

# Four Years of Progress

Waniyetu Topa Wooyake  
"4 Years Telling About"



The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community 2000-2003



# Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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Dear SMSC Community Members,

During the last four years, the SMSC has experienced continued growth and development in all areas. We should all be very proud of the many achievements we as a Community have made in this four-year period of time. Since 2000, our tribal economy has shown great strength as our tribal enterprises as a whole continue to earn significant tribal revenues.

With the LSI Board of Directors, the Community oversaw additions and improvements to our gaming facilities such as the remodel at the Little Six Casino Restaurant, the new parking garages at Mystic Lake, and the rerouting of the parking lots. We also saw significant development of our non-gaming enterprises, with the purchase of Lone Pine Golf Course and the Mystic Lake Store at the Mall of America. The new Mdewakanton Fire Department provides an invaluable service not only to our Community, but to the surrounding communities as well. And, housing developments have been added to meet the needs of our members.

Since our federal recognition in 1969, the SMSC has worked diligently to achieve a significant level of self-sufficiency. The SMSC utilizes its financial resources from gaming and non-gaming enterprises to first and foremost meet our responsibilities to the tribal membership. All internal infrastructure, including, but not limited to, roads, water, sewer systems, and essential services to individuals related to education, health, and welfare are met by tribal resources. The Tribe also makes contributions to city and county governments to cover the cost of services provided by those local jurisdictions to the Tribe.

This strong tribal economy has enabled us to better provide Community members with the best governmental services available. With the successes of the SMSC over the last four years, we have strengthened our tribal sovereignty and protected our Dakota culture. Our Community, through its Business Council and with the support and confidence of the General Council, has built on the foundation that was laid by our predecessors. Our children, grandchildren, and, indeed, seven generations to come will have a bright and healthy future.

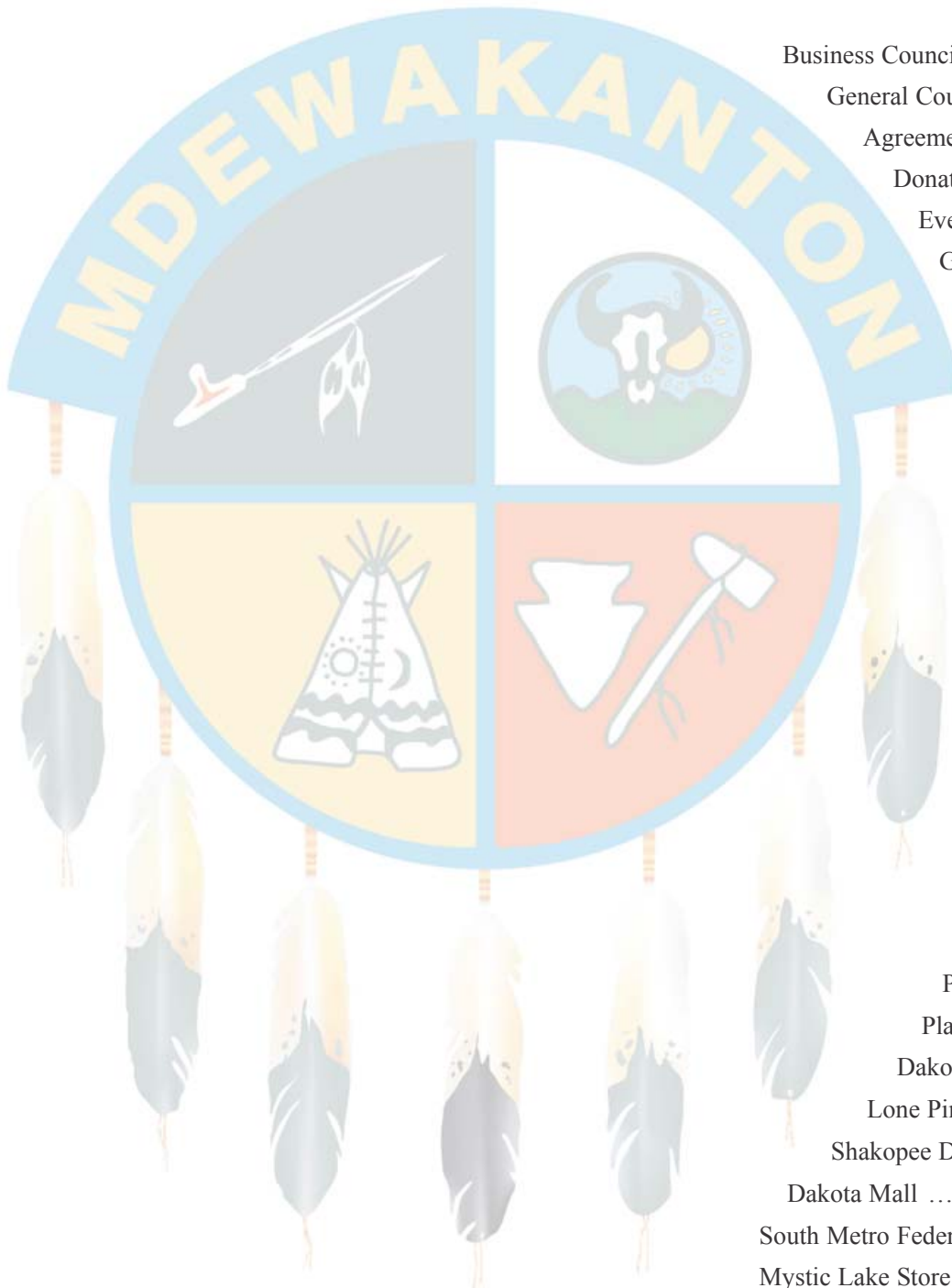
Sincerely,

Stanley R. Crooks  
Chairman

Glynn A. Crooks  
Vice-Chairman

Lori K. Beaulieu  
Secretary/Treasurer

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## Business Council

### Waniyetu Topa Toha<sup>3</sup>ya U<sup>3</sup>kipi

How far we have gone in four years



From Left to Right: Lori K. Beaulieu, Secretary/Treasurer; Stanley R. Crooks, Chairman; Glynn A. Crooks, Vice-Chairman.

The Business Council consists of three elected officers of the General Council and oversees operations of the Community Government including its non-gaming enterprises. The Business Council consists of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and a Secretary/Treasurer. The main governing function of the Business Council is to promote the health, education, and welfare of Community members and their families.

## General Council

The General Council of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community consists of all voting members of the Tribe.

Some key legislation enacted by the General Council since January 2000 include:

- Creation of a cultural center planning advisory committee.
- Economic development loans to the Upper Sioux Community.
- Establishment through separate pieces of legislation: a Tribal Utilities Commission, a Well Head Protection Plan, the Consolidated Land Management Ordinance, Storm Water Management and Erosion Control, ATV/Off Highway Motorcycle Use Restriction Ordinance, revised child support guidelines.
- Approved Mystic Lake Casino Master Plan.
- Approved the interconnection of the SMSC water system to the City of Prior Lake system.

