smith, left, Chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and Bill Bembenek, center, Chief Executive Officer of Pala Casino Spa & Resort.

Pala Wins Angel Depot's 4th Annual 'Soup N Beans' Contest Trophy

The team members of Pala Casino Spa & Resort recently received the The Angel's Depot's "Soup N Beans" trophy for collecting 6,077 cans of soup and beans in the organization's fourth annual contest to benefit the elderly poor in San Diego County.

Over 16,700 cans of soup and beans were collected and donated by 23 San Diego County businesses and five elementary schools during the contest, double the results of any previous year. The food is being distributed in senior meal boxes specially designed to meet the nutritional needs of the elderly poor in San Diego County who live on \$950 or less each month.

Susan Hall, The Angel's Depot Executive Director, presented the trophy to Robert Smith, Chairman of the Pala Band of Mission Indians, and Bill Bembenek, Chief Executive Officer of Pala Casino Spa & Resort, on behalf of the 2,000 Pala team members.

"To participate in this community program for the first time and then come out on top is a real tribute to our entire team," Bembenek said. "Just as they did for the recent Red Cross blood drive and our own donation to Haitian earthquake relief, our team stepped up to help the real winners in this effort, the elderly poor of San Diego County. Once again, we thank every one of them for their generosity, hard work and community spirit."

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino and Cabazon Tribe Set "Green" Example All Year Round

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino and the Cabazon Indians, located in Indio, California, are happy to report resounding results from its recent Hazardous Household Waste Roundup. Hundreds of people came to the free event held in April, taking advantage of the opportunity to properly dispose of household materials that should not end up in area landfills.

People who came to the Household Hazardous Waste Roundup dropped off 1,115 Gallons of liquids: oil,

paint, corrosives; 1,021 Pounds of solids: oil filters, toxic solids, pesticides, computer peripherals, and electronic devices; 1,051 other items – fluorescent tubes, light bulbs, propane cylinders, fire extinguishers, high intensity discharge lamps, etc.

The Cabazon Band of Mission Indians and Fantasy Springs Resort Casino management are very happy so many of the area's residents embraced the need to dispose of the above materials in an eco-friendly manner. The tribe and the resort partnered with a hazardous waste company from the Inland Empire to help collect, haul away and dispose of the hazardous household waste properly.

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino and the Cabazon band also employ a company-wide recycling program. In nearly every office, employee common area and other locales throughout the resort, blue recycling receptacles can be found. People can deposit paper, plastics, bottles and cans into these blue bins. The contents are then collected, sorted and recycled. The resort's full-time recycling engineer also sorts through the trash collected on the property and picks out any aluminum, plastic or glass bottles, or any other recyclable materials.

Since the resort's large-scale recycling program was started in October of 2009, 1,173 pounds of aluminum, 3,140 pounds of plastic and 28,232 pounds of glass have been turned over so that they may be made into new products. The resort also recycles at least two 4' by 5' bales of cardboard every day.

Fantasy Springs Resort Casino and the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians plan to expand their eco-friendly efforts within the year and remain committed to the programs already in place.

California Card Room Coalition Donates \$20,000 to the National Indian Child Welfare Association

The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA) announced at its annual convention in Portland, that a coalition of California's largest card rooms has donated \$20,000 to the organization. The announcement was made by NICWA President, Maurice Lyons.

NICWA Executive Director Terry Cross said, "With federal cutbacks to many Indian programs and the economy's impact on traditional support, the card rooms' donation represents a major gift and will help NICWA continue its mission to protect our children and preserve our culture."

Lyons, who is also Vice Chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, said the card rooms began working with Morongo last year. "We have been working with the card room industry leaders to introduce online poker in California. If we succeed, it will mean millions in new revenue for gaming and non-gaming tribes," explained Lyons. "During one of our meetings, I had the opportunity to talk about NICWA's mission."

The card room coalition is made up of four major Los Angeles-based gaming properties - the Bicycle Casino, Commerce Casino, Hollywood Park Casino and Hawaiian Gardens Casino. Leo Chu, Haig Kelegian, Tom Malkasian, Haig Papaian and Ron Sarabi are the casinos' management principals and owners.

"When we learned about NICWA's work from Maurice Lyons, we made the decision to donate \$20,000 to NICWA," said card room coalition partner Haig Papaian. "Our partnership is very diverse - one of our partners is Chinese, three are Armenian and one is Syrian. And all of us have been involved for a long time with children's causes for our own homelands."

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Receives \$4 Million in Funds for Economic Development, Other Projects

A number of economic enterprises as well as a health care center and a youth center will be funded by a \$3 million Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community loan and a \$1 million grant to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians.

The \$3 million loan will fund construction and start up costs for Red Lake Nation Propane, a convenience store at Thief River Falls at the Seven Clans Casino, and a convenience store in the town of Red Lake. The Red Lake Store will have a car wash, with a future car wash planned for the Seven Clans location. Gas and convenience goods will be available at both

stores, but what is unique about these properties is that they will also sell fresh Red Lake walleye and Red Lake Nation foods products such as jellies, jams, and wild rice.

Red Lake Nation Propane was established in 2009 and will be in full operation in 2010. The propane company will offer competitive prices on fuel and policies friendlier to band members. It has its own delivery trucks, tanks, and the capability to service all areas of the reservation and surrounding communities. Each of these enterprises will also provide new jobs.

The \$1 million grant will be divided to support two projects: \$750,000 for a community facility to house a Boys & Girls Club at Ponemah and \$250,000 for renovations and equipment at the Jourdain Perpich Extended Care Center.

The \$750,000 grant will help cover the cost of building the gymnasium, restrooms, lobby, and mechanical and electrical room at the community facility.

The Jourdain Perpich Extended Care Center will receive \$250,000 to continue providing a safe, comfortable home for American Indians who need long term medical or skilled nursing care and short-term rehabilitation services. ♣

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