



FOUR BANDS

Teahya Woecun

Summer 2008

Wakpa Wasté Oyanke

HIGHLIGHTS

Page 1

- Director's message

Page 2

- Nurturing generations

- Native Discovery promotes cultural tourism

Page 3

- Area entrepreneurs honored at annual entrepreneurship fair

- Support our mission

Page 4

- Four Bands kicks off revitalization program

FOUR BANDS STAFF

Tanya Fiddler

Executive Director

Donita Fischer

Youth Program & Partnership Coordinator

Cora Mae Haskell

Business & Finance Trainer

Darla Lawrence-Shaving

Finance & Administrative Officer

Nicole Seaton Fiddler

Program Coordinator

Mark Shupick

Business Success Coach

Wynona Traversie

Loan Officer

A message from the Executive Director

This spring, we learned that Four Bands Community Fund was selected as one of four Great Strides Award recipients. Presented by the Northwest Area Foundation, the award is given in recognition of innovative strides communities are taking to reduce poverty for the long term.

Four Bands was also honored by long-time supporter Citibank earlier this year. In commemoration of the organization's Silver Anniversary in South Dakota, Four Bands was awarded funding to continue impacting local families with financial education and loan programs. In this newsletter, you'll learn about one local family who is seeing the value of Four Bands' services and setting examples for others.

During the 2008 Great Plains Economic Summit, in Sioux Falls, SD, I was named the Entrepreneur Advocate of the Year by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). I am so honored to receive this award.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize our local Wakpa Wasté American Indian Business Leaders (AIBL) chapter. We sent seven high school students to the national AIBL conference, in Las Vegas, where they won third place in the business plan competition. Chapter members proudly represented our area, and we are very pleased with their efforts. To learn more about AIBL, visit with Donita Fischer at Four Bands.

I'd also like to welcome our newest board member, Jill Kessler. Jill brings a great deal of energy and passion to the table and will serve as a valuable player in our youth development projects.

Four Bands' mission is supported by many valuable partners throughout the year. Our partnership with Presentation College is one such relationship that has aided us in our educational programming. I'm also pleased to be named to the Lakota Campus Advisory Board this year.

"Four Bands' programs establish a solid foundation for the residents of the Cheyenne River Reservation to build upon. Tanya Fiddler brings tremendous experience and knowledge to the Lakota Campus Advisory Board with background and success in community development. The Lakota Campus continues to foster a partnership with Four Bands to be agents for positive change and growth in our area."

~ Julie Thorstenson
Lakota Campus Director
Presentation College

I encourage you to stop by our office to learn more about us and find out for yourself why Four Bands Community Fund really is the place to grow.

Wopila Tanka (With great thanks!),

Tanya Fiddler, Executive Director



Nurturing generations for a better future



“Four Bands has opened doors for my family,”

says Monalisa Brings Horse, pictured with daughters Kelli (left) and Jesselyn (right).

As a youth intern at the Boys & Girls Club in Eagle Butte, Jesselyn Cloud saved half of her earnings and Four Bands matched those dollars. Now Jesselyn is saving for her education. Thanks to the work experience Jesselyn gained through the internship program, she was able to apply for and begin working at a new job.

“The intern experience taught me how to spend my money more wisely,” says Jesselyn. “Now I have a savings and a checking account, and I’m contributing to my education fund.”

Jesselyn plans to attend the University of Minnesota at Morris in the fall, where she’ll study Business Administration.

Inspired by her daughter’s money wisdom, Monalisa Brings Horse came to Four Bands to learn how she could make a difference in her family’s life. She enrolled in the Cheyenne River Entrepreneurial Assistance Training and Education (CREATE) class and learned how to repair her credit.

Wishing she had learned these valuable financial tips when she was younger, Monalisa says, “It could have prevented all the bad money choices and debt.”

About her experience with Four Bands’ educational opportunities, Monalisa adds, “The classes changed everything for me. Now I look to the future. I’m working on repairing my credit so I can buy a house. Who knows, maybe I’ll even start a business of my own one day.”

Younger sister Kelli Cloud has noticed positive changes in her mom and sister, which has led her to begin planning for her own future. Kelli hopes to participate in Four Bands’ internship program to gain work experience, learn money saving tips and contribute to her family’s successes.

“Learning the things we’ve learned wasn’t hard,” says Monalisa. “You just have to apply yourself to make the changes you need in your life.”

Four Bands Community Fund congratulates Monalisa and her daughters for their hard work and dedication to making their lives better and setting positive examples for other families.

Native Discovery promotes cultural tourism

Tourism season is at its peak and we are seeing visitors from all over the world passing through the Cheyenne River Reservation. What a great chance for us to showcase our local attractions, cultural events and area businesses to visitors!



Native Discovery, a tourism organization working to promote the Cheyenne River, Rosebud, and Pine Ridge Reservations to travelers, continues to market events, businesses, attractions, art and historical sites in these areas through pre-packaged and self-guided tours. The group offers suggested itineraries online and provides assistance to travelers who are interested in creating their own experiences while traveling through the area.

This fall, the Cheyenne River Reservation is the highlight of two tours.

Native Discovery is partnering with the Akta Lakota Museum, at St. Joseph’s Indian School in Chamberlain to offer a tour of the Cheyenne River Reservation on Sept. 15-18, just prior to the school’s annual children’s powwow. The purpose of the tour is to learn about Lakota history, art and culture.

A group of international travel experts will visit the Cheyenne River Reservation on October 3rd and 4th to learn what the area has to offer travelers. This tour presents an opportunity for area businesses to market themselves as a destination for visitors.

