



**Our Mission:**  
To preserve  
Dakota as a  
living language, and  
through it,  
transmit Dakota  
lifeways to  
future  
generations.



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## Maza Okiye Win

Han mitakuyapi. Cante wasteya napeciyuzapi ye. Dehan, Dakota oyate k'a Dakota Wicohan tiospaye kin iyounkisicapi ca takuye Maza Okiye Win mahpiya heciya i. Wanna hde i. Tunwin waihpeyapi Dakota Wicohan unk'upi heon, pidaunkiyiepi. Tunwin tosta ake waciyanekte unkeyapi. Relatives, I greet you all with a good heart and handshake. At this time, the people and the Dakota Wicohan family are saddened that our relative, Yvonne has left for the spirit world. She has now went home. We are grateful for the Dakota Wicohan legacy she has given us. We say, Tunwin, we will see you again.



Yvonne Leith, Maza Okiye Win, Woman Who Speaks to Iron, her great grandmother's namesake -was one of the original founders of Dakota Wicohan and over the years served as board member, teacher, and elder language advisor. What started out as a small group around Tunwin's kitchen table is now a strong organization with many families remembering, reclaiming and reconnecting - our language, kinship, history, our stories, our Sunktanka, our arts, our ways of being, our traditions. The Dakota Wicohan tiospaye is flourishing and we credit this to the work to Tunwin. Yvonne was the spiritual backbone and inspiration for Dakota Wicohan's foundation and work, rooted in faith, spirit and vision. Despite her long battle with cancer, she continued to encourage, support, mentor, advocate, educate, teach and guide the work of the Dakota revitalization movement.

Tunwin Yvonne understood the history of the Minisota Dakota - and returned to her birth place - Pejutazizi. Many of us have heard Tunwin recall her childhood growing up along the river. She would fondly share her memories of, "the soft gentle voices of her relatives and elders". She returned here, providing those encouraging and nurturing voices she longed for. If you went to her home, you became the sole focus of her attention. "Wahpe yacin he? De wota." She carried those old ways of hospitality - being a good relative. In her many roles as mother, sister, auntie or grandmother - she nurtured, encouraged, she was non-judgmental, she lifted up, she united, she was a builder, she inspired, she made you feel like you belonged and sometimes she propped you back up. She made sure you knew that, "I matter." She shared stories - and her stories made you want to be brave, be courageous, keep the faith, believe in ourselves; believe in the vision.

Yvonne followed her vision - returning to the original ways and teachings, especially kinship and woosida - compassion. Tunwin had a gift and she generously shared that gift. My icpansi always says, "We should be medicine for each other"; and in her memory - we can be medicine for each other. We must each now search in our hearts for OUR purpose - Tunwin understood hers, gave generously and remained in relationship to *mitakuye owasin*.

We have our good memories of her, her spirit lives on within each of us. It is our job now to hold steadfast, and honor her by *being a good relative*. Han, hecetu.

Pidamayayapi,  
Utuhu Cistinna Win  
Teresa Peterson

## Tiwahe Program

Dakota Wicohan's Tiwahe (Family) Gathering is held every Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Dakota Wicohan office in Morton behind the old Morton High School. All families are welcome and encouraged to attend. We serve a meal, visit and share a Dakota Language Lesson. On the last Wednesday of each month, the Red Tree Singers come and sing ceremonial songs. Families are welcome to sing along or just enjoy the songs while visiting relatives.

The Tiwahe Program has four focus areas with each season. March brings us into our Spring Season. The focus for Spring will be Arts & Crafts.

If you have any questions on the Tiwahe Program or would like more information, please call me.

Pidamaya ye!  
Kateri O'Keefe  
Tiwahe Coordinator  
(507) 697-6272



## Wikoska Program

Our programming has been focusing on the Dakota value: *Wowan̄ciye*. The meaning of *wowan̄ciye* is to be a dependable person. A long time ago every person within our tribe had a role and responsibility. Today we don't give everyone a place and make them feel valued. The Wikoska learn about their role within the program, as well as within their community. This gives each of the young women a sense of belonging and ownership over their culture & language through their Dakota identity.

Wikoska have been working on creating a digital story about the Dakota 38 Memorial horse ride. Each of the Wikoska had a role before, during, and after the ride. Some of their roles were riding, preparing the horses, serving & preparing food for horse riders/supporters, and being supportive to the participants. Our Dakota value, *wowan̄ciye*, gives us the teaching to understand who we once were as Dakota people and how we still practice those values and traditions today.