### Total Land Base

The SMSC presently owns approximately 2,098 acres of land all of which is located contiguous to or in very close proximity to the original 250 acres purchased in the 1880's. About half of the Tribe's land is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the SMSC. The remainder of the land is held in fee. The Tribe has submitted applications to have 856 acres taken into trust. (The SMSC purchased all of these lands on the open market using its own resources). The applications are pending before the United States Department of the Interior.

### Growth Fund Loans

The SMSC has a tribal growth fund loan program for Community members interested in starting or expanding businesses. The program has provided assistance to 37 Community member-owned businesses since the first loan was provided in March 1993. Seventeen Community members have received growth fund loans since January 2000.

### CHIP Loans

The SMSC offers Community Home Improvement Program loans to Community members to renovate their existing homes. Since January 2000, 41 Community members have received CHIP loans.

### Home Sites

To meet the needs of a growing Community, the SMSC has added 29 home sites since January 2000.



# Agreements

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has worked diligently with local governments and governmental agencies to provide services to our members by establishing intergovernmental agreements. Highlights of some of the agreements reached over the past four years include:

**SMSC and Scott County, 2000 through 2003, General Agreement.** The Community and Scott County have a general agreement that includes an annual payment to Scott County of \$225,000 to cover alleged impacts related to the Community.

**SMSC and Scott County, 2000, County 83 Resurface.** The Community funded a project to repair and resurface the pavement on Scott County 83 passing through Tribal Lands at an estimated cost of \$300,000.

**SMSC, USEPA, MN-Department of Health, Cities of Prior Lake and Shakopee, 2000, Well Head Protection Plan MOU.** The parties have an inter-jurisdictional Well Head Protection plan for public water supply wells.

**SMSC, SHPO, and MN-DNR, 2000, Boiling Springs TCP.** Agreement to list Boiling Springs as a Traditional Cultural Property and jointly manage the area.

**SMSC, MN-DNR, and City of Shakopee, 2000, Memorial Park Burial Sites.** Agreements on restoration of existing burial site to natural conditions and management of trails and park in the area to preserve the burial site.

**SMSC and MN-DNR, 2000, Little Rapids Site.** Joint project to map and locate burial sites. Funded by the Community and includes Tribal staff participation.

**SMSC and United States EPA, 2001 through 2005 TEA.** Tribal Environmental Agreement establishing environmental needs and funding levels for future fiscal years. This is an annual formal agreement between tribal governments and Region 5, US-EPA.

**SMSC and Prior Lake, 2001, Amended Police and Fire Agreement.** The Community and the City of Prior Lake have an agreement that includes an annual payment to the city for police and other services.

**SMSC and Scott County, 2002, County Road 42 and 82 Intersection Improvement Project.** A cooperative agreement for the joint project to improve the intersection of County Roads 42 and 83 including \$2,500,000 in SMSC funding, and an additional \$500,000 paid by SMSC for design fees.

**SMSC, MN-DNR, Metropolitan Council, and Various Cities, 2002, Southwest Metro Groundwater Group MOU on Ground Water Policy.** A multi-jurisdictional agreement to set goals, objectives, and policy guidelines for development, use, and protection of the groundwater resource.

**SMSC and Scott County, 2003, Dakota Parkway Signal Agreement.** An agreement to place a signal at the intersection of Scott County Road 83 and Dakota Parkway with the SMSC funding the entire project.

# Donations

## Oya<sup>3</sup>ke Hdusutapi Strengthening Communities

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has donated more than \$22.9 million since January 2000. On November 8, 2001, the SMSC was honored as Benefactor of the Year by the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

### Tribes

\$2,344,738	Santee Sioux Tribe
\$2,060,000	Upper Sioux Tribe
\$2,000,000	Lower Sioux Tribe
\$1,000,000	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
\$1,000,000	Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe
\$500,000	Grand Portage Band of Chippewa
\$410,725	Yankton Sioux Tribe
\$400,500	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
\$200,526	Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
\$165,000	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
\$91,888	Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

### Native American Organizations

\$515,000	Division of Indian Works (Minneapolis)
\$250,000	Little Earth of United Tribes Housing Corporation
\$205,000	American Indian Neighborhood Development Corporation
\$162,000	Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce
\$150,000	Ft. Thompson Boys and Girls Club
\$125,000	National Congress of American Indians
\$119,035	St. Paul Indian Schools Education Program
\$117,000	American Indian Housing and Community Development Corporation
\$102,160	Indian Youth of America
\$100,000	American Indian Services, Inc.
\$100,000	Minnesota Indian Primary Residential Treatment Center
\$100,000	Thunderchild Treatment Center
\$92,500	Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center
\$65,500	Department of Indian Work (St. Paul)
\$60,000	Indian Child Welfare Law Center

\$60,000	Mahkato Mdewakanton Club
\$55,000	Indian Health Board
\$55,000	First Americans in the Arts
\$50,000	Diabetes Project on Cheyenne River and Rosebud Reservations
\$50,000	American Indian Veterans History Project
\$50,000	Dakota Wicohan Tipi
\$50,000	Ikce Wicasa ta Omniciye
\$50,000	Indigenous Peoples Task Force

### Charitable Organizations

\$125,000	Project Turnabout
\$90,000	Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women
\$60,000	CAP Agency
\$60,000	American Cancer Society
\$40,000	Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International
\$25,000	University of Minnesota Cancer Center

### Schools/Education

\$900,000	American Indian College Fund
\$800,000	Nebraska Indian Community College
\$582,017	Crow Creek Tribal Schools
\$250,000	United Tribes Technical College
\$250,000	Enemy Swim Day School
\$250,000	Smee School District
\$119,035	St. Paul Schools Indian Education Program
\$119,000	Flandreau Indian School
\$92,500	AIOIC
\$85,000	Santee Sioux Nation Headstart
\$82,000	Nihewan Foundation
\$71,500	Indian Education Programs, Minneapolis Public Schools



# Events - Woişu³pi



## Music Festival

The 2nd Annual Native American Music Festival was held May 19-20, 2000, and included two days of music, artwork, and food. Performers were Buffy Sainte-Marie, Brule, Ulali, and Derek Miller. Co-hosts for the two-day event were actress Elaine Miles and comedian Drew Lacapa. The second day featured Blues Nation, Tree Cody, Natay, Jackie Bird, Walela, Bill Miller, The Boys, XIT, Steve Reevis, and Litefoot.

The 3rd Annual Native American Music Festival was held May 12, 2001. The event was hosted by Irene Bedard and Rodney Grant. Guest appearances were made by Ms. Indian Nations Kim Scott and Dale Oldhorn. Performers were Bryan Akipa, Jimmy Wolf, Mitch Walking Elk & the Lost Coyote Band, Annie Humphrey, Buddy Big Mountain, Joanne Shenandoah, Black Lodge, Litefoot, and Robert Mirabal. A Native American Art Show was held in conjunction with the event.

The 4th Annual Native American Music Festival took place on May 2, 2002. Entertainers were Bad Medicine, Lorrie Church, Star Nayeá, and Keith Secola and The Wild Band of Indians. Hosts were Rita Coolidge and Dale Old Horn. After 2002, the Business Council decided not to continue the Music Festival.

