I pray to our creator that we look back so that we may see ahead. Let us examine our lives so that we are respectful to our fellow humans and to nature. Let us respect our children and, above all, let us live our lives in accordance to our beliefs.

— Jim Thunder, Tribal Elder, Forest County Potawatomi Community
Helping children learn to read, preserving natural habitat, offering a safe environment for at-risk youth and families, cultivating artistic talent, feeding the hungry and granting a terminally ill child their last wish.

While we come from different backgrounds, these words invoke feelings we all share. In these tough economic times, these causes need more help than ever and the Forest County Potawatomi, through our Foundation, is thankful to be able to answer the call.

The Potawatomi know poverty. We understand need has no season. Hunger, healthcare and hardship are not past tense. Consistent with our heritage, the mission of our Foundation is to fight poverty, promote economic opportunity, strengthen communities and provide an example of responsible citizenship by assisting charitable organizations.

This past summer, the Foundation commemorated a milestone: 10 years of giving. Since the Foundation’s inception, it has donated over $30 million to needy organizations, exemplifying our mission and way of life. Attendees at a celebratory lunch were witness to youth performances representative of a diverse Milwaukee. It was powerful to see the good that can come from giving and that through the Foundation’s work, we can share feelings of hope, pride and optimism.

As you review the following pages outlining just some of the causes supported through our Foundation, you will see that they are expressive of both our mission and unwavering dedication to our community.

Respectfully,

Harold “Gus” Frank
Tribal Chairman
Forest County Potawatomi
The Potawatomi were once a large nation with much land, but after forced removal and the loss of millions of acres, scattered pockets of Potawatomi across regions of the United States and Canada resulted. Although diminished in number, our ancestors who remained in Wisconsin would eventually become known as the Forest County Potawatomi Community, Bodwe’wadmi, Keepers of the Fire.

For many generations, we relied on the environment for sustenance. We recognized the importance of using what one needs and giving away what one can. Our tribe took only what the earth and land was able to replenish. Unfortunately, our people struggled with oppressive poverty that made for a very difficult life. But throughout our history, we have maintained our traditional ways, guided by tribal values that include reverence for the wisdom of our elders, embracing responsibilities for family and tribe, respect for the environment, and a willingness to share.

With the advent of Indian gaming, our tribe was able to establish and build two casinos — the first in Forest County, followed by one in Milwaukee. The revenue generated by gaming has had an impact on our way of life beyond our imagination. Our people now have good jobs, good homes, exceptional health care, and are closer to the realized vision of self-sufficiency. The resulting impact of these two businesses on the surrounding communities has been positive as well, through our family-supporting jobs and shared revenue payments that fund services for citizens. Through our casinos and tribal ventures, our tribe is the largest employer in Forest County, and among the top employers in Milwaukee.

When building the Milwaukee business, we realized early on that simply being located in the community wasn’t enough. We longed for a way to express our belief in giving back. We were committed to investing in, and providing, promising futures to individuals and families in the community. And so it was in 1999, that the Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation was born with these guiding principles: to help fight poverty, promote economic opportunity, strengthen communities and provide an example of responsible citizenship by assisting charitable organizations. To date, the Foundation has proudly contributed over $30 million to charitable causes in both Forest County and in the Greater Milwaukee area.

But the story does not end here. Through the work of our Foundation, our tribe’s vision of building a better tomorrow for future generations continues ... the fire still burns.
Environment

Milwaukee Riverkeeper
Milwaukee Riverkeeper serves as an advocate and voice for the Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic Rivers. Their core programming involves patrolling, monitoring and advocating on behalf of the rivers. They also do hands-on river restoration projects as well as organize thousands of volunteers each year in river cleanup activities.

