



Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Healthy Lifestyles ~ Youth Advisory Board

10 1/2 Counties in SE Oklahoma ~ 2008



Coalition Priorities:

- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Underage Drinking
- ◆ Methamphetamine Prevention
- ◆ Tobacco Prevention
- ◆ Physical Health
- ◆ Life Skills

About Us...

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO), a federally recognized Indian tribe, whose nations borders include 10 ½ counties in southeastern Oklahoma. This unique service area covers 15,000 square miles of rugged, mountainous terrain as well as some of the most picturesque areas of the state. According to the Choctaw Nation membership department, there are currently 179,000 registered Choctaws.

In the fall of 2001, with the dramatic increase in diabetes in native Americans, Chief Greg Pyle recognizing this as a threat to the Choctaw people as well with the epidemic rise in obesity (directly related to diabetes) among his tribal nation, created the Diabetes Multi-Resource Task Force.

With the focus of preventing diabetes among Choctaws, the Task Force assembled members of the health care profession as well as, Choctaw Nation program directors, a representative of the Choctaw Nation tribal council, and Chief Gregory E. Pyle to deal with this urgent issue.

In 2003, the task force changed its name to the Healthy Lifestyles Task Force and expanded their focus to encompass all the health problems facing Choctaw people, with special emphasis on the Youth. After engaging the "Youth of the Nation" a voice was born, which now is recognized on the local, state and national level as the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board. In 2004, the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyle Division was institutionalized within the Community Health Division of the Choctaw Nation. To date, this program facilitates and fosters the best practices to promote Healthy Lifestyles at the local grassroots level within the Choctaw Nation. Many local and state partnerships have been developed and have joined the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Program to improve the health of the Choctaw Nation and citizens residing in SE Oklahoma. Due to this collaboration effort, many preventive health services within the Choctaw Nation Health Services has proven extremely successful as well as expanded supportive community based initiatives. One of the greatest achievements of this effort has been the creation of the he Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board.

This organization serves as the cornerstone of the Healthy Lifestyles program and empowers local citizens and youth to take action in promoting and improving health. With a unique and diverse membership with over 150 members, they continue to serve as a model for youth led and youth involved programs, initiatives and projects through the state. This initiative of the Choctaw Nation truly lives up to their motto: **"Healthy Living = Longer Life"** and will benefit it's members for generations to come.



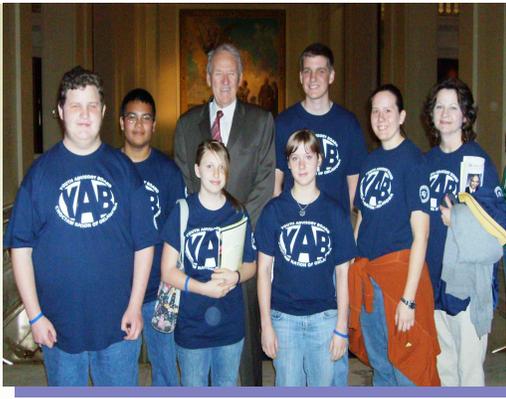
Significant Outcomes:

Harvard Project ~ On August 19, 2008 the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development and the Honoring Nations Board of Governors made a site visit with the Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles Program, Project Falvmmichi and the Hugo Elementary.

Project Falvmmichi is a domestic violence prevention program and its goal is to raise awareness in 2nd grade students that "It's Not Cool To Hit". The lessons are group lead by Teen Mentors from the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board who visit the 2nd grade classroom once a month and provide a positive message through a puppet skit, group discussion and craft/activity. The program is currently in 32 schools and 63 classrooms in the Choctaw Nation.

Harvard Honoring Nations serves as a vehicle for collectively celebrating many and diverse successes, fostering pride and confidence in the ability of American Indian governments to improve the well-being of respective communities and citizens. Award winning programs serve as important sources of knowledge and inspiration that are drawn upon throughout Indian Country and far beyond.

This year Harvard received 110 applications, Choctaw Nation Project Falvmmichi was one of the 10 chosen for the semi-final round which included a site visit. Harvard stated the quality of the applicant pool was extremely impressive and after evaluating the applications on the criteria of effectiveness, significance, cultural relevance, transferability, and sustainability, the senior management of the Harvard Project came to consensus that Choctaw Nation Project Falvmmichi advance to the semi-finals. Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles received a phone call that Project Falvmmichi was a Finalist and would present to the Honoring Nations Board of Governors on October 21, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona. At that time ten semi-finalists from across the Nation was acknowledged and only one receive recognition for the "High Honors" Achievement Award. It was with great honor that **this award was received by the Choctaw Nation's Healthy Lifestyle's ~ Project Falvmmichi for the Harvard's Honoring Contributions in the Governance of American Indian Nations, better known as "Honoring Nations ~ High Honors"** Representatives from all over the world attended this ceremony to learn what the American tribes were offering their people. Australia, Argentina, China, Chile, Canada, The Philippines, Japan, South Africa, Brazil, Cuba among many others were in attendance.