## Waşipi

The SMSC Annual Waşipi continues to draw thousands of visitors and hundreds of dancers each year. In 2000 the Salt Creek Crown Dancers were guest performers, and Lorrie Morgan performed in concert at Mystic Lake Casino. In 2001 the Winnebago Snake Dance was the featured dance; and there was a concert by Buffy Sainte-Marie and Indigenous. In 2002 the featured dancers were the Allegany River Indian Dancers performing social dances of the Iroquois. Performers at that year's concert were Lorrie Church and Jana. In 2003, moccasin games were added to the Waşipi for the first time.



On August 14, 2003, the SMSC sponsored a Pow Wow Exhibition at Sam Goody Central at the Mall of America. Thousands of tourists had the opportunity to learn about Native American tradition and culture, and to see dancers from the SMSC Annual Pow Wow perform to live drumming and singing. Displays introduced Mall visitors to the SMSC enterprises and departments.

## Conferences

The SMSC sponsors several annual health related events dedicated to improving health and quality of life. The Northern Plains Regional Diabetes Conference was held from 2000-2002. In 2003 the conference expanded to focus on heart disease in addition to diabetes. Spirit of Eagles Cancer Conference was held for the first time in 2002. Strong attendance led to a second cancer conference in 2003. An annual Health Fair held at both Dakotah! Sport and Fitness and Mystic Lake Casino is attended by over 1,600 people. The Health Fair offers various screening opportunities, such as blood pressure, glucose levels, and bone density, along with a restaurant challenge and flu shots.



# Gaming Commission

## Woope Yusutapi Strengthening Rules

Following the adoption of the SMSC Gaming Ordinance (March 31, 1993), the Gaming Commission formally commenced its operations during that same year.

The role of the SMSC Gaming Commission, a tribal government entity, is to ensure that gaming conducted by the Community is done fairly, honestly, and in compliance with all applicable laws. The Commission itself is comprised of five elected members of the SMSC Community who serve staggered, four-year terms and are called Gaming Commissioners. The Gaming Commissioners fill these positions: a Commissioner of Gaming, an Assistant Commissioner of Gaming, and three general members of the Commission. The Commissioner of Gaming serves as the administrative head of the Commission staff.

There are 30 full-time Gaming Commission employees; the staffing level has remained consistent within the past four years. However, 50% of the staff have more than 5 years of service.

Over the past four years, the Gaming Commission has been aggressive in streamlining its daily operations by embracing new technology and by researching and tapping into various types of resources that have proven beneficial. Some of the most recent innovations implemented by the Commission include:

- Optical filing system - which promotes a paperless environment as well as electronic files, reduced storage space, quicker access to information, increased access security, etc.
- Electronic submission of criminal background checks – these are now transmitted to the State Department of Public Safety/AGED via modem, which has expedited the response time and eliminated the issues associated with mail correspondence.



# Little Six, Inc.

Mystic Lake and Little Six Casinos have enjoyed continued success over the past four years. The SMSC celebrated twenty years of gaming and ten years of business for Mystic Lake Casino Hotel in 2002.

Here are some of the developments for LSI since 2000. A second hotel wing was officially opened with 200 new rooms, an atrium swimming pool, a fitness room, and meeting and banquet space. The Buffet was opened featuring three stages (Mediterranean and European; Pacific Rim; and the Americas), two salad bars, and a beverage and dessert area.

The 10-year Master Plan approved in 2002 includes significant improvements to the parking areas. Garage 1 by the Hotel was completed in June 2003. It has 540 ground level spaces and 1,060 underground, valet-only spaces. Garage 2 by The Buffet entrance, completed in July 2003, has 419 new spaces. Garage 3 added 1,100 spaces in December 2003 by adding a double layer of spaces on top of the current main parking lot to the front of the Casino. The skyway was also completed. Additional parking lot improvements will be completed by May 2004.

Mystic Lake underwent a number of additional changes over the past four years. They include:

- ◆ A new gaming system, the biggest technological project in the history of Mystic Lake, was undertaken with the installation of a Slot Data System.
- ◆ Installation was completed on the Casino Marketplace, a customer relationship management system designed to reward player loyalty.
- ◆ The Wardrobe Department was redesigned with an automated uniform system and new uniforms.
- ◆ A winner's circle promotional area was constructed on the casino floor.
- ◆ The Mystic Lake Call Center, a centralized call system, opened.
- ◆ A new website was unveiled.
- ◆ Ribbons Steakhouse opened April 15, 2003.
- ◆ Ticket-in, ticket-out slot machine technology was installed at Mystic Lake Casino and Little Six Casino.
- ◆ Organizational Assessment project was completed.
- ◆ Team member wellness program was implemented.
- ◆ Mandatory guest service classes were initiated for all team members.
- ◆ Annual honoring of long-time employees at the Service Awards continued.
- ◆ The Tipi Restaurant at Little Six Casino was renovated in the fall of 2001 with new floor coverings, upholstery, wall coverings, and other features.



Mystic Lake had the biggest slot winner in Minnesota history on July 3, 2001, when the \$2,847,899 jackpot was won on a Wild Cherry Progressive.

# Mdewakanton Fire

## Awa<sup>3</sup>u<sup>3</sup>yakapi

Watching over us



Mdewakanton Fire has grown from an idea in 2000 to a functioning department with full time professional staff operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Mdewakanton Fire Department has a small contingent of dedicated volunteers who have been studying to become level 1 firefighters. They train with the department, respond to calls and assist with special events. The department purchased its first response vehicle, the mini-pumper, in June 2001 for fighting small fires. In September 2001 the newly formed department had its first firefighters complete a 40-hour course to attain Brigade Level Training, qualifying them to fight car fires, trash fires, and similar exterior fires.

Agility testing for firefighter applicants resulted in the first four fire fighters receiving Firefighter 1 training and certification in the fall of 2002. While the first trainees were completing the training course, construction began on the Mdewakanton Fire Station. The station contains six equipment bays, a training area, dispatch office, offices, and a conference room.

By 2003 the department had a total of five emergency response vehicles: an ambulance/rescue vehicle, mini pumper, a pumper, a first response vehicle, and a utility pickup. By January 2003 the department was responding to an average of 90 calls a month: 70% medical and 30% fire/rescue. By April that number had increased to 100 calls per month with a response time of 2-4 minutes. The department provides assistance when requested with the Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee departments. In March 2003 the department sponsored training for hazardous materials, including weapons of mass destruction. By the spring of 2003 Mdewakanton Fire had assumed responsibility for weather watching. In case of a threat of severe weather, trucks are dispatched to three areas on the reservation for observation: the North side, Mystic Lake, and Playworks/Dakotah! Sport and Fitness. Mdewakanton Fire has prepared an emergency operation plan which includes each department and enterprise. An Explorer Program began in May 2003 to introduce Community youth ages 12–20 to the fire service.



## Legal Department

The SMSC Legal Department provides legal support services to the Business Council and all non-gaming departments and enterprises. The Legal Department also assists the Business Council in coordinating the SMSC's legal and political work including all litigation, commercial transactions, child welfare cases, intergovernmental relations, and lobbying.

While the attorneys in the Legal Department do not represent individual Community members, the attorneys do provide guidance to Community members on a variety of personal legal issues and will make referrals when appropriate.

