

Native American Fatherhood & Families Association

Families are at the heart of every culture. There is no work more important

February 2026 Newsletter

Founder's Message: Albert Pooley



Through NAFFA's programs we have strengthened communities all over the country and in Canada. Knowing who we are and where we come from builds confidence and grounding. Family connection acts as prevention by reinforcing dignity and purpose. It reminds young people they belong to something greater than themselves. We are blessed to strengthen our families and hope we continue so into the eternities.

NAFFA's Community Networking Breakfast

Thursday, February 19, NAFFA once again sponsored our annual community breakfast. Fifty-five attendees from all over the valley traveled to hear about NAFFA's programs.

Breakfast started at 8am with plenty of time to visit other organizations in behavioral health, education, criminal justice and Native community organizations. Thanks to all the NAFFA staff for all the preparations and clean up. It was a great success.



Karra Papa
NAFFA's MC

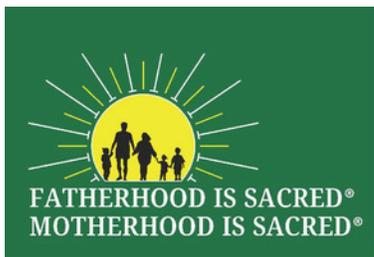


Albert Pooley gives opening remarks



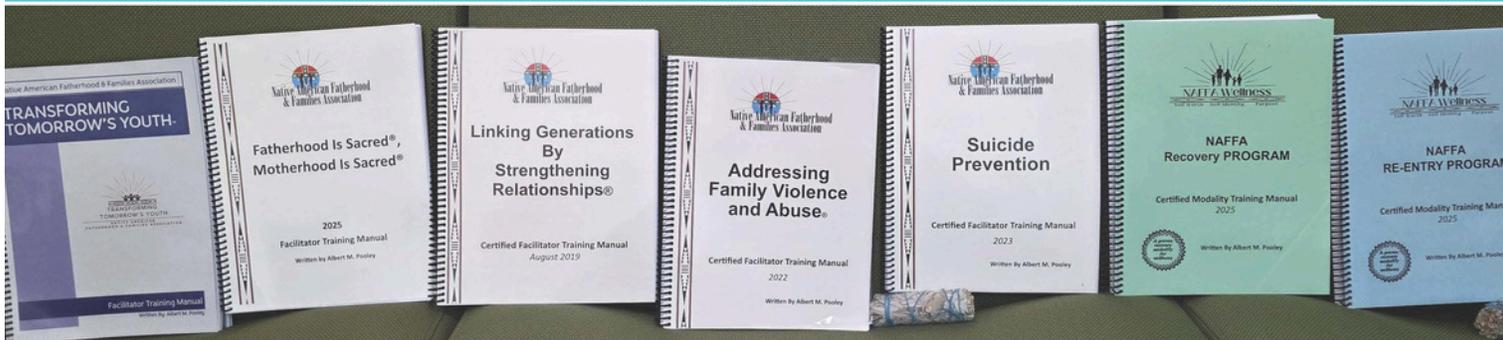
NAFFA's 3 presenters (at left) for the breakfast: Cheryl Honnie for the Training Department, Jill Mendoza for the Youth Program Department and Dr. Joel Touchet for NAFFA Wellness.





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FEBRUARY 2026 TRAINING DEPARTMENT UPDATES



For the month of February, NAFFA hosted four facilitator trainings. Participants joined us from Grand Ronde, Oregon; Baraga, Michigan; Bayfield, Wisconsin; Elk Grove, California; Lakeside, Arizona; Phoenix, Arizona; and Williams Lake, British Columbia, Canada! Having participants from every direction opens dialogue and interaction, while sharing experiences from various cultures. February was a great month! Below is a listing of facilitators.

