



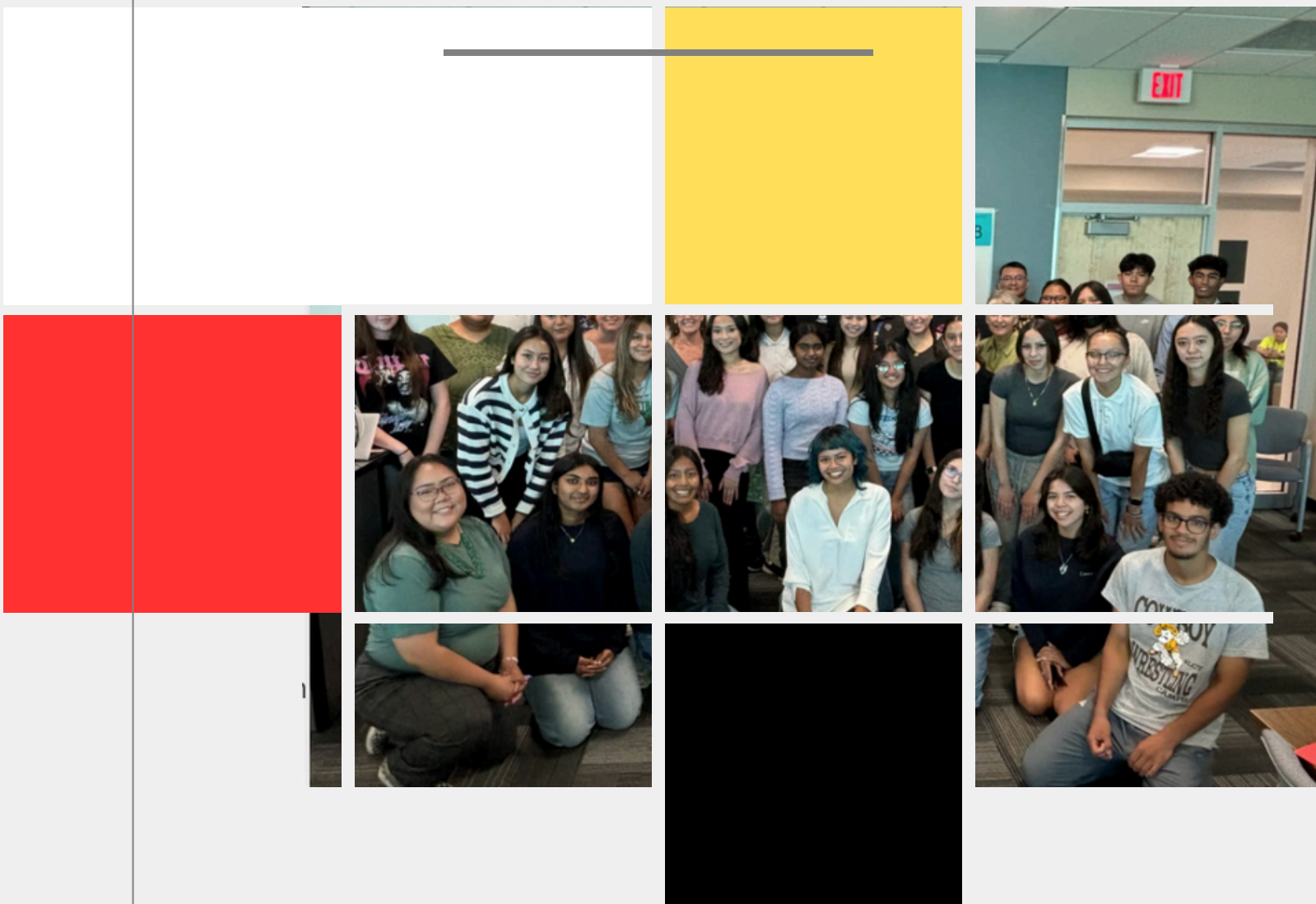
Native Health Initiative
www.loving-service.us

loving-service.us

Native Health Initiative (NHI)

2024

Impact Report



Executive Summary

Native Health Initiative (NHI) is committed to addressing health inequities in Indigenous communities through culturally relevant, community-driven programs. Over the past year, our organization has focused on advancing health equity by providing health promotion and preventative health programs that address the unique challenges that Indigenous communities face.

Our programs have provided preventive health services to over 1000 people through our Running Medicine program, almost 2000 people through our two major running events, and over 900 youth learned about the danger of commercial tobacco through our Breathe Tradition, Not Addiction program.

In 2024, we saw measurable success in increasing the resources that we put into health promotion programs. Our Healers of Tomorrow program is experiencing a 100% retention rate for the first time in its history. This unique mentorship program educates Indigenous and other under-resourced youth about healthcare careers and how they can view their careers through a lens of health equity.

