

The Healing Lodge...Gateway to Community Service and Support

by Mary Barton Largent

This is the second and last part of the last week's article on THE HEALING LODGE.

Speaking personally with Mr. Millard Lowry, the Executive Director of the Native American Interfaith Ministries, Inc., also known as the Healing Lodge.

Mr. Lowry said the purpose of this organization is to reach out to those in need within the their neighborhoods and throughout the world.

Mr. Lowry stated that "Inequities that create disparity in the determinants of health for individuals, families, and populations, capture the attention of faith organizations and public health."

The Healing Lodge is the hub that will improve the health in the under served and disenfranchised citizens of Robeson and surrounding counties. The Healing Lodge will help remove the greatest barrier in seeking medical care among American Indians and other groups of poverty (fear and a lack of trust in the health care system.) NAIM is a partner of the Robeson County Partnership for Community Health, whose mission is to coordinate and implement countrywide health initiatives.

Mr. Lowry said, "We have collaborated with Robeson Health Care to be a partner in the Southeastern North Carolina American Indian HIV/AIDS Initiative, a (SPNS Program).

Our STD Outreach worker, funded by Robeson County Health Department, has had a tremendous impact within our communities." Mr. Lowry went on to say, "Our Faith in Families Coordinator works with welfare to work families and church partners to help transitions back into the work

force. We have partnered with Healthy Carolinians Program for 2010 funds to conduct diabetes education awareness and screenings within our churches and communities. We will train lay health advisors with the American Cancer Society monies with a primary focus on breast and cervical can-

cer. We hope to start a program to test men for prostate cancer.

Our Parish Nurse Program funded by DUKE Endowment will work within the county. The implementation of our plan will be the first joint interfaith/health and human service project in this county, thus setting precedent for future projects in other minority communities.

We have collaborated with the North Carolina HIV/STD Care Prevention Branch and the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs to conduct a statewide survey to assess attitudes, beliefs, and methods of treatment for STD and HIV/AIDS. We will collect at least 1000 sets of data."

"Our 'Sugar Care' project was used to meet Healthy Carolinians/Healthy People 2010 objectives for diabetes through prevention and education programs designed to reduce the disease and economic burden of diabetes, and improve the quality of life for all persons who have or at risk for diabetes. We helped determine new cases of diabetes and bought equipment to be used to determine glucose and cholesterol levels during community screenings within our three areas of Project T.R.U.S.T. Diabetes lay health advisors training and the partnerships fostered with local providers will be continued. Our lay advisors are aware of the signs and symptoms of diabetes and constantly monitor their churches/communities for new cases of diabetes."

The Healing Lodge. (Native American Interfaith Ministries, Inc.) is truly a gateway to community service and support...offering Wellness Education/Prevention for Diabetes, Cancer, Cardiovascular, STD & AIDS. It is also a Crisis Ministry... Substance Abuse...Homelessness...Outreach for Sexually Transmitted Diseases...Domestic Violence...and Suicide Prevention.

The Healing Lodge has raised monies through their Fathers Day Rallies and walkathons and the

local communities and churches are now willing to help with this project financially.

It has taken considerable time and effort to prepare the churches to receive the health messages that the Healing Lodge want their Parish Nurse Program to deliver.

Mr. Lowry stated that "We need local churches, organizations, and individuals to keep donating money for the 'Healing Lodge' ministry."

Mr. Lowry hopes that the communities can see that they have been busy this year, but "we still need and are soliciting your help and funding."

"We have been successful in obtaining program money. We have recently formed a building committee to begin raising needed monies for our future (within three years) construction of the Healing Lodge site. Your money will be held in a restricted status for the building of that site and programming needs when our grant funds are exhausted."

"We would appreciate your support in reaching other members of the faith community and your church (civic groups). We will need the commitment of local churches to sustain operations and build our much-needed permanent facilities."

We can also get involved by educating ourselves and others.