The SMSC Legal Department has consisted of one attorney and one support staff person from 1995 until January 2002 when the Business Council hired an additional attorney. In addition, the SMSC contracts with other law firms specializing in Indian law.

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## Police Liaison Officer



As one example of the intergovernmental cooperation between the Community and the City of Prior Lake, each year an officer is detailed to the SMSC as the Police Liaison Officer. Officer Mark Tabone filled the role from 2000–2002, followed by Officer Darcy White. The Police Liaison Officer works with Community members and enterprises on building, personnel, and customer safety and interacts with them on issues of mutual concern. The officer also serves as a liaison between the gaming staff and the local police department and acts as the “go to officer” for assistance. The officer makes weekly reports of police calls to the SMSC Tribal Administrator and works with the SMSC Legal Department on pertinent law enforcement jurisdictional issues. In addition, the officer spends time with the youth at Playworks and the SMSC Education Department teaching them about seat belts, car seats, safety, and other matters. The officer participates in Career Day and offers a car seat education program for parents.



### Oyate Awa<sup>3</sup>wiṣayakapi

Taking care of the people



## Maintenance

### Taku Ka±api K'a Piyapi

#### Building and fixing

The Maintenance Department staff has grown to eleven employees. The department is in charge of maintenance, housekeeping, and room set-ups as well as servicing the other departments' requests in the Community Center. They also maintain Dakota Mall, Lone Pine Golf Course, Dakota Meadows RV Park, the Mini Storage, car washes at the convenience store and at Dakotah Meadows, and Tiowakan Spiritual Center.

The Maintenance Department is involved with the growth and upgrades of Community enterprises including Dakotah Meadows, where it completed an addition to the office and remodeled existing shower facilities. It added the kitchen at the Tiowakan Spiritual Center, renovated the Mini-Storage facility and Cultural Resources storage area, and completed the expansion and remodeling of the tenant spaces at the Dakota Mall. Maintenance staff also handled the remodeling and relocation of the Community Center offices and departments; construction of the new Education Department offices and communal space in the West Wing; and annual Pow Wow upgrades. The Maintenance Department also completed construction of the Print Design Center, the Cultural Resources gallery in the Community Center, an office renovation project in the Community Center, and the Mdewakanton Fire station.

## Public Works

### Mni Yatka<sup>3</sup>pi

#### Drinking water

Public Works is responsible for a number of areas, but one of its most important jobs is ensuring the quality of the SMSC water supply. In 2002 the iron filtration plant was upgraded at the Sioux Trail facility. Capable of filtering up to 1,600 gallons per minute, the plant supplies the Community and its enterprises with water. A new iron filtration plant for the North residential area (McKenna Road) is in the three-year plan. During that same time period, one of the current water towers will be moved to McKenna when it is replaced with a 1,000,000-gallon capacity tower.

Another important Public Works priority is the installation, operation, and maintenance of the sewer system. One more critical Public Works responsibility is snow plowing roads and parking lots. The department conducts annual spring and fall clean up weeks, hydrant flushes, and parking lot paving and maintenance. Public Works is also responsible for street signage, pothole repair, roadside trash pickup, and fireworks displays held each year on July 4<sup>th</sup> and at the Pow Wow.

Other Pow Wow related responsibilities include vendor registration and setup; trash; general maintenance; pest, insect and dust control; and shuttle transportation.

In 2000 the SMSC Public Works Department added the Parks Department which is responsible for landscaping and lawn maintenance for Community parks, enterprises, land, and ditches. In 2003 the SMSC approved an equipment sharing and water main interconnect agreement with the City of Prior Lake.





# Improvements & Construction

## Taku Yuwa<sup>®</sup>tepi

Bettering things

To provide land for Community member housing and other purposes, the Business Council purchased several tracts of land from 2000 through 2003. The parcels include:

- Lucky Seven Parcel (80 acres east of County Road 83 adjoining the Brewer Subdivision)
- Dolan Parcel (80 acres between Little Six Casino and Mystic Lake Casino)
- Peterson Parcel (140 acres on the northeast corner of County 83 and 42)
- Stemmer House (2 ½ acres along Dakotah Parkway)
- Juerisson Parcel (70 acres west of the Pow Wow grounds)
- Lone Pine Golf Course (115 acres)
- Hatch Parcel (5 acres adjacent to Lone Pine Golf Course)
- Skraba Parcel (34 acres adjacent to Lone Pine Golf Course)

The Business Council also negotiated a land swap between the SMSC and Scott County adjacent to the County Roads 16 and 83 intersection improvement project. The SMSC will receive title to 20 acres of land in the middle of the MWCC parcel along McKenna Road in exchange for 17 acres in several narrow strips of land along County Roads 16 and 83 for future right of way. The additional right of way will allow the new intersection at County Roads 83 and 16 to be completed and provide space to widen County Road 83 in the future.

The Business Council directed the construction of 12 new housing lots in 2002. The Big Eagle's II ball field became Big Eagle's III, adding six lots. Six more lots were created south of County Road 42 and west of Dakotah Parkway. Construction on Bluffview II was completed in the spring of 2002 including all utilities and the final paving of streets. Dakota Trail South was completed, connecting it to Dakota Trails East and West.

A wooden fence was installed along the property line at Dakotah Meadows on County Roads 82 and 83. In 2002, tipi-style park pavilions were installed at Big Eagle's II, the North Residential Park, and Norman Crooks Memorial Park as well as at the Pow Wow grounds.

## Land Department

The Land and Natural Resources Department works in three areas: land assignments and acquisitions, environmental protection, and inspections. During the past four years, the department assisted in purchasing several parcels of land, planned and assisted in managing development of several new residential areas, and assisted the Business Council in assigning land parcels to Community members. Environmental staff established and managed native prairie areas, wetlands, and forested areas. They also inventoried trees, other native plants, and many of the animals present on tribal lands. This is part of an ongoing effort to increase the number of native plants and animals present on tribal lands. During the last four years, the Building Inspection staff has been working to increase housing quality and lower costs through increased enforcement of building codes and a multiple bid process for major projects. The department was very involved in drafting the Consolidated Land Management Ordinance and several other important documents involving Community land and environmental issues.

Some Land and Natural Resources Department projects include:

- Completed a Wellhead Protection Plan that received a commendation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Monitored Community surface waters for pollutants on a continual basis.
- Improved the wetland near the Dakota Development Complex, which is now a breeding site for the Black Tern, a rare native bird.
- Restored the oak savannah at the burial mounds in the City of Shakopee.
- Worked with Community children on wildflower planting, maple syrup production, native plant identification, water pollution prevention, and other education projects.
- Researched methods of removing pollutants from stormwater for the EPA.
- Installed and maintained four hives to support a honeybee project.
- Evaluated installing wind turbines to provide electricity for the Community.

## Makoše Awa<sup>3</sup>yakapi Protecting land





# Cultural Resources

**2000** SMSC was one of the sponsors for the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board Annual Conference, July 12-13, 2000, which focused on the ecology, history, and commerce of the Lower Minnesota River and current development projects.

The SMSC produced an exhibit containing examples of the Community's various cultural projects at the National Congress of the American Indian 57<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

The SMSC participated in the preservation of two Dakota sites currently owned by the Minnesota Historical Society: the Lower Sioux Agency Historic Site and Jeffers Petroglyphs.

