



Taku

ota wašte
(many good things)



Four-Year Report

2012-2015

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SHAKOPEE MDEWAKANTON SIOUX
COMMUNITY CENTER

2012-2015 Brought **Many Good Things**

2012 brought change to the Business Council. Chairman Stanley R. Crooks was elected to an unprecedented sixth term as Chairman. Charlie Vig, then-Chairman of the Board of the Gaming Enterprise, was elected Vice-Chairman for his first term on the Business Council. Secretary/Treasurer Keith B. Anderson joined them for his third term.

Our friend and leader Stanley Crooks crossed over to the Spirit World in August 2012. Vice-Chairman Charlie Vig ascended to the role of Chairman, and Secretary/Treasurer Keith B. Anderson filled the role of Vice-Chairman. A special election brought back an experienced Secretary/Treasurer, Lori K. Watso, who previously held the post from 2000-2004.

With a commitment to the Community as strong as ever, we began a new chapter in the SMSC's story and are proud to be here. Chairman Crooks left a legacy of leadership that has challenged all of us as members of this proud sovereign nation. Accepting this challenge, Community members have been catalysts for continued progress. Your

participation in the newly-formed work groups has led to exciting developments in planning everything from our Community's Night to Unite event to our financial future. As members of the Business Council, we have appreciated your ideas, input and involvement.

In 2012, we collectively began work on a 10-year plan with a 20-year vision for our Community, government and enterprises — a plan that has already started to yield results. For example, to focus on our priority of economic diversification, we developed a tribally-limited liability company that owns the new JW Marriott hotel at Mall of America, which opened in December 2015.

The Business Council has committed significant time to strengthening tribal sovereignty and the cultural values that will sustain us and future generations of Dakota people. Examples include the reacquisition of Pe' Sla in the Black Hills in collaboration with other Sioux tribes; the development of schematic designs for an SMSC Cultural Center; leadership in furthering federal labor legislation that puts tribes

on an equal footing with state governments; and the creation of Seeds of Native Health, our national campaign to improve nutrition in Indian Country.

In addition, we are more focused than ever before on partnerships, which are key to our future success. Our collaboration with Canterbury Park has replaced our lobbying battles against them at the Minnesota Capitol. This connection has led to another opportunity, RiverSouth, in which we're working with Canterbury, Valleyfair, the Renaissance Festival, and other neighbors to cross-promote our southwest metro attractions.

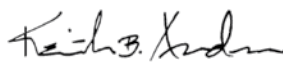
We are busier than ever before, have better relationships with our neighbors, and have made steady headway in our commitments to Indian Country, the environment, the local economy, and our culture.

Many good things have been accomplished with the help of you, the Community members, and we should all look forward to continued progress over the coming years.

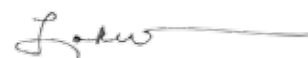
SMSC BUSINESS COUNCIL



Chairman
Charlie Vig



Vice-Chairman
Keith B. Anderson



Secretary/Treasurer
Lori K. Watso

Business Council



Top: The Business Council elected in 2012, including (from left to right) the late-Chairman Stanley Crooks, then-Vice-Chairman Charlie Vig, and then-Secretary/Treasurer Keith B. Anderson.

Bottom: After the passing of Chairman Stanley Crooks in August 2012, Charlie Vig (right) became Chairman, Keith B. Anderson (left) became Vice-Chairman, and Lori K. Watso was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community experienced a significant loss when, after two decades of leading the tribe, **Chairman Stanley Crooks** passed away at age 70 on August 25, 2012.

Chairman **Stanley R. Crooks**

Beginnings

Chairman Crooks grew up at the Upper Sioux Community in Granite Falls, Minnesota. When he couldn't afford college, he joined the U.S. Navy, and afterward studied drafting at a Minneapolis vocational school. After moving to the SMSC in 1970, he commuted daily from the reservation to the Whirlpool plant in St. Paul. He later used his business skills to help the Prairie Island Indian Community establish Treasure Island Resort and Casino, one of his many efforts to bolster all tribal nations.

His work

Like his father Norman M. Crooks, Stanley Crooks committed much of his life to the Community, and he was determined to help the tribe become self-sufficient while promoting Indian Country nationwide. Known for his decisiveness, quick humor, perseverance, and tenacious support of tribal sovereignty, Chairman Crooks was reelected to his sixth four-year term eight months prior to his death.

Chairman Crooks led the SMSC through a time of exceptional growth and progress. He spearheaded the development of the Shakopee Dakota Convenience Stores, Dakotah Meadows RV Park, Dakotah! Sport and Fitness, Playworks child care, Dakotah Meadows Mini Storage, the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel Store at the Mall of America, The Meadows at Mystic Lake, the Organics Recycling Facility, Mazopiya natural food market, SMSC Water Bottling, and Wozupi Tribal Gardens. He was also the driving force behind a green energy partnership between the SMSC and Rahr Malting in Shakopee called Koda Energy, as well as a \$14.5 million grant to the University of Minnesota that funded the Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza at TCF Bank Stadium and scholarships to native students.

His legacy

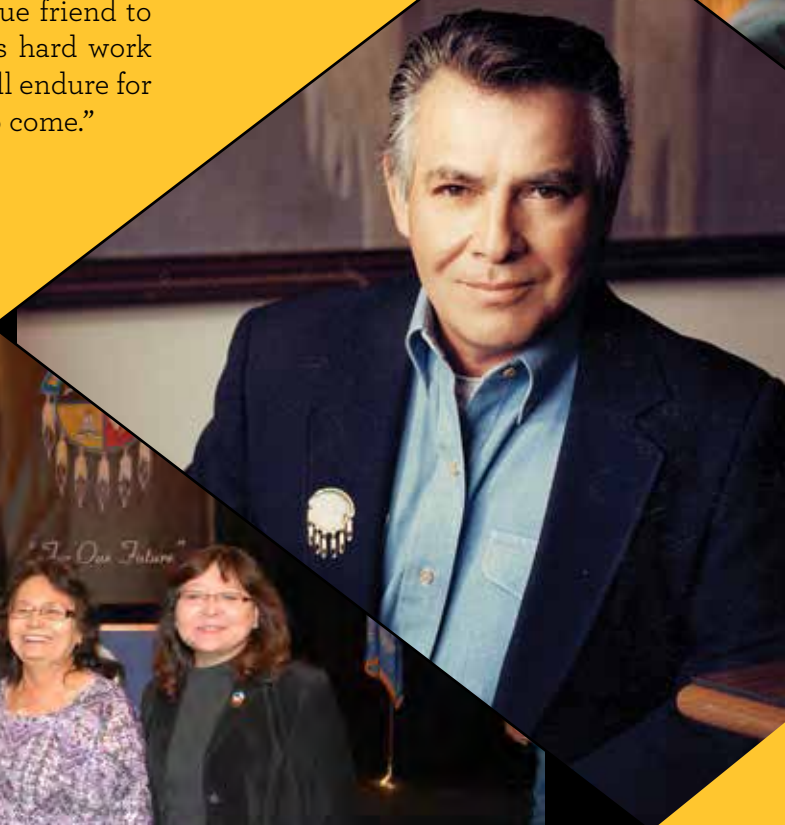
“Chairman Stanley Crooks was a leader in every sense of the word,” said Chairman Charlie Vig, who was Vice-Chairman during Crooks’ final eight months in office. “He championed many of the priorities that the SMSC continues to focus on – tribal sovereignty, economic development, and environmental stewardship. We continue to be thankful to him.”

Under his leadership, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community donated more than \$243 million to tribes and charitable organizations and loaned more than \$450 million to tribes across the country for economic and community development. Fueled by his passion for the traditional Dakota value of giving, the SMSC became the most generous philanthropist to Indian Country and one of the largest philanthropists in Minnesota. As Chairman Crooks was known to say: “We feel we have an obligation to help others. It’s part of our culture as Dakota people.”

Recognitions

A prominent figure in Indian Country, he served as the Chairman of the Minnesota Indian Gaming Association and as the SMSC representative to the National Indian Gaming Association and the National Congress of American Indians. His advocacy on behalf of the SMSC and national tribal sovereignty has had a lasting impact on tribal rights. He garnered several awards and honors for his work, including Tribal Leader of the Year from the Native American Finance Officers Association and the National Indian Gaming Association Wendell Chino Award.

“Stan dedicated himself to improving the lives of others. He was a visionary and a fierce defender of tribal sovereignty,” SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson said. “He was a mentor, colleague, and true friend to me. The legacy of his hard work and dedication will endure for generations to come.”





Chairman Charlie Vig

Chairman Vig is serving his first term on the Business Council. He previously served for 14 years on the Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors, and was Board chairman at the time he was elected to the Business Council. Earlier in his career, he worked his way up from project manager to vice president of facilities at Mystic Lake, and before that he was in the construction business. Chairman Vig and his wife Donna have five children and five grandchildren.

What accomplishments are you most proud of in the last four years?

I'm proudest of our members coming together through the Community member work groups. The work groups have strengthened our sense of Community and helped us set priorities and plan for our future.

What are you most excited about for the SMSC's youngest members?

I'm really happy about the progress of our Dakota language efforts in our Montessori school. Hearing our kids speak the language makes me hopeful for our culture and our future. It has been wonderful watching the Youth Leadership Council take root and grow, embracing our culture and working to impact our Community.

What are you most passionate about?

Building relationships with Community members, neighbors, and partners who share our values is a high priority for me. Whether it is another tribal government, city, county, state agency, nonprofit, or business organization, I see the potential for a lot more progress. Our relationships with Mall of America, Canterbury, and Marriott are good examples.

What was your favorite past job?

I've always liked working with my hands. When I worked on a brick job, I saw a pile of bricks when I arrived, but when I left I could see whatever we had created. In addition to being a bricklayer, I also worked at a motorcycle shop, managed rental property, and still have a campground.

How do you like to spend your limited free time?

I love to spend time with my family. It's amazing what I learn from listening to my grandchildren and watching them grow. They are our future. I also love being a pilot.



Vice-Chairman

Keith B. Anderson

Vice-Chairman Anderson is serving his third elected four-year term on the Business Council. He has been Vice-Chairman since 2012, after being Secretary/Treasurer for eight years. Previously he served on the Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors for seven years, including five years as Chairman. He is married to Lisa and has a son (Dylan), a daughter (Katie), two stepchildren (Andra and Alexa), and one grandchild (Cody).

What Community accomplishments are you most excited about from the past four years?

Our completion of a 10-year plan, the establishment of the work groups, and lobbying Congress are already helping improve our Gaming Enterprise, our communications with Community members, and decision-making on the direction this Community wants to go.