February 2026

Recertifications

Collin Keeten
Adam Villagomez

February 5, 2026

Transforming Tomorrow's Youth™

Ashley Seppanen

February 11, 2026

Linking Generations by Strengthening Relationships®

Mariah Peterson

February 13, 2026

Addressing Family Violence and Abuse®

Brett Baker
Jessica Walraven
Amy Tate
Renee Albinati
Damon Washington
Lori Begaye
Sheyenne Soriano

February 19, 2026

Fatherhood Is Sacred®, Motherhood Is Sacred®

Alexandria Warren-Masters
Shawna Martin
Christina Morgan
Tannith McNeel
Stacey Runningbird
Melinda Mathews
Daniel Barney
Kaliska Norwest
Joseph Cox
Shelly Fox

Below photo: Al Pooley with the Addressing Family Violence and Abuse® facilitators.



Below photo: NAFFA CFT Katie Ray with the Fatherhood Is Sacred®, Motherhood Is Sacred® facilitators.





NAFFA Training Events

MONTH OF MARCH

YOU ARE PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS, PRECIOUS!



**REGISTER
NOW!**

March 10-12
Transforming Tomorrow's Youth™

March 16-18
Fatherhood is Sacred,®
Motherhood is Sacred®

March 18-20
Suicide Prevention©
March 18-20
Wellness Modalities



“You are worth more than your worst
mistake, and that is THE TRUTH!”
-Albert M. Pooley



More Information:
(480) 833-5007

www.nativeamericanfathers.org/training



**Native American Fatherhood
& Families Association**



**FATHERHOOD IS SACRED®
MOTHERHOOD IS SACRED®**
A Universal Message



***FATHERHOOD IS SACRED®,
MOTHERHOOD IS SACRED®
FACILITATOR TRAINING***

“You are worth more than your worst mistake,
and that is the TRUTH!” - Al Pooley

Facilitated by Michael Duncan

MARCH 10-12

Training Location:

Native Dads Network Head Quarters
2151 River Plaza Drive, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Hotel Reservations:

<https://tinyurl.com/56tybs5a>

***LIMITED IN-PERSON
SEATING,
VIRTUAL AVAILABLE.***



**NATIVE DADS NETWORK
SACRAMENTO CHAPTER**

To Register: training@znaffa.org

<https://tinyurl.com/fismis>



**Native American Fatherhood
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ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE AND ABUSE® FACILITATOR TRAINING

“NAFFA defines domestic violence as true
identity theft.” - Al Pooley

Facilitated by Albert Pooley

JULY 14-16

Training Location:

Helena Indian Alliance
501 Euclid Ave
Helena, MT 59601

Recommended hotel:

<https://tinyurl.com/mwpd4dvt> or 406-457-5500

SIGN UP TODAY!



**Helena
Indian
Alliance**

To Register: training@aznaffa.org
<https://tinyurl.com/afvaregistration.com>

Within the Prison Walls:



Over the course of 20 years, NAFFA's Fatherhood is Sacred® (FIS) program has been taught in 10 tribal and county jails and prisons. The impact of this project has been successful in assisting mothers and fathers to strengthen their families, even while inside prison walls. Participants come from different cultures and backgrounds, but yet connect with these principles. These writings are inspirational and remind us of how important our families are to us. Each newsletter will include one submission.

Pain/hurt/adversity is for change! Compassion is for understanding. Life is a series of solving problems, once you stop solving problems you become the problem! Once we are able to recognize our responsibility as adults/parents/family members/friends/peers/community members, we begin to see our identity, purpose and self-worth. It takes courage to change! Especially when you are in active addiction, incarcerated or running and gunning in the streets.

Yet The Native American Fatherhood And Families Association believes anyone can go from being the problem to becoming "THE SOLUTION"!

NAFFA BELIEVES THAT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE IS TO HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE FAMILY! My mentor Al Pooley once explained to me that people who have been abused, gone through trauma, neglect, mental/emotional abuse just need to feel in order to heal. For me personally I've gone through so much in my life, incarceration, alcohol/drug abuse, trauma, abuse. I was not familiar with a good life! Or I had been surviving the majority of my life! NAFFA TAUGHT ME HOW TO LIVE AGAIN! HOW TO ACCEPT ACCOUNTABILITY/RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTIONS AND BEHAVIORS/ATTITUDES. ULTIMATELY NAFFA GAVE ME PERSONAL FREEDOM!