Looking forward, we are dedicated to further expanding our reach, continuing to empower Indigenous communities, and providing community driven solutions. Together with our partners, we aim to dismantle the barriers to health faced by Indigenous peoples and ensure they have the resources and support needed to thrive.

We thank our donors, volunteers, partners, and community members for their ongoing support and commitment to this important work. With your help, we are making strides toward a more equitable future for Indigenous communities.

Tanya Hébert

Executive Director
Firestarter



Who we are

Native Health Initiative (NHI)

Grassroots organization formed:

June, 2005

Nonprofit Incorporation:

November, 2011

Mission:

NHI is a community-driven partnership working toward health equity through *loving service*. We value the Indigenous wisdom and knowledge of our communities.

Vision:

Native Health Initiative (NHI) is achieving health equity through Loving Service (the human-to-human element of wanting to serve others) with Indigenous Communities.

Current programs:

Running Medicine
Healers of Tomorrow
Breathe Tradition, Not Addiction
Másaní's Massage
Sports Warriors
Summer Internship
Education is Ceremony Scholarship



Program Summaries:



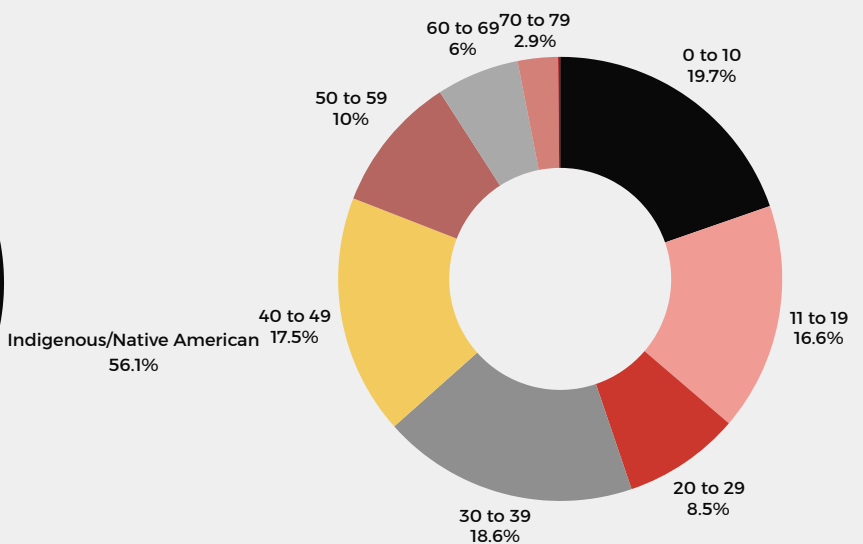
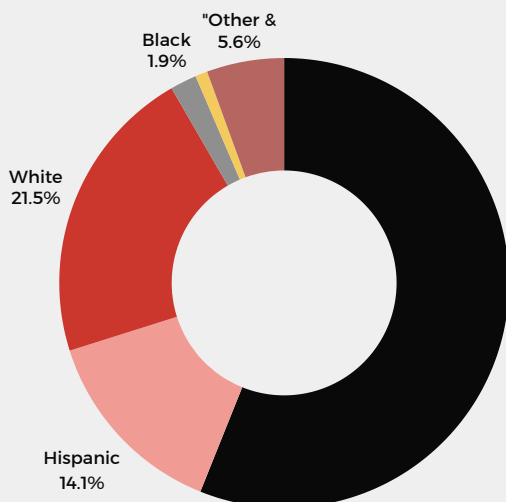
RUNNINGMEDICINE

RUNNING MEDICINE

Running Medicine (RM) is NHI’s movement program that is grounded in the idea that movement is a potent medicine for mind, body, and spirit. Running Medicine was formed in 2016 by a group of people who saw the need for a low-cost, family-focused movement option in the Albuquerque area. We are still grounded in the original ideas, only charging \$20 for registration and incorporating movement for all ages and abilities. RM now has 5 different sites with two of them considered Partnership Programs (housed outside NHI but supported by our staff).