There is a need to encourage our young people about the risk of infection. We can educate our young people about HIV/AIDS and help them to have a responsible attitude and have a healthy lifestyle. We can get involved by parents talking to their children and children talking to their parents. We can promote safe sex and/or abstinence. We can volunteer our time at local HIV/AIDS agencies. We can pass out information. We can get tested. For more information contact

The Healing Lodge
450 Prospect Road
PO Box 1695
Pembroke, NC 28372
Toll Free 1-866-522-0999
Fax 910-522-0999

Early Head Start Accepting Applications

The LRDA Early Head Start Program is now taking applications for the Fairmont area. Applications will be taken for children between the ages of 6 weeks and 3 years old as well as expectant mothers. For more information, please call Amanda Hunt at 910-522-2131

Auditions planned for Native American play at UNCP

Auditions for "Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth" by Native Canadian (Ojibwa) playwright Drew Hayden Taylor.

December 3 & 4, 6:30 pm, Studio Theatre, Givens Performing Arts Center. Directed by Vibrina Coronado. Performance dates: February 10, 11, 13, 14.

This play centers on Janice, an Indian woman taken by Canadian government as a child and raised by a wealthy English couple. Assimilated into white culture, she's now an entertainment lawyer living in Toronto. Janice's sister, with boyfriend and brother in tow, arrive to convince Janice to go back to the Rez so she can pay her last respects to her recently deceased mother.

For more information, call 521-6754 or e-mail: vibrina.coronado@uncp.edu

CANCELLATION

The grand opening of Native Taxi & Transport Inc. has been cancelled by Grant Hunt, the owner of the company. There is no set schedule for transportation services.

Fares for the taxi is \$2.00 sitting fee and \$1.80 per mile. The taxi will not be operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Pembroke BPW celebrates BPW Week

The Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Organization celebrated BPW Week October 19-25.

The week began with members attending church at First Baptist Church in Pembroke as a group. Monday, October 19 Mary Alice Wells, North Carolina BPW President was guest speaker at the Pembroke BPW monthly meeting as she praised women for their dedication and hard work they display in their work places and for their families. Each year, the organization also serves ice cream and cake to the senior citizens. Sylvia Blue was selected as "Woman of the Year" by the organization.

Mrs. Blue serves as Media Specialist at Magnolia School. Brian Duckworth, resource officer at Fairmont Middle School spoke to members about safety precautions against theft and scams.

LRDA's housing program hosts orientation

On November 19, 2003, LRDA hosted an orientation and information workshop for the clients of the new Housing Program.

The orientation workshop, held at the LRDA Office Complex, detailed the process of obtaining a loan, information about the LRDA Housing Program, and an initial visit with the construction manager. The LRDA Housing Program offers construction of affordable homes through the

Lumbee Construction Company (LCC). The LRDA has several house plans to choose from and the home may be built on the prospective homeowners property in Robeson, Hoke, or Scotland County, or on land owned by LRDA in Robeson County.

Ronnie D. Freeman, Housing Counselor and Loan Officer for the Lumbee Housing Program, stated: "We are pleased to be able to provide this service to our community. We are here to work as a team to make sure that the dream of owning your own home becomes a reality." Specifics about the Lumbee Housing Program include:

** To qualified non-landowners, LRDA is offering a lot valued at \$8,500 to build your new home
** To qualified landowners, LRDA is offering limited down-payment assistance in order to get your home brokered.
** Using innovative energy technologies, LRDA will build a four-star energy efficient home. This home will save 1/3 on heating and air conditioning costs. These energy efficient initiatives are valued at

\$5,000 and are provided at no cost to the homebuyer. For more information about the Housing Program, please call Ronnie D. Freeman at 910-522-2134 or visit our website at www.lumbee.org

World AIDS Day
December 1, 2003.
Health Department Complex. To remember those who have passed from HIV/AIDS and remember those who are still fighting.



Happy 69th Birthday!

Shirley Oxendine of Union Chapel is celebrating her birthday on December 6th with her family and

friends. She is the daughter of James & Docia Oxendine.

Native American Resource Center presents Shawn Jacobs

PEMBROKE, N.C.-The Native American Resource Center on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke is pleased to announce the opening of a new art exhibit, Abstract Reality.