In the beginning of my journey with NAFFA, Mr. Pooley told me to do these 3 things 1) Be kind to all mankind. 2) obey all rules and laws. 3) Keep my word and my promises. He said if I do those three things, I will flourish in life! And he was/is right! It seemed so basic but, you have to live those things every day! Having humility and gratitude for everything in your life! Whoever you are, whatever you're going through, you are worth more the worst mistake you have ever made in your life and that is the truth. You are precious, precious, precious!

We must do the work each and every day! Develop a solid game plan, recovery plan, relapse prevention plan. The bottom line is this: Nobody's gonna work harder for your sobriety, recovery/healing than you! I ENCOURAGE ANYONE AND EVERYONE TO: REINVENT YOURSELVES TO BECOME THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELVES! This has been a real \$lick message!



BOOST YOUR BODY'S ABILITY TO
HEAL ITSELF

Health E⁸⁰™



- Helps Reduce & Stabilize **Blood Sugar***
- Contains Potent Anti-Inflammatory Formula*
- Supports Healthy Digestion & Immune Function*

Patented Enzyme-Mineral Complex



call (888) NAFFA80
www.HealthE80.com

Health E 80 News: Check out our Health E 80 website to learn more about how you can keep your body healthy.

<https://www.healthe80.com/>

We are on Facebook too:

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthE80>

Remember to check out Health E80 to help fix your gut and start eating the foods you enjoy.

<https://www.healthe80.com/>

- Contains world's most activated enzymes
- Includes clinical strength patented formula
- Lowers and stabilizes blood sugar
- Reduces bloating, gas and acid reflux
- Supports healthy uric acid & A1C levels
- Contains potent anti-inflammatory ingredients
- Promotes healthy digestion & immune function



NAFFA has long recognized the need to improve health conditions among our native peoples, specifically regarding blood sugar and diabetes. Imagine our excitement when we discovered an international organization (headed by Dr. Tracy Gibbs, PhD) that agreed to partner with us in addressing these concerns that are affecting so many lives among North American Tribes.

Health E80 is a patented formula of carefully selected enzymes and co-factored minerals that can help restore the enzyme balance we each need to digest our foods, absorb nutrients, boost immunity and maintain our health and vitality. This website was created to educate the public on the real issues facing our Native American brothers and sisters and what we can do to reverse this trend. Diabetes, Heart Disease, Cancer and other serious health issues are plaguing our Native Lands. Let's begin the journey together back to health, vitality and prosperity!