**2001** The Archives Department transitioned to Cultural Resources on January 24, 2001, and expanded its responsibilities to include development of a Tribal Cultural Preservation Office and the care of SMSC archives and collections.

The department moved the artifact collection into the new Archives and Artifacts Storage Facility at Dakotah Meadows Mini Storage. Artifacts were repacked into boxes that meet museum standards, and an inventory of the collection was begun. The archives and collections storage facility has computerized temperature and humidity control plus specialized fire and alarm systems. There are over 15,000 items in the collection, which were documented in a collections management software program allowing staff to keep track of and locate items with relative ease.

The department opened "Dakota Presence in the River Valley," a new exhibit which ran throughout the summer at the Scott County Historical Society, as part of the 2001 Minnesota Archeology Week.

The SMSC continued its efforts to work closely with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources by assisting with the revision of the management plan for the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area, which includes a trail from Fort Snelling State Park to LeSueur.

# Dakota Wišo®a³ Awa³u³hdakapi

Taking care of your own way of life

**2002** The SMSC commissioned, developed, and then donated the "Learning From the Dakota" curriculum package to the Afton Historical Society Press as part of the Books in Schools program. The curriculum is designed for use with the publication, *Painting the Dakota, Seth Eastman at Fort Snelling*.

The SMSC co-sponsored a major clean up of trash and other waste along Eagle Creek and around Maka Yusota. Staff from the Land Department as well as several SMSC Community members participated.

**2003** The Cultural Resources Department worked with the State Historic Preservation Office and the Minnesota DNR to place Maka Yusota/Boiling Springs on the National Register as a Traditional Cultural Property on January 16, 2003, as the first TCP in the state of Minnesota. The location of a historic Dakota Village, nearby burial mounds, and many generations of oral history helped support this important designation. The SMSC continues to work with the DNR to manage the Boiling Springs area as well as Eagle Creek, which is protected as an aquatic management area.

The Exhibit Gallery opened in the Community Center on May 13, 2003. This 600-square foot gallery displays artifacts, photographs, and documents from the SMSC collections which tell the story of the SMSC and describes various projects the SMSC supports.



## Community Health

Since January 2000, staff in the Shakopee Dakota Clinic has expanded to include two nurse practitioners, two registered nurses, a receptionist, a benefits coordinator, and a contract health specialist. A collaborating physician also sees patients and consults with staff. Clinic staff provides health care services to Community members, employees, and eligible Native Americans in Scott County. The Dental Clinic, which consists of a dentist/orthodontist and a dental assistant, continues to provide cleaning, general dentistry, oral surgery, and orthodontic services to about 4,000 patients annually.

Other Health Department responsibilities include pre-employment physicals and drug screenings for appropriate LSI and SMSC employees, annual CPR training for Community staff, hepatitis clinics, and sponsoring blood drives each fall and spring at Dakotah! Sport and Fitness and Mystic Lake Casino. A monthly diabetes program was developed with the addition of a certified fitness specialist for individual assessments and counseling to help participants meet their exercise goals. Two diabetes educators are already working on the program.

In the fall of 2002 the clinic received an ECG (an electrocardiogram machine) which provides the ability to do full, 12-lead electrocardiograms. The department conducted a Diabetes Survey of Community members and Native American staff/service area in 2002. In 2003 the department developed a new program called “Tune Up Time” held on per capita and General



Council days for Community members to check and monitor their blood pressure, blood sugar, and weight.

In the spring of 2003 the first “Mammogram Day” was sponsored, with Community members and staff transported to St. Francis Hospital in Shakopee for mammograms. In 2003

Community Health efforts expanded to include programming with the SMSC Education Department after school program to encourage healthy diet and exercise habits. Health department staff are participating in a Medical Advisory Committee, an intertribal group that meets quarterly to discuss issues of mutual concern.





# Education

## a<sup>1</sup>išeša Iša±api Ki<sup>3</sup> Owišakiyapi

Helping the kids grow up

The Education Department has continued to serve Community youth by providing after school tutoring and homework help and summer enrichment programs. Youth activity coordinators manage programs for



children which include career exploration, Earth Day activities, physical activity, and Youth Dakota Language Classes.

In 2001 staff from the Department started a Native Students Group at elementary schools, founded a student council, and moved to a newly remodeled location in the lower level of the SMSC Community Center West Wing.

The Department conducted a two-year Dakota Language Trainee Program in conjunction with the College of St. Catherine. Dakota Language Staff continue to teach the language to Community members and Playworks children.

Art Camp began in 2001 with children learning to draw and paint. In 2002 the camp doubled in attendance, and the youth made dreamcatchers, tie-dyed shirts, and painted an 18-foot tipi.

Culture Camp continues to teach youth traditional Dakota values, language, and arts and crafts. Each year a cultural sites trip introduces students to places such as the Bad Lands, Pipestone, Akta Lakota Museum, Journey Museum, Wounded Knee, Bear Butte, Crazy Horse, Devil's Tower, Black Hills, and Wind Cave, all in South Dakota or Minnesota sites like

Woodlake Battlefield. The youth have picked sage and cedar, sung Dakota songs, gone to sweats, attended traditional Pow Wows, and visited other Dakota reservations. The youth have also explored the chronology of the 1862 Dakota Conflict and done genealogical research.

Each year the Summer Youth Work Program has expanded. In 2001 students worked 723 hours,

an increase of 302 hours over previous year. In 2002 students worked 1,032 hours, an increase of 309 hours over 2001. In 2003 students worked 2,328 hours, more than doubling hours worked in 2002.

Annual activities include a summer reading program, a Back to School Spaghetti Dinner, Halloween party, fall dance, Memorial Day picnic, mid-year recognition banquet, and end of year recognition banquet where students are honored for their academic accomplishments. Young Native Pride has expanded to include more than 70 Community and local Native American youth. Sponsored by the SMSC, the event is held at the Shakopee Senior High School. Also each year children and staff run in the Mankato Spiritual Memorial Run from Fort Snelling to the place in Mankato where the 38 Dakota warriors were hanged in 1862.

The Department administers the Johnson O'Malley program for local schools which pays for hot lunches, field trips, and school supplies for children who are enrolled with a federally recognized tribe and reside in Scott County. They also administer the Higher Education/Adult Vocational Technical grant money for Scott County federally-enrolled Native Americans which assists with post-secondary education tuition and associated costs.



# NETWORKS Employee Services

## Wau<sup>3</sup>idapi

Counseling and caring

NETWORKS Employee Services' staff has grown from three in 2000 to five with the addition of two counselors with one specializing in marital and couples issues and the other in adolescent issues. NETWORKS celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, October 17, 2002, with an open house. NETWORKS continues to provide information, referrals, and short term counseling for addiction, depression, relationship, marital, or other problems. These services are provided free of charge to all LSI team members and Community enterprise staff members. NETWORKS is also contracted to provide similar services to City of Prior Lake employees.

NETWORKS runs a variety of groups, including AA, Alanon, parenting support, and women's support groups. They also provide a three-week, 12-session smoking cessation workshop, which has proven to be quite popular and effective. NETWORKS staff has provided supervisor training at LSI and for the City of Prior Lake to educate managers on the benefits of an employee assistance program, how to identify troubled employees, and how to make a referral.

