Hopi Opportunity Youth Initiative

"To improve the career, cultural and educational attainment of all Hopi & Tewa youth"

"Every child deserves a champion. An adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be."

- Rita Pierson
HOYI had great success in fundraising during the annual Arizona Gives Day on April 6, 2021. Arizona Gives Day is an annual online giving fundraising event that all Arizona non-profits can participate in to raise monetary donation to sustain and support their work. HOYI was able to raise a total of $1,785.34! Funds raised will go toward sustaining youth-led programming and activities that help inform our three pathways: Cultural Well-Being, Mentoring and Service Learning.

We thank everyone who contributed this year and look to have more fundraising events throughout the year to sustain HOYI’s work. Also note that it’s not only through fundraising that you can contribute to HOYI’s work, volunteer opportunities are also available.

Cultural Well-being

Our Cultural Well-being pathway has made great progress as we began to share our preliminary data results from the cultural well-being survey we administered in 2019. A big thank you goes out to our Data Manager, Eugene Cody, who broke down the data with graphs and charts to allow for easy comprehensions and understanding.

We hosted youth focus groups to gather their perspective and ideas on what this data could do and initiate for our tribe. We’d like to acknowledge the youth who showed up to give their thoughts. It was awesome to hear the ideas they have for their community to help bridge that gap of some youth not understanding parts of our Hopi and Tewa cultures.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the focus group with adult stakeholders, but the perspective from our youth is very eye opening and we are excited to share that with our stakeholders along with the data from the survey.
Our internship with CiAnna Sakeva came to an end on April 8, 2021. It was a joy to have CiAnna on the HOYI team as a data intern, putting her coding and computer skills to use as she assisted our Data Manager, Eugene, with a number of projects. Miss Sakeva completed her 12-week training with CODEFY, thereafter interning with HOYI for 8 weeks, where she was able to apply some aspect of what she learned in her training to the HOYI work. This unique opportunity was a partnership between HOYI and CODEFY that aimed to create opportunities for Hopi young adults to learn software development skills and application support. This experience was a strategic response to expose our young people to the technology career fields that became an increasing demand throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Askwali/ Kwa’kwaii Miss Sakeva! We thank you for your time and dedication to HOYI’s work and mission. We wish you well in your current and future endeavors!
PARTNERSHIPS

HOYI’s partnership with NAU and Dr. Joseph and his team is still well underway! We are still looking for participants to be interviewed and participate in focus groups. So far the team has interviewed 6 individuals.

This quarter our Youth Liaison, Lexie, assisted Hopi Leadership program with their Hopi Youth Leadership Program (HYLP). She administered the True Colors assessment that allowed them to get familiar with themselves, their communication style as well as others. She also facilitated a career assessment with the participants to help initiate thoughts on what they would like pursue as a future career. It was a great way to connect with youth during this time of social distancing. Thank you HLP for reaching out and allowing HOYI to assist you!

As we have mentioned before, our Youth Liaison Lexie, has been trained in the MPOWRD curriculum. To help answer questions and hopefully gauge the interest of youth, we would like to explain what the program is. MPOWRD is a curriculum modeled after the 12-step program in an effort to assist youth navigating everyday life. It shows youth problem solving skills, communication skills and creates a community of their peers who may be facing the same issues in their lives.

One very important quality is the flexibility of this program to mold it so that it fits the need of our Hopi and Tewa youth. The participants are able to decide how often they would like to meet (virtually of course), create their own rules and set the norms at the beginning of every session. Hopefully this clears up any confusion and answers questions you may have had.

For further interest, you can email lexie.james@hopifoundation.org
April 13, 2021

Dear HOYI Community Partners,

I am pleased to inform you that Hannah Honani, has been promoted to the Associate Operations Director for the Hopi Foundation starting on June 1, 2021.

This internal promotion honors Hannah’s 6 1/2 years of experience in working for the HOYI program. Through her tenure, Hannah has demonstrated the skills and capacity to serve in leadership for the organization. In this role she will begin the transition to work closely with the Hopi Foundation administrative staff to grow the fullest potential and serve as the liaison with our program managers and administrative staff.

At this time, I also wish to extend my sincerest appreciation to the HOYI Staff, Eugene Cody and Lexie James, who contribute valuably to the program and service to our youth and community.

I also thank each of you as community partners and advisors to the program in your role in working collaboratively with our services throughout the year. Askwali! May peace and renewal enter your hearts and homes this year as we enter a new chapter in our work.

For questions related to our programs and services other questions you have may be directed to me at (928) 734-2380 or nuvamsa@hopifoundation.org.

Respectfully,

Monica Nuvamsa
Executive Director

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