Call us at 480-833-5007 or 800-977-2167

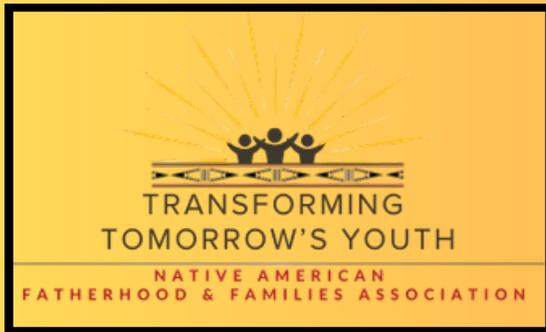
Melody Billy



Transforming Tomorrow's Youth News



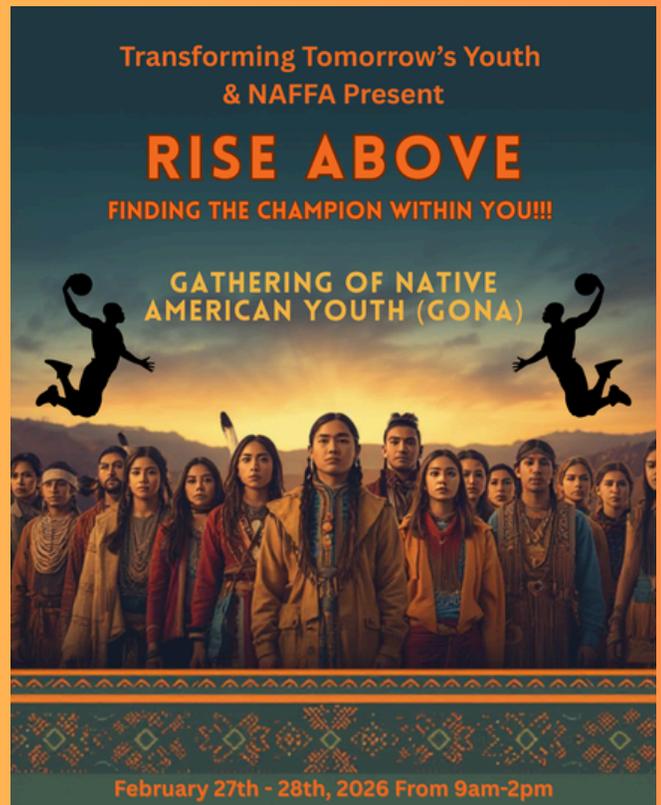
Jill Mendoza



GONA Preparations:

Final preparations are underway for the GONA youth event, "Rise Above: Finding the Champion Within You," taking place February 27–28 in Mesa, AZ. This free two-day experience for Native youth ages 13–18 will feature inspiring guest speakers including Jaci McCormick and Carla McGee, entertainment by Shawn Martinez, cultural performances, and interactive basketball skills sessions.

Youth will engage in powerful conversations on leadership, resilience, and self-worth while building confidence on and off the court. With lunch, snacks, free T-shirts, basketballs, and certificates provided, excitement is building as registration spots continue to fill quickly for this impactful community event.



TTY Youth Advisory Council:

Youth Program Assistant, Kris Johnson, is organizing a Youth Advisory Council for NAFFA's Transforming Tomorrow's Youth program. The council will bring together Native youth from across the region to help lead youth-driven activities and shape future programming. Members will also collaborate on a social media campaign focused on raising awareness about suicide prevention and mental health. Applications have been submitted, interviews are underway, and the Youth Advisory Council is expected to launch in March.



Kris Johnson



Mr. Neil Tift

Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences

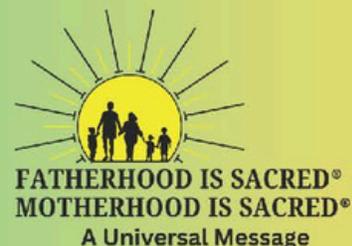
Presented by Mr. Neil Tift

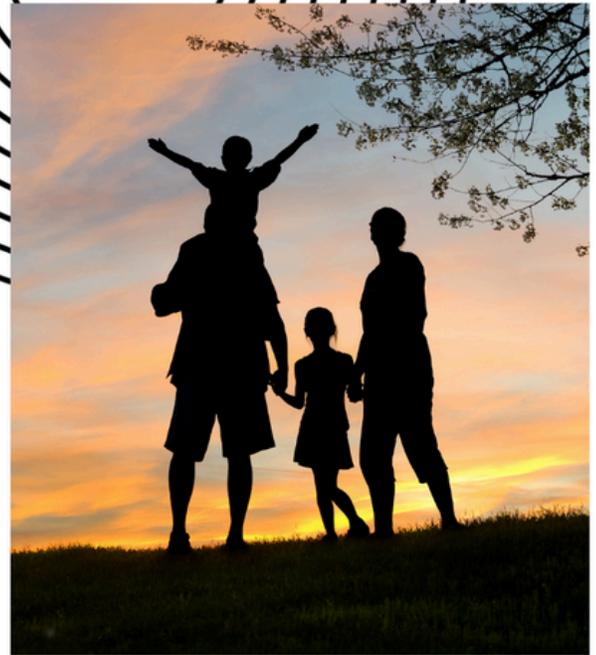
**March 17, 2026
11AM Arizona Time**

This webinar will explore the impact that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) have upon children, adolescents and adults. We will examine how ACEs are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifespan.

