



***SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls
Youth Wellness and Opportunity Center
Report***

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Native American Programs

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Development Office

U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Oglala Lakota Sioux of Pine Ridge, South Dakota

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Introduction

As part of President Clinton's commitment to the Oglala Lakota Sioux people at Pine Ridge, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through its Office of Native American Programs, has partnered with the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs in an ambitious effort to bring wellness and opportunity programs to the youth on the reservation of the nation's poorest county, with the highest percentage of persons and families living below the poverty level, and the lowest per capita income. The multi-agency coalition is supporting the extraordinary work spearheaded by the Boys and Girls Club of America in developing, building, and operating a state-of-the-art Boys and Girls Club program and facility at Pine Ridge. Dozens of local, not-for-profit, and federal programs are being interwoven to create a robust and comprehensive program designed to address the many needs of Pine Ridge youths. This exciting development stands to shine a lighted path of hope and opportunity for these young people so that they can lead successful, healthy, and proud lives.

Interagency Effort

President Clinton and Secretary Cuomo agreed that the tremendous needs on the reservation warranted a significant degree of investment and attention, and that the lessons learned at Pine Ridge would be shared with tribes nationwide so that all could benefit from this effort. The effort at Pine Ridge is called "Shared Vision" and includes, in addition to the Boys and Girls Club initiative, a major effort to increase homeownership opportunities and to increase the available housing stock on the reservation, and a major effort to attract increased economic development activities to create jobs. Share Visions is the embodiment of the dreams and vision of the Oglala Lakota Sioux people, and we are partners engaged to help make the dreams and vision a reality. It is hoped that through Shared Visions, the people at Pine Ridge will experience an improved quality of life and an enhanced opportunity to prosper.

HUD, Department of Agriculture, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs have worked together to bring a piece of this Shared Vision to youth at Pine Ridge. This multi-agency effort has identified target locations, site development possibilities, as well as strategies for outreach and education throughout the reservation's districts. This joint effort has helped to identify resources, program opportunities, and comprehensive service strategies.

SuAnne Big Crow: Our Inspiration



HUD Community Builder, Holly Bellino (left), with Chick Big Crow and her SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club members in February 2000

The inspiration of the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club comes from the memory of an energetic, good-hearted, and extraordinarily gifted girl named SuAnne Big Crow. The star of her high school basketball team, SuAnne led the Pine Ridge High School team to the state championships and inspired her people with great excitement and joy. She was a leader for her peers as well as a leader for her people. She was an outstanding spokesperson against alcohol use and abuse. Appreciating the gifts that she had been endowed with, her dream was to go to college and to return to Pine Ridge so that she could establish a program to help other youths to find the strength,

confidence, and inspiration to succeed. This program would be a place that could be a "Happy Town" for kids – a safe place of children to escape the often tense rivalry that often exists between "sub-communities" (tribal districts).

Sadly, SuAnne was in a tragic automobile accident, leaving her family and the people at Pine Ridge with tremendous sorrow. Determined to not let her daughter's loss be a greater tragedy for others, SuAnne's mother, Chick Big Crow, virtually single-handedly established, and has successfully operated a Boys and Girls Club at Pine Ridge. Because of the success of the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America has committed resources to build upon Chick's efforts and will design and build a 30,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility at Pine Ridge. Together, Chick Big Crow, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the Pine Ridge Youth Coalition, and a multitude of local, not-for-profit, and federal agencies have joined in this magnificent effort to carry out SuAnne's dream to help the young people of Pine Ridge and provide them with a happy and safe place to call their own.

Agency Contributions

Federal agencies have significantly invested in the project in order to facilitate the collaboration needed between the myriad of resource sponsors, the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club, the Pine Ridge Youth



Coalition, and the many local program providers. Program staff from Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and HUD, including two Community Builders, have been actively involved in virtually every aspect of the project as described below. HUD is committing up to \$1.5 million of Neighborhood Investment program grant funding to support the \$3.9 million construction costs. Our partners at DOI/BIA are providing \$750,000; USDA is providing \$500,000 in Rural Business Enterprise grants and \$1.15 million in the form of two Rural Development Community Facilities grants. As this center is expected to draw interest of tourists, ultimately the HUD investment will help to stimulate community revitalization, economic diversification, and energized investment in the local area.