Want to learn more? Contact Kerry Frei, 605-985-5541 or email lkfrei@gwtc.net to find out how you can participate in these tours. More information about Native Discovery can be found online at NativeDiscovery.org.

Eagle Butte and Timber Lake businesses awarded during fair

During the 2008 Entrepreneurship Fair, Four Bands recognized two local businesses for their dedication to economic development and growth on the Cheyenne River Reservation.

Darla Shupick, owner of Noah's Ark Learning Center, in Eagle Butte, was named the 2008 Micro Entrepreneur of the Year. Barb Gross and her family, owners of OctaFlex Environmental Systems, were selected as the 2008 Small Business of the Year.



2008 Micro Entrepreneur of the Year

Darla Shupick, (left) receives recognition from Donna Rae Petersen (center) and Tanya Fiddler (right).

Noah's Ark Learning Center, under the direction of Darla Shupick, is the first private preschool in Eagle Butte.

Darla started the business when she realized, as a teacher, that many children did not have the skills needed for their grade level. She felt there was a need for a learning center to prepare young children for kindergarten.

Darla participated in many of Four Bands' business training programs and then opened Noah's Ark Learning Center more than three years ago. Darla caters to children, ages 3 through 5.

Noah's Ark Learning Center serves as a great community asset and has earned a reputation because of the services it provides. A waiting list isn't unusual as word is out about the education these young people are gaining from their time at the center.

Beginning in 1995, Barbara and the late Terry Gross, along with their son Richard, have operated **OctaFlex Environmental Systems**, an environmental containment and manufacturing business in Timber Lake.

Amidst the challenges of working with government entities, the Gross family recognizes the benefits of operating a business here. They also know the value of hiring local residents to keep money revolving throughout our communities.

Four Bands board and staff salutes Noah's Ark Learning Center and OctaFlex Environmental Systems for making a positive impact on the local economy by providing exemplary products and services in our rural area. Both businesses are setting examples for aspiring entrepreneurs and we are proud of their efforts.



2008 Small Business of the Year

Tanya Fiddler (left) and Donna Rae Petersen (right) award the Gross family; Richard, Marie and Barb Gross of OctaFlex.

Support Our Mission, Get Involved

Two Million and Ten by 2010 is a campaign led by Four Bands Community Fund to attract investments to support Four Bands mission of creating businesses, jobs, and assets for people on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

The campaign will achieve five key objectives by the year 2010, including:

1. Every child will examine entrepreneurship as a career option by the eighth grade.
2. Every child will expand financial literacy skills by the tenth grade.
3. Communities and families on the Reservation will benefit from the start up and expansion of new businesses.
4. Local families will expand their financial literacy skills and save money, enabling them to purchase or renovate a home, start or expand a business, or pursue further education.
5. Four Bands will raise funds to support core operations, programs, and services, and will double the available loan capital to \$2,000,010 to support local private business development.

Learn how you can support the 2010 campaign. Contact Tanya Fiddler, Four Bands Executive Director at 605-964-3687 or visit FourBands.org to learn more about our programs and how we are impacting businesses, youth and families on the Reservation.



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BOX HOLDER

Four Bands program spruces up homes and businesses

Four Bands is excited to launch a home and business renovation partnership that bundles together resources and expertise from several partner organizations. Among the key local partners working with Four Bands are Okiciyapi Tipi Habitat for Humanity, 1st Financial Bank of Dupree, and local business owners. Partners outside the Reservation include HUD Rural Housing and Economic Development and the Tides Foundation Economic Justice Fund (a new Four Bands supporter from the Bay Area). What are the goals?

Home Renovation:

- Approximately 30 home owners selected by Okiciyapi Tipi will receive assistance with their critical home renovations. The application process has already begun and 3 home renovations will happen this summer.
- Selected participants must join Four Bands' Individual Development Account (IDA) savers program and save approximately \$1,000. These funds will get matched with money provided by partner organizations. Four Bands' IDA staff will guide you through the process of reaching your savings goal.
- The combined pool of funds will go to purchase materials needed for repairs.
- Okiciyapi Tipi will develop the renovation plan and bring in volunteer work teams to complete the renovation work.

Home owners interested in learning more should contact: Cora Mae Haskell, Business & Finance Trainer, Four Bands Community Fund at 605-964-3687. Remaining slots are expected to fill up quickly so call soon.

Business Renovation and Marketing:

- Approximately 20 business owners selected by Four Bands will receive assistance with strategic business renovations that can increase the marketability of their businesses. The application process has already begun and at least 10 of the business slots are already filled.
- Participating businesses will develop a business renovation plan, and must qualify for and obtain a \$1,500 micro loan from Four Bands that is matched with \$1,500 from partner organizations to support the renovation work. Business owners also must contribute 150 hours of volunteer time to support the renovation work.
- Selected businesses will receive individual marketing support, technical assistance, and training to improve their marketability. They will also work with Four Bands staff to document the impact this work has on their business.
- Watch for exciting renovations in the months ahead at Eva's Hair and Nails, Korey's Karing Touch and Tanning, Healing Hands Therapy, and M&M Auto Repair of Eagle Butte; Loken Oil in Isabel; Dakota Roundup Restaurant and Lounge, Dakota Silk Screen & Embroidery, Timber Lake and Area Development and Brenda Voller Business Services, of Timber Lake; Hair Designs by Dana, of Dupree.

Business owners interested in learning more should contact: Mark Shupick, Business Success Coach, Four Bands Community Fund at 605-964-3687.

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