



TiyoSPAye Winyan Maka

1304 Ponderosa Drive • Fort Collins CO 80521 • (970) 494-0700 • Christiniawin@yahoo.com

WICOSANI EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING LABORATORY (THE W.E.L.L.)

**PREMIERE PROJECT OF TIYOSPAYE WINYAN MAK
FORT COLLINS, COLORADO AND WOUNDED KNEE, SOUTH DAKOTA**

FUNDING YEAR: 2012-2013

PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

**CHRISTINIA EALA AND
ELISSA J. TIVONA**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONTACT INFORMATION

Exec. Director: Christinia Eala

Phone: 970-494-0700

E-mail: christiniawin@yahoo.com

Communication/Dev Director: Elissa Tivona

Phone: 970-223-8944

E-mail: etivona@harmonydesigngroup.com

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Name: TiyoSpaye Winyan Maka

Address: 1304 Ponderosa Dr.; Fort Collins, Colorado, 80521-4145

Website Address: <http://winyanmaka07.webs.com/>

MISSION STATEMENT:

TiyoSpaye Winyan Maka has a strategic vision to address the multitude of issues facing the Lakota and other indigenous people by merging traditional wisdom and values with contemporary regenerative practices, particularly in the building trades.

Our mission is to promote alternative housing and energy, nutritional and educational sovereignty for Indigenous women and their families. To do our work effectively we raise awareness that there are beautiful, strong people with a proud history who now live in third world conditions throughout one of the richest nations on earth. There are many people who are suffering; however, our focus is currently the Lakota (Sioux) tribes living in Lakota Territory in South Dakota.

We continuously strive to create support networks, to encourage self-help, to promote healing and a sustainable lifestyle for indigenous women, youth, and families, whether living off or on the reservation. All our programs embody our commitment to the Lakota value of "wicosani," which means to walk in balance with the four aspects of self: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual; to include the fe/male energies that dwell within each of us. By combining traditional values with educational training in sustainable building practices, we strengthen the capacity and confidence of indigenous people to lead the way as engaged and effective stewards of the earth's resources.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Description:

Your generous grant or gift will be used to match funding committed for the 2012 summer launch of TWM's premiere project: the Wiconsani Experiential Learning Laboratory (as written up in the recently released: People Building Peace 2.0). The W.E.L.L. is a tangible extension of our vision, *"to build the future on the foundation of the past using sustainable technologies of today with indigenous families."*



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This vision is very straightforward: we believe the time is NOW to move beyond crisis intervention in Lakota communities; to reframe critical needs for secure and sustainable homes on Pine Ridge into an opportunity for tribe members to develop high demand skills in the building trades at the Wicosani Experiential Learning Laboratory.

This coming summer, 2012, our generous funders will help Tiyospaye Winyan Maka construct the W.E.L.L., an innovative training facility in Wounded Knee, South Dakota. From this central location we will be equipping multiple crews of Lakota families and their allies to construct a variety of Earthen Homes to meet the needs of four or more different families living on the Pine Ridge Reservation. These homes will include: the unique Eco-dome, designed by world renowned Nadir Kahlili, a model Straw Bale home, diverse types of Cob home construction and others. The multiple, earth-home designs offer opportunities to trainees to develop diverse skill-sets, which can then be expanded to help secure the future for Pine Ridge residents and beyond.

To overcome systemic challenges of prolonged poverty and regenerate viable communities, we propose a holistic approach. Our goal is to improve social and economic wellbeing in the context of reducing substandard living conditions and rebuilding homes for needy families. Our objectives include: hands-on experience in eco-building methods with master builders; experience with alternative energy generation and food production; appreciation for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (T.E.K.) and strengths of living in harmony with nature; continued research and development of creative programs.

Project Phases:

1—infrastructure for the W.E.L.L. facility. Executive Director Christinia Eala holds clear tenancy to land for the facility. A site survey and plan was completed with assistance from Cathy Leslie, Engineers Without Borders. Required utilities including water, electricity and vehicle access for construction are scheduled for early 2012.

2—establishing comfortable base camp for the first W.E.L.L. class including tribal interns and volunteers. This phase calls for accommodations for 20; a fully equipped common kitchen where meals are provided; bathroom and shower facilities; open air and covered classrooms, hands-on project demonstration and works spaces; start of a perma-culture garden; a talking circle for shared stories, song and ritual.