What are you most passionate about?

I am very passionate about raising awareness of tribal sovereignty among elected officials and the general public. The SMSC's continued support of reaching out to help others in need, and the programs that evolve from those efforts, are important to me.

Our culture and striving to achieve true sovereignty, and upholding the education of our children will allow them to be successful and carry us into the future.

What makes serving on the Business Council special?

The Business Council serves the General Council, and at their direction. This is both an honor and a responsibility. I take that very seriously. Commitment, dedication, values, and the obligation of looking out for our members — that's special.

What was your favorite job before being a part of the Business Council?

One of my favorite jobs was working in the forests of Northern Minnesota, when I worked for the U.S. Forestry Department. The following spring, my work outdoors continued on the survey crew for MnDOT.



Secretary/Treasurer

Lori K. Watso

Lori Watso has served twice as Secretary/Treasurer of the SMSC, from 2000-2004 and again since September 2012. She previously served on the Gaming Commission and on the tribe's education and enrollment committees. She has also been a driving force behind the SMSC's healthy food initiatives. Lori and her husband, Watso, together have five children and three grandchildren.

What issue are you most passionate about?

I'm most passionate about clean food. Clean food leads to good health, which leads to strong individuals and healthy families. This is a crucial component in sustainable Native communities.

What is the most exciting decision the SMSC has made in the last four years?

There are many, but the investment in the Mall of America hotel project is a huge step in our Community's economic diversification. In addition, Seeds of Native Health is an unprecedented initiative to develop a coordinated national effort to address the nutritional crisis in Native country. It's been very exciting and something our Community can be proud of!

What accomplishment in the past four years are you most proud of?

The Community work groups affirm how important our members' ideas and collaboration are in shaping the future of the SMSC.

What would you like the general public to know about the SMSC?

Not only is the SMSC here; we have always been here. And because we care so much about this place, we were able to survive a long time with very little. That's why when we've seen opportunities to become successful and give back to the earth and other people, we haven't held back.

What are your hopes for the SMSC's future?

My hope is for good health for Community members, along with peace and friendship with our neighbors. If we truly commit to working on these things, they are possible.

What was your favorite job before serving on the Business Council?

I loved being a labor and delivery nurse. I was very fortunate to be a part of such a happy time for so many people.

What are your hobbies?

I like to ride on the motorcycle with my husband, and ride my Buddy scooter.

General Council's **Key Action Items**

The General Council is the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's electorate — the voting body made up of Community members 18 and older. The General Council takes an active role in decisions related to economic development, philanthropic initiatives, and partnerships that have a local and national impact. Below is a timeline of their key accomplishments.



2012

March: Tribal loan to the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Oglala Sioux Tribe

May: Liquor Ordinance Amendment, the Joint Marketing Agreement with Canterbury, and Investment with BringMeTheNews

September: Tribal loan to the Red Lake Nation and authorization to purchase lands in the Black Hills of South Dakota, known as Pe' Sla

November: Community member tax preparation program



2013

March: Additional authorization to purchase lands near Pe' Sla, authorization to acquire land within Sakpe's Historic Village, and the Clean Indoor Air Proposal

May: Authorization to invest in the Mall of America Hotel project

September: Tribal loan to the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

November: Youth Leadership Council, Mall of America Investment — Retail, Community member tax preparation program, and tribal loan to the Omaha Tribe





2014

March: Additional Investment with BringMeTheNews

July: Conservation Ordinance, Tribal Conservation Officer/Tribal Law Enforcement Ordinance, SMSC Tort Claims Ordinance update, and SMSC Tribal Employment and Labor Relations Ordinance

September: Conservation Ordinance

November: Cultural Center feasibility study and tribal loan to the Eastern Shoshone Tribe



2015

January: Clean Indoor Air Proposal amendment and tribal loan to Sokaogon Chippewa Community

March: Tribal loans to the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

May: Architectural fees for the Mystic Lake Casino Hotel project, Civilian Review Board Ordinance, Business Leasing Ordinance (HEARTH Act), and tribal loans to Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate and the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Chippewa

July: Architectural fees for schematic design for Cultural Center, the purchase of homes and businesses along County Road 83, and additional land purchase

September: Mystic Lake Hotel/Convention Center Addition and amendments to Conservation and Fish and Game Ordinance



E-cigarette use was banned on certain SMSC property in 2015.

Youth Leadership Council **Impacting the Community**

Youth from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) are eager to make a difference. Today, they have more opportunities to do so than ever before. The SMSC General Council created the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) in November 2013, and the group of motivated teens began meeting weekly the following February.

Their mission: Striving to create a better Community by embracing our seven Dakota values, supporting one another in our educational endeavors, challenging each other, and encouraging responsible behavior so that we can be positive role models for future generations.

The YLC promotes individual development, leadership, citizenship and empowerment through peer mentorship, as well as Community building and involvement. The members learn about history, culture, and tribal government, as well as healthy choices and effective decision-making. They aim to live the seven Dakota values of respect, humility, wisdom, prayer, generosity, caring and honesty. In addition, they focus on improving their social and leadership skills, financial literacy, and service to others.

YLC members want to better their Community, according to Chairperson Summer Brooks. "I joined the YLC because I wanted to make a difference and have an impact on youth." 2014-2015 Activities Coordinator Rosemma Mosley said, "I joined YLC to prove that kids can do something — they can make change."

Activities

The YLC has been active throughout the Community and beyond. They have attended leadership training, including the Gathering of Native Americans leadership conference and Summer Brooks' attendance at the White House Tribal Nations Conference as a Youth Ambassador. They have fundraised and volunteered for charities, including Feed My Starving Children and Little Earth of United Tribes, and attended local and national



gatherings, including the Minnesota National College Fair and the We Day Minnesota celebration for youth activists.

The YLC members are also leaders amongst their peers, encouraging the younger children to participate in Community activities. They have organized lock-ins, open houses, and celebrations specifically for the youth to promote positive choices, leadership, connection and support within the Community – the Dakota values in action.

“The active participation of our youth is critical to the future success of the SMSC. The more they learn about our Community now and come to understand the cultural values we stand for,

the stronger our Community will be in the decades to come,” said SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig.

And, the YLC’s long list of activities is just the beginning. They will continue to work on their goals through Community outreach and youth mentoring. The lessons learned from the Washington D.C. United National Indian Tribal Youth Conference are reflected in their activities, including a donation drive for reservations in need, mentorship activities with youth in the Community, and outreach and collaboration with other Native communities.



Work Groups Helping Shape **Community's Future**

Through nine work groups formed in 2012, dozens of Community members are actively involved in planning the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community's future.

“The work groups have encouraged Community members to make their voices heard, from coming up with ideas to carrying out our master plan,” Chairman Charlie Vig said. “Understanding and listening to Community members is crucial to the success of the SMSC.”

One of the groups' first changes was to develop strategic goals and ideas for the Community's Master Plan under the nine chosen strategic initiatives. Those initiatives, along with a Community survey, were the framework for the SMSC's Master Plan, a long-term planning document created in June 2013.

Accomplishments

The objective has been to make sure Community members have a say in the SMSC's overarching goals, including the Business Council's annual priorities. Led by Community members, the informal work groups have recently been playing advisory roles in the development of a planned SMSC Cultural Center, the business leasing ordinance, a land use plan, and other initiatives.

“The work groups provide a unique opportunity for Community members to not only share their opinions directly with staff and other Community members, but to see that their opinions matter,” said Community member Ashley Cornforth of the Communication and Ordinance Work Group. “It's a great way to get involved, and I actually get to see the impact my work has.”

Along with being that group's leader, she is now involved in the work groups focused on economic development, as well as health, wellness and safety. Cornforth said she joined to

play a more significant role in Community development and make sure there are open lines of communication between Community members, the Business Council, and the various enterprises and departments.

Community member and SMSC Wellness Administrator Joanna Bryant has similar goals for the groups. “The more people who join these groups, the more valuable they will become,” said Bryant, who leads the Health, Wellness and Safety Work Group. “From staffing to programming to facilities, the work groups provide another important layer of Community member input that helps shape the SMSC's future.”

Priorities

The groups have established several priorities, such as achieving a 100-percent graduation rate among Community members, improving the health and safety of Community members, and encouraging them to be more involved in General Council meetings. They also help guide the tribe's

charitable giving. The Infrastructure and Community Assets Work Group helped designate \$350,000 in grants to area cities to build and improve trails, while the Health, Wellness and Safety Work Group allotted 34 public safety grants to tribal and local governments.

The Natural Resources and the Infrastructure and Community Assets work groups contribute to the Capital Improvement Plan that annually identifies the costs of maintaining Community infrastructure. The Finance Work Group plans to introduce ongoing financial planning sessions for Community members and establish an all-encompassing financial sustainability plan for the SMSC.

Other priorities include creating and implementing programs to foster healthy communities, offering educational opportunities on the Community's culture and history, and preserving and sharing the SMSC's history.

"From staffing to programming to facilities, the work groups provide another important layer of Community member input that helps shape the SMSC's future."

Joanna Bryant,
SMSC Wellness Administrator



9 Strategic Initiatives

*Communication and Ordinance
Culture and History Preservation | Finance
Economic Development | Sharing Resources
Health, Wellness and Safety | Natural Resources
Infrastructure and Community Assets | Education*

SMSC Commemorates 150 Years Since U.S.-Dakota War

With the 150th anniversary of the U.S.-Dakota War on his mind just two weeks before his passing in 2012, late-SMSC Chairman Stanley Crooks reflected on his experience as a descendant of the Dakota who survived. He acknowledged how the SMSC remembered that trauma, commemorated its Dakota ancestors, and promoted healing.

In a 15-page booklet published after his death, Crooks talked about “how tribes lived before the white man came,” when the Dakota people subsisted on the land. Their homeland of 24 million acres provided them with buffalo, venison, berries and medicine, he recalled.

By the 1800s, the Dakota felt pressure from two sides: the Ojibwe migrating from the north and white settlers encroaching from the east.

Tension between the Dakota and the U.S. government culminated in a brief and bloody war in August 1862. The largest mass execution in American history followed on Dec. 26, 1862, when 38 Dakota warriors were hanged in Mankato, Minnesota. The Dakota Nation was left decimated, scattered and caged. Many were forcibly marched to a concentration camp at Fort Snelling in St. Paul for what proved to be a deadly winter. Then-Minnesota Gov. Alexander Ramsey called for the extermination of the Dakota, and he nearly got his wish. Some Dakota were pushed out of the state; others were imprisoned, interned or executed. In exile, hundreds of Dakota died from disease and starvation.