### SMSC Mental Health Department

The SMSC Mental Health Program provides individual, family, and elder therapy in office or in home for Community members and Scott County Native Americans. The department's goal is to help individuals enrich and maintain good mental health.

The SMSC Mental Health Department is comprised of a Director/Adult Therapist, an Adolescent Therapist, and a Program Assistant. Reaching out to SMSC Community members and Scott County Native Americans, the SMSC Mental Health program has experienced a 71% increase in clients over the past two years. Along with one-on-one and family therapy sessions, the SMSC



Mental Health Department contributes a monthly mental health column, published in the Community newsletter, to educate Community members on various mental health issues, to provide tips to handle difficult situations, and to reduce the stigma concerning mental health.

New in 2003, the SMSC Mental Health department, along with the American Indian Mental Health Advisory Council, hosted "Otokaheya Yuwastepi, Restoring The Future" Conference, June 4–6, 2003, at Mystic Lake Casino. The conference drew 250 attendees.



# Family and Children Services

## Tio<sup>©</sup>paye Owišakiyapi

Helping families



The Department of Family and Children Services (formerly known as Social Services) offers a number of programs which benefit Community members and their families as well as Native Americans living in Scott County. The department provides babysitter training courses, an annual winter clothing drive, a giving tree program, and sponsorship for children to attend summer camp.

The department donates about 40 car seats per year for families in need and holds an annual car seat safety inspection in cooperation with the Prior Lake Police Department. They hold weekly support group meetings for Native American children in the Shakopee schools. Scott County continues to transfer jurisdiction of child protection and truancy cases to children's court of the SMSC.

The department facilitated the honoring of veterans by Community children beginning in 2002.

Also beginning in 2002, the department sponsored the Mother-Daughter Banquet which is attended annually by more than 150 Community members. In 2003, the department sponsored the first Father-Son Banquet, which was also well-attended.



# Marketing

## Wooyake Oyakapi

### Telling a story

The Marketing Department staff has expanded from two in 2000 to seven in 2003. The Department now has two Graphic Designers, an Administrative Assistant, a Print Design Coordinator, a Communications Coordinator, and a Print Design Specialist, all under the direction of the Retail Administrator. The department handles approximately 1,200 projects a year, including advertising, marketing, event planning for the SMSC and its events, like the Heart and Diabetes Conference, Cancer Conference, Health Fair, Pow Wow, Mall of America Pow Wow Exhibition, and miscellaneous SMSC departmental activities.

The Marketing Department also handles the advertising needs of all non-gaming enterprises, including Dakota! Sport and Fitness, Playworks, Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store, Dakota Meadows RV Park and Campground, Dakota Meadows Mini Storage, Lone Pine Golf Course, and the Mystic Lake Store at Mall of America. Brochures, rate cards, print ads, and television and radio ads have all been produced during the last four years. Additional Marketing activities include the writing and distribution of press releases, publishing the monthly newsletter *Iapi Oaye* and the special Pow Wow edition *Iapi Oaye*, the annual donation report, annual Pow Wow Program, and Community water reports. The Marketing Department is particularly proud to have launched two new publications, *Play Times* and *Inside Dakota!*. The staff moved to new second floor offices in August 2001.

Dakota! Print Design Center opened at its new location in the Public Works building in December 2001. The new facility has upgraded equipment and enhanced capabilities to better serve the needs of the Community and its enterprises.





# Tiowakan

## Holy place

Tiowakan Spiritual Center opened on Easter Sunday, April 23, 2000, as a facility for Community members to use for weddings, funerals, and other gatherings. Tiowakan Spiritual Center is home to Ho Waste Parish, an independent, non-denominational church group.

The building project was completed when two large, stained glass windows and three smaller ones were installed above the front entry in July 2001. The stained glass is modeled after the artwork of Seth Eastman. In March 2002 a fully operational kitchen was completed in the lower level. A Community cemetery was established in 2001. Community member Amos Crooks was the first to be buried there. Since then, many deceased Community members have been returned to the cemetery. In June 2001, remains from the historic Dakota site, Little Crow's Village, Kaposia, were buried at the SMSC cemetery.

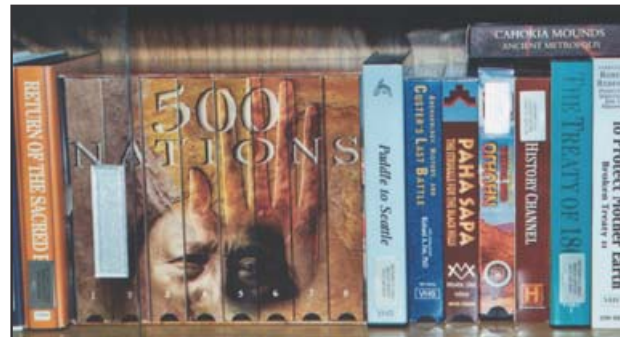
The SMSC, Shingobee Builders, Inc, and HTG Architects won an Association of Builders and Contractors "Award of Excellence for an Institutional Construction Project in the \$1 Million to \$5 Million" category for Tiowakan Spiritual Center.



## Oiřimani Media Center

The Oicimani Media Center's collection has grown to more than 3,700 items, which includes a vast number of books by and about Native Americans. Subjects include arts, crafts, customs, spirituality, history, dance, geography, biographies, social life, fine arts, autobiographies, women's studies, herbs, fiction, literature, anthropology, government, nature, science, and the

Dakota culture. Native Americans of both hemispheres are included as are collections of children's books, reference books, Indian newspapers and magazines, and an extensive selection of Native American videotapes, audiotapes, and compact disks. These items are available for checkout or for use in the Oicimani Media Center, located in the Community Center.



## Woyawa Ti

Place to read books

# MIS

The role of the MIS Department has grown over the past four years. To meet the growing demands, the MIS staff has grown to include a technology specialist, a network administrator, and a technical support specialist.

The MIS Department is responsible for keeping the SMSC computers operating. To do that, MIS handles network management, hardware and software installation, training, support, system security, tape back-up, and disaster recovery.

Specific projects completed during the last four years included upgrading Dakotah! Sport and Fitness's club management software and installing new computer systems; adding new Playworks Contract Care Software, new Drop-off Care Software, and new computer systems; upgrading the SMSC Accounting System; adding Microsoft Office 2000; and upgrading the e-mail system. MIS installed a new computer lab for the Education Department and First Call Net for Social Services.

In addition, since 2000, MIS has integrated Lone Pine Golf Course and Mdwakanton Fire on to the network, worked on the Playworks LINK project, linked the new Print Design

Center into the main SMSC network, and sourced and implemented products from a new wireless phone vendor.

MIS has been heavily involved in the efforts to improve communication within the organization. To that end, MIS launched the iNET, or intranet, in 2001. This internal website provides a means to reach multiple staff in multiple locations with daily updates, general information, announcements, calendars, and contact information.