3—construction of a double ecodome on site for administrative offices and caretaker living space, with required plumbing, electrical, climate control; construction of secure warehouse with shelving and floor space for winter storage; and coordination of the construction of off-site builds under the supervision of participating master builders.

4—onsite construction of up to four homes on the Pine Ridge Reservation, led by Master Builders along with indigenous crews trained at the W.E.L.L.

Please join us in partnership to make this vision a reality in the summer of 2012!



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PROJECT DURATION FOR THIS FUNDING REQUEST

March, 2012 to April, 2013

MEASURE OF SUCCESS

The primary measure of success will be a steady increase in W.E.L.L. enrollment over five years. Several levels of enrollment are available, and workshop tuition from all levels is added together to create a self-sustaining business model. Workshop tuitions vary according to a sliding scale. On one end of the scale will be those paying full tuition. These participants will be drawn from near-by trade schools, colleges, universities, and other community service groups, from a range of national and volunteer service web portals, such as Service Civil International, and from several cooperative Native American Studies and/or Construction Trade programs at nationwide colleges and universities. On the other end of the scale will be participants who qualify for full scholarships, primarily reserved for registered tribe member. Supplementing these are all payment tiers in between. Scholarship opportunities will be fully funded by our contributor and donor base. As the Wicosani Experiential Learning Laboratory develops a track record of success, we expect our enrollment to rise, which will in turn allow us to build our capacity. Our intention is to be self-sustaining within five years.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnic/Racial Breakdown

Ethnic/racial breakdown of those affected by this project:

60 %	Native American
40 %	Other (all other ethnicities)

Number Served (required)

Number of people served by this project: 750 (over 5 years)



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APPENDIX A – **DRAFT** COURSE OFFERINGS. SPRING/SUMMER 2012

Tiyospaye Winyan Maka

... committed to building the future with Indigenous Families on the foundation of the past using sustainable technologies of today

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THE WICOSANI EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING LABORATORY THE W.E.L.L. IN WOUNDED KNEE, SOUTH DAKOTA



W.E.L.L. workshops provide the training and experience to transform needs into opportunities and expand housing options and work skills for a sustainable future for Pine Ridge and beyond

PREMIERE 2012 WORKSHOP SEASON

- **W.E.L.L. INFRASTRUCTURE WORKSHOP:** 1 week Cost: \$300
Description: Break ground on a sustainable base camp for the Wicosani Environment Learning laboratory. Help to bring in basic utilities and erect a *hypar roof*. All cultural orientations, excursions, meals and transportation included. **DATES:**
- **EARTHEN HOME BUILDING Series:** 3 weeks (each) Cost: \$900 (each)
Description: Join a crew of internationals, community members and master builders in constructing a home from foundation to wind scoop on the land of a Lakota Elder. Learn by “doing” earthen architecture onsite. All cultural orientations, excursions, meals and transportation included in the cost of the workshop.
 - 1. **EARTHEN HOME 1** with Tiyospaye Winyan Maka **DATES:**
 - 2. **EARTHEN HOME 2** with Leola One Feather Family **DATES:**
 - 3. **EARTHEN HOME 3** with Loud Hawk Family **DATES:**
 - 4. **(EARTHEN HOME 4)** **DATES: TBD)**
- **WICOSANI EXPERIENCE Series:** Cost: \$150 (each)
Description: Experience aspects of Lakota culture old and new during shorter sessions.
 - 1. **IN FORT COLLINS:** three 4-hour sessions orienting participants to earth architecture, working, and living on Pine Ridge **DATES:**
 - 2. **ECO-HOUSING TOUR on PINE RIDGE** 3-day guided adventure **DATES:**
 - 3. **FAMILY WEEKENDS at the W.E.L.L.** 3-day adventure for a limited number of families at group rates; please call to arrange. **DATES:**

EXPERT INSTRUCTION

Engineers Without Borders

Infrastructure design and installation supervised by Cathy Leslie

O.L.C.E.R.I.

construction assistance with Brian Deans

Cal-Earth (California Institute of Earth Art & Architecture)

Master builders Ted Petroulis, Jason Medrano and others instruct and supervise scheduled builds

Tiyospaye Winyan Maka

Executive Director, Christinia Eala,

Volunteer staff: Elissa Tivona, Christopher Gillespie, Rita Martinez and others

Special Thanks to:

Gutzwiller Studios, Michael Gutzwiller and Village Earth, David Bartecchi

ACCOMMODATIONS

Enjoy the rugged comforts of the W.E.L.L. in Wounded Knee. Beautiful camp accommodations for up to 20; a fully equipped common kitchen; bathroom and shower facilities; open air and covered classrooms; hands-on project demonstration and work spaces; beginnings of a perma-culture garden and a talking circle for shared stories, song and ritual. W.E.L.L. facilities also available for Design charettes, Colloquia, Camps and other Programs. Contact 970-494-0700 for rates and availability.