Technical Assistance and Community Builders: HUD has dedicated significant staffing resources to support this initiative, including the allocation of two Community

Builders. One Community Builder is a National Community Builder in HUD Headquarters. She has extensive experience with youth development programs. She has provided on-site technical assistance to the Pine Ridge Youth Coalition, the Pine Ridge Boys and Girls Club, and various other entities at Pine Ridge to facilitate program and project development. Our other Community Builder, Emma "Pinky" Clifford was formerly a member of the Oglala Lakota Sioux Tribal Council, and works at Pine Ridge on the reservation. She provides on-site, assistance to the community and facilitates HUD's efforts working out of her office on the reservation. These HUD staff coordinate their



B&G Clubs of America, Robbie Callaway (right), Deputy Assistant Sec. Jacqueline Johnson (standing), and B&G Club Board President Pigeon Jack (sitting next to Ms. Johnson) report progress on the facility to the Youth Coalition.

effort locally with Department of Agriculture's field office in Rapid City. Together HUD and Agriculture staff are moving the effort for youth outreach forward with amazing interest and positive results.

Facility Siting and Environmental Clearances: Deborah Keil in HUD's Denver Office of Native American Programs has provided site guidance for land surveying, environmental analysis, and site clearance support for the project. HUD staff have completed several site visits in close coordination with SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Clubs, the Tribal Land Management office, the Indian Health Service, Nebraska Power company, and the local Environmental Protection Agency office. Working together with the Department of Agriculture, many calls, meetings, and site visits have resulted in a forty acre track of land just east of downtown Pine Ridge. This site will provide services to all of the youth throughout the districts.



Youth Programs Development: Holly Bellino and Pinky Clifford have worked closely with the many organizations that will offer programs to be coordinated through the Boys and Girls Clubs in order to provide comprehensive services to youths, their families, and tribal members. Partnerships have been formed that will link social services, educational enhancement opportunities, youth crime prevention, organized recreation, health services, and comprehensive community outreach. Through the Youth Coalition agencies will share space, provide educational services, and provide program opportunities for the youth and their family. Head Start will use the facility to serve youth ages zero to five. The Indian Health Services will use the facility for diabetes and heart disease prevention classes as well as rehabilitation services. The IHS will also provide professional mental health and wellness counselors. Through the tribes Department of Labor Youth Opportunity grant job counseling and training will be offered. There will also be a focus on Youthbuild which will give much needed skills to youth that will be the future workforce. There will also be crime and domestic abuse prevention offered through educational classes for all ages. Boys and Girls Clubs will be providing weekly programming that is age specific and follows a plan of youth development strategies.



Project Development

Program staff from multi-agencies have worked closely to ensure project development success and results. HUD's Community Builders have conducted a strategic planning session on program needs and building design in Pine Ridge. During this session, members of the Pine Ridge Youth Coalition and the Pine Ridge Youth Council discussed and planned for the needs associated with age-appropriate and program-specific space needs, as well as meeting the needs for community interaction. The architect from the Boys and Girls Clubs of America participated by asking questions, making design suggestions, and providing design guidance to meet the group's needs. The Community Builders will continue to coordinate with the architect of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to ensure that local design and program needs are met, as well as to plan and coordinate for future usage by various partner organizations. Local Agriculture staff have been working with the SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club board to develop, plan, and implement outreach extension sites in coordination with Pine Ridge Empowerment Zone Board.

Facility Description

The facility will be a 30,000 square foot building on a 40 acre lot. Initial land surveys have begun and environmental assessments are planned for the near future.



Features include –

- Multipurpose Gymnasium
- Learning Center
- Conference Rooms
- Counseling Rooms
- Office Space
- Olympic-size Swimming Pool
- Exercise/fitness center
- Cultural Arts Center
- Kitchen/concession
- Gift shop
- Native American Library



Funding Resources

To date, the following financial resources have been committed by the various parties funding the design, development, and construction of the facility:

HUD Neighborhood Investment Program	\$1.5 M
USDA Community Facilities Program	\$1.15 M
USDA Rural Business Enterprise Program	\$500 K
BIA Facilities Construction Program	\$700 K
Boys and Girls Clubs of America	\$385 K
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Total	\$4.235 M



Next Priorities

Additional ideas for further expanding on the facility's features include planning and assessment for the accommodation of outdoor, multi-sport ball fields, a Pow Wow grounds, and a golf driving range.