The culture of the Eastern Dakota faded, and the Santee were further divided as some clung to the old ways and others adopted those brought by the Europeans. The Dakota people lived in squalor for decades, suffering continued relocations and mistreatment.

Honoring the victims

Starting in 1982, the SMSC began to experience some recovery. Facing a brighter future, the SMSC continues to find ways to honor the past.

In 2012, the SMSC contributed \$60,000 to build a memorial, which was dedicated Dec. 26, 2012, at Reconciliation Park in Mankato, where the 38 Dakota warriors were hanged.



The SMSC supported the 2012 Dakota Commemorative March, where every two years people walk to honor the women, children and elders who were forced to march 150 miles during the winter of 1862.

SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig, Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso, and several SMSC tribal members marked the exile and subsequent return of the Dakota people during the special dedication event.

“Dakota people are truly resilient,” Chairman Vig said. “Looking at what has happened to the Dakota Nation over the last 150 years, I feel proud of where we are today and honored to be a part of our recovery and success.”

SMSC Community member Allene Ross reflected on her experience participating in the Commemorative March in 2014, walking from the Lower Sioux Indian Community in southwestern Minnesota to Fort Snelling in St. Paul. At each mile, Ross and other participants posted a stake, read the names of the victims aloud, put down tobacco, and left a prayer.

She said at the time, “I gained a sense of appreciation for our ancestors who made that treacherous march; for everything they had to endure.”

“I was told this walk is about healing and forgiveness; I wouldn’t have done it for any other reason, except to try and resolve some pain or anger I might carry from the past traumatic stories I’ve been told.”

Allene Ross, Community member



SMSC Helps Reclaim **Sacred Ground**

More than 200 years after the sacred land was taken from them, the Seven Council Fires reclaimed the 1,942 acres in the heart of the Black Hills in western South Dakota, called Pe' Sla. Three tribes, along with the SMSC, are now working on agreements to maintain the land as sacred.

The site of annual sacred ceremonies, Pe' Sla, a word that means many things to many people, is part of the Lakota creation story and, historically, hosted many village gatherings. The 1851 and 1868 Sioux Nation treaties were intended to protect Pe' Sla, the rest of the Black Hills, and most of what became South Dakota; but the U.S. government violated those treaties and seized the land. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun said in a 1981 decision brief, "A more ripe and rank case of dishonest dealings may never be found in our history."

Restoration

Starting a process of restoration, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Crow Creek Sioux Tribe, and the SMSC partnered to purchase the land in November 2012 from the Reynolds family, whose ancestors had settled there in 1876. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe joined after the November closing. The tribes are working together to protect and preserve Pe' Sla for future generations.

"Reclaiming this sacred land was healing for all of the tribes involved, and it's exciting to see the renewal that's already occurred there," SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig said. "Now, we want to make sure Pe' Sla is protected for generations to come."

Two baby bison were born in 2015, bringing Pe' Sla's herd to 26. Bison were brought to the sacred land for the first time in 120 years.



The four tribes are now working to put the land into trust through a federal process that would set aside the land and ensure all tribal members access to it, particularly for ceremonial and prayer purposes. A cooperative law enforcement agreement was developed to allow the tribes, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Pe' Sla's home county (Pennington) to monitor the land and those who visit it.

Pe' Sla's future

In April of 2015, the Indian Land Tenure Foundation honored the SMSC for its role in the recovery of Pe' Sla. SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson accepted the award. In his comments during the ceremony, he spoke about the return of bison to Pe' Sla in 2015 for the first time in 120 years. Two calves were born in the spring of 2015, bringing the bison herd to 26.

"For the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota people, Pe' Sla is one of our most sacred sites. It was a center of life for our ancestors, and will remain important to our descendants," Anderson said. "Exercising our inherent sovereignty to protect this site in the Black Hills has been one of the most significant achievements for our people in modern times. It will help preserve our way of life for our future generations."

SMSC Takes Stand Against Washington NFL Team Name

When the Vikings hosted the Washington NFL team in Minnesota on November 2, 2014, the SMSC helped lead the largest national rally to date to change the visiting team's name.

The event was held at the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium and adjoining Tribal Nations Plaza, which the SMSC helped construct with a \$10 million donation.

Media outlets from around the country covered the rally. About 5,000 people, including Community members and friends, turned out on a chilly fall morning to hear from more than 30 local and national leaders urging the team to change its name. Among the speakers were SMSC Business Council members, U.S. representatives Betty McCollum and Keith Ellison, former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, civil rights organizer Clyde Bellecourt, sports legends Henry Boucha and Joey Browner, and Oneida Indian Nation representative Ray Halbritter, the leader of the national Change the Mascot campaign.

"Our longtime partnership with the SMSC continues to strengthen our commitment to diversity, which was so important in the efforts leading up to the Minnesota-Washington football game," said University Vice President of Equity and Diversity Katrice Albert.

"This game provides the ideal teachable moment to educate Minnesotans and perhaps all Americans about the pain that racial slurs create for Native people," said Chairman Charlie Vig at the rally. "Anti-Indian sentiment is a roadblock in our efforts to tackle the tragic health, education, and economic disparities that still exist in Indian Country. While our tribes are better understood today than at any time in the state's history, we still have a long way to go."

Chairman Vig and the leaders of seven other Minnesota tribes co-authored a game-day guest editorial in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune*, calling on the Washington team to change its name.

The SMSC and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe also sponsored the broadcast of a 30-second television ad protesting the name just before kickoff. It was based on a two-minute video originally produced by the National Congress of American Indians before the 2014 Super Bowl.



Business Council members and U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum



The video can be viewed at shakopeedakota.org.

New Video and Display Build Awareness of **SMSC's Culture** and Priorities

In 2013, the SMSC surveyed Twin Cities residents to better gauge their understanding of our tribe. The survey results demonstrated that people predominantly knew the SMSC as the tribe that owns Mystic Lake, with limited knowledge of our other enterprises, our culture, or our philanthropic work.

The SMSC has enhanced its strategic approach and communications efforts related to sponsorships, donations, environmental efforts, partnerships, media relations, and more. A significant element of these efforts is a new public display at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel showcasing the tribe's history, culture and values.

"Our hope in creating the display and video was to provide new ways for our neighbors and visitors to better understand our Community as a sovereign nation, good neighbor, and proud community with a living culture," said SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso.

The display's six panels highlight the SMSC's history, culture, and core values related to land stewardship, philanthropy, partnerships, and job creation. Through facts, photos and stories, it serves as an interactive way to educate people about the SMSC.

A fundamental part of the display is a new 20-minute video. From Wozupi Tribal Gardens to Koda Energy; Native American scholarships to compost donations; road infrastructure to public safety mutual aid agreements, the video illustrates the SMSC as a sovereign nation that invests in building partnerships, tending the earth, and sharing.

"Whether people have two minutes to browse the display or 20 minutes to watch the whole video, they will come away knowing more about who the SMSC is and what values the Community represents," said Tribal Administrator Bill Rudnicki.

In addition, several libraries across the metro area now offer copies of the video, and many schools are including it in their diversity curricula.

"We heard from teachers who are enthusiastic to have a new tool to help teach Native American history, especially the modern role of tribes in our country," Rudnicki said.

Local partners, including the mayors of Shakopee and Prior Lake and University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler, appear in the video. Also included are Community members, members of the Business Council, numerous employees, and several other local leaders.



Witaya Care Helps Ensure **Better Health Care**

At the SMSC, we are fortunate to have access to a wide variety of services. But until recently, Community members' experiences at specialty clinics and hospitals were inconsistent. Challenges with patient record transfers to St. Francis Regional Medical Center resulted in medication errors, duplication of diagnostic tests, and unnecessary costs. Also troubling, Community members felt their treatment wasn't culturally-sensitive.

"One of the most significant health care barriers for Native Americans is a lack of understanding and trust in non-Native health care organizations," said SMSC Wellness Administrator Joanna Bryant. "The SMSC is working hard to change that, and the results have already been positive."

The program

The SMSC formalized the Witaya Care program with St. Francis in 2012 to achieve more culturally-sensitive care, improve patient outcomes and satisfaction, as well as reduce service duplication and costs. All SMSC members are eligible to participate.

Once a patient consents to participate, their records are flagged with a unique treatment plan identifier and the SMSC's Care Navigation team is notified. They collaborate with the hospital and specialty providers to coordinate care. Another key aspect of Witaya Care is data-sharing, which allows for real-time information to be exchanged among the SMSC's providers, St. Francis' hospital and specialty clinics, and St. Gertrude's - which became a Witaya Care partner in 2014.

Benefits of Witaya Care

- Care Navigation to help coordinate the member's healing experiences.
- Shared health care information between all facilities.
- A unique treatment plan, including culturally-sensitive care.
- A network of preferred leading healthcare providers, specialists and services.

Better experiences, better results

Since the start of Witaya Care, participants have reported improvements in care and satisfaction, and program administrators have noted significant decreases in hospital admissions, ER visits, and insurance costs.

"Witaya Care accomplishes what many others in health care are trying to achieve - improve outcomes and experiences for program participants," said St. Gertrude's CEO Rick Meyer.

Witaya Care also includes cultural sensitivity training for more than 300 St. Francis nurses about the hospital's policy allowing Native American patients to burn sage, instituted at the urging of the SMSC.

"Witaya Care is the only program of its kind in the country, and we already have interest from Blue Cross and Blue Shield and other tribes in using our program as a health care model," said Bryant. "SMSC members should be proud that they created their own cost-effective health care model that incorporates the spiritual, emotional, and social values of the Dakota culture."

Witaya Care received the 2014 Allina Best Care Award and the 2014 Minnesota Hospital Association's Community Benefit Award.



WITAYA CARESM

"wee-tah-yah:"
Dakota for "coming together"



Culture Continues to Unite Our Community

Dakota culture has been flourishing at the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, and Community members are working to give it an even stronger foothold.

Dakota ways have been infused throughout the Community. A traditional medicine garden was planted at Wozupi Tribal Gardens in 2015. A native Dakota speaker is teaching the language to Community members. In part with the hope of reviving a traditional connection with horses, Community members took part in horse camps in the spring of 2015. The horses facilitated healing therapy sessions, with support from certified equine specialists. The Speaking as Relatives series that included guest speakers also sought the reclamation of Dakota culture, including horse regalia and culture.

“Culture is a way of life based upon the teachings of our Grandmothers and how we relate to one another, how we relate to our environment and relate to ourselves,” said Community member Allene Ross. “Those teachings need to be preserved, our stories and language need to be restored, and our culture protected for future generations.”

A place for culture

Since September 2012, a Community member work group has been developing plans for a Cultural Center that would provide a centralized location for generations to honor their past and prepare for the future.