The MIS Department designed and launched a new SMSC Internet site in July 2002. Along with an SMSC home page, [www.shakopeedakota.org](http://www.shakopeedakota.org) includes links to Playworks, Dakotah! Sport and Fitness, Dakotah Meadows, Lone Pine Golf Course, and Mystic Lake Casino Hotel internet sites.



# Business Council Staff and the Tribal Administrator

The Business Council staff and Tribal Administrator are responsible for the day-to-day administrative activities of the Business Council. The Tribal Administrator prepares, coordinates, and transcribes the weekly Business Council meetings. The Tribal Administrator is involved in coordinating the Community Center departmental activities, as well as interfacing with the SMSC non-gaming enterprises. The Tribal Administrator and his staff coordinate intergovernmental meetings with local cities, Scott County, and various state and federal agencies.

# Finance

The Finance Department administers the finances for the Tribal Government as well as all non-gaming enterprises. This includes the generation of monthly financial statements, coordination of the annual audit, and assisting the departments and enterprises in the preparation of the annual budgets. The Finance Department generates the semi-monthly per capita for Community members and assists Community members on a variety of financial related issues including the SMSC Loan Programs (Home, Community Home Improvement Program, Tax and Growth); income and sales tax issues; and Children's Trust issues. The Finance offices were renovated in 2001 to better serve the Community and its members.



# Dakotah! Sport and Fitness

## Wozaniya <sup>a</sup>katapi

Healthful playing

High demand has resulted in a membership cap to ensure services are available for Community members and other club members. Virtually every inch of DSF has been refurbished since 2000: painted, carpeted, repaired or redone in some way. Floorings were replaced in nearly the entire building, the security system was upgraded, and stairwells received new tread and risers. Dakotah! Deli was expanded to include a service window into the ice arena, new deli equipment, an expanded menu, and increased hours.



A major remodeling project was undertaken in the summer of 2001 resulting in a new Cardio Studio/Room, a Group Fitness Studio, Multipurpose Room, Tanning Studio, Group Cycling Studio, Pro Shop, Golf Simulator, and Conference Rooms. A second major refurbishing took place in August 2003, when virtually all areas of Dakotah! were renovated. On the main level the front desk was replaced, and a new entrance gate was installed. Even the locker rooms received a facelift, with new counter tops, sinks, lockers, and benches. The gymnasium floor was sanded and recoated, as were the racquetball and squash courts.

The Ice Arena has undergone changes, including establishment of a training center for elite figure skaters and adding a hockey puck shooting cage and training center to accommodate “dry land” training for hockey teams.

The Aquatics Center saw renovations, including resurfacing the pool deck, new lifeguard chairs, scuba gear, an outdoor pool filtration system, and a new sound system. The Fitness Floor received new sets of dumbbells, a wireless sound system, cardiovascular and strength training equipment, gymnastic equipment, group fitness equipment, and body testing equipment and software. The firing range was upgraded with new rental firearms and gun cleaning equipment.

*Inside Dakotah!* magazine was introduced in 2001. The publication features individual members, families, and staff members, highlights programs, and provides health tips. DSF holds quarterly seminars on health and fitness issues and hosts training sessions for multiple LSI and SMSC departments.





# Playworks

## a<sup>a</sup>işeşə Awa<sup>3</sup>wişayakapi

### Taking care of children

Playworks has changed considerably over the past four years. A highlight came in 2003 when Playworks met a rigorous set of standards and once again joined the top 7% of early childhood programs nationally by receiving re-accreditation by NAEYC (the National Association for the Education of Young Children).

During the past four years, enrollment in Educare and Summer Camp has doubled. The Kindergarten programs were extended with an emphasis on continuing the learning process with curriculum and classroom activities. A Pre-

Kindergarten program was added in the fall of 2003. Additional highlights include Week of the

Young Child events held each spring, the introduction of

*Play Times*, a quarterly newsletter designed to provide Educare families and drop-in visitors with information on Playworks programs, events, and special offers, and the annual Kinship Dinner hosted by Pod 5 every November.

The facility itself also underwent changes. The Customer Care area in the front entrance of the building was remodeled, and Pods 1–5 were renovated. The Arcade opened on December 27, 2000, with ticket redemption games, arcade games, an air hockey table, and an eating area. Then, in 2002, the Arcade was upgraded with colorful wall panels and themed graphics. The Atrium was remodeled, the playstructure was upgraded with new equipment (padding, cushions, netting), and new flooring was installed. PW's Playhouse was renovated, and game stations and a new concession area in the original kitchen was remodeled.

With increased enrollment, two more 24-passenger buses were added, bringing the total to four to transport children from schools and on field trips.



# Playworks LINK Event Center

## Omnišiya Ti

A meeting place

Playworks' 9,000 square-foot LINK Event Center opened in June 2000 with a Grand Opening attended by Community members and Educare families. The upper level of the LINK is a full-service banquet facility, equipped with audiovisual equipment and flexible space for large events, banquets, and meetings. The LINK accommodates up to 300 guests in classroom or theater style seating. Banquet rooms also function as birthday party rooms.

Lower level space is dedicated to Summer Camp/School Age (Young Explorers, Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and School Age). Classrooms were constructed in the lower level with rubber flooring and room for large muscle fun; it is also a severe weather shelter. An indoor walkway connecting Playworks and the adjacent Dakota! Sport and Fitness Ice Arena was completed. The LINK project included construction of a 2,500 square-foot kitchen built to accommodate the 10,000 plus Educare meals served annually and banquet/event catering. New tables and chairs arrived in 2003.





# Dakotah Meadows RV Park and Campground

## Aha<sup>3</sup>na Dakota Etipi

Natural Dakota camping

Dakotah Meadows began the year 2000 with 48 RV sites and 24 park homes, a fuel center, and a self-serve RV wash. By the end of 2003, the park featured 122 RV sites, no park homes, a number of new amenities, and a mini storage facility.

Construction began on Phase IV of the RV Park early in 2000. Forty-seven new sites, a third bathhouse, and a playground were complete and ready for use by May 2001. Also in 2001, the Business Council approved removing the park homes, and by October of that year, the one and two bedroom rental units had been sold to Community members and towed to new locations. The eastern side of Dakotah Meadows was soon under construction, with 26 new RV sites, bringing the total number of RV sites to 122 by the spring of 2002. The new sites had water, sewer, and electric lines installed as well as picnic tables, grills, and trash containers. The project was complete when new streets and curbs were installed, and landscaping was done. The headquarters was renovated in 2002, with the addition of more office and retail space.

A picnic pavilion was moved into the park next to the playground in 2002. In 2003 new, 18-foot tipis were painted by SMSC staff and Community children.



## Mini Storage

Dakotah Meadows Mini Storage opened in February 2000 with 187 storage units in six sizes. The fully fenced-in facility has a computer-controlled security gate with personal access codes, closed-circuit TV surveillance and video recording, and security lighting. Customers can access their storage units 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In August 2000 the outside storage area opened with 61 spots, for a total of 248 storage units. The Mini Storage project also brought the addition of a storm shelter to the park. Since April 2003 the Mini Storage facility has been 100% occupied.





# Lone Pine Golf Course

On February 5, 2002, the SMSC purchased Lone Pine Golf Course. The 122½ acre course underwent a number of changes since that time including a new hole, 110 yards, all over water, and the creation of a new par four hole, increasing par by one stroke: the men's par increased to 69 and women's par increased to 70.

Opening Day was April 8, 2002, with Chairman Stanley Crooks as the first to tee off in the first round played at Lone Pine under tribal ownership. On May 20, 2002, Lone Pine Golf Course hosted the annual MIGA golf tournament for the first time with 184 golfers. In August 2002 the 11th Annual SMSC Golf Tournament was held at Lone Pine for the first time under SMSC ownership. Thirty-eight teams of Community members, staff, and invited guests participated. Unseasonably warm weather resulted in an early season opener on January 7th and 8th, 2003, when Lone Pine was opened to over 150 golfers.

## New Course Planned to Replace Lone Pine

In the summer of 2003 the SMSC Business Council approved a preliminary design for a new, resort-quality golf course to be completed by summer 2005. A "Farewell to Lone Pine Golf Tournament" was held on August 27, 2003, with Community members and invited guests playing one last tournament round at the course. Work began in fall 2003 on the new course which will utilize the existing land base and part of the western Mystic Lake Casino parking lot. The new course will be lengthened to 7,000 yards and will feature five tee boxes to attract a wider skill range of golfers, from amateur to professional. The new course will be fun, challenging, and championship caliber. The course is designed to create a golf destination on par with the top resort courses in the country.

The existing trees will be utilized, though some were moved to new locations, and a modern irrigation system will be installed.

A new clubhouse will be built next to Mystic Lake Hotel. The par 72 course will have bent grass fairways and many new water features such as ponds, fountains, streams, and waterfalls to rival other upscale courses in the area. The existing clubhouse may be used as a comfort stop with beverages, snacks, and restrooms. Gill Miller Inc. of River Falls, Wisconsin, is the architect for the project. Duinick Brothers Golf of Prinsburg, Minnesota, is the contractor.





# Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store

Mazopiye Ed Ohi<sup>3</sup>ni Oka<sup>3</sup>pi <sup>a</sup>ni  
Store is always busy

SDCS is proud to have kept 75% of its employees since 2000, impressive for the convenience store industry. One of the busiest convenience stores in the state, SDCS has the reputation of also being the friendliest. Known as the Home of the Show-N-Go key-chain, SDCS established itself as the place to buy gasoline at the lowest retail price in the local area. Monthly sales are also popular with customers. As a result, sales volume continues to grow. SDCS also plays host to multiple annual events that have contributed to the SDCS's reputation as the place to shop for great prices and unusual events. These events include the annual "Tax Day Isn't a Bad Day" event on April 15, the anniversary celebration held every February 14, a July open house and sidewalk sale, and autograph signings by Vikings players Michael Bennet, Daunte Culpepper, Kailee Wong, Matt Birk, and the Wild's Wes Walz. The fifth annual Tax Day event, held in 2003, set a record high for inside merchandise sales.

A second self-service, drive-through car wash bay opened in February 2000. In 2002, Oaks Lane was widened and realigned so that the intersection now lines up as part of Dakotah Parkway. The SDCS parking lot was expanded, employee parking added, and two new double sided Charge-N-Go gas pumps were installed.



# Dakota Mall

## Dakota Owopetu<sup>3</sup> Ta<sup>3</sup>ka

Shopping center

Dakota Mall celebrates its tenth anniversary during the month of November 2003. As the home to South Metro Federal Credit Union, American Looks Salon and Spa, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, and the Shakopee Dakota Convenience Store, Dakota Mall remains an active retail destination. During the past four years, with the closing of Impress Your Self, additional space became available and three of the tenants took advantage of the opportunity to expand the size of their operations. Renovations were completed in 2002 for South Metro Federal Credit Union, American Looks Salon and Spa, and Carlson Wagonlit Travel. All four tenants celebrated the renovations with a July 2002 open house and sidewalk sale. The success of that event resulted in a second annual open house in July 2003.

In 2001 the exterior trim was painted a bright red with the color also added to the convenience store canopy and the car wash. New red awnings completed the exterior upgrade. The re-alignment of Oaks Lane and the installation of the traffic lights at the corner of Oaks Lane and County Road 83 was a benefit to all tenants as it improved customer access.

Feasibility studies were underway in the fall of 2003 to determine whether a new, larger Dakota Mall will be built on the existing site. Early plans include the possibility of a stand-alone convenience store and a two-story retail mall.





# South Metro

## FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

### Mazaska Ti

Bank, Credit place



Over the past four years, South Metro Federal Credit Union has experienced phenomenal growth. In November 2002 South Metro was named one of the Top 100 fastest growing credit unions in the country for the second year in a row. South Metro was ranked 93rd in annual share growth for the past five years (as of June 30, 2002), out of more than 10,000 credit unions in the country. In 2003 South Metro received the highest possible rating from the National Credit Union Administration after a comprehensive examination of all aspects of business. In 2001 South Metro was awarded Tribal Entrepreneur of the Year by the Minnesota American Indian Chamber of Commerce.

South Metro has introduced new services over the past four years: American Express Travelers checks, Visa check cards, the Signature Guarantee program for securities and bonds, and the Home Equity Loan programs. South Metro introduced home buying seminars for new homebuyers. The South Metro web site ([www.southmet.com](http://www.southmet.com)) was designed and launched, then in July of 2000 South Metro introduced home banking with on-line account access, bill payment, credit report, and other on-line member services.

In 2002 South Metro joined with other credit unions across the country and abroad to offer members more convenience by sharing locations. Members can now process deposits, withdrawals, and loan payments and get account histories from a live person at one of 950 Credit Union Service Centers which include 11 metro locations and in foreign countries.

South Metro installed an ATM at Dakotah! Sport and Fitness, and opened the first 24-hour SmartBranch at the Tom Thumb Center in Shakopee. It has an ATM, a Teller Online Machine (TOM), ART-24 Access telephone (programmed for English and Spanish), and a designated computer to the South Metro website. A second SmartBranch was opened in the fall of 2003 at the South Bridge Crossings Shopping Center at Highway 169 and County Road 18 in the Shakopee/Savage area.

Renovations completed in the summer of 2002 added 800 square feet to South Metro for office and storage space.

South Metro began with seed money and the sponsorship of the SMSC. South Metro celebrated its tenth anniversary in August 2003.



# Mystic Lake Store at Mall of America

The Mystic Lake Store opened at Mall of America on May 23, 2001, as a marketing tool for Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, MIGA (Minnesota Indian Gaming Association), and SMSC enterprises. Designed to attract attention with flashing lights, colorful displays, large format graphic images, upbeat music, and confident, well trained staff, the store portrays to visitors the fun and excitement of casino gaming. MIGA information educates visitors about the economic impact of Indian gaming around the state. The store was remodeled during the spring of 2003 with new carpeting, a deeper, richer paint color on the walls, new signage and accessories.



The Mystic Lake Store provides a number of specific services to thousands of visitors each month, including free shuttle bus rides to and from the Mall to Mystic Lake Casino every day. Other services include reserving hotel rooms, selling concert tickets, signing up new Club Mystic members, and selling gift certificates. In September 2002 the store became a full-fledged ticketmaster outlet, selling tickets to concerts and events, including first day sales.