Timeline

August 1	2000	Publish Advertisement for Bid
August 29	2000	Bid Opening Date
September 5	2000	Bid Award Announcement
Fall		Construction
By 2001		SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club Youth Wellness and Opportunity Center Grand Opening



Program Development

Overview of Adult Programs

The Pine Ridge Reservation, located 420 miles from Denver, the nearest city of 250,000 or more, is the poorest place per capita in the United States. The Reservation reports 73 percent unemployment, a depressed economy, a high rate of alcoholism, and low life expectancy. Few tribal businesses exist, and many members must seek employment off-reservation if they are inclined or able to work at all. How can an area so rich in culture and natural resources and beauty overcome such poverty, ill health and social blights?

The development of the Pine Ridge Youth Wellness and Opportunity Center will address these issues and actively respond with the delivery of comprehensive programming and services for both children *and* adults. While more than half of the population on the Pine Ridge Reservation is under 18, there is just slightly less than half who are adults. The Center, although primarily focused on youth, is determined to reach and serve the adult population as well. Boys & Girls Clubs of America has repeatedly witnessed the impact of the Clubs on not just the children served, but on their adult parents as well. Adult involvement in Club activities and programs has positively changed many distressed communities and the lives of many individuals. With the anticipated depth and breadth of the Pine Ridge Center's programs and services, adults will have a number of opportunities to positively change the direction of their future and thus the future of the Pine Ridge Community.

The SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Club, under the leadership of Boys & Girls Clubs of America, will develop a cadre of quality programs for youth and adults. Adult programming and services will be initiated in the following arenas:

Education and Career Development

The Educational Enhancement Program: In partnership with local educational entities such as The Oglala Lakota College, the Center will offer *Project Learn*, which will offer adults GED programs and remedial learning services.

Career Development Program: Adults will have the opportunity to explore the world of work and career possibilities. In conjunction with existing Welfare-to-Work programs, adults will learn to establish career and educational goals, identify their strengths, recognize their potential for achieving success, and prepare themselves to



become job ready.

Welfare to Work Program: Career Development will be greatly strengthened by SuAnne Big Crow Boys & Girls Clubs partnering with the *Wakanyeja Un Wowasi* (*Work Now for Children*) program, a Welfare-to-Work program organized by the Oglala Lakota College. Their mission includes assisting people, specifically 150 TANF recipients during Phase I, who are currently unemployed or hindered by personal and systematic barriers to attain and maintain self-sufficiency.

PowerUp!: The Center will create a state-of-the-art computer technology Center. Boys & Girls Clubs of America has recently launched major technological partnerships with both AOL and Gateway, securing the capability of establishing such a technology Center at the Pine Ridge Center. Adults will have the opportunity to learn computer skills and become competent in the world's fastest growing area of career opportunities. The technology center will break down the existing "digital divide" and provide youth and adults with new computer skills and knowledge that will enable them to effectively compete in today's world of technology.

Entrepreneurship Program: The Center recognizes the dire need to create new businesses and industries in the Pine Ridge area. Focusing on the strengths and the advantages of Pine Ridge, the Center will offer programs and services that will empower and inspire individuals to explore new economic ventures and employment opportunities. Working jointly with The Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Center will work to advance the objectives of the Tribe's comprehensive economic development plan.

Health and Life Skills Development

SMART Moves for Adults: Based on Boys & Girls Clubs' SMART Moves Program for youth, this program will focus on the issues of alcoholism, tobacco and drug use, and sexual activity. In partnership with services offered by the local health and social services, the Center will provide a unified approach to addressing the very health issues that plague the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Family Support Program: The Center will provide a number of programs, services, activities, and events that are designed to promote the well-being and healthy development of adults and youth. They will enhance and reinforce positive parenting, family stability, cohesion and connection. Examples include adult/youth activities; family fun nights; classes that offer information and instruction about positive approaches to parenting; referral to and involvement in community services; and participation in support groups. Parents and future parents will be equipped with new parenting tools that help them become better parents. Coordination with the onsite Child Care Center, the Tribal entities, the Boys & Girls Club, and social and family services will greatly



enhance the family support programs.

Sports, Fitness and Recreation Programs

Sports: Adults will have the opportunity to participate in adult sports programs, organized by the Center. In partnership with existing local recreation programs, the Center will offer a renewed commitment to adult sports programs. Adults will also have the opportunity to work closely with the youth sports programs as coaches and as active volunteers.