"This collection of paintings by Lumbee artist Shawn Jacobs, a young man of 28 years whose capacity for creative thought and artistic expression is obvious from his works," said Resource Center Director, Stan Knick. "It is also the first time in recent years that we have had an entirely abstract art exhibit."

Jacobs has been painting seriously for about 10 years. He was a student of well known local artists and teachers, Delora Cummings and James Locklear, but his abstract work is a considerable departure from either of their more realistic styles.

In Abstract Reality, viewers can see what Jacobs calls "expression in pure form."

What exactly this means may differ in interpretation from one viewer to another, but it is clear to any patient viewer that a great deal of thought and feeling, as well as creative energy went into these pieces.

On the surface, it may seem to the casual viewer that there is a contrast way of presenting the artis-

tic expression in this exhibit of abstract paintings. But on closer examination, it becomes evident that there is just as much diversity from piece to piece in Abstract Reality as there has been in our more realistic exhibits.

For example, in "Dacrygelosis" (oil/acrylic/aluminum) there is a kind of light-hearted feeling that evokes thoughts of spring. "Awake In My Sleep" (acrylic) is a tense but beautiful explosion of color. "Psychentonia" (mixed media) is a dark and almost ominous mixture of textures and hues. And "Afterthought of an Addict" (oil/acrylic) has an autumnal quality which is reminiscent of swirling leaves in a November wind.

Jacobs says: "This is another point of view from what we usually see; this is my reality."

"And although some of the work may seem less accessible than others to some viewers, certainly the reality which Jacobs expresses in Abstract Reality reaches far into the soul of art, deep into the heart of the human condition," Dr. Knick said. "Taken as a whole, Abstract Reality dramatically demonstrates that Shawn Jacobs is a young artist with a bright future."

Abstract Reality will be on display in Old Main Building through March 2004.

St. Pauls Christmas Parade set for Dec. 5

The 48th annual St. Pauls Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade will be held in St. Pauls on Friday 5. It will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Entries are now being sought. The entry fee for queens and kings is \$25. The fee for commercial entries is \$50. There is no charge for non-profit groups. To enter, please call the Chamber at 865-3489 or The St. Pauls Review newspaper at 865-4179 and ask for Paul.

LRDA's WIA hosts partner

In 1999, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) was passed by Congress and signed into the law by the President. One major change this legislation mandated was the establishment of One-Stop Centers.

One-Stop Centers allow clients to who need social services to visit one site and obtain the necessary service-be it employment, training, vocational rehabilitation, services for the blind, etc.

The law also mandates that agencies that receive WIA grants will be a partner in the one-stop centers. The Employment Security Commission (ESC) in Lumberton is the site of the One-Stop Center for Robeson County.

On Tuesday, November 18, the Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) hosted quarterly meetings of One-Stop partners. Mr. Dewey Locklear, Executive Director, welcomed the partners and stressed the importance of agencies networking and collaborating with each other in order to better serve our clients.

Ms. Daphne Stewart, Executive Director of the Employment Security Commission and Chairperson for the partner management team opened the meeting and gave an overview of the agenda. Each partner gave an update on programs that their agency was administering.

Shelby Rogers, who represents LRDA's WIA Program at the center coordinated this meeting. Others present are as follows:

- * Horace Hunt, Vocational Rehabilitation
- * Patsy Jacobs, Telemon
- * Ethel Locklear, Robeson Community College
- * William Locklear, LRDA
- * Zona Locklear, LRDA
- * Brenda Jacobs, LRDA
- * Crystal Strong, LRDA

The next quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 10, 2004. For more information about the LRDA WIA Program please visit our website at www.lumbee.org

The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Music Department

Announces the Fifth Annual Medieval Feast & Scholarship Revue



Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003

6:30-9:30 P.M.

at UNC Pembroke

\$35 per person

(\$350 for a table of 12)

(\$175 for a table of 6)

For Tickets: (910)521-6230

gary.wright@uncp.edu



A Portion of this Evening is Tax Deductible