AMERICAN INDIAN COLLEGE FUND

Over a century ago, hundreds of Indian tribes laid down their arms and accepted life on sparse reservations, in exchange for federal guarantees of their well-being. Over 800 treaties vowed to maintain adequate education and health care throughout the reservation system. All were upheld by the Supreme Court; few were ever fulfilled by the U.S. government. The treaties form a legacy of broken promises and battered spirits which we are overcoming, one life at a time, through education, at the American Indian College Fund.

Dear Friend,

In this land of wealth and bounty, 1 of every 3 Native Americans lives in abject poverty. One of every 5 Indian homes is without either telephone or indoor toilet. On some reservations, the rate of unemployment is a staggering 90%.

Throughout America, hundreds of tribes struggle without resources to educate their children, build roads, water lines and sewer systems on their barren reservations and to combat drug abuse, alcoholism, unemployment and crime.

For you, the problems of Native America may seem impossible to overcome. And they are — if we wait for the U.S. government to solve them, or if good people give up and turn away. But Native Americans are able to empower themselves to overcome poverty and despair through education, with the help and support of caring Americans like you.

As the President of Little Big Horn College, one of 30 member colleges of the American Indian College Fund, and as a Native American who grew up on a reservation, I know how much education means to the future of Native America, and to the life of every Native American child for whom the "future" holds little but what they can make of themselves.

Encouragingly, thousands of Native American people — young and old — are making a bright future for themselves and their people through the opportunity to attend one of the 30 tribal colleges of the American Indian College Fund. Just 25 years old, this network of colleges in 12 states has revitalized the spirit and ambition of Native America.

Where it was once unthinkable for a Native American student to attain a college degree — and impossible for a Native American graduate to find much use for such training in the Third World conditions of most Indian reservations — today, children dream of becoming engineers and forest rangers... single parents work to become administrators and educators... senior citizens teach the history

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