Fitness: Adults will benefit from the Center's state-of-the-art fitness and aquatic centers. A new focus on adult healthy lifestyles, classes in nutrition and exercise, will help the Pine Ridge Reservation combat its high rates of heart disease, diabetes, and other illnesses.

Recreation: Recreational programs promote and develop fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment, and social skills. In addition, they offer participants opportunities to involve themselves in activities that improve the quality of life in their own community. Leading by example, involved adults will provide their children with healthy active role models.



Overview of Youth Programs

The Youth Wellness and Opportunity Center will partner with Indian Health Service to provide health education for youth as well as intervention activities for community members. The facility's Olympic size swimming pool will be used to help treat diabetes and heart patients. Senior citizens will have access to indoor walking facilities through use of the gym. Health education professionals will teach SMART MOVES (a drug and teen pregnancy prevention program), human development education, cancer prevention, and programs for general health and well being. Mental Health counselors will also provide a vast array of counseling services that will include individual, family, and group therapy and education on site. The Indian Health Service will coordinate activities at the main center as well as at the outreach sites. They will also provide a cadre of professional volunteers that will donated many hours at the center to help.

Head Start will partner with the Boys and Girls Club to provide services for all ages up to five. These youths will have the opportunity to access the learning center, the swimming pool, the arts center, and the gymnasium. Parenting classes and family activities will also be offered to the community.

Crime prevention, domestic abuse prevention, and drug abuse prevention programs will coordinated with several agencies. Project Circle will also work closely with the Boys and Girls Clubs to coordinate youth diversion programs and juvenile crime prevention.

There will be a large focus on youth job preparedness. The tribe has made a commitment to see that youth are thoroughly trained to achieve success in the workplace. Programs will include the Boys and Girls Club's JOB Search program, as well as components of its Education and Career Development Core program. Through the Youth Opportunities Grant which has just been awarded to Pine Ridge, teens will be able to participate in the exciting Youth Build Program. Youth Build is a nationally recognized program that trains youth on very specific skills that will lead them to future career opportunities.

Specific Youth Programs Curriculum

There are five core areas that Boys and Girls Clubs provide as an overall framework for programming. The SuAnne Big Crow Boys and Girls Club will provide a diverse program that will attract and retain boys and girls with a wide variety of interest and needs. Each day age appropriate programs will be offered in which youth can choose to participate.



Character and Leadership Development Core program: Empowers youth to support and influence their Club community, sustain meaningful relationships with others, develop a positive self-image, participate in the democratic process and respect their own and others' cultural identities.

Examples: TEENSupreme, Keystone Club, Youth of the Year, Role Model Program, Community Services Project, Tribal Youth Council.

Education and Career Development Core program: Enables youth to become proficient in basic educational disciplines, apply learning to everyday situations and embrace technology to achieve success in a career.

Examples: POWER Hour Homework Help, HappyTown Jobs for youth, Reading Program, Cultural Education, Computer Lab, Ponytails and Ducktails.

Health and Life Skills Core program: Area develops young people's capacity to engage in positive behaviors that nurture their own well-being, set personal goals and live successfully as self-sufficient adults.

Examples: SMART MOVES, Smart Girls, Professional Counseling, Cancer Prevention, Diabetes Education, Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Lady Talk, Talking With TJ, Talking Circle.

The Arts Core program: Enables youth to develop their creativity and cultural awareness through knowledge and an appreciation of the visual arts, crafts, performing arts, and creative writing.

Examples: Fine Arts Contest, Pow Wow Dancing, Cultural Story telling, Drumming, Bead work, Shawl Design

Sports, Fitness and Recreation Core program: Develops fitness, positive use of leisure time, skills for stress management, appreciation for the environment and social skills.

Examples: Team sports, swimming, ice skating, sledding, soccer, baseball, volleyball, aerobics, weightlifting, drill teams, relay races, golfing, tournaments and gamesroom activities including billiards, fooseball, ping pong, checker, chess and table games.

Additional Funding Resources



Department of Labor's Youth Opportunities Grant	\$4 M
Boys and Girls Clubs of America BJA (DOJ) Grant	\$200 K
Pine Ridge Empowerment Board	\$225 K

Next Priorities

Multi-agency priorities for the immediate future

- Membership recruitment of boys and girls for specific youth prevention programs
- Coordinate with the Boys and Girls Club for strategic placement of extension sites
- Recruitment and training of new staff
- Recruitment and training of volunteers
- Recruitment of new Board Members
- Continued strategic planning and program evaluation – through Commitment to Quality