The concept of a Cultural Center has existed for decades at the SMSC. Hočokata ti next to the SMSC Community

Center was originally dedicated in 1984 as a Cultural Center. Since then, it has housed a variety of operations, such as gaming and a restaurant, but returned to its original purpose in October 2013. The Hočokata ti has provided a space for Dakota language classes, Dakota values gatherings, and various events.

Community member Steve Florez remembers seeing the tipi poles of the Hočokata ti go up. He remembers when it turned into a gaming space and worked there when it was a restaurant. For Florez, having a building devoted to culture is as important as introducing children to the drum at an early age.

“They become drawn to the drum, as they will be drawn to their culture,” Florez said. “A Cultural Center will help expose the kids to the Dakota ways. Like the drum, they will be able to feel their heritage, understand, and know who they are.”

The SMSC made major strides in developing a design for a new facility in 2015. In January 2015, members of the History and Culture Preservation Work Group and SMSC staff toured tribal and non-tribal cultural centers in Colorado and Arizona to learn more about what works well and what the SMSC could approach differently. The work group then provided its findings to the SMSC General Council, and continued to integrate feedback from their fellow Community members into the design.

“We are at our best when everyone gets involved and focuses on our culture and future. We must give our best effort every day to continue to be a strong Dakota nation.”

Community member Andy Vig



Embracing **Dakota Culture** through Education

To encourage children to embrace their heritage, the SMSC has incorporated more Dakota culture into its educational and child care programs.

Community youth have been ambassadors for Dakota customs. They have become involved in traditional dance, cultural activities, and the Dakota language. The SMSC youth royalty travel to various events to share Dakota culture and traditions.

Continuing Dakota education

The SMSC's Education Department continues the Dakota legacy with numerous Dakota language-based activities. Events, such as Young Native Pride and Culture Camp, embody what it means to be Dakota, with language practice and culture-based activities, including building drums and playing Dakota games. A ritual often accompanied by prayer, the students practice smudging daily — burning sage or other traditional medicines, wafting the smoke over their bodies to cleanse and center themselves.

Playworks, the SMSC's child care center, also began teaching basic Dakota language skills in November 2015.

The SMSC's entities integrate the language into learning through Dakota language classes and activities, and signs with Dakota words are hung throughout the classrooms. The SMSC has offered adult Dakota language classes to the Community as well.

Introduction of a Montessori school

Dakota culture in educational programs began when one SMSC Community member presented the idea of a Montessori school. After much research, The Children's House opened in November 2012, with an emphasis on culturally-appropriate teachings for young children.

"In the beginning, we provided a lot of parent education, because Montessori was a new concept for the SMSC," said Children's House Manager Lisa Havlicek.

The Montessori philosophy educates children physically, socially, emotionally and cognitively through activities using all five senses. Students learn at their own pace and choose their own hands-on activities to help them discover things on their own and remember what they're learning.

"The Montessori program has instilled in the children a love of learning," said Amy Donaldson, Playworks director.

The parents of the Montessori children have expressed appreciation for the Montessori system as well. "He has been more independent," said Community member Stacie Didion, whose son Dax is in the Montessori program. "It has been a wonderful experience. Dax has really enjoyed attending."





Charitable Giving

A strong tradition of helping others has defined the Dakota people for generations. Honoring that tradition, the SMSC has continuously invested in its people, neighbors, organizations and tribes across the state and country.

Today, the SMSC is the largest philanthropic benefactor for Indian Country nationally, and one of the largest charitable givers in Minnesota. Since the 1980s, the SMSC has donated more than \$325 million to organizations and causes, provided \$500 million in economic development loans to other tribes, and contributed millions more to support regional governments and infrastructure.

From 2012-2015, the SMSC was on pace to give approximately \$100 million – supporting regional efforts that include roads, infrastructure, and emergency services, as well as Native American tribes, nonprofits, and other organizations nationwide.

Partnering with Minneapolis



Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso, former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, and others at a bee donation event.



In 2013, the SMSC began a partnership with the City of Minneapolis to further its commitment of being a good steward of the earth. The partnership began with a honeybee donation from the SMSC's Wozupi, filling Minneapolis City Hall's green roof with a healthy population of pollinators.

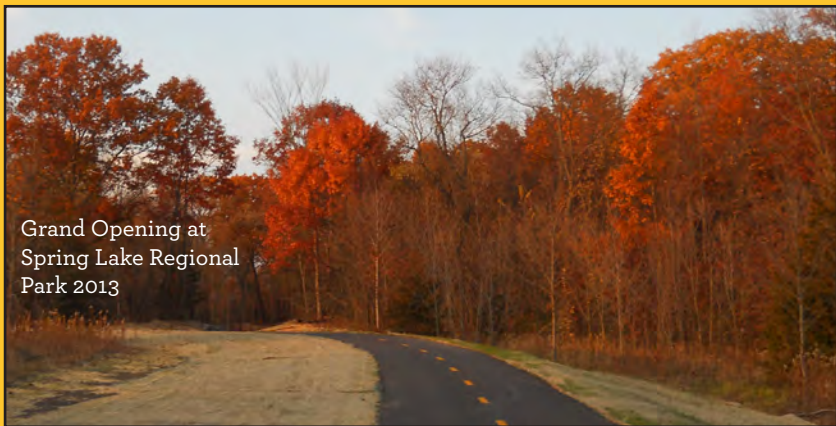
In 2014, the SMSC again partnered with the City of Minneapolis in an effort to find more sustainable ways to grow food. Using biochar – a charcoal-like material combined with compost at the Organics Recycling Facility – the SMSC supported five test gardens researching the possibility of using biochar to improve plant growth and soil health. Some of the fresh produce from those gardens has gone to programs that feed the local Native American community.

SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig and Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges signed an agreement to demonstrate the effectiveness of biochar on demonstration gardens in Minneapolis. Biochar is a material that the SMSC Organics Recycling Facility combines with compost to improve soil quality.





The SMSC Business Council helped cut the ribbon at the newly-improved Pike Lake Trail in Prior Lake in October 2015. Pictured from left to right are: Prior Lake Rotary Club President Joe Dols, Chairman Charlie Vig, Prior Lake Mayor Ken Hedberg, Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso, and Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson.



Grand Opening at
Spring Lake Regional
Park 2013

Trail Grants Initiative

The SMSC awarded \$366,000 in grants to develop and improve public pedestrian trails across Scott County in 2014. On the recommendation of Community members who serve on the Natural Resources and Infrastructure work groups, the cities of Elko New Market, New Prague, Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee were selected as recipients.



Each spring, SMSC representatives join University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler and graduating SMSC scholarship recipients for a celebration and blanket ceremony.

Supporting Native American Students

Since 2009, nearly 200 Native American students have benefitted from a University of Minnesota endowment scholarship made possible by the SMSC. Sixty-nine of them were enrolled in the 2015-2016 academic year: 48 undergraduate students and 21 graduate students representing more than 40 tribal nations across the U.S. Using a \$2.5 million gift from the SMSC, the University of Minnesota matches the tribe's gift, providing scholarships for Native American students who demonstrate financial need.

“These scholarships make a real difference in the lives of so many,” University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler said. “We value very much the SMSC’s contributions and friendship with the University of Minnesota.”

American Indian College Fund

In 2012, the SMSC donated an additional \$585,000 to the American Indian College Fund. The funds helped establish a scholarship endowment for Native American students pursuing degrees that would ideally spur business development in Native communities.

Seeds of Native Health Campaign to **Improve** **Indian Nutrition**

In March 2015, the SMSC launched a national campaign to improve Native American nutrition, including partnerships with First Nations Development Institute, the Notah Begay III Foundation, and the University of Minnesota.

The SMSC-led initiative, called Seeds of Native Health, is a first-of-its-kind effort to comprehensively address the dietary problems in Indian Country – from supporting educational campaigns to funding research to improving access to traditional, healthy foods. The SMSC donated \$5 million over two years to launch the campaign.

Generations of extreme poverty and the loss of traditional food have resulted in inadequate diets among many Native Americans, contributing to poor health. Native Americans are twice as likely as the rest of the U.S. population to experience obesity, diabetes, and other nutrition-related health problems. Less than \$1 million is spent by the U.S. government each year on Native American nutrition education.

Branching out to increase awareness

Since the campaign's launch, we have developed additional partnerships with the University of Arkansas School of Law and the American Heart Association. Our partners will increase the reach of our dollars and ensure they are put to best use.

We have already worked with our partners to award hundreds of thousands of dollars in grants to organizations that are contributing to improvements in Native nutrition.

“The donation from the SMSC has helped make possible the construction of a new health and wellness center, as well as a workforce training and technology building. These new facilities will help us build a healthier and stronger campus community.”

Justin P. Guillory, NWIC President



From left to right: SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso; University of Minnesota College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences Dean Brian Buhr; SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson; and Notah Begay III Foundation Founder Notah Begay. The group kicked off Seeds of Native Health.

Mobile Unit

Since 2007, the SMSC has brought free medical, dental and vision care to communities across Minnesota through its Mobile Unit. Continuing the SMSC's goal to support the health of other tribal nations and neighbors in need, the Mobile Unit reaches those who are underserved by the current health care options. Throughout the program, the mobile clinic has served nearly 10,000 people on almost 600 deployments. In 2015, the Mobile Unit visited 15 locations throughout the state.



Public Safety Grants Initiative

In May 2015, the SMSC announced \$535,000 in grants to support public safety agencies from across the state. The 34 grant recipients included tribes and local government agencies with needs ranging from several hundred dollars to \$53,000. The grants will help ensure these Minnesota communities are better prepared to respond to emergencies.

Mdewakanton LIFE

Mdewakanton LIFE, the SMSC's AED donation program, has helped save at least 28 lives since its inception in 2004. Use of Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) is the most effective method to immediately treat sudden cardiac arrests. Organizations across Minnesota are in need of these life-saving devices. Nearly 900 AEDs have been awarded to tribes, schools, police and fire departments, and other organizations through this program, representing a \$1.3 million investment.

Commitment to Indian Country

Much of the SMSC's charitable giving and outreach has focused on serving Native American tribes and causes across the country. Since the 1980s, the SMSC has given nearly \$200 million to Native American communities.

Recent highlights from the SMSC's contributions include a two-year commitment of \$1.5 million to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa to support economic development efforts, \$650,000 in 2013 and \$321,000 in 2014 to the Crow Creek Sioux to improve the tribe's farm, and \$250,000 to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, \$500,000 to Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and \$300,000 to the Yankton Sioux Tribe to allow them to purchase propane for their members during excessive cold weather.