See to Register

<https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/webinar-registration>





LINKING GENERATIONS BY STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS

Free Weekly sessions In-person or Zoom

Small Charge for court ordered courses



Wednesdays Starting Jan. 28, 2026

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

525 West Southern Ave. Suite #109 & 110
Mesa, AZ 85210

Facilitated By:
Malcolm Redhair
Facilitator Coordinator
malcolmr@aznaffa.org

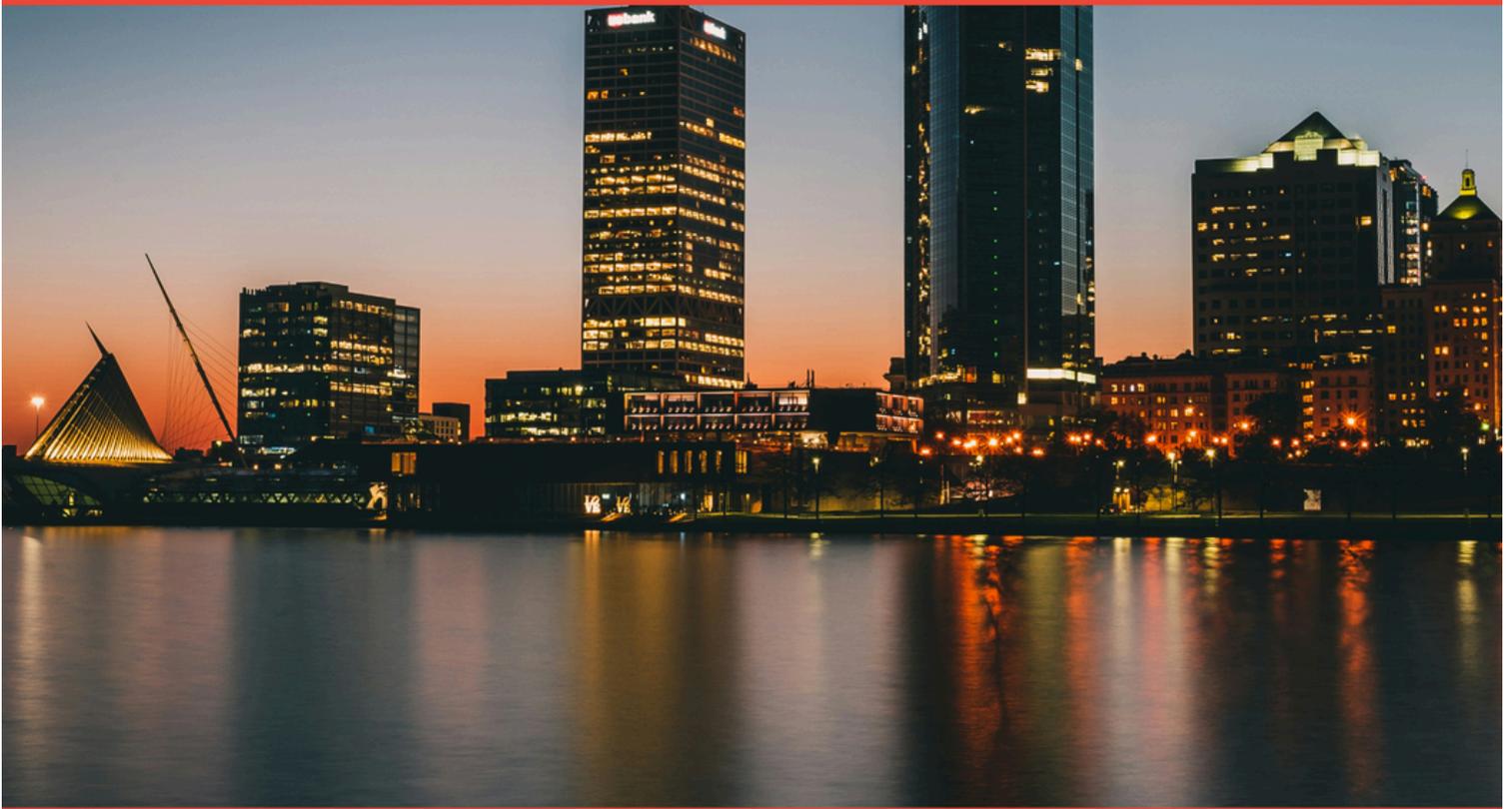


Contact us for more information:

