

Organization Highlights

- Timeframe/years for the organization highlights: 2009 - 2018
- Jobs created or retained: 348
- Individuals provided with financial counseling and literacy training: 457
- Total dollar amount loaned: \$2,956,791

Contact

Name: Ted Piccolo, Executive Director
 Email: tedp@thenndf.org
 Phone: 509-633-9940
 Website: www.thenndf.org

Northwest Native Development Fund (NNDF) has a mission to foster economic and financial independence for Native people by assisting in the development of personal assets through financial and entrepreneurial education, as well as providing access to capital. NNDF provides tribal employee loans, small business loans, Individual Development Accounts, financial education, and business training to a Target Market (TM) of tribal members in Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and a focus on northeastern Washington including the Colville and Spokane reservations.

NNDF's Target Market (TM) consists of Native Americans who live in northeast Washington State, with a particular focus on Okanogan, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties. These five adjacent counties encompass the Colville and Spokane Reservations, small adjoining communities, as well as the city of Spokane. The Reservations, which are NNDF's primary TM, and Spokane MSA have a combined Native population of 31,641 (2012-2016 ACS). Both Reservations are characterized by extreme economic distress with limited private sector economies.

NNDF's loan products and development services have created new economic opportunities for hundreds of tribal members. They have brought a number of new services and preserved existing ones in our isolated communities. From 2015 to 2017, at least 23 tribal members avoided payday lenders by obtaining an NNDF consumer loan. Microenterprise and small business loans, coupled with Indianpreneurship trainings, helped to create or retain 269 jobs and create 15 new businesses on the Reservations. Over 126 individuals have increased their financial skills by completing one or more of NNDF's personal financial management trainings, as measured through pre- and post-training tests.

The Bunkhouse Hotel in Montana

The Bunkhouse Hotel, located in Jackson, Montana, a short drive from the mountains nestled between the continental divide trail, ski resorts, and a number of natural hot springs, makes the perfect getaway for any traveler seeking solitude and relaxation. Visiting the hotel now it is easy to understand the vision Rick Harwood had when he decided to take on the project of turning the lodge into a hotel. However, local and national banks did not share the vision and the project nearly missed being grounded on take-off. Due to unfortunate circumstances, Mr. Harwood's credit had taken a terrible hit a few years earlier and it seemed that there was little to no chance that funding would be available. That was until February 2015 when Rick contacted Northwest Native Development Fund (NNDF).



Project Highlights

- Median Income Compared to Area Median Income (AMI): 70.6%
- Unemployment Rate: : 5.9 – 9.8% on Colville Reservation
- Poverty Rate: 21.2%
- Non-Metropolitan Statistical Area
- Persistent Poverty County
- Jobs created or retained: 348

At the time, the soon-to-be hotel had seen better days, standing as merely a "shell" with no plumbing, heating system, or walls of any kind. Harwood saw potential, and after a few favors and putting in hours hammer to nail, the Bunkhouse Hotel opened in May 2015. Today, the Bunkhouse is a fully licensed hotel, eatery, tavern, laundromat, and even houses the town's U.S. Post Office in the front lobby.

Since working with NNDF on credit counseling, Rick was able to rebuild his credit nearly 100 points and reestablish his historically good credit. The Bunkhouse Hotel and Rick Harwood serve as a paradigm to the success the Native CDFI industry works towards every day. This is all made possible by the funding available to the CDFI industry such as the NACA program which will allow NNDF to revise and possibly provide new loan terms for Rick and help many other loan clients.