

NAIA Is Born

In 1940, a group of North American Indians in Detroit organized the North American Indian Club, which became known as the Detroit Indian Center, and later, the North American Indian Association of Detroit, Inc. (NAIA)

The organization purpose is “to promote self-sufficiency for North American Indians through education assistance, employment training and awareness of available human services; and to foster and preserve North American Indian culture and heritage”; these primary purposes continue to this day.

Expansion and Specialization

In 1973, the NAIA, become a non-profit charitable organization when granted 501 © (3) status by the Internal Revenue Service. This meant that as a charitable organization, tax-deductible donations could be accepted and that the NAIA could obtain funds through federal, state and municipal grants. While continuing the basic principle upon which it was founded, the NAIA has been able to expand its services. This has allowed for more programs and a larger, diversified staff to handle the needs of the urban North American Indian.

Eniigaaniijig Family to Family Initiative

The Eniigaaniijig Family to Family Initiative is a partnership between Michigan Department of Human Services And

Supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s

The Parent Partner program offers specifically to our Native American families. We understand the importance of providing immediate care and support to those who have become involved with the Child Welfare System.

We will help restore Native Traditional Teaching to rebuild the whole family, by empowering our families in becoming strong, and positive role-models to lead the way for our future generations.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Employment has been a major focus of the NAIA. It continues to be one of the most important areas of concern for the North American Indian community. The array of services includes job training and placement, which is funded through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) by the Department of Labor.

Required Documents

- Photo Identification
- Social Security Card
- Tribal Letter/Status Card
- Selective Service Card (*if applicable*)
- Proof of Residency
- Proof of Income (*last 12 months*)

The NAIA partners with many local corporations and companies in the Southeastern Michigan area, who frequently post employment opportunities that range from entry level to professional positions, with many offering training and apprenticeships.

GED Preparation

(as funds are available)

The NAIA also offers a ten (10) week GED preparation and Computer Basic Training. Supplies are furnished and for those that qualify, a weekly stipend is paid.

Senior Program

Always respected in North American Indian culture and tradition, seniors receive special attention and recognition at the NAIA. Fundraisers allow for activities such as field trips, movie day and holiday celebrations.

Services Include

- In-home Services and assessments
- MiCafe (*Bridge-Card for Seniors*)
- Health related services/screening
- Food and Friendship program (*DAAA*)
- Advocacy for Clients
- Pharmaceutical program (*MMAF*)

Board of Directors

President: Art Brant

1st Vice President Wayne Hardwick

2nd Vice President Warren Hollier, Jr.

Treasurer Vacant

Secretary (Pro-Tempore) Michelle Pokorney

1st Trustee Sarah Brant

2nd Trustee Michelle Pokorney

3rd Trustee Robert Geroux, Jr.

4th Trustee Tim Johns

5th Trustee Marie Schuyler- Dreaver

Executive Director

Sharon George

Staff

Bookkeeper Vacant

Eniigaaniiijig F2F Coord. Sharon George

Parent Partner Sonya Whiteye

Employment & Training Coordinator

Sonya Whiteye

Senior Coordinator Heather Schuyler

Senior Assistant Patty White

Maintenance Greg Schuyler



“The North American Indian Association of Detroit, Inc. is the oldest Urban Indian Organization in the United States.”

Founded 1940

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