 (480) 833-5007

 <https://www.nativeamericanfathers.org/freeweeklysessions>

SAVE THE DATE



**A NATIONAL
WELLNESS &
HEALING
CONFERENCE**

**HEALING
TOGETHER**



**AUGUST 4TH -6TH, 2026
MILWAUKEE, WI**

**POTAWATOMI CASINO
1721 W CANAL ST,
MILWAUKEE, WI 53233
800-729-7244**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY A COLLABORATION BETWEEN





**Native American Fatherhood
& Families Association**



SAVE THE DATE

22nd Annual

**Fatherhood Is Sacred,
Motherhood Is Sacred**

National
Conference

November

17-19

2026

**Wrigleyville West
Conference Center**

860 N Riverview, Mesa, AZ 85201



**FATHERHOOD IS SACRED®
MOTHERHOOD IS SACRED®**
A Universal Message





CALL FOR PROPOSALS!!!

NAFFA is currently recruiting workshop presenters for our 22nd Annual **Fatherhood Is Sacred®** **Motherhood Is Sacred®** National Conference

November 17-19, 2026

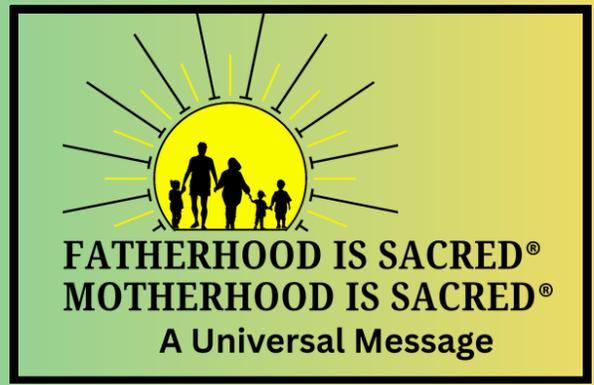
Workshops should be **educational, engaging**, and reflect our theme of **“United in Purpose: Strengthening Families.”**

[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/FISMISCALL](https://tinyurl.com/fismiscall)
PROPOSALS DUE:
AUGUST 31ST, 2026

 cherylh@aznaffa.org

 (480) 833-5007





NAFFA Staff:

- **Albert Pooley : President/Founder**
- **Karra Papa: Executive Director**
- **Cheryl Honnie: Director of Training**
- **Jill Mendoza: Youth Program Director**
- **Melody Billy: Youth Program Coordinator**
- **Valerie Hollobaugh: Outreach Coordinator**
- **Malcolm Redhair: Facilitator Coordinator**
- **Susan Sharp: Receptionist**
- **Sam Rossi: Financial Specialist**
- **Kat Bareham: Financial Assistant**
- **Kris Johnson: Youth Program Assistant**
- **Jordyn Wyman: Social Media Specialist**
- **Jane McCord: Grant Coordinator**
- **Susan Ellsworth: Administrative Assistant**
- **Mike Sharp, Nevy Arizona: Maintenance**

NAFFA Office

525 West Southern Ave. Suite #100

Mesa, AZ 85210

Office: 480-833-5007

Fax: 480-833-5009

NAFFA Wellness Center

525 West Southern Ave. Suite #124

Mesa, AZ

480-536-8881



NAFFA Wellness continues to grow and expand its services. We are currently accepting clients who are struggling with substance use and have AHCCCS AIHP insurance, as well as those utilizing private pay through family or tribal support. If you or a loved one is seeking help, we invite you to call us to discuss your situation and determine whether our program is a good fit for your needs.

Dr. Joel Touchet



NAFFA Wellness Staff

Joel Touchet: Clinical Director

Brett Baker: Case Manager

Jessica Yniguez: Re-entry Coordinator

**Neil Tift: Family Resource Specialist/
Clinician**