We will continue to talk about our traditions and values throughout the program.

During the month of April we will be focusing on higher education. The Wikoska will be visiting two colleges. And we will be having a special guest come talk about financial aid, scholarships, and tools for finding the right school.

If you have any questions regarding the Wikoska Program please call me at: (507) 697-6272

## Koska Program

Ah-Ko Haw-tso aim Day ohn day, Hau Mitakuyepi, Jozee Campos emakiyapido, Hello friends and relatives My name is Jozee Campos. Im the Koska Itoncha here at Dakota Wicohan. I work with the Koska (young men) here at Dakota Wicohan. We are currently in our 6<sup>th</sup> month of the program and I am maintaining an average of 10 Koska in the program from ages 6-15 yrs.

The program is open to any young men who are interested in learning Dakota language, culture as well as song and dance.

Last month the Koska Society picked a name for their drum group, the

name was drawn from a selection process. The name of the drum group is Red Hawk Singers, the Koska practice singing every Tuesday & Thursday afterschool. We offer tutoring from 3:45-4:30pm & drum practice from 4:30-5:50pm with the assistance of our drum consultant, Darwin Strong. Recently we've had some Wikoska (young woman) come over and show interest and participate in the learning of the Flag Song around the drum. So I'm also encouraging any Wikoska who are interested in learning language and singing behind the drum to feel free to come participate. Tiwahe Family Language night takes place immediately after drum

practice Wednesday nights. All are welcomed to come eat, sing and learn Dakota Iapi.

As the Koska program goes along into the year we have many things planned for our young people, summer camp, Sunktanka, arts & crafts and much more. If anyone has any questions or want their young person to be involved in something healthy and positive that is culturally based please feel free to contact me at Dakota Wicohan, (507)697-6272 email me [koskalead@gmail.com](mailto:koskalead@gmail.com) or look me up on facebook under user name Koska Leader.

Toksta Ake'  
Jozee Campos

# Sunktanka Program



Yea-tah, My name is Laverne Goodthunder. I am the newly appointed *Lead Horse Worker* for the Sunktanka Program. Many of you already know me, I am also the Youth Worker. I'm looking forward to my new position at Dakota Wicohan and I hope to see all of you soon. I know we are going to have a fun summer of riding!

On May 11, 2013 there will be a Kick Off event for the Sunktanka Program at Redwood County Fairgrounds Horse Arena. This will include door prizes, t-shirts, a meal, and horse

games. All families are invited and encouraged to come! The fun starts at 11am and runs to 2pm. Hope to see you there!

Something NEW this year for the Sunktanka Program—we are offering Adult riding lessons! If we get enough interest, lessons will run \$20.00 per lesson, start on May 17th and be held every Friday from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. These classes will offer Basic riding and saddeling, basic horse care. As participants progress individually, we can push further into more advanced skills.

Here is a short overview of our schedule for the summer:

Summer horse camp will start on June 10<sup>th</sup> and consist of six weeks of riding.

Tues: Boys (5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> grade)

Wed: Highschool (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)

Thurs: Girls (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade)

If you would any information on the Sunktanka Program or would like to sign up for Adult Riding lessons feel free to call me! Tosta Ake'!

Laverne Goodthunder  
Lead Horse Worker/Youth Worker  
(507) 697-6272

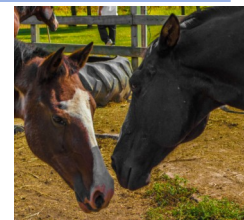


# Sunktanka Horse Worker



Winona Goodthunder  
*Horse Worker*

Han, Wasicu ia Winuna Goodthunder emakiyapi ye. Dakota ia Wambde Ho Waste Win emakiyapi ye. My name is Winona Goodthunder. My Dakota name is Eagle Woman with a Good Voice. I am currently going to school online at the University of Minnesota Morris as a psychology major. I have been a part of the Sunktanka Program for eleven years as a youth and youth worker. I am going to be working with the Dakota Wicohan youth this summer as a Horse Worker and assist my mother, Laverne Goodthunder in the Sunktanka Program as her assistant. I've missed working with the everyone and I can't wait to start! See you in May! Pidamayaye!



Gypsie & