

Native Ways Program

Highlights in September

Nati celebrated 16 wonderful years
with the Haven

9/6



This month Natividad "Nati" Cano celebrated 16 years of dedicated service to The Haven and to the greater Tucson community. She has been a Licensed Independent Substance Abuse Counselor (LISAC) since 1995 and found her final place of employment with the Haven in 2007. Nati has been touched so many lives and has been etched in hearts of everyone she meets.



Beginning in 2010 Nati has been pivotal in sustaining the Native Ways Program throughout the years and ensuring the next generation of interns get firm rooting and continue on to becoming accomplished therapists and current staff of the Haven.



Thanks to Allison, residential staff, and clients a worthy gathering and official honoring was given with some of Nati's favorite songs around the drum and everyone in the room sending a well wishes and statement of how Nati has impacted their life. Key leadership also celebrated Nati during supervision for residential staff the same week.

Native Ways Program

Arizona American Indian Integrated Health Care Forum

9/14

Amber and Nati represented the Haven and the Native Ways Program at an annual event that brings many tribal leaders, health directors, professionals, partners, and stakeholders together.

Being present at vetted events such as this continue to send the message that the Haven is a leader when it comes not only to SUD but serving indigenous populations across Arizona.



Native Ways Program

Distinguished Speakers Series

9/21



This past month we had a Distinguished Speaker, Matt Ignacio at our residential site give a presentation on the intersection of LGBTQ and an indigenous lens of Two Spirited.

Matt Ignacio, a member of the Tohono O'odham Nation in Arizona, has spent more than 20 years delivering HIV/AIDS-related health and mental services to underserved individuals, focusing on the needs of tribal and urban Native communities.

Ignacio received his PhD from the University of Washington in spring 2020. He holds a Master of Science degree in Social Work from Columbia University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Among his awards is a Doctoral Minority Fellowship Program Award from the Council on Social Work Education.

Ignacio's research interests also include life courses of Indigenous peoples. His teaching interests include social work practice with marginalized populations, historical trauma and healing, harm reduction theory and practice and community-engaged social work research methods.

The Haven is both privileged and honored to continue having wonderful individuals brought in to share and reflect on where indigeneity and academia meet.

Native Ways Program

Truth and Reconciliation Day Celebration

9/25

Residential held a day of remembrance and acknowledgement of the survivors and families directly impacted by the use of boarding schools in Canada. A grass roots movement has been underway since 2013 and also with the discovery of mass graves in Canada in 2021. [Canada mourns as remains of 215 children found at indigenous school - BBC News](#). Although this movement did not originate in the United States, there have been similar boarding schools across the US. In Indian Country, we acknowledge and honor all tribes and nations across Turtle Island. *Turtle Island* is a name for Earth or North America, used by some Indigenous peoples, as well as by some Indigenous rights activists. ([Turtle Island | The Canadian Encyclopedia](#)).



The day was filled with solemn remembrance and education as not everyone is familiar with the genocide, displacement, and then assimilation into the dominate culture of indigenous people across North America.

The orange t-shirt is symbolic of the day Phyllis (Jack) Webstad was stripped of a new orange shirt purchased by her grandmother on her first day at the St. Joseph Mission residential school in Williams Lake, B.C., leaving her feeling as though she didn't matter. Today people stand in solidarity

vocalizing that All Children's

Lives Matter. [Homepage - Orange Shirt Society \(orangeshirtday.org\)](#)

Short Video of History <https://youtu.be/36JFCOnufSw>

If you are interested in a snapshot of what life would have been like for indigenous children in the boarding schools from a Native American perspective, see the following episode from a groundbreaking series [Reservation Dogs](#).

Season 3 Episode 3

https://www.imdb.com/title/tt27761803/?ref_=ext_shr_lnk