Urban Ecology Center of Milwaukee
An urban nature center that teaches children and adults about the natural world using city greenspaces like public parks and waterways. They are also a community center; a safe place for children to learn and grow and a great way to connect to their neighbors and community. They educate and inspire people to understand and value nature as motivation for positive change, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Riveredge Nature Center
The mission of Riveredge Nature Center is to inspire, inform and enable responsible environmental decision-making by providing leadership in environmental education for people of all ages about their interrelationship with the earth, and its plant and animal life; by preserving its natural sanctuary; and by serving as a regional resource for scientific research. By integrating sustainability concepts and practices into its programming to inspire people to live within the limitations of natural systems.

Gathering Waters Conservancy
Adding a New Chapter to Wisconsin’s Conservation History — More than a quarter century of organized land trust efforts in Wisconsin provided a firm foundation for the establishment of Gathering Waters Conservancy in 1994. Today, Gathering Waters supplies the focus for conservation partnerships that influence land and water resource protection across the state. They fill a need for technical assistance that keeps the practice of land and water conservation alive among landowners who care and local land trusts who are ready to help them protect their land. Where public support for land and water conservation is critical, Gathering Waters Conservancy speaks with one voice for the land trust movement.


These performances symbolized some of the critical work that is at the heart of the Forest County Foundation — uniting people and building better race relations through the activities and information shared through youth.

The Forest County Potawatomi Community takes great pride in giving back and helping the many organizations that do such great work in their communities.

Since its inception in 1999, the Foundation has contributed more than $30 million to hundreds of charitable organizations on a local, state and national level.
A number of organizations who benefited from the Foundation’s funding also shared their stories, including the AVEC group (Arts Vitaly Enrich Community), Gathering Waters Conservancy, King Advisory, the Medical College of Wisconsin and SHARP Literacy. These organizations have been able to promote the arts, protect the land, improve the quality of life for youth, research diabetes and engage and educate children about diversity. These programs have been possible because of funding they received, and they expressed their deep appreciation to the Potawatomi Foundation and tribal members for their support.

During the celebration, dancers from a number of cultural groups performed, creating excitement and energy, while educating and informing. The groups that performed included: The Latino Arts Mariachi Juvenil of Bruce Guadalupe School; The Milwaukee Ballet II of the Milwaukee Ballet

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Middle photo —
Hmong Traditional Dancers of the Hmong American Friendship Association of Milwaukee

Bottom photo —
Benny Peters, Forest County Potawatomi

Photo opposite page —
Danielle Smith (L), Forest County Potawatomi Meno Keno Ma Ge Wen Sr. Princess 2009-10, and Penelope Peters (R) Forest County Potawatomi Meno Keno Ma Ge Wen Jr. Princess 2009-10, dance to a Grand Entry song.
American Diabetes Association
The American Diabetes Association is at the forefront of the fight to prevent, treat, and cure diabetes. We provide education, promote awareness, advocate on behalf of diabetes patients, and are the authoritative source on diabetes in the United States.

Medical College Of Wisconsin
The Medical College of Wisconsin is a major national research center, in fact, the largest research institute in the Milwaukee metro area and the 2nd largest in Wisconsin. Their mission is to be a national leader in the education and development of the next generation of physicians and scientists; to discover and translate new knowledge in the biomedical sciences; to provide cutting-edge, interdisciplinary and compassionate clinical care of the highest quality; to improve the health of the communities they serve.

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Founded in 1946 the Wisconsin Chapter supports research, provides programs and services, and advocates for Wisconsin residents living with MS, as well as their families and caregivers, and health professionals. The Society is searching for three (3) cures: for someone with early MS: stop the disease; for someone with considerable disability from MS: repair & regenerate the nervous system; for someone worried about their children/grandchildren developing MS in the future: prevent the disease from the beginning. There are more than 10,000 people in Wisconsin living with MS, giving our state one of the highest incidence rates of MS in the country.

