

American Indian Cancer Foundation News – Vol (1)-2

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Featured: Fundraising | Lung cancer screenings | Colorectal cancer screening navigation



American Indian Cancer Foundation News

Mission: To eliminate the cancer burdens on American Indian families through education, improved access to prevention, screening, treatment and survivor support.

FUNDRAISING

Powwow for Hope a success

Over 3,000 people attended the 4th Annual Powwow for Hope: Dancing for Life, Love & Hope on May 2nd in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This community event raised more than \$70,000 to help prevent and fight cancer. The American Indian Cancer Foundation is honored by all the contributions that made the 2015 Powwow for Hope a huge success.

Powwow for Hope activities included: an outdoor lacrosse clinic for the youth, rock climbing, tours of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community mobile mammography unit, survivor and caregiver specials, a presentation by Make a Wish Foundation and a jingle dress healing song.

Powwow for Hope teams played a dynamic role in fundraising for this event. A total of 34 teams raised \$35,182.50. The American Indian Cancer Foundation acknowledges and appreciates each and every one of the Powwow for Hope teams.

Special recognition to the top fundraising teams:

- **Top Overall and Top Family: Team Rivera, \$4,908.00**
- **Top Organization: DIW (Division of Indian Work) - Two Steppers, \$3,390.00**
- **Top School: American Indian Magnet School, \$1,872.98**
- **Top Individual: Ivy Vainio, \$1,810.00**

For team descriptions, visit powwowforhope.org/teams



American Indian Magnet School team representatives. Photo by Eamon Coyne.

Powwow for Hope has become an annual event that motivates the community to be more aware of cancer risk factors, prevention and general awareness. It is also a time to come together and create a place of healing. The American Indian Cancer Foundation is working on a toolkit that can be used in other communities to be able to host Powwow for Hope in the future. If you are interested in having a Powwow for Hope in your community do not hesitate to contact us.

Take charge of your health; a lung cancer screening can save your life

Most lung cancers are preventable. Commercial tobacco use and secondhand smoke exposure increases the risk of developing the disease. When lung cancer is diagnosed at a later stage, the result is a higher chance of death. Recent studies show that with a newfound lung cancer screening method there is a 16% lower chance of an individual passing from lung cancer. At the American Indian Cancer Foundation, we know that lung cancer rates are 83% higher for American Indians, and lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for American Indians. Through our work, we have an opportunity to make a small change in this lung cancer story.

The American Indian Cancer Foundation brings culturally appropriate and American Indian specific education and materials to communities across the nation. Along with this work, we are happy to partner with organizations and medical systems to make early detection screening opportunities available.

[Learn more about prevention and early detection](#)

A partnership to provide free lung screenings

The American Indian Cancer Foundation has partnered with [A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation](#) and the [Hennepin County Medical Center](#) to give 100 FREE LUNG CANCER SCREENINGS to American Indians. The screenings are NO COST and no doctor referral is needed.

To qualify you must be:

1. American Indian
2. 55-79 years old
3. Current smoker OR have quit within the last 15 years and smoked:
 - 1 pack of cigarettes / day for 30 years
 - 2 packs / day for 15 years or
 - 3 packs / day for 10 years

All screenings are given at the Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. The screening is painless and may take as little as a 30 minutes. Same-day results are also available upon request when making your appointment.

To schedule your appointment, call Valerie LaFave at the American Indian Cancer Foundation at 612.314.4851. She will be more than happy to help you navigate through the system. This opportunity

ends in October 2015, so CALL TODAY!

The American Indian Cancer foundation takes pride in establishing partnerships to help provide services like this to American Indian communities. If there is opportunity to provide services in other communities, please contact us at 612.314.4848.

COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING NAVIGATION

Advancing capacity in navigation training across the Northern Plains

The American Indian Cancer Foundation has developed a training and support program to expand the successes of its colorectal cancer screening navigation work. This program provides ongoing support to community health representatives through onsite trainings, educational resources and problem solving strategies to increase colorectal cancer screening across tribal and urban communities across the Northern Plains.

As an initial approach to address the colorectal cancer burden in American Indian communities, the American Indian Cancer Foundation deployed a screening navigator in the Twin Cities. The program was led by the American Indian Cancer Foundation's community health worker, Joy Rivera, who has provided colorectal cancer health education for thousands of people and helped more than 200 American Indians in the Twin Cities complete a colorectal cancer screening. The colorectal cancer screening navigation program has supported educational opportunities to learn the importance of screening and connected people to screening services.

Learn more on colorectal cancer and access resources at aicaf.org/colon

In Other AICAF News:

Released 3.6.2015 - Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

[Colon cancer affects American Indians at higher rates than other Americans](#)

[What you need to know about prevention](#)

Released 3.30.2015 - National Doctors' Day

[Building pathways: How a Native oncologist makes a difference with cancer care, prevention](#)

Controllable risk factors like obesity and diabetes contribute to high cancer rates: What you need to know about prevention



Did you know?

- Colorectal cancer is 53% higher in American Indians in the Northern Plains compared to the non-Hispanic white population.
- If colorectal cancer is found early, 9 in 10 survive. If found late, only 1 out of 10 survive.
- There are often no symptoms in early stages of colorectal cancer; being up-to-date for screening is key.

Male cancer awareness

- Testicular cancer is the most common type of cancer amongst men under the age of 35, though it affects all men regardless of age.
- Slightly more men are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer compared to women. Controllable risk factors include tobacco use and obesity.
- Every year, 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, but prostate cancer is one of the most treatable cancers, if caught early.

Native American Heritage Night with the Minnesota Lynx!

Join us for Native American Heritage Night on Friday, July 31 at the Target Center as the Minnesota Lynx take on the Atlanta Dream! A portion of ticket sales will support AICAF. Fans will also have a chance to meet Atlanta Dream player Shoni Schimmel after the game. To purchase tickets or learn more, go to aicaf.org/lynx.

Cancer kills more American Indians than any other disease.
More than heart disease. More than diabetes.

The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is hard at work to reverse this devastating trend. AICAF is committed to ending cancer in Indian Country. To do so requires expertise, partnerships and resources. We invite you to become part of the solution. With you, we can raise awareness, increase early detection and build a network to join together in this #1 health priority for American Indian people. Your donation supports our efforts to change the cancer story across Indian Country!

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