



American Indian Changing Spirits

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PRESS RELEASE

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Approves \$50,000 Grant to American Indian Changing Spirits

LONG BEACH, CA – Prior to receiving a grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, the American Indian Changing Spirits, a 26-bed residential center for American Indians recovering from alcohol and drug addictions, was in danger of severely cutting services due to recent Los Angeles County funding cuts. Changing Spirits is well known through the community for its success in using traditional Native healing methods combined with evidence-based treatment.

The need for recovery treatment for the American Indian population is great, yet the much needed social services for Natives continue to receive less government funding than other populations. Data from the Indian Health Service is alarming: one quarter to one third of adult American Indians have experienced a substance use problem in the past year. Three quarters of males and 40% of females may experience substance use problems within their lifetimes. These prevalence rates are 3 times higher than the general population. Infant mortality rate is 22% higher than the non-Indian population, and 4 of the top 10 causes of death are alcohol related-injuries, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, suicide and homicide.

Changing Spirits has served more than 1,000 clients since its inception in 1999; over 60% of clients complete 180 days of treatment; 75% have developed a recovery support network, 90% have initiated an economic self-support system upon exiting the program, and 100% of the clients have connected or re-connected with Native cultural activities in the Los Angeles area. Greater indications of success to the program are the testimonials of alumni who bring their brothers, nephews, uncles, and sons to enter the program.

Future plans for Changing Spirits include a building to house the American Indian Women Changing Spirits recovery program in which women can bring their children.

Thanks to San Manuel Band of Mission Indians providing a \$50,000 charitable contribution, Changing Spirits will be able to continue to serve the American Indian community in need of substance abuse recovery.

“We are honored to receive this grant from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians,” says Darrell Woods, Program Director. “This will help us continue to save lives throughout the American Indian community.”

Visit <http://americanindianchangingspirits.org/> for more information about American Indian Changing Spirits.

American Indian Changing Spirits Mission

American Indian Changing Spirits' Mission is to provide culturally relevant, evidence-based, community-based outreach, education, and residential recovery programming focused on American Indians who suffer from drug & alcohol addiction and/or dependency. Our vision is to create an environment in which American Indians can live balanced, healthy, and productive lives.

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