



AICHO

American Indian Community
Housing Organization

One Community, Many Voices, Stop the Silence

Dabinoo'Igan

A place where you are safe, comforted and sheltered

Boozhoo,

We hope this letter finds you well! The American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) would like to thank those who have supported us in the past either financially or socially. Much of the work we do would not be possible without continued support from our friends and allies in the community. Now we are asking for your support of Dabinoo'Igan's first Concert Fundraiser titled "One Community, Many Voices, Stop the Silence." Dabinoo'Igan is planning a concert fundraiser in partnership with the Ordean Foundation for April 6, 2023 at the Norshor Theater to help raise additional funds for our new shelter. More information to come on this.

OUR MISSION

The American Indian Community Housing Organization (AICHO) transforms oppression into opportunity. Created in 1993, AICHO started in a parking lot outside a social service agency with a conversation between Native community members, who asked why our community had no resources, no community spaces and no services that met our cultural needs. AICHO was created as an Indigenous response to social conditions in Duluth, MN, powered by the urban Native American community.

Our leaders continue to be Indigenous women. AICHO started with basic needs - shelter, housing, support - and this resulted in ongoing work to change systems. The issues are real: the impact of violence, housing and economic inequity, historical trauma and racism. AICHO provides a continuum of community action, housing options, and support services. Our goal is to respond to crises while laying the path for long-term stability and our vision is to rebuild our Indigenous community.

The past few years have presented hard challenges for AICHO and many individuals in our community. Pre-pandemic AICHO developed plans to build a larger, more functional and accessible Dabinoo'Igan shelter. When the pandemic hit, the advocacy world had immediate



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concerns that we were going to see a large increase in the number of victims needing services. Our concerns were validated as the number of calls and the lethality of the abuse increased significantly. Victims have expressed an increase in threatening behaviors and isolation.

*In the United States, on average, 20 people per minute are abused by an intimate partner. **In the fiscal year 2021, Dabinoo'Igan provided 490 unique individuals with shelter services, 2509 bed stays, and answered over 577 crisis calls. During that same year, Dabinoo'Igan had just under 200 requests for services that were unmet due to capacity issues.** Victims of violence should never have to face these barriers when seeking safety and help.*

We listened to these calls for help and began construction of our new, larger shelter. Our new shelter will offer 24 beds, more than doubling our current bed capacity. Our residents will receive cultural and trauma-informed care that is victim centered. Our focus is on healing the individual. We will include increased outreach and family advocacy, and a space where safety and healing are the primary focus.

Development is underway, but due to the pandemic and rising costs there is a gap that Dabinoo'Igan needs to fill. We are asking our community to come together and support Dabinoo'Igan in fulfilling its mission to serve those in our community calling for help.

Our fundraising goal is \$25,000 which will go towards the cost of service development and supplies that include, but are not limited to: security, furniture, household goods, equipment, age appropriate toys, and art supplies. We want to create a space for victims / survivors where they are truly safe, comforted, and sheltered. With your support we can reach our goal.

On behalf of the team at the American Indian Community Housing Organization and the Ordean Foundation-

Chi miigwech! Big thanks!

Jennifer Davey

Director of Dabinoo'Igan Shelter and Services

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