Alameda office Open House well attended

Alameda TANF-January 2017—
On Wednesday, January 18th Washoe tribal dignitaries, City leaders, TANF staff from Nevada and California, community partners and potential partners gathered for Alameda County's Open House. The afternoon was dedicated to sharing information about the Washoe Native TANF program. It was also a great time to share Washoe culture and contemporary Native American culture.

Tribal elder Melba Rakow provided an opening prayer.

(Continued on page 2)

National Native American Heritage Month Celebration

San Joaquin TANF Office-December 2016—No better way to celebrate Native American Heritage Month than coming together, sharing a meal and learning! That’s what we Natives do!

The event consisted of watching an informational Native documentary, learning how frybread came to be, receiving frybread kits and lets not forget sampling some delicious frybread! A special “thank you” is necessary for our ever so gracious community elder, Myrna Owens for demonstrating how to make frybread.

Myrna, as always, it was awesome! Thank you to all those who attended. We hope to make this annual event for all to enjoy.
A song was shared by Washoe Tribal member and language teacher Herman Fillmore. WNTP Executive Director, Susan Jamerson provided a welcome address.

As the program continued four youth from the Bay Area showcased their respective styles of dance. Josef Perdiguerra (Shawnee) led the group dancing Southern straight followed by his brother Jonathan Perdiguerra (Shawnee) fancy dancer, Anavey Smith (Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Mohawk, Paiute) Jingle dress dancer and Andrea Gutierrez (Tohono O’odham) fancy dancer.

Bay Area WNTP Deputy Director Gordon Forrester and Site Manager Kurt Schweigman gave an overview of the program and introduced staff. Everyone mingled and enjoyed healthy snacks. Firefighters from the Oakland Fire Department were on hand to talk to kids and give a tour of their fire engine. Officers from the Oakland Police Department also attended. We look forward to strengthening current partnerships with organizations and building new ones.

We thank all who attended and made this a successful event!
Alameda TANF—January 2017—

So you received a call today from a company you recently submitted your resume to regarding a customer service position and they would like to interview you next week. Awesome!!! Now, you can take two actions: 1) Show up to the interview and answer the questions as best as you can or 2) Take time and prepare yourself by building confidence and learning how to answer the interview questions.

There is basic list of interview questions used by employers to see if you are a “good fit” with their organization. “Tell me about yourself” is one question that interviewers will be asked to start the interview. This does not mean the interviewer wants to know about your favorite sports team, astrology sign or where you grew up. The answer should be focused on career and/or educational accomplishments that relate to the position you’ve applied for.

Besides answering questions, you’re appearance and body language plays an important role during the interview. If you’re interviewing for a warehouse position, there really is no need to dress up in a suit. Casual attire is sufficient. If the position is in an office, a suit or sports coat would be more appropriate for a professional setting. Try to avoid crossing your arms and/or leaning back in the chair. This can send a message that you’re closed and not really interested in the position.

If the interview is at a location you have never been to, then allow yourself extra time for traffic and transportation delays. Also an important rule is to TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE. There is nothing more distracting than your cell phone ringing during an interview or the chime of incoming text messages. Even in silent mode, the vibration makes noise in a quiet room. You want the interviewers to remember you on how you answered the questions and presented yourself. You don’t want them to remember you by something negative.

For more tips and information you can contact Job Developer, Ceasar Perez, at (510) 873-8223 or at cperez@washoetanf.org.
Santa paid a visit to our Washoe Native TANF families here at the Alameda County office in Oakland on Tuesday evening, December 13th. Children received age appropriate gifts and staff facilitated crafts. It was a healthy bonding of our Native American families we serve.

A total of 70 family members attended the Winter Gathering. This event provided an opportunity for Washoe Native TANF families to connect with each other in a safe and family friendly environment. It also gave participants information on upcoming events, classes, activities within our program that will benefit the families.

Our staff enjoyed helping with the event as various holiday characters, facilitating craft tables, and serving healthy snacks.
San Joaquin TANF Office—December 2016

Today I was able to take my son to childcare and then drive myself to work. I thought about how everyday I was able to do it until recently when I found myself on the side of the road with a flat tire and of course, late for work. And just the month prior my landlord gave me 30 days to move out of my place as he was selling it (ever hear the saying, “When it rains it pours:?”). Thoughts of my one year old child raced through my mind, how am I going to get to work? and where are me and my child going to live?, along with a million other things. I was unsure what to do, so I called my Case Manager to inquire on re-
Interested in finishing your High School Diploma?