Partners:

Bishnik/Tribal Newspaper
 Chief Gregory E. Pyle
 Choctaw Nation Youth Center
 Goys and Girls Club
 SWAT
 2M2L
 OKSDH
 Choctaw Nation AFL
 CN Youth Outreach
 CN Healthy Lifestyles
 OK Public Schools
 Law Enforcement
 CN Diabetes Nurse Education
 REACH US
 Teen Pregnancy
 Care Center
 APRC
 District Attorney
 City Council's
 Tribal Council
 Home Health
 DHS
 Lifetime Legacy
 Project CHILD
 Local Churches
 Nursing Homes
 Oklahoma State Turning Point Initiative
 Atoka/Coal County
 Partnership For Change Coalition
 McCurtain Co. Coalition For Change
 Living In Latimer Coalition
 Haskell County Coalition
 Le Flore County Coalition
 Pittsburg Co. Local Service Coalition
 Choctaw County Coalition
 A.B.C. Coalition
 Believers In Boswell
 Community Coalition
 Bryan County Turning Point Coalition



Key Activities:

- ◆ SWAT— Students Working Against Tobacco—HIP HOP SWAT
- ◆ 2M2L—Underage Drinking
- ◆ Educational Scholarships
- ◆ Dating Violence Prevention
- ◆ Health Fit Club Planning
- ◆ Fitness Camps
- ◆ Balloons Over Hugo
- ◆ After Prom Lock-In
- ◆ Boys and Girls Club
- ◆ CATCH Programs
- ◆ Team Building Activities
- ◆ Baby Blanket Drive—Preg. Center
- ◆ Sprouts/Nutrition & Fitness DVD
- ◆ Systems of Care
- ◆ Community Service Projects
- ◆ Youth Leadership Training
- ◆ Drama/Skit Presentation
- ◆ Back to School Bash
- ◆ Youth Summit/Explosion
- ◆ Senior Citizens Dance
- ◆ Town Hall Meetings on Underage Drinking—Take It Back
- ◆ Youth Mentoring/Tutoring
- ◆ Candle Light Vigil
- ◆ Family Fun Day
- ◆ County Fair(s)
- ◆ Legislative Day at the Capital

Key Activities:

- ◆ METH Prevention Campaign
- ◆ School Prevention Curriculum(s) Implementation—
- Too Good For Drugs, Project S.A.F.E.
- Project Falvmmichi, Project Alert
- ◆ On Applebee Pond/Life Skills
- ◆ Park Clean-Up Day
- ◆ July Celebration
- ◆ Labor Day Festival
- ◆ Movie Madness Night—Stomping BUTTs on Hollywood—Tobacco Prevention/Awareness Event
- ◆ Youth Leadership Conference
- ◆ Adolescent Health Conference
- ◆ Suicide/Self Esteem Prevention
- ◆ Summer Arts Programs
- ◆ Newspaper Article -Youth of the Nation
- ◆ City Ordinance Development and Policy Development/Adoption for Tobacco Control and Underage Drinking
- ◆ Homecoming Parade
- ◆ Teddy Bear Drive
- ◆ Fund Raising
- ◆ Choctaw Nation Fit Kids Club
- ◆ Leadership Video Development
- ◆ Walking Trail Development
- ◆ Walking and Fitness Initiatives
- ◆ Washington D.C.—Youth Leadership Summit and Conference

COMMUNITY SERVICE MENTORSHIP COMMUNICATION EDUCATION



Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board

WE ARE a group of students from across the entire Choctaw Nation with one goal in mind. The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board wants to challenge the youth of this great nation to become the leaders of tomorrow. The Youth Advisory Board works to empower youth to come together and work towards addressing community needs. We set goals to develop positive visions for the future of the Choctaw Nation. Our mission is to help grow healthy, productive and civic minded adults. If you want to grow and expand your opportunities join us! You need a willing spirit and a heart that reaches out to other people and you will be amazed at the results.

