
August 2019 Newsletter

Greetings,

It's been a busy August at the American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF). Staff presented our research findings at a national conference, we shared our resources at health fairs, and the Communications Team has been working hard to launch a new AICAF website coming this fall. We also attended strategic planning meetings, and had the opportunity to strengthen our partnerships across the country.

We are so close to fall, and our teams continue to prepare for our upcoming cancer awareness campaigns, including the popular breast health awareness campaign **Indigenous Pink** happening this October. We can't wait for this year's event, and are excited to share many new resources, webinars, survivor stories and swag. Don't forget to join us for **#IndigenousPinkDay** on October 17, 2019! There is still much work to be done, but we are eager to release these upcoming projects with our partners, community members and champions across Indian Country.

With gratitude,

The American Indian Cancer Foundation

Help Us Make a Difference

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Coming soon: a newly-developed AICAF website!

Early this summer, our Communications Team connected with a Native-owned media company to start developing a new AICAF website. During this three-month partnership we have worked hard to build an engaging site that highlights more tribes from different U.S. regions. Our aim is to provide a more modern, interactive platform for all American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) people, public health professionals, researchers and supporters across the nation; the new website will offer more resources, toolkits and media packages that are easy to download and share.

AICAF's new website will include these exciting features:

- More responsive pages and downloadable resources
- Updated menu bar that is easy to navigate and includes all programs
- Updated content, including new resources, webinars and survivor stories
- Monthly calendar showing current events, cancer campaigns and key days
- Imagery that is inclusive of more tribes across the nation
- Online store to purchase AICAF swag items

Launching Fall 2019:



Welcome to the American Indian Cancer Foundation

The American Indian Cancer Foundation (AICAF) is a national non-profit organization that was established to address the tremendous cancer inequities faced by American Indian and Alaska Native communities. AICAF is Native-governed; its board members and employees have an array of experience serving the health needs of our people.

Our Mission

Eliminate the cancer burdens of American Indian and Alaska Native people through improved access to prevention, early detection, treatment and survivor support.

Our team is in the final stages of the website redevelopment, and looks forward to launching the new and improved aicaf.org this fall!

SDUIH open house event draws a crowd

There was an incredible turnout at **South Dakota Urban Indian Health's** (SDUIH) open house event in late August. Cancer Equity Manager Melissa Buffalo (Meskwaki) and team member Misha Loeffler (Bay Mills Ojibwe) had a wonderful time sharing our cancer resources and engaging with more than 300 attendees. Over the summer, SDUIH became an AICAF partner under the **National Comprehensive Cancer Control Program** (NCCCP) funded by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (CDC). During our South Dakota visit we had the opportunity to meet with SDUIH leaders to discuss next steps in our collaboration, and start implementing cancer control programming. In the coming months, AICAF and SDUIH will focus their efforts on increasing colon cancer screening rates, aiming to improve early detection and reduce the impacts of colorectal cancer across the community.

To partner with AICAF or to get involved in our cancer programs, contact health@aicaf.org.

Presenting research findings at national tobacco conference

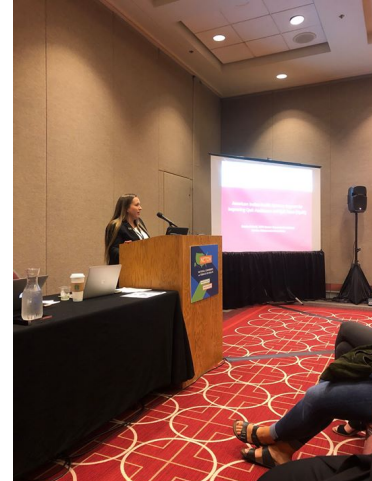
In August our team presented at the 2019 **National Conference on Tobacco or Health** (NCTOH), hosted by the **National Network of Public Health Institutes** (NNPHI). The annual conference gathers top public health professionals who are committed to reducing tobacco use across the U.S. We shared our research findings in three different panel sessions, and showcased our work on a Minnesota-wide survey of AI/AN tobacco use during a poster presentation session. The team was also able to attend several breakout sessions and workshops, giving our staff the opportunity to grow their expertise in tobacco control and network with esteemed tobacco control professionals.



Daanis Chosa (Bois Forte) presents on QUITPLAN's **American Indian Quitline**



Michael Mudgett (Spirit Lake Nation) presents the *Impacts of Traditional Tobacco Messages on Prevention and Cessation*



Kendra Roland (MHA Nation) presents iQuits work

To partner with AICAF or to get involved in our research programs, contact research@aicaf.org.

Achieving health equity and wellness for our children



Lori Fresina, *Voices for Healthy Kids* Vice President & Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships Manager
Kim Marcucci (Chickasaw)

This August, Strategic Partnerships Manager Kim Marcucci (Chickasaw) attended a **Voices for Healthy Kids** Strategic Advisory Committee meeting in Chicago, IL. This initiative is a collaborative effort between the **American Heart Association (AHA)** and the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)**. Launched in 2013, it focuses on promoting health equity for children, striving to change public policies centered around access to healthy food and physical activity. AICAF was awarded a one-year grant to support our work on reclaiming traditional foods in Indian Country. Revitalizing the Indigenous way of eating is important to both culture and the health of our communities; AICAF will continue to push for policy changes that normalize this practice for the health and wellness of Native children.

Join us this October for #IndigenousPink

#IndigenousPink is just days away! Help us raise awareness about breast health in our communities throughout October by:

- encouraging loved ones to get screened
- sharing our new resources
- attending our breast health webinars
- engaging with us on social media
- wearing **PINK**



If you or your clinic are interested in purchasing #IndigenousPink t-shirts, please call **612.344.4848** or email communications@aicaf.org.

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