**GED/Educational Instruction**

**Adult Education / GED**

*Not sure where to start?* Melanie Smokey is available to help guide you through all the different educational options. Stop-in or schedule an appointment. She will be at the Alpine Site **every Wednesday**. (530) 694-2555

**ALSO...YOU are your child’s first teacher!**

Classes available in Carson will present the following information:
- Why is writing important?
- What Can You Do?
- Ideas for Parents: How to Help Your Child Become a Stronger Writer
- Activities for young children.
- Day-to-Day Activities.

Come to the Carson TANF office on **Thursdays at 1:00pm** and learn how you can help your child/children develop strong reading and writing skills.

This class will also include information from The Twelve Universal Laws of Success by Herbert Harris, articles from the U.S. Department of Education, as well as native based resources.

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**Grateful Participant**

sources TANF may have for my situation. Fortunately, I was eligible for supportive services to help with obtaining new tires and additional maintenance. As it turns out, when I took my car in to get tires the mechanic told me my car was unsafe to drive! I was so concerned, knowing that I had been driving with my son in an unsafe car. Well, within a week and a half I was back on the road safely, transporting my child to childcare and myself to work.

When I decided to call my Case Manager, this is what was said:

Ring, ring, ring, “Native TANF how may I direct your call?”
I asked, “May I speak to my Case Manager”.
“One moment please” answered the receptionist.
Case Manager, “How may I help you?

Holding back my tears I said, “I just wanted to let you know how thankful I am for TANF’s help in getting new tires and fixing my car. You don’t know how much this means to me. I couldn’t believe it and I needed to call and thank you for helping me. I truly appreciate everything the program has done.”

Submitted by “A Thankful Mom”

A thankful heart is a happy HEART
Our TANF families took part in our annual event, which took 2 days to run, was a success. Participants sat and enjoyed interactive presentations which included The Holiday Blues, Career & Education—What is Your Resume Saying About You? and Money Management’s The Price is Right game. Who said there’s no fun in learning? Not only did everyone take part in the learning, but children and parent’s had the opportunity to make crafts that they could take home and enjoy or share.

It was a good evening when Stockton Indian Center and Washoe came together to have an amazing event for Native families in Stockton. During this collaborative effort, families took part in a evening of culture, education and fun. Its always a good time when Native get together! Children who attended received books, a toy from Toys for Tots and were able to do some craft projects. We were all graced with songs from the Stockton’s Girls Drum Group after enjoying a tradition turkey meal. Truly a great annual event which gets better each year. Hope to see you all next year!
Silvia Bulmer  
**Education Advisor II at Eagle Valley Middle School, sbulmer@washoetanf.org, 775-600-5491**

Good day Washoe Tribe of Nevada/California, it is a pleasure to formally introduce myself to you as the newly appointed Native Education Advisor out of Eagle Valley Middle School.  
I began my journey as a professional educator while completing my bachelor's degree in Political Science at California State University, Sacramento. It is here where I was driven to serve my community for the first time in a professional manner as a volunteer Mathematics and Reading Comprehension tutor out of Father Keith B. Kenny Elementary School.

After completing my studies and serving as an education specialist, I joined the United States Navy, where I continued to not only serve as an Education Advisor, but also as an Avionics Technician, Quality Assurance Inspector, professional training coordinator, military studies class facilitator, Squadron Career Counselor, College Professor, and volunteer Partnership in Education tutor, mentor, and guide. I enjoyed leading a team of students in improving their knowledge, skills, and abilities while I was in the Navy and I find it an honor to continue serving students today.

In continuing to work with students, I have accepted multiple positions in education beginning with my acceptance of a position with a nationwide tutoring company, as an independent Supplemental Educational Services Provider, where I worked under my assigned school district out of California, providing academic support during school hours and after school hours to students of diverse backgrounds. In addition, I also accepted a position with the United States Air Force Reserve as an Air Transportation Specialist, Unit Career Advisor, Safety Monitor, and College Education Specialist. After moving to the state of Nevada and prior to my unanticipated deployment with the Air Force, I accepted a temporary position as Tutor II under the Washoe Tribe of Nevada/California out of C.C. Meneley Elementary School where I genuinely appreciated promoting the academic well-being of my students.

I hope that after reading this brief yet insightful summary into my past experiences as a professional educator, you will find that I hold a sincere appreciation for the growth and development of students held under my care. I can assure you that I will continue carrying out my devotion to our Native children ever so diligently and proudly, as their primary Education Advisor, mentor, counselor, and advocate.