Philippine Cultural and Civic Center Foundation, Inc.
In the past few decades, many Filipino-Americans had settled in the Milwaukee area. Most are professionals and many are doctors. In the course of training and subsequent practice of medicine, some of the doctors witnessed abject poverty in the midst of plenty. Touched by the suffering of many of those in the city, the desire grew to eventually serve the disadvantaged and the underprivileged citizens of our community. And, what was once the passion of some, later developed into the obsession of many — involving doctors and non-doctors alike. Thus, was born the concept of a free medical clinic: to serve the uninsured and the underinsured — regardless of race, gender, age, religion, employment and immigration status. The Filipino-Americans of the Milwaukee area are thankful and welcome the opportunity to give something in return to the community that nurtured them in the past and allows them to flourish as they advance towards self fulfillment.

HEALTHCARE

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Foundation Percentages for Community Investment Report 2009

O
One Heartland
Our Next Generation Inc.

P
Parenting Network
Penfield Children’s Center
People Helping People
Pewaukee Area Historical Society
Philippine Cultural and Civic Center Foundation
Potawatomi Trails Pow-Wow Present Music, Inc.
Prevention & Protection of Abused Children

R
Rebuilding Together Milwaukee
Repairers of the Breach
River Revitalization Foundation
Riveredge Nature Center
Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Wisconsin

S
Salvation Army
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts
Sharp Literacy
Silver Spring Neighborhood Center
Sixteenth Street Community Health Center

Social Development Foundation
St. Benedict Community Meal
St. Catherine Residence
St. Francis Parish of St. Joseph Capuchin Order
STD Specialties Clinic
Step Industries Inc.
Steve Cullen Healthy Heart Club
Run/Walk & Badgerland Striders

T
Transitional Living Services Inc.
Trees for Tomorrow

U
United Migrant Opportunity Services
United Area Rescue Squad
United Performing Arts Fund
Urban Ecology Center
Urban Economic Development Association
USS Freedom Commissioning
V
Veterans Day Parade Inc.
VFW Post 6239 – Bayfield, WI

W
Walkers Point Youth and Family Center
Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare
Westown Association

Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans
Wisconsin American Legion Foundation Inc.
Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse
Wisconsin Citizen Action Fund
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Wisconsin Conservatory of Music
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Technicians Association
Wisconsin FACETS
Wisconsin Foundation for Independent Colleges Inc.
Wisconsin Inter-Tribal Athletic Association
Wisconsin Women’s Business Initiative
Wisconsin Women’s Health Foundation
Women’s Center
Women’s Fund

Y
Youth Development Boot Camp Inc.

Z
Zoological Society of Milwaukee

Photo opposite page—Alice Benn (Billy Daniels’ mother); Mavis/Mary Williams Benn (grandmother of Billy Daniels; great-grandmother of Billy Daniels; boy & girl are sister and brother of Alice Benn. —Photo courtesy of the FCP Cultural Center, Library and Museum.
2009 CHARITABLE GIVING

32 Degrees Masonic Learning Centers for Children Inc.
A Adaptive Community Approach Program Inc.
Adult Learning Center Inc.
Advocates of Criazkee
After Breast Cancer Diagnosis Inc.
AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
Alma Center Inc.
Alston’s Preparatory Academy
Alzheimer’s Association
American Cancer Society
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Indian Chamber of Commerce
American Lung Association
American Red Cross
Arthritis Foundation
Association of Fundraising Professionals
Badger’s Charities Inc.
Breast Cancer Recovery Foundation Inc.
Brewer’s Charities Inc.
Betty Brinn Children’s Museum
Boys & Girls Club of the Sokaogon Chippewa Community
Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee
Breath of Healing Clinic Inc.
Breed Cancer Recovery Foundation Inc.
Brewer’s Charities Inc.
C Casa Romero Renewal Center
Centro Legal por Derechos Humanos Inc.
Citizen Action of Wisconsin Education Fund
City of Milwaukee Health Department
College of Menominee Nation
Community Memorial Foundation
Congregation of the Great Spirit
CORE/El Centro Inc.
CorpCare Distributions, Inc.

