



Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Tribal Victim Services

A Window Between Worlds - Using Art to Heal

Tribal Victim Services

Enhancing rights, resources and respect for Tribal victims
and Native communities hurt by crime.

- Family Violence
- Stalking
- Crime

- Sexual Assault
- Teen Dating Violence



Tribal Victim Services - Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation

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Waçâniähokmowaywat
(Where They Are Going to Get Help)
Art Room



A Window Between Worlds - Background & Philosophy

- Our program utilizes basic philosophy of “A Window Between Worlds”
- AWBW celebrating 20 years in 2012
- Bridges the world survivors have been living in and the one they are beginning to create
- “There is no bad art”
- “All art is beautiful”

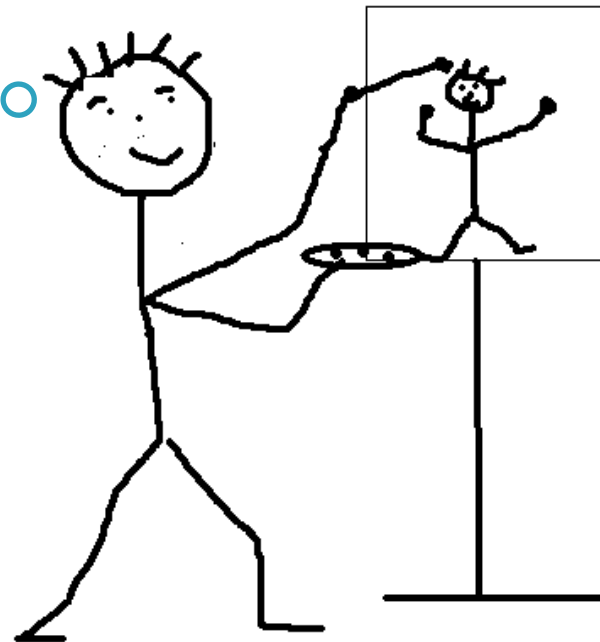
Using Art

in the

Recovery Process



HEY! I'm
an
ARTIST!!



The Recovery of the Senses:

- Safety
- Relaxation
- Power
- Possibility
- Identity



Recovering a Sense of Safety:

- During the creative workshops the art medium offers a private and non-threatening venue for participants to begin communicating internally with themselves.
- There are no judgments or expectations.
- Participation is entirely voluntary



Recovering a Sense of Relaxation:

- Workshops allow for a constructive time to revitalize in the midst of struggles.
- Participants given an opportunity to re-focus their energies upon themselves.



Recovering a Sense of Power:

- A simple art experience can provide an opportunity for empowerment.
- Being empowered by the freedom to create what you want and how you want adds to this experience.



Recovering a Sense of Possibility:

- Participants given freedom to step outside the box.
- Self-acknowledgement that new things can be learned.
- Realization that they can create beauty and can express feelings they couldn't convey previously.



Recovering a Sense of Identity:

- Art provides tangible evidence of positive experiences and breakthroughs.
- Participants have concrete reminders that they CAN maintain a sense of self through difficult times.

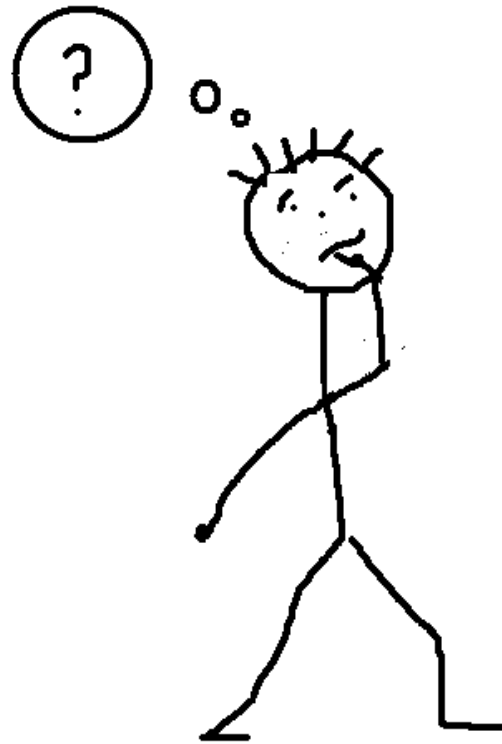


What This All Means:

- For women who have come together to move from old ways to new, healthier ways, the process of creative expression becomes a perfect tool to assist in this transformation



Why ART???



HMMMMMM.....



Benefits

- Self-Realization
- Quality Time for Reflection
- Empowerment
- Improved Self-Esteem
- An Opportunity for Sharing with Peers
- Allows Participants a Place to Express Themselves Without Judgments or Criticism
- GREAT ART TO DISPLAY!





Community Story Tree Project





“The Community Story Tree visualizes [our] commitment and we will continue to work for a violence-free future.”



Steve Ortiz, PBPN Chairman



“By allowing me the time to reflect and be with my thoughts in a positive environment.”



Jim Potter





Family



Believe
in
Yourself

Faith

Hope

Love

NEW
LIFE

CHILDREN

Pride

Life is full
of beauty
and mystery

The Great Spirit
brings the best to
us when we reach
the full extent
of our being to
the Present
- Barbara Okamoto

BIG

Big

Big

Warrior MAN
THE
GREATEST
JOURNEY
Place
Earth

NEW LIFE



Our Story Tree has come alive!! It is so much more than I ever imagined it could be! The community member artists participating in this project, they are survivors and the service providers who have dedicated their lives to supporting victims of crime in their recovery. For these people, to come together in this amazing way, to create this magnificent representation of our collective hopes and dreams for tribal families, is inspiring and overwhelming at the same time.

The artistry is so much more than just what you see on the 72 individual panels, it's what you feel in your gut when you realize the entirety of the project. So much pain and suffering at the hands of others was endured by the contributing artists and their loved ones, yet the message in our Story Tree is one of survival and thriving despite the suffering, one of encouragement, hope, prayer and a vision of a better future for our children and their children and their children after them.

Rebekah Jones



Latest/New Projects

- The Community Story Tree Project
- Public unveiling of the project in October
- Pottery wheel and kiln installed this year
- Group home art being displayed in Judicial Center
- Painting Marathon in October to commemorate DV Awareness Month