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Vicki Kemp  
**Site Manager I at the Douglas TANF Office, vkemp@washoetanf.org, Extension 52605**

Vicki Kemp is the Washoe Native TANF Program Site Manager for Douglas County. Vicki has numerous years of experience in various public administration positions within Health and Human Service Agencies in Northern California and Nevada. Starting out as clerical support in a welfare office Vicki was quickly promoted to an eligibility worker position for what was known back then as the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

She relocated to Nevada 28 years ago to accept an eligibility worker position for Nevada Welfare. She continued to acquire experience in supervision, quality control, as a professional development training developer and presenter and in budgets and contracts. She also gained experience in the Nevada legislative process, public relations, and public speaking, while expanding her knowledge in TANF, Food Stamps and Medicaid at an administrative level. She worked a few years in professional administration positions with Nevada Medicaid as well as Aging and Disability Services at the end of her career in State Service.

Her greatest achievement was when she was the Nevada TANF program specialist and had the great pleasure to lead an innovative, high level professional team to implement welfare reform (PROWRA) in Nevada. Vicki moved from Carson City to Minden in June 2016. She enjoys all the great outdoor activities this area has to offer such as golfing, hiking, camping, boating and fishing.
Newest TANF Employees

Diane Councilman
Case Manager I at Woodfords TANF Office, dcouncilman@washoetanf.org, Extension 51305
As the new Case Manager in the Alpine office, Diane Councilman comes from Monterey County Department of Social Services where she worked for 16+ years as an Eligibility Worker and Eligibility Supervisor. She has extensive experience in CalWORKs, Cal Fresh, Medi-Cal, and General Assistance Programs. Although she is new to Native TANF, she is extremely excited about learning about the Native cultures and working one on one with families on their road to self-sufficiency.

Lauren Magana
Case Manager II at the Oakland TANF Office, lmagana@washoetanf.org, Extension 52121
I am proud to be working as a new Case Manager II for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. I graduated with a Masters from the University of California, Berkeley, and have a background of 9 years working in social services, beginning as a residential counselor in group homes to child welfare services in the East Bay. I am looking forward to continuing to serve and participate in the community through the Native TANF program, and am eager to learn new ways of contributing.

Lauren Martin
Case Manager II at Oakland TANF Office, lmartin@washoetanf.org, Extension 52106
Lauren Martin (MSW) is the new Case Manager II for Alameda County Native TANF Program. Before coming to TANF, Lauren spent two years working with returning Combat Veterans within the San Francisco VA Healthcare system. Prior to that, she completed her Masters in Social Work with emphasis in Mental Health at San Jose State University. She is a registered ASW with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. In addition to her work with the VA, Lauren has held a number of positions with youth and families in San Diego and San Francisco County as a Crisis Counselor, Program Manager, and Community Organizer. She is excited to be a part of the team and is looking forward to meeting our TANF families.

Maritza Sanchez
Case Manager I at the Oakland TANF Office, msanchez@washoetanf.org, Extension 52101
Maritza Sanchez is originally from the Pacific Northwest and comes to Native TANF with a decade of experience in direct social services. Maritza has primarily worked with homeless youth and families over the past 7 years throughout the Bay Area. Over the past 2 years Maritza could be found helping at various events at Intertribal Friendship House (especially with the community garden) and with The Cultural Conservancy tending to The Three Sisters Farm in Novato, CA. Maritza is a firm believer in good food, community involvement, and preservation of Indigenous cultural practices/traditions. Maritza looks forward to meeting all the families, stop by and introduce yourself.

Lidia Hernandez
Case Assistant at Stockton TANF Office, lhernandez@washoetanf.org, Extension 52018
Lidia Hernandez is one of the newest members of the San Joaquin County TANF office. Lidia brings with her over 20 years of administrative experience at state, federal and military levels. She worked for the Department of Defense, at the California Military Department (Anti-terrorism and Protocol) and with the Department of Energy (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory). Lidia has her Bachelor’s Degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix. She holds a Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Business Management.
**Talking Circle**

San Joaquin TANF Office-December 2016—

We have been crocheting it up in the Talking Circle

Wednesdays 3:00pm to 5:00pm!

For problem solving and having a fun time making beanies and scarves while doing so. It’s just perfect for this chilly season ahead of us.

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**Daniel Burchett PROMOTED**

Administrative Assistant II at TANF Headquarters, dburchett@washoetanf.org, Extension 52802

Hello, my name is Daniel Burchett and I am the new Administrative Assistant II at TANF Headquarters. I was born and raised in Carson and grew up in Stewart with my mom and my brother and sister. I previously worked as the Driver for Carson TANF for a year before moving to my new position at TANF HQ. I am excited to work for my tribe and am excited to use my skills to help my tribe in whatever way I can! If you see me, feel free to say hello!

