

# 2018 Annual Report



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#### Letter from Executive Director

Greetings All My Relatives.

I am excited to share with you our first ever annual report as an independent nonprofit! Our separation from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (now named Greater Minneapolis Community Connections) was finalized in July 2018 but we have operated separately since January 2018.

I am proud to report that our outstanding staff managed to provide uninterrupted services to our community during the transition and our Board of Directors worked tirelessly toward our goal to operate under our own 501(c)(3). I am grateful to all for your dedicated support!



Highlights from the year include:

- Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual LEAP event for the food shelf and youth programs was held on February 26, 2018. The evening featured amazing silent and live auction items, a lively Fund-A-Need challenge, a hoop dance performance, and delicious food from D'Amicos. Thanks to all we raised close to \$60,000! The LEAP Volunteer Committee deserves credit for a job well done!!
- Thanks to funding from the Butler Family Foundation and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, we were able to begin our much-needed capital campaign, replacing six aging HVAC units on the roof and bringing our sprinkler system up to code. We continue to work toward keeping our beautiful, award-winning building well-maintained for our clients, the community and our partners.
- In July, Governor Dayton hosted the 2018 Minnesota Tribal Youth Gathering to focus on challenges facing Native youth. Native youth who pledged to President Obama's Generation Indigenous Challenge were eligible to attend the Gathering. Three young people from our Youth Leadership Development Program took up the challenge and attended this first-of-its-kind gathering in the nation. The youth were excited and proud to participate.
- Also in July our Healthy Transitions Homelessness Prevention program staff traveled with four of the program's youth to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual 3-day Tomorrow's Leaders Today (TLT) Youth Leadership Conference at the University of Minnesota in Duluth. The youth enjoyed speakers, workshops, dances, and a

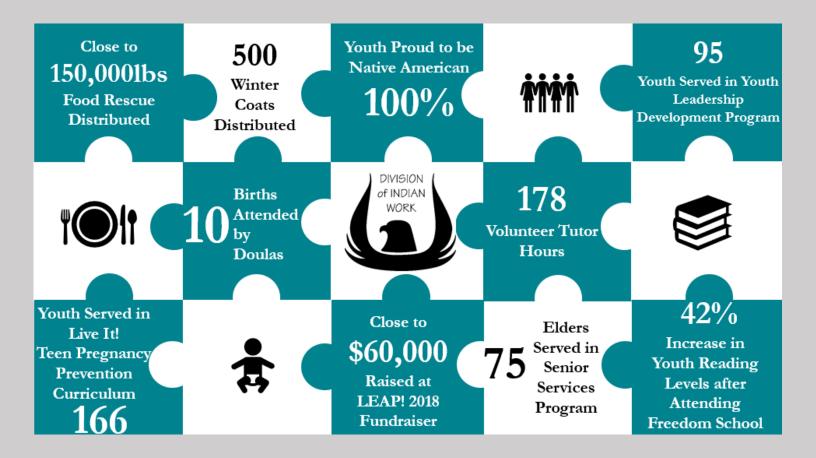
Lake Superior Harbor Boat ride. The purpose of the TLT conference is to show young people their potential as leaders, to teach them leadership skills, and to identify ways they can positively contribute to their communities.

DIW began partnering with the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center to implement a four-year grant from the Minnesota Department of Health's Minnesota Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting Grant Program. The Program uses the indigenous model, Family Spirit Program, to work with mothers and parents of children ages 3 and under, teaching them how to have a healthy pregnancy, how the baby will impact their future, and provides services for up to 3 years.

As you can see, staff have been busy!

I would also like to extend a Chii Miigwech/Pidamaye/Pinagigi to all of you who continue to be a "piece of the puzzle" to provide much-needed, ongoing services and for making sure DIW programs are the best they can be for our community. From tribal giving programs to foundations and corporations to congregational contributors to individual donors – you are critical to our success!

Louise Matson Executive Director





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# **LEAP! 2018**

We'd like to thank all who participated in our 2018 LEAP into Action: Feeding Families, Empowering Youth annual event. This includes LEAP committee members, sponsors, ticket buyers, silent and live auction bidders, Fund-A-Need donors, general event donors, performers, and the staff of the Metropolitan Ballroom and D'Amicos. You all helped with the tremendous success of our event-we raised close to \$60,000! Thank you to the many generous artists

and community members who donated items for the silent and live autions. Miigwech/Pidamaye/Pinagigi/Thank you!!

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A special thanks to the many artists and community members who donated to our silent and live auctions at LEAP! 2018!