\$12,000
in travel scholarships
for under-resourced families

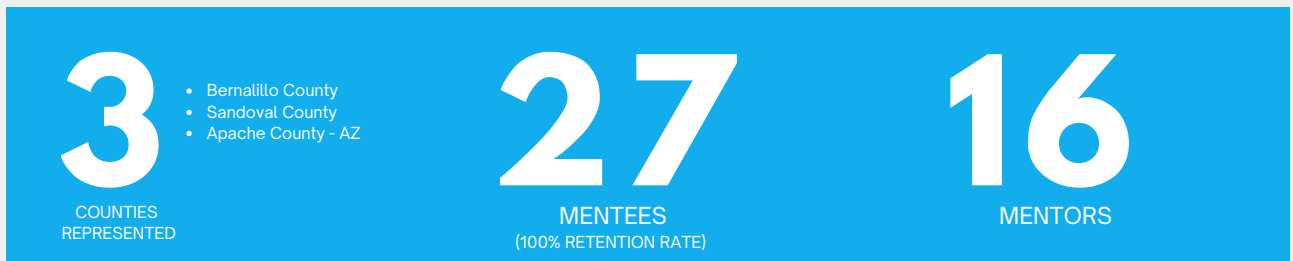




HEALERS OF TOMORROW

Healers of Tomorrow (HOT) is our 9-month mentorship program for high school students interested in pursuing health in their careers. Each student is paired with a mentor who is a health professional, or pursuing a health profession at the graduate level. Our program runs from September to May, and each month our students are exposed to many healthcare careers through guest speakers with lived experience and knowledge to share.

A core part of our programming, which inspired the vision for Native Health Initiative in our early days, was to be an organization aimed to teach aspiring young health professionals about the complex health inequities which Indigenous peoples face. We emphasize that health goes beyond being seen in the ER, or in the doctors office. Through HOT, each of our students have created their own unique community-based health project to improve at least one area of health in their chosen community. Throughout the years we have seen many students' creativity shine through as well as their passion for helping their communities.



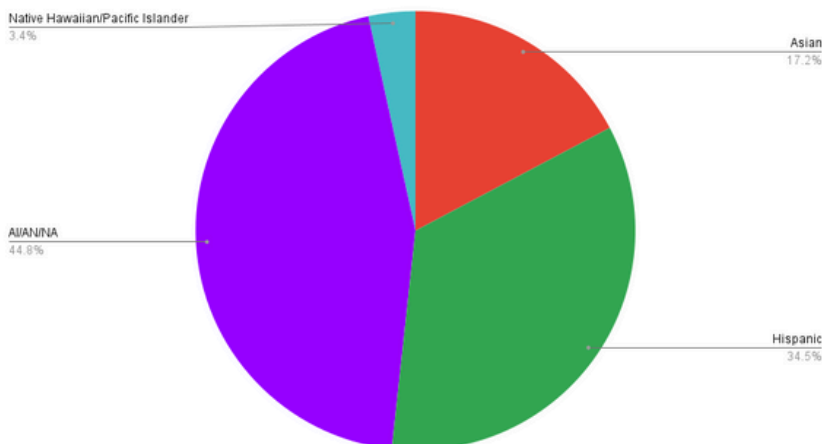
15
HIGH SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

- Albuquerque Institute of Mathematics and Science
- Window Rock High School
- Albuquerque High School
- Early College Academy
- Cibola High School
- La Cueva High School
- Eldorado High School

- Bernalillo High School
- Volcano Vista High School
- Valley High School
- Del Norte High School
- Albuquerque Academy
- Cottonwood Classical
- NexGen+ Academy
- Rio Rancho High School



2024-2025 Cohort by Ethnicity



BREATHE TRADITION, NOT ADDICTION

Breathe Tradition, Not Addiction is our tobacco education program focused on sharing cultural knowledge of traditional tobacco used in Indigenous communities and the dangers of commercial tobacco and how it affects health, wellbeing and safety of all.

12

individual schools reached

925

total students reached

3

counties served

- Sandoval County
- Bernalillo County
- Cibola County

43

total class presentations



EDUCATION IS CEREMONY SCHOLARSHIP

\$8000

total award given to scholarship recipients

89

total applicants in 2024

100%

Indigenous representation

8

recipients

4 recipients for AY 23/24

4 recipients for AY 24/25

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

19

total individual applicants

5

interns hired

- 2 high school students
- 1 recent high school graduate
- 2 current college students

600

total Loving Service hours

100%

Indigenous representation

Our reach:



During 2024, NHI continued to expand our reach on our website, social media outlets and by providing in-person outreach services. These connections expanded our presence in the community as well as expanding our donor and sponsor base.

53 Events Attended

1000s of Community Members Reached

2024 took NHI all over the Albuquerque area, Santa Fe, Santa Ana Pueblo, Santo Domingo Pueblo, and Cuba NM. We shared about and showcased our programs in schools, health fairs, educational summits, health conferences, and STEM career events.

Instagram:

Native Health Initiative:

72.3k views
16.5k accounts reached
1140 followers

Running Medicine:

128k views
20.8k accounts reached
2380 followers

Facebook:

Native Health Initiative:

48.9k views
36.2k accounts reached
1300 followers

Running Medicine:

35.5k views
33.9k accounts reached
2800 followers

Website Traffic:

Native Health Initiative:

10,037 total visitors
20,189 total views

Running Medicine:

6,174 total visitors
12,406 total views

Jim Thorpe Run, June 2024

Participants:
250

Revenue:
\$11,100



9th Annual Gratitude Run, November 28, 2024

Participants:
1400

Volunteers:
70

Revenue:
\$70,000