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**Cynthia Fraire PROMOTED**

Case Assistant at the Oakland TANF Office, cfraire@washoetanf.org, Extension 52113

Cynthia Fraire is an Oakland native who joined Washoe Native TANF in Oakland, CA as an Administrative Assistant. She graduated from San Leandro High School where she played soccer during her junior year. She started working at the young age of 16 to get an early start on the work field and gain as much experience as possible. Before coming to Washoe Native TANF, she worked as an Insurance Sales Representative for State Farm Insurance. In her spare time she enjoys going on walks along with a little man who calls her mom holding her hand. She looks forward to lending a hand and making a difference by being the best she can be.

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**Constance Barnes PROMOTED**

Education Director at TANF Headquarters, cbarnes@washoetanf.org, Extension 52822

Constance is an Oglala Lakota from Pine ridge, SD and Robinson Rancheria Pomo from Clearlake, CA. Previously, as a pre-college advisor for the Washoe Tribe, she assisted high school students and adults in obtaining information and an understanding of post-secondary institutions while maintaining a close and professional relationship with each student. Her expertise is in post-secondary advising in the areas of general education, humanities, education, psychology, business, and the graduate track.

Barnes was born in Reno, NV and attended school at Sierra Nevada College. While working on her BA in Humanities, she was also working on her Masters of Art in Teaching (MAT) degree simultaneously. She is a Nevada licensed secondary social studies instructor. Shortly after obtaining her MAT degree, she attended Montana State University and received her Graduate Certificate in Native American Studies. With the knowledge she has gained, she hopes to motivate other AI youth to obtain a post-secondary education or vocational training.
Latisha King joined the Washoe Native TANF program with her husband Ariel III and 9 year old son Ariel IV past July, as a homeless family. They moved from Crescent City, CA to San Francisco to seek better healthcare and employment options in hopes of improving the overall well-being of their household. With the support of WNTP, Latisha and Ariel were able to accomplish major milestones.

While still residing in Crescent City and struggling to keep up with bills, Latisha learned through her church members that driving for Uber could be a good source of income. She and her family decided to pack up and move to San Francisco to pursue this possible employment opportunity. Once they arrived to SF, The King family resorted to sleeping in their car along with their multiple pets – 2 cats, garden snakes, fish, and a guinea pig. However, with the help of WNTP, they were able to secure 10 days in a hotel while they sought permanent housing. Eventually the family was able to move their RV down to SF as well, and has stabilized their housing through an Emergency Assistance Supportive Service from WNTP that paid for a month of RV rental space. Latisha took this chance to obtain a position with Uber as a driver. She leased a car through Uber and participated in trainings to improve her chauffer skills. She currently drives full-time for Uber with great success and has numerous positive feedback from her customers.

Latisha has met with our WNTP Job Developer to work on her resume and career planning in order to keep moving forward. Latisha reaches out to her Case Manager whenever she is seeking general guidance or moral support as well. Latisha and her family stay connected with the Native community by attending local cultural events as well as workshops offered at the SF WNTP office, such as Beading Class. Latisha keeps busy working and caring for her family, she is strong of a woman through all her experiences. On her keychain, Latisha carries a quote, “She believed she could, so she did.” Being better parents was the King’s ultimate goal, and the staff at WNTP is grateful to be able to help them to continue achieving and inspire.

“We are very thankful for TANF. Without it, we would be struggling very hard on our own. We are now able to take care of our son better.” - Latisha

Need Help Finding Work?

Schedule an appointment with our Sierra Nevada Job Developer, Russell Fromherz. He is available Thursdays & Fridays at the Carson TANF Office.

He can help you with:
* Resume Building
* Strategies for Job Searching
* Interview skills
* How to Dress to Impress
* WEX opportunities within the Washoe Tribe
* Career Inventory Assessment
* Community Networking
Established in 2005 the Washoe Native Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program is administered by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California.

The 4 Purposes of the program are as follows:

- To provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
- To end the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
- To prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
- To encourage the formation and maintenance of two parent families.

On January 25, 2017 the Native TANF program teamed up with Eldorado County Food Bank and Woodfords Washoe Community Council to distribute 31 food boxes to community members.

Pictured above: Woodfords Washoe Community Council Chairman Jim and TANF Program Coordinator Shandra Morgan assisting with distribution.