In addition to grants, the SMSC has provided more than \$500 million in loans to tribal governments and organizations since the 1990s, aiding in Native economic development across the country. A 2013 loan helped the Flandreau Sioux open a new community center, and a recent loan to the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa helped to open a new Community Health Center in August 2014.





SMSC Developments 2012-2015



A New Generation of Entertainment Seekers

Gaming Enterprise ahead of trends

From their entertainment offerings to how they treat their team members, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino continue to evolve and improve, while offering a premiere casino-resort experience to its visitors. With its new Let's Go branding campaign, the casino has expanded its marketing efforts to attract a new guest seeking a broader entertainment experience.

Mystic Lake has found new ways to entertain. It increased the showroom entertainment, added the Comedy Club to its lineup, and expanded offerings on the Promenade stage. Large outdoor events were launched in 2013 and 2014, such as The Great Midwest Rib Fest, which brought more than 30,000 attendees in the first year alone. In February 2014, Mystic Lake launched its new brand, Let's Go, including a new website,

advertisements and logo. This campaign is part of the framework for promoting Mystic Lake to the next generation of entertainment seekers.

“The gaming industry is forever changing. I'm proud that our Gaming Enterprise is staying ahead of the trends and continues to offer our guests new and exciting entertainment options,” said former Gaming Board of Directors Chairman Steve Florez. The Gaming Board consists of six Community members who govern the Gaming Enterprises.

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and Little Six Casino began offering alcohol in 2012, part of the SMSC's goal to offer a complete casino-resort entertainment experience.

“The addition of alcohol helped us attract an entertainment-seeking audience outside of our

traditional gamers,” said Gaming Enterprise President and CEO Ed Stevenson.

In May 2012, Community members voted in favor of alcohol sales in the casinos. After many months of planning that included staff training, working with local law enforcement agencies, and refining policies, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel smoothly transitioned into this new phase, starting by offering beer, wine and liquor at Mystic Steakhouse, the Meadows Bar and Grille, and the meeting and convention areas. The change also brought three new feature bars – Drinx, The Lobby Bar, and The Promenade Bar – in March 2013. Little Six Casino began offering alcohol the following year.



Updating the casinos

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel continues to grow. During the last four years, the casino revamped the Grand Ballroom in 2012 and the Mystic Lake Bus Entrance in 2015, while adding a new “Winner’s Zone Stage” in 2015. Adding more food and beverage options, Mystic Buffet was remodeled in 2014, as was the Minnehaha Café in 2012. Mystic Steakhouse was added in 2012, along with Caribou Coffee in 2014. At Little Six Casino, the restaurant was remodeled in 2013, and the slot floor was updated by repositioning the slot machine layout.

Additionally, Mystic Lake is in the process of remodeling its existing hotel rooms, and the General Council has approved adding more hotel rooms and convention facilities to Mystic Lake, with construction expected to begin in 2016.

The SMSC and its Gaming Enterprise continue to be recognized as a leading employer and driver of

the local economy. The Gaming Enterprise was recognized by the *Star Tribune* as a top employer four years in a row from 2011-2014, along with special recognition for its exceptional benefits. The Gaming Enterprise was also named one of the Best Places to Work in 2012 and 2013 by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*. Both awards are earned by receiving exceptional scores from an anonymous survey of employees.

Celebrating 25 years of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the Tribal-State Compact for the Class III Table Games and Video Games of Chance, which made possible tribe-run casinos in Minnesota. Preceded by the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) of 1988, it was meant to strengthen the state’s tribal governments and tribes’ economic self-sufficiency.

The SMSC Gaming Enterprise has come a long way since the original bingo hall opened in 1982.



Organics Recycling Facility

Demonstrates SMSC's Environmental Leadership

Since its inception in 2011, the Organics Recycling Facility (ORF) has significantly contributed to the SMSC's ongoing commitment of caring for the earth.

The compost center takes organic waste such as food, wood chips, and yard waste — some of which might otherwise end up in a landfill — and transforms it into something much more valuable. As compost or mulch, the organic material eventually goes back into the earth, recycling carbon and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The center also grinds and dries wood to produce fuel for Koda Energy, a partnership between the SMSC and Rahr Malting in Shakopee (see story about Koda Energy on page 42).

The facility is constantly finding ways to be a good neighbor, operate more efficiently, and minimize its impact on the environment. In 2012, 144 solar panels were installed, producing more than enough energy to power the shop facility. Equipment updates include an additional wood grinder to keep up with Koda's renewable energy needs, as well as a street sweeper and

sound barriers around its recently-upgraded dryer to reduce dust and noise. The SMSC also constructed additional water treatment ponds with aeration systems at the ORF.

"We don't have a status quo. As a young enterprise with tremendous potential, we're going to keep improving," said Allen Friedges, facility manager.

Compost sources and uses

The composting process allows the SMSC to repurpose its enterprises' food scraps, yard clippings from its Property Services and Public Works departments, and its water reclamation facility's solid waste. The organic waste is either turned into mulch or broken down through a carefully-monitored, natural decomposition process to be made into nutrient-rich compost that resembles dirt. Some of the end products are used to landscape the Gaming properties, fertilize Wozupi's organic farm fields, and maintain The Meadows at Mystic Lake golf course.

The ORF also collects yard and food waste from area residents, contractors, grocery stores, and restaurants, and offers premium compost blends, mulch, and composted manure to buyers throughout the region. In 2014 alone, the ORF received nearly 40,000 tons of waste, which was primarily yard waste. That same year, the ORF's free yard waste program, offered in the spring and fall to Scott County residents, drew 3,350 participants — nearly 1,000 more people than the 2013 count. The ORF is on pace to potentially increase participation again in 2015. Part of the SMSC's commitment to being a good neighbor, the ORF provides free collection services to the cities and schools of Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee.

"Composting food and yard waste is beneficial for the environment and creates a viable, versatile product," Friedges said. "The work we're doing at the ORF is the right thing to do."



Planning Land Use and Our **Next Neighborhood**

As a sovereign tribal government, the SMSC is responsible for meeting the current needs of Community members and anticipating their future needs. This includes strategic planning for neighborhoods; economic development; land for cultural, ceremonial and sustainability activities; and green space. Our plans will help ensure that our descendants have the opportunity to thrive together as a Community for many more generations.

New neighborhood

To meet the tribe's growing housing needs as more members become adults with their own families, the SMSC in 2014 purchased a former agricultural parcel (often called "Menden"), located next to some parcels that we already own. Referred to as ICO (Inyan Ceyaka Otonwe, which means "Little Rapids Village"), it is slated to become a 218-acre neighborhood with up to 90 homes. It will also include a well-planned network of roads, sidewalks, woods and wetlands. The land for this subdivision was part of a trust acquisition request to the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2015.

Other activity

While ICO might be the most well-known area of land that the SMSC is working on, it is just one of the 20 land parcels the tribal government has purchased in the past four years. All of the lands are designated for specific purpose, but the uses range from housing to natural resource protection to spiritual and cultural to commercial.

"Land in trust status provides the best protection to ensure the SMSC's lands will be available for essential purposes for seven generations," said Chairman Charlie Vig, adding that nearly half of the tribe's acreage is held in trust. "The SMSC has proven its ability to responsibly develop and manage its lands using best practices, so that the SMSC and the surrounding region benefit."

What is trust land?

Federal law allows for the Secretary of the Interior, on behalf of the United States, to take ownership over lands specifically for an Indian tribe.



Community Embraces Change with **Facility Improvements**

In the past four years, the SMSC has made a number of facility improvements to expand its amenities and improve Community members' access to local resources, programs, and conveniences.

Community expands local infrastructure

In 2015, the Behavioral Health Department opened the Wiçóni Wašté Renewal Center. This tranquil space offers SMSC members access to a range of healing methods and classes, such as yoga and meditation. It's also a safe place for Community members to go following treatment programs. It's located next to Wozupi Tribal Gardens, west of County Road 83 on County Road 42.

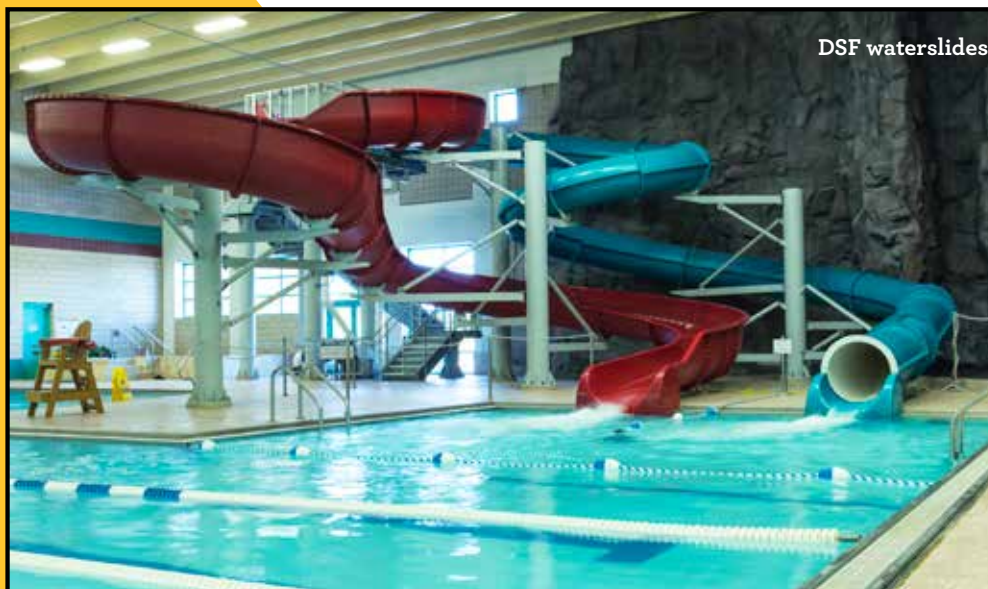
Also in 2015, the Marketing Department moved from the Community Center to a newly renovated space in the Public Works building to consolidate the marketing team into one area.

Community enterprise continues to improve

Dakotah! Sport and Fitness (DSF) made numerous changes in the past several years. DSF Director Tad Dunsworth said the goal was to move administrative areas to the main level for general public access, and move the studios and equipment to the upper and lower levels for member-only access.

“Within this industry, you need to keep current with the trends and programs, while keeping the facility looking like it just opened, or members will move on to the next best thing,” said Dunsworth.

Dakotah! Salon, featuring two HydroMassage beds and men's and women's workout apparel, opened in the spring of 2015. DSF also expanded the Dakotah! Deli, making it more user-friendly and adding more self-serve options. In February 2015, DSF added more cardio equipment and two studios, as well as moved some offices.