IN & AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

Repairers of the Breach
Feeding America
Rebuilding Together

Repairers of the Breach is greater Milwaukee’s grassroots homeless outreach, provider of the area’s only daytime shelter and resource center for homeless people. Their mission is to bring forth homeless people to act collectively to change the present conditions under which they live, through advocacy, education and direct action.

Feeding America
Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, the state’s largest food bank, serves 235,000 people in eastern Wisconsin each year through a network of 1,100 feeding programs including food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters. Feeding America helps bridge the gap for families and individuals struggling to make ends meet so that everyone has access to nourishing food, especially during times of great need. Since 1982, Feeding America has distributed 225 million pounds of food, enough food to provide 225 million meals to help feed the hungry.

Rebuilding Together
Rebuilding Together fills a pressing need in our communities. The rising cost of living and falling social service budgets have left some of our most vulnerable neighbors without the most basic of necessities: a warm, safe, and dry home.

The nation is facing enormous problems, many of which have reached crisis levels. The low-income homeowners that Rebuilding Together serves are disproportionately affected by these issues. Homeownership is at an all time high, especially among low to mid-income Americans, but the costs of owning and maintaining a home are growing exponentially. Healthcare costs are skyrocketing, leaving low-income citizens with less and less disposable income for home repairs and modification.

Rebuilding Together focuses on the issues of homeownership, the elderly, the disabled, families with children, healthcare, and the rising federal deficit. By identifying the challenges associated with these issues, they are well placed to face a problem with full understanding and to create real, sustainable solutions for the low-income homeowners they serve.
American Indian Center (AIC)
The mission of the AIC elders program is to honor the traditional role that seniors hold in the native community by building a supportive, healthy environment in which native seniors can socialize, look after their health, and maintain traditional practices. The AIC approaches health and wellness from a holistic perspective, organizing its activities around the four directions of life.

Indian Council of the Elderly
The Indian Elderly of Milwaukee have served the American Indian Elders since 1976 and are the only urban, Inter-tribal American Indian program in Wisconsin specifically designed to serve elders. Programs and services include activities designed to lessen the isolation of American Indian older adults of diverse tribal backgrounds; provide nutritious hot meals in a congregate setting; outreach to identify vulnerable and isolated or homebound American Indian older adults and through referral, coordination of information, or direct assistance to help them to obtain needed services. Additionally, ICE recruits and trains volunteers, as well as supervises older adults who are paid Senior Companions to our elders.

Interfaith Senior Programs
Interfaith Senior Programs is a faith-based, community centered 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Major programs include the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Faith in Action Program. Collectively the agency brings more than 46 years of experience to the community, serves over 1,300 individuals each year, and coordinates more than 1,500 volunteers for 117 nonprofit organizations and government agencies.

Granville Interfaith Older Adult Programs
Granville Interfaith for the Elderly is an independent non-profit organization, created in 1991 with a mission to assist older adults with a variety of services so they can remain independent and stay in their own homes for as long as it is possible and safe. The purpose of the program is to provide direct services primarily by volunteers, information and referral by Granville Interfaith staff, and to advocate for older adults so they can access services.

DuWayne Soulier Memorial VFW Post 8239
Post 8239 is a group of dedicated Veterans that have made a positive addition to the Red Cliff community in Bayfield, WI, providing direct community involvement. In 2003, the name was changed to the DuWayne Soulier Memorial Post #8239; DuWayne was a community Vietnam Veteran that was killed in action. In the past few years the Post has been active — we have contributed to community projects, helped provide benefits for the Free Clinic, donated food to youth functions and helped create a bonding focus for the community. Post 8239 provides programs designed to encourage community service and increase civic pride, which ultimately enhances education and ensures the availability of health services for our nation’s veterans.

Wisconsin American Legion Foundation, Inc.
The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation’s largest veteran’s service organization, committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.
Tell me, and I’ll forget.
Show me, and I may not remember.
Involve me, and I’ll understand.

— Tribe Unknown