

TRIBAL PROGRAM NEWS

families they are supporting and live minimally from month to month, term to term, year to year. For all of our students wher ever they are going to school far or near, the spirit of the grandmas and the grandpas there with them. Guiding them, helping them in their educational journey. To come full circle and to return to people to replenish their spirit and to share of their experiences. To take their rightful place again amongst the people.

All students in the Higher Education/Adult Vocational Training program have expressed their dedication to either come home, or work for the tribe in some capacity to contribute something back. To be of service to their own people and to use their education and knowledge for the benefit of the tribal organization as a whole and for the survival and continuance of our people. Making new trails for the people.

Everyone is invited to attend and witness these students returning home to be honored. It will be a time where everyone can share food and drink. To welcome these ones home from their education journey. For Tribal Council to come and witness and let these warriors of education know they have a place in their tribe in their community. They have value and will be valued and recognized. These warriors of education are the ones who will be blazing new trails for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz people.

**Higher Education Student Gathering
May 16, 1999 @ 12 noon, potluck
Siletz Tribal Community Center**

Housing Report

*By Connie Hoffman
SIHA Director*

The first down payment grants to be funded by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) were made the end of March to Tribal members Samuel Potter and Rex McCollam. Sam purchased a home in Independence and Rex purchased a home in Salem. They are among some 20 Tribal members who have been approved for down payment grants since we began this program in January.

David Litchy, our Housing Finance Specialist, and Bunni Snook, his Administrative Assistant, moved into new office space in Salem

the first part of April. They are at 3791 River Rd. N., Suite E, Keizer, OR 97303, which is in the same complex as the Salem Area Tribal Office. Dave and Bunni can be reached at this toll-free number: 1-888-870-9051 (503-304-4064) and FAX 503-304-4065).

They are busy processing the many applications that we have received in the past couple of months. We are hoping to allocate enough block grant funds during the next couple of years to take care of the eligible applicants. In addition to meeting the income qualifications, applicants must have good work histories and credit reports which will enable them to qualify for mortgage financing. Referrals will be made to consumer credit counseling services and other resources where appropriate to assist applicants with meeting the qualifications.

This program is available to Siletz Tribal members regardless of where they are living. Applications are available from Housing Authority offices at Siletz or Salem.

By the time that you read this, we are expecting that the 1999 Indian Housing Plan will have been approved by Tribal Council and submitted to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval. This plan, which was developed by a Tribal Housing Committee and the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, sets out how we intend to use the 1999 Indian Housing Block Grant of \$3,004,749, which the Siletz Tribe will receive, according to a formula, based on our existing HUD housing units and the housing needs of Native Americans within our service area.

The funding will continue all of the programs that are currently being funded by the block grant, which include the operation of our existing Tribal housing units in Siletz, an Emergency Housing Program, rehabilitation of homes owned by and rented to low-income Tribal members, support for the Tribal Law Enforcement Department, support for the Transitional Living Center and a shelter for victims of domestic violence, training and other activities for the Resident Organization, and the establishment of a Tribal Building Department.

Other activities which are included in this year's plan include establishment of a Tribal Child Care Center, support for dormitory housing for students, the hiring of a grant writer to pursue other sources of funding for housing programs, support for the Tribal Planning Department in the areas of land use planning and environmental protection, and establishment of a revolving fund for mortgage financing.

The NAHASDA law gives us a great deal of flexibility in designing housing programs to meet the varied needs of our Tribal members. However, the law is very specific that the families assisted by these programs must be low-income, which is defined as within 80 percent of median income. We are allowed to use a small portion of our funds for

Model Activities to serve those above 80 percent of median income. We are doing that with our down payment program and we are hoping to expand our Model Activities in the coming year to do some rehabilitation work, including handicapped accessibility features, on homes owned by Tribal members who are above 80 percent of median income.

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We are planning to go out to bid in May for the development of approximately 20 homes on the west end of Siletz. This \$2.5 million project that has been in the planning stages for 2-3 years and has required the cooperation of other Tribal departments; city, county, state, and federal agencies; and others to finally get to this stage. We have development grants from HUD which were received in 1996 and 1997 (pre-NAHASDA) to do this project, which will include the development of additional lots which will be available to individual Tribal members for homes. Interested contractors should watch for the invitation to bid in the Daily Journal of Commerce and at Plan Centers around the state. Information is also available from the Housing Authority Office in Siletz at 1-800-922-1399 ext. 310 (541-444-8310).

We also expect to go out to bid in May for the expansion of the Housing Authority office in Siletz. This will be a project costing approximately \$150,000. Interested contractors should contact the Housing Authority office for plans, specifications, and other bid documents.

Indian Preference is followed in the award of all of our contracts. To qualify for Indian preference, contractors must submit documentation of the extent of Indian ownership of their business, including proof of Tribal enrollment.



Shannon Case, left, Chairman of the Siletz Indian Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, presents a check for \$20,000 to Ron Soto, Chairman of the Women's Violence Intervention Program (WVIP) Board of Directors. At right is Frank Petersen, Programs Manager for the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, who serves on a county task force aimed at preventing domestic violence. The contribution was made from the Tribe's Indian Housing Block Grant and will be used by WVIP to repair and upgrade the shelter for women and children that serves Tribal members and other residents of Tribal housing who are victims of domestic violence.



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