The aquatic center received a major upgrade with two new waterslides, plaster and tile on the bottom of the pool, and a refinished pool deck in 2014. Previous improvements included a 24-hour exercise room and a circuit training room. A group training room for boot camp-style classes also opened. The lower-level workout area received new flooring as well.

Providing for the community

Playworks updated its look and improved safety. In 2014, the lobby gained space and improved visibility, and Playworks upgraded the entrance doors into the atrium and Educare area.

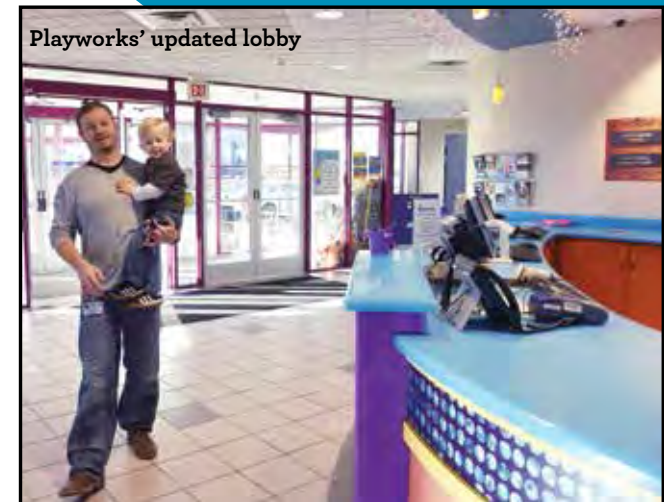
“Our families like that we put the safety and security of our children first,” said Playworks Director Amy Donaldson.

In 2014, the Tribal Court offices also moved to the Community Center. Previously located in St. Paul, the new office is more accessible to Community members.

In 2013, Mazopiya updated its reFresh Bar, including bar area seating. A cooktop, oven, and A/V cables were added to the classroom, which was reconfigured to seat up to 15 people.

“We’re more efficient than ever when it comes to operations and our classes,” said Mazopiya General Manager John Langham. “And, we’ve seen the impact of the changes on our bottom line. More people are coming in and buying what’s on our shelves.”

The Children’s House, the new Montessori program at Pod 5, was transformed with major remodeling as well. In 2012, the room for infants and toddlers transitioned into the current Montessori classroom. The former preschool space now houses the current Pod 5 infant and toddler rooms. (Read more about the Children’s House on page 25.)



Playworks’ updated lobby



Children’s House, the new Montessori classroom

Improving Our **Neighborhoods and Roads**

An important part of keeping our community strong is keeping our infrastructure in top shape. Every day, the SMSC Public Works Department helps ensure our roads, trails and utilities are providing everything our Community needs. Often, the SMSC collaborates with the cities of Prior Lake

and Shakopee on projects that improve work, travel and play for our residents and neighbors.

In the past four years, the SMSC has constructed or funded several road projects, made upgrades to the North Residential neighborhood, and

expanded the North Water Treatment Facility to accommodate a new water purchase agreement with Prior Lake, among other infrastructure improvements and collaborations.

North Residential neighborhood

Curbs and gutters are essential in making a street functional and a neighborhood aesthetically appealing. Without them, water runs off into yards, damages the roadway ditches, and weakens the road bed. Almost 40 homes in the North Residential neighborhood received curbs and gutters in 2013. The neighborhood previously expanded its cul de sacs, improved residential lighting, and upgraded the water mains in 2012.



Tintaochanku

In 2014, the SMSC designed, funded and constructed a new road, named Tintaocanku, between McKenna Road and County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 21 in Prior Lake. The project included a parkway, trails, and a full-access intersection on CSAH 21. Now complete, Tintaocanku provides convenient access to McKenna Road for Community members and others.

Highway 169

The SMSC has worked with neighboring communities for many years to build a better place to live, work and visit. For example, the SMSC regularly assists with financing and constructing road improvements, utility enhancements, and other mutually beneficial projects. Since 2010, the SMSC has contributed nearly \$2.5 million to Scott County organizations and infrastructure improvements.

“Working together with local governments has strengthened our relationship with our neighbors and helped us to build a better community for all,” said Chairman Charlie Vig. In August 2015, construction began on a project to reduce congestion and create a third southbound lane on Highway 169 between CSAH 21 and CSAH 83 in Shakopee. Entirely funded by the SMSC, the \$1.9 million project will make this stretch of road safer and more efficient.



County Road 83

In 2015, planning began for an upgrade to County Road 83 south from County Road 42 to County Road 82. The upgrades will eliminate the last remaining two-lane section of this road and significantly improve access to Community enterprises. The design is ongoing, and construction is expected to begin in late 2016 and finish in 2017.

Intersection at county roads 17 and 42

For years, the intersection at county roads 42 and 17 had been the site of several fatal accidents. Working with Scott County, the SMSC helped make the intersection significantly safer by providing funds to help mitigate traffic risks through bridge and road reconstruction. The SMSC contributed \$2 million to make this project a reality.

Staying Current with **Data Services**

Before the Fiber to the Home project, Community member Tyanna Crooks waited up to half an hour to stream a video. Now, she can watch it instantly. “My Internet is definitely faster,” Crooks said. “It’s very convenient, and I love not having to wait.”

As entertainment, shopping, research, and networking are primarily done online, Internet speeds can affect quality of life significantly. And, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC) was underserved when it came to broadband – the private sector options fell short.

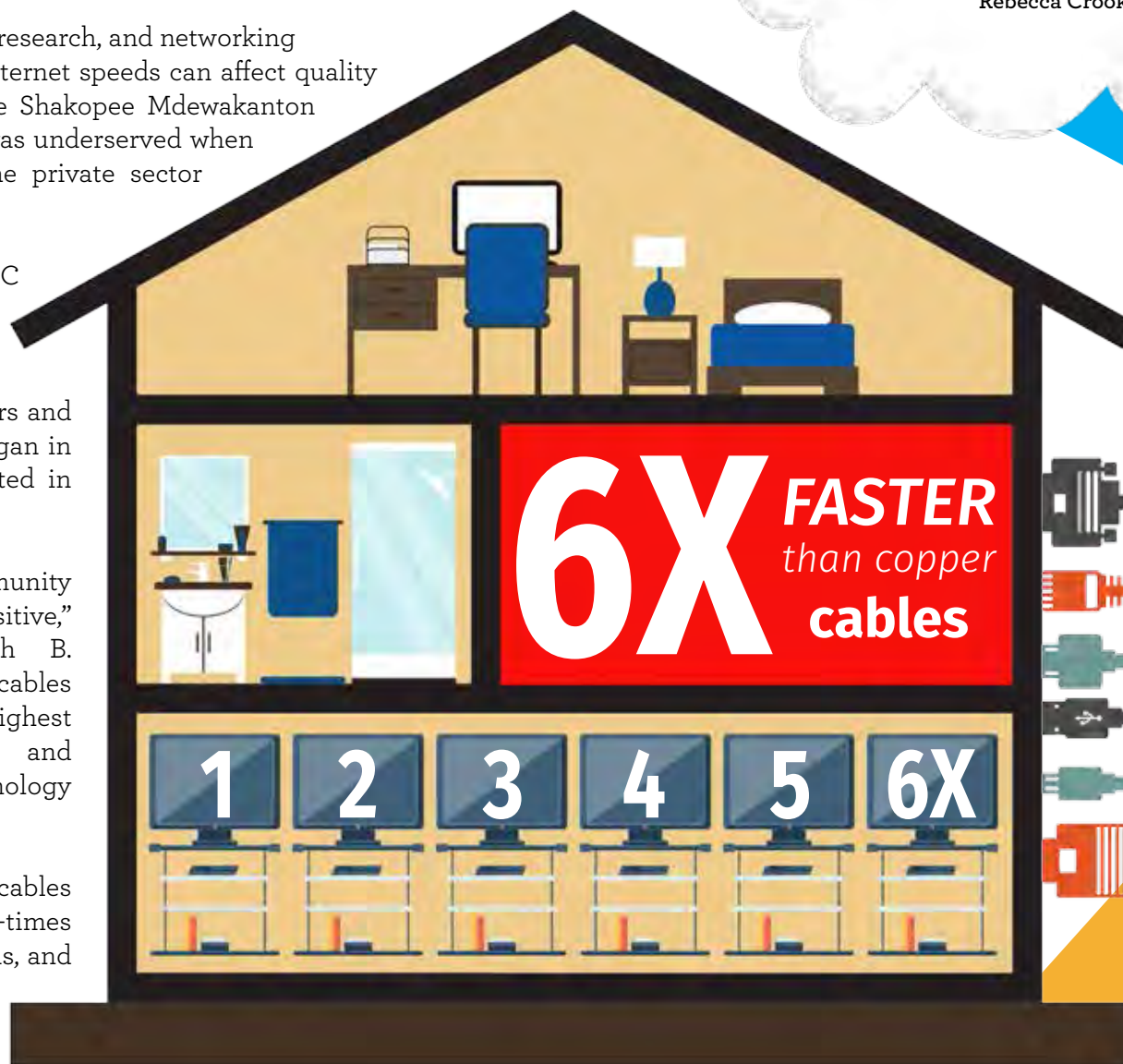
Beginning in 2013, the SMSC began planning for the Fiber to the Home project, its own high-speed fiber network for all tribal members and enterprises. Construction began in April 2015 and was completed in August 2015.

“The response from Community members has been very positive,” said Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson. “Fiber optic cables provide us with the highest data speeds available, and access to continuing technology improvements in the future.”

The installation of fiber optic cables has brought Internet six-times faster, more television options, and better phone services.



Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, Community member





SMSC Partnerships

MYSTIC LAKE



SMSC's Mall of America Hotel Project Helps **Diversify Investments**

Tribe and mall partner in largest project since opening

The new JW Marriott, MOA retail expansion, and new office complex is the most significant construction project at Mall of America (MOA) since its opening in 1992. The SMSC was a driving force behind the project. "The hotel project represents an exciting step in the Community's economic diversification efforts," said Chairman Charlie Vig. "The new development strengthens the SMSC's relationship with Mall of America, provides a new revenue opportunity, and continues our tribe's commitment to this region by creating jobs and spurring economic development."

In March 2014, the SMSC, MOA, Mortenson Construction, the City of Bloomington, and Bloomington Port Authority celebrated the ground-breaking of the \$325 million expansion project, which includes a 342-room JW Marriott hotel, office tower, high-end retailers, new dining options, tourist welcome center, and an atrium event space on the north side of the mall. The hotel includes a full-service restaurant and bar, grand lobby with a lobby bar, fitness center, pool, and extensive meeting spaces, including a grand ballroom. It also offers an executive lounge and access to shared underground parking.