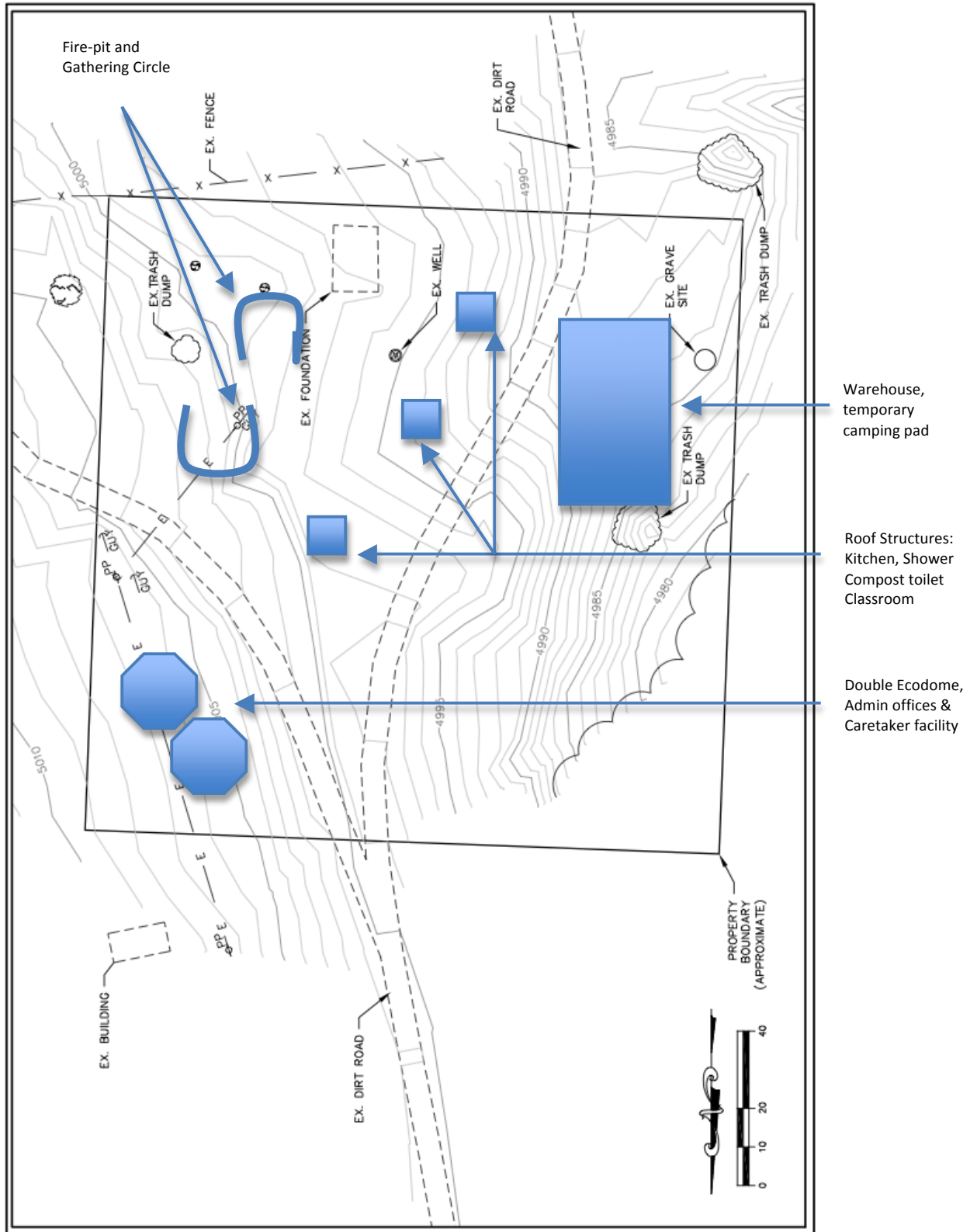
REGISTER TODAY WITH DEPOSIT: <http://winyanmaka07.webs.com/> or call 970-494-0700



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APPENDIX B – SITE PLAN



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