

Tribe donates \$1.2M to schools, arts

Heather Keen/Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe

Plummer, Idaho – The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has announced more than \$1.1 million in education donations for 2015.

"We believe education is about the whole person. Every kid needs a healthy outlet and an opportunity to explore different subjects to find their strengths and their passions. Allowing children the opportunity to participate in arts and music is just as important to some students as sports or reading and math. We need to raise well-rounded kids with diverse life experiences. We're happy to be able to offer them that chance and think we will all be better for it in the end," said Chairman Chief Allan of the donations.

The Tribe has been supporting education for more than two decades but over the past few years many donation requests have shifted to focus on requests for technology updates to allow classrooms to keep up with the changing world. More than \$96,100 of this year's donations will help to purchase iPads, Kindles, laptops and computers, and classroom projection systems.

Another area of focus includes \$77,200 to arts and culture education efforts across the state, with the Tribe citing a decrease in funding for the arts as public funding and school district budgets have shrunk. The Tribe's total donations this year total \$1,189,400. A complete list of recipients is available below.

Locally, the Tribe's donations include the Coeur d'Alene School District, Gizmo, Coeur d'Alene Summer Theatre, the Post Falls Food Bank's Backpack Program, as well as Gonzaga Prep and the Spokane Neighborhood Action Partnership. This latest round of donations also marks the fulfillment of the \$1 million pledge to the Salvation Army Kroc Center.

Coeur d'Alene Tribal leadership made a commitment to education in 1992 when it volunteered to return 5% of its net gaming revenues to the financial support of education as part of its gaming compact with the State. The Tribe is committed to fulfilling that promise each year and in the years since then, the Tribe's cumulative lifetime donations to education have surpassed \$22.8 million.

Vice Chairman Ernie Stensgar was one of the tribal leaders who participated in the negotiations twenty years ago. "We have always valued education - it opens doors to a better world and we've seen that with our own tribal youth and other students around the region. Every child should have a chance at a better life through education. That's why we made the promise and that's why we continue to fulfill it year after year," Stensgar said.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is accepting applications for 2016 funding through September 30, 2015. If you have any questions regarding the Tribe's education donations or would like to receive an application, please contact the Tribe's Public Relations Director, Heather Keen at 208-686-2023 or hkeen@cdatriben.sn.gov.