Project benefits

This project was made possible with the support of the SMSC General Council and the Hotel Development LLC Board of Directors, a separate entity formed

to oversee the SMSC's investment in the hotel. The board consists of SMSC Business Council members Charlie Vig, Keith B. Anderson, Lori K. Watso, and SMSC Gaming Enterprise Board of Directors members Todd Brooks and Freedom Brewer. SMSC Gaming Enterprise executive Angela Heikes serves as Chief Operating Officer for the LLC.

"With more than 40 million visitors annually, this expansion will allow us to offer guests world-class lodging, dining and shopping," said Kurt Hagen, senior vice president of Triple Five/MOA. "The project would not be possible without the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Mortenson, the City of Bloomington, and so many others."

The SMSC funded the full development cost for the hotel, while MOA paid for the retail addition and Bloomington paid for the parking ramp. The 20-month project was completed in December 2015. SMSC members were among the first to experience the new hotel during a grand opening celebration.

The hotel project strengthens the SMSC's presence at MOA, joining the Mystic Lake store already located at the mall. Free bus service is available for guests going to and from Mystic Lake Casino Hotel and MOA. The tribe also holds its Wacipi Dance Exhibition in the MOA's Rotunda every August.



Historic Partnership Forged Between SMSC and Canterbury Park

In June 2012, the SMSC formalized a decision that has eliminated the racino debate, a former staple on the Minnesota Legislature's agenda every year. Canterbury Park began lobbying in 1997 to allow the track to open a racino, a combined race track and casino, to enhance its race payouts, known as purses. Canterbury had argued that its low purses were preventing them from remaining competitive and damaging the state's horse industry. For years, Minnesota tribes staunchly opposed the racino concept, as it threatened jobs and economic progress.

The SMSC and other tribes seemed to be at a stalemate with Canterbury until then-Chairman Stanley Crooks and Gaming Enterprise President and CEO Ed Stevenson accomplished an innovative and unlikely partnership. Dubbed "A Winning Combination," a 10-year, \$75-million cooperative agreement between the SMSC and Canterbury was born. The partnership enhanced purses and created joint marketing opportunities for Canterbury and Mystic Lake.

Proven results

In just three years, the partnership has been a resounding success. "Without a doubt, the SMSC agreement has saved the horse industry in Minnesota," said Randy Sampson, president and CEO of Canterbury Park. The race track has reported annual increases in the number of races, live racing days, and horses competing, as well as improvements in attendance, on-track wagering, and out-of-state wagering. From 2010-2014, total out-of-state wagering increased 84.4 percent and total unique horses racing increased 59.4 percent.



Sampson also reports that the horse industry in Minnesota is thriving. Minnesota saw an increase of 77 percent in foals born in 2013. From a marketing perspective, the SMSC and Canterbury Park have benefitted from a new co-branded electronic display board and signage at the track, buses that run between the two destinations, joint marketing promotions, and shared events. The Indian Horse Relay was another result of this relationship.

"The combination of Canterbury's live racing and our casino resort offerings is a complementary fit for many people visiting this area. Our partnership has benefitted both of our entities," said Stevenson.

The success of the collaboration has had a ripple effect throughout the south metro area, ultimately resulting in the larger RiverSouth partnership established in 2014 (see page 43).

"Working with the SMSC has been a win-win for us, for the horse industry, for the community, and for the SMSC. And together, it absolutely is a winning combination," Sampson said.



Canterbury Park hosted its third annual Mystic Lake Derby in August 2015, the biggest race of the season.



Presented by the SMSC, the Indian Horse Relay features riders racing bareback horses around the track.

In June 2012, then-SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Keith B. Anderson, Canterbury Park President and CEO Randy Sampson, then-SMSC Chairman Stanley Crooks, Canterbury Chairman of the Board Curtis Sampson, and then-SMSC Vice-Chairman Charlie Vig gathered for the signing of "A Winning Combination" agreement.

New Technologies Improve Safety at **Koda Energy**

Koda Energy reopened in February 2014 after a 10-month hiatus. Co-owners Rahr Malting and the SMSC were excited to get back to providing environmentally friendly biomass energy, having suspended operations the previous April after a fire in two of the facility's fuel storage silos.

"While the fire was unfortunate, it presented an opportunity to incorporate the newest technologies and best practices into our facility," said Stacy Cook, vice president and general manager of Koda Energy. "We took that opportunity to identify a new design, which has helped us enhance safety and reduce emissions, among other benefits."

Green initiative reduces emissions

The general concept behind Koda has stayed the same: Burn a blend of local biomass sources, ranging from the ORF's wood chips to Rahr's malt byproducts to General Mills' oat hulls, to make cleaner energy.

"Providing environmentally friendly energy has been a major reason for the SMSC's involvement in Koda from the start," said SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, who serves as chairman of the Koda Energy board. "It complements our commitment to solar, wind and geothermal power here on the reservation."

Benefits of the redesign

The redesigned Koda Energy is much more than a visual change. The redesign from a vertical silo system to a lower-profile horizontal system provides numerous safety improvements, including:

- Significant improvements in system-wide dust collection
- Removal of contained atmospheres of combustible dust, where the potential for explosion exists
- The addition of infrared detectors, isolation devices, and a water suppression system

The new design virtually eliminates trucks idling outside of Koda Energy, as additional indoor fuel delivery space allows for immediate unloading. To date, nearly 15,000 semi-trailer loads of biomass fuels have passed through the new fuel system since February 2014. In addition, Koda Energy's dust collection system collects and cleans the air, thereby capturing more than 99 percent of particulate emissions before entering the atmosphere.

The SMSC partnered with Rahr Malting in Shakopee to form Koda Energy LLC in 2005. Koda began operating in 2009. It has won awards for natural resource conservation and its forward-thinking redesign.



RiverSouth Partnership Promotes Area as **Entertainment Destination**



Northern Scott County is officially the “Land of Big Fun.” More than 10 million visitors to Canterbury Park, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, the Renaissance Festival, and Valleyfair each year already know that the southwest Twin Cities area is home to some of the biggest entertainment attractions in the region. Now there’s a united voice to promote the area.

The four entertainment powerhouses and three governments — the City of Prior Lake, the City of Shakopee, and the SMSC — joined forces in July 2014 to develop a joint brand and marketing plan. As a result, RiverSouth, “Land of Big Fun” was born.

Chairman Charlie Vig and Gaming Enterprise President and CEO Ed Stevenson introduced the idea of RiverSouth after the success of the SMSC’s “A Winning Combination” partnership with Canterbury. They spoke with local mayors Brad Tabke and Ken Hedberg about the success of the Canterbury agreement, and together they decided to implement the collaborative model on a larger scale.

“We saw the success of ‘A Winning Combination,’ and asked, ‘Why can’t this be done on a broader scale?’” Chairman Vig said. “We were able to bring together the prominent entertainment destinations in Scott County, creating a valuable partnership that will help support the entire region.”

As hoped for, the partnership has raised awareness for the recreational region. In 2015, a new website and efforts to improve transportation to the Prior Lake-Shakopee area helped RiverSouth hit the ground running.

Looking ahead

The members of RiverSouth plan to continue branching out, with hopes of inviting other local businesses into the partnership. Tom Polusny, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel’s executive vice president of operations, said the feedback from the surrounding communities has been positive. RiverSouth has been flooded with businesses interested in joining the partnership.

Signs have been placed at each of the entertainment locations, in addition to several spots around the SMSC, so visitors know they’ve made it to the “Land of Big Fun,” where everyone is invited to enjoy the huge attractions, world-class facilities, and breathtaking scenery of RiverSouth.

SMSC and Partners **Improve Collaboration** in Scott County

Here in Minnesota's fastest-growing county, the cities, townships, the SMSC, and the county itself are limited in what they can accomplish working alone. But working together, our potential is much greater. That is the premise behind the SMSC's involvement in SCALE - the Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency.

Made up of more than 30 local governments and agencies, SCALE is a voluntary association that works to foster collaboration, better serve local residents, and share resources.

"Before SCALE was established in 2003, many of us felt firsthand how strained the relationship was between the SMSC and our neighbors on a whole host of issues," said SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig. "Neighbors were constantly wary of the SMSC's plans."

Chairman Vig concedes that the situation today isn't perfect. "But the communications are much improved and still getting better," he said. "The relationships built through SCALE are a major reason for that improvement."

Results

SCALE's achievements include:

- The joint Regional Public Safety Training Facility, where the SMSC's public safety team trains 850 hours annually.
- 15 new mutual aid agreements between the SMSC and local fire departments and emergency response agencies to improve response times and quality.
- A unified transportation plan to increase safety and capacity on local roads.
- The creation of the First Stop Shop, which helped attract 1,000 new jobs when Shutterfly chose to expand in Scott County.
- A joint 94-mile high-speed fiber network — the largest in Minnesota — to improve the speed of data-sharing among local agencies.

"The governments in Scott County needed to come together as neighbors in order to accomplish more of the work that we wanted to get done," said Shakopee Mayor Brad Tabke. "We've met many goals — at a cost the governments could collectively afford — as a result of SCALE."

"Getting to know the SMSC better and becoming more knowledgeable about tribal sovereignty has been a real benefit of participating in SCALE," said Scott County Board Chairman Jon Ulrich, who also chairs SCALE.

Recognition from Harvard

The Harvard University Project on American Indian Economic Development was so impressed that it presented the SMSC and SCALE with a 2014 Harvard Honoring Nations award. Honoring Nations helps share the innovative ideas of its award recipients with tribes across the country. Harvard's goal is to use SCALE as a model to show other tribes, cities, townships and counties nationwide how to cooperate more as governments, build trust, and effectively serve tribal members and local residents.



Scale's Joint Regional Public Safety Training Facility



SMSC representatives accepted an award from the Honoring Nations Board of Governors



**Government
to
Government**

Pictured from left to right: SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig.



SMSC Promotes Tribal Sovereignty at a Federal Level

Joining tribal governments and organizations from throughout the United States, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has supported efforts to change federal law over the last four years, promoting tribal sovereignty nationwide.

Progress has occurred in the following areas:

Expanded General Welfare Exclusions (enacted): This law clarified that a broad range of specific benefits provided to tribal members by their tribal governments are to be excluded from federal income taxation, ending many IRS audits and investigations of tribal programs.

Strengthened Provisions for Tribal Jurisdiction in the Violence Against Women Act (enacted): The law was changed to restore tribal jurisdiction to deter criminal conduct perpetrated against Indians by non-Indians in Indian Country.

Full Funding of Indian Health Contract Support Costs (enacted): This change in the statute resulted in full funding of the costs associated with the SMSC's administration of its health programs, after its litigation claims were filed and settled.

Guarantee Governmental Parity for Tribal Labor Sovereignty (pending): This proposed change in law would protect all tribal government employers

from interference by the National Labor Relations Board in their employer-employee relationships in the same manner and to the same degree as all other governmental employers.

Remove "Kiddie Tax Penalty" (pending): This proposed change in law would remove a tax penalty that the IRS has applied to young tribal members who receive financial support from their tribes while in school. It is part of a package of tax reforms awaiting overall action.

Guarantee Governmental Parity for Tribal Unmanned Aerial Systems (pending): This proposed change in law would require the Federal Aviation Administration to authorize tribal governments, just as it does state and local units of government, to utilize unmanned aerial systems for governmental purposes, such as public safety.

Protecting and Expanding Federal Authority to Accept Tribal Land in Federal Trust (pending): After an adverse U.S. Supreme Court decision, several proposed changes in law have been shaped and advanced to restore and facilitate the U.S. Interior Department's authority to accept land into trust for Indian Tribes.

Reauthorizing an Expanded Indian Education Program (pending): Several proposed changes to existing law would strengthen public schools in Indian Country, as advanced by U.S. Rep. John Kline (R-MN) in his role as chairman of the House Education and Workforce Committee.



SMSC representatives met with President Barack Obama.

Establishing the Chief Standing Bear National Historical Trail (pending): Legislation would study the feasibility of establishing a virtual trail that follows the Ponca Tribe's forced removal from and return to ancestral lands in Nebraska.



Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton greeted SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig in 2014.



Pictured are: SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso and U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN).



SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson greeted President Barack Obama.



SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig, right, spoke with U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem (R-SD) in March 2015 in Washington D.C.



SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs in Washington D.C. in 2015.



Pictured from left to right: SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), and SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig.



U.S. Rep. John Kline (R-MN), right, spoke with SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig and SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson in March 2015 in Washington D.C.



Our History

A TIMELINE of the SMSC

2015

The SMSC unveiled a new video and display at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel about the tribe's history, culture and values.

The SMSC, along with three national partners, announced Seeds of Native Health, a major philanthropic campaign to improve the nutrition of Native Americans nationwide.

The SMSC provided \$535,000 in public safety grants to agencies across the state.

Community member work groups and SMSC staff continued gathering input for a planned new Cultural Center.

Highway 169 in Shakopee was improved between county roads 21 and 83, a project funded by the SMSC.

The SMSC General Council approved a new hotel project and convention center at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, with construction scheduled to begin in April 2016.

2014

Community member Summer Brooks was selected as a Youth Ambassador at the 2014 White House Tribal Nations Conference.

The SMSC received an Honoring Nations award from the Harvard University Project on American Indian Economic Development for its participation in SCALE (Scott County Association for Leadership and Efficiency).

2014 *cont.*

With input from a group of Community members, the SMSC contributed \$366,000 in grants to fund five trail projects in Scott County.

The SMSC donated its 800th AED and celebrated its 10th year of donating lifesaving AEDs.

The SMSC and the City of Prior Lake entered into a water purchase agreement, offering the City access to a new water supply for the next 25 years and expanding the North Water Treatment Facility.

The SMSC, Canterbury Park, the Renaissance Festival, Valleyfair, and southwest metro governments, launched RiverSouth, "Land of Big Fun," to jointly market the area.

St. Gertrude's Health & Rehabilitation Center in Shakopee joined the existing Witaya Care program launched by the SMSC and St. Francis Regional Medical Center to improve health outcomes for Community members and employees.



SMSC Chairman Charlie Vig signs the MOU with St. Gertrude's. Left to right: SMSC Secretary/Treasurer Lori K. Watso, SMSC Vice-Chairman Keith B. Anderson, SMSC Health Administrator James Lien, Chairman Vig, Wellness Administrator Joanna Bryant, and St. Gertrude's CEO Lee Larson.

2014 *cont.*

Mall of America, Mortenson Construction, the City of Bloomington, Bloomington Port Authority, and the SMSC kicked off an expansion project that included a JW Marriott hotel at Mall of America.

2013

After giving more than \$29 million in grants in 2012, the SMSC was named the 13th-largest grant maker in Minnesota by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*.

Community members and employees donated more than 10,000 pounds of food and nearly \$13,000 to the local Community Action Partnership.

The SMSC offered \$10 million in grants to 18 American Indian tribes in 8 states.

Hočokata ti opened as a cultural center and gathering place.

The first Indian Horse Relay, hosted by the SMSC and Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, came to Canterbury Park in September.

The SMSC General Council approved the JW Marriott Hotel Expansion project at the Mall of America.

The SMSC General Council created the Youth Leadership Council, a group of engaged young Community ambassadors, role models, and peer mentors.

The SMSC established an agreement with the City of Shakopee regarding shared police services.

The SMSC donated bees from its apiaries to the City of Minneapolis for its green roof at City Hall.

2012

The SMSC commemorated the 150th anniversary of the U.S.-Dakota War, participating in memorial marches and contributing funds to build a memorial in Mankato in honor of the 38 Dakota warriors hanged in the war's aftermath.

The SMSC, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and Crow Creek Sioux Tribe purchased the sacred site Pe' Sla in South Dakota.

After more than 20 consecutive years as the SMSC Chairman, Stanley Crooks passed away on Aug. 25.

Charlie Vig became Chairman of the SMSC. Keith B. Anderson became Vice-Chairman, and Lori K. Watso was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

The SMSC and St. Francis Regional Medical Center of Shakopee announced a partnership called Witaya Care, promoting better health care for Community members.

The SMSC and Canterbury Park entered into a 10-year cooperative marketing agreement, called "A Winning Combination."

Chairman Stanley Crooks, Vice-Chairman Charlie Vig, and Secretary/Treasurer Keith B. Anderson were elected to the SMSC Business Council.

2011

The Mdewakanton Public Safety Explorers won first place at the Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the Minnesota State Fair.

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel opened a new amphitheater in July.

Construction began in June on a new intersection at county roads 42 and 17 in Shakopee, thanks to \$2 million in funding from the SMSC.

2011 *cont.*

The SMSC dedicated a statue in front of the Community Center to honor the SMSC's first chairman, Norman M. Crooks.

Thousands of tribal members and government workers, including dozens from the SMSC, gathered at the "Don't Gamble With Our Jobs" rally at the Minnesota State Capitol on April 26.

2010

Mazopiya, the SMSC's natural food market, opened its doors.

Wozupi Tribal Gardens began planting fruits and vegetables, and hosted its first farmers market.

The SMSC provided a \$50,000 sponsorship for the first Lakefront Jazz and Blues Festival in Prior Lake.

2009

The wind turbine at the SMSC Wacipi Grounds began operating.

The Minnesota Tribal Nations Plaza was dedicated at the University of Minnesota's TCF Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, funded in part by the SMSC.

Koda Energy, a green energy partnership between the SMSC and Rahr Malting in Shakopee, began operations.

2008

SMSC Water Bottling, a vision clinic, and Dakotah! Ice Center opened.

After nearly nine years in the federal review process, the SMSC's application to have 752.41 acres of land be placed into trust was approved.

Little Six Casino reopened in December, moving back to its original site.

2007

The SMSC opened its premiere entertainment venue, The Mystic Showroom in September, and a new Bingo Hall at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in August.

The SMSC Pharmacy opened, along with the SMSC Wellness Center, and Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store #2.

2005

A third hotel tower at Mystic Lake Casino Hotel opened, bringing the total number of rooms to nearly 600.

2002

Mdewakanton Public Safety was created.

The SMSC purchased Lone Pine Golf Course (now The Meadows at Mystic Lake).

2000

Mystic Lake Casino Hotel opened a second hotel tower.

Tiowakan Spiritual Center and the Community Cemetery opened.

1990s

The Community experienced significant growth throughout the 1990s as it built additional housing, a convenience store, a fitness center, a child care center, and RV and camping enterprises.

The SMSC signed a historic agreement with Prior Lake for police and fire services in 1993.

A new Community Center opened in 1993.

Mystic Lake Casino opened in May 1992, with its first hotel tower built in 1996.

1984

County Road 83 remained unpaved.

1983

The City of Prior Lake redrew precinct boundaries, leaving out the reservation after deciding the 1972 annexation was illegal. Courts later overturned that action and declared the City had to provide voting rights and municipal services on an equal basis, even though they had no civil jurisdiction over the reservation.

Oct. 16, 1982

Little Six Bingo opened under the leadership of Chairman Norman M. Crooks.

1980s

Little Six Casino continued to grow, and the Community developed health, education, and social services programs.

1972

The City of Prior Lake annexed the reservation.

1970s

The Community population grew, even as members struggled to find adequate housing and employment.

1969

The federal government granted the SMSC official recognition as an Indian tribe on Nov. 28, 1969.

The first SMSC Chairman, Norman M. Crooks, was elected.



1950s

Federal termination and relocation policies sent Indians to cities to work in an attempt to break up families and tribes.

1934

The Indian Reorganization Act was implemented.

1924

American Indians were granted U.S. Citizenship.

1886-1891

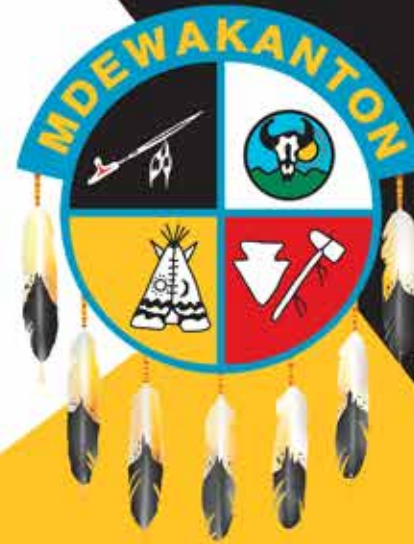
The U.S. government purchased land for the Mdewakanton, including land in the Prior Lake area.

1805-1858

After the U.S. government negotiated a variety of treaties with the Dakota, the Dakota lost millions of acres of land for little compensation, eventually surrendering all lands east of the Mississippi River. The Minnesota Territory was created in 1849, and within two years, all remaining Dakota land was in federal hands. The Dakota were forced onto reservations and struggled to survive.

1640s

First recorded non-Native American contact with Dakota people took place.



Thanks to the hard work and support of our Community members, the SMSC has achieved many important goals over the past four years. As we reflect on our accomplishments, we look forward to continued progress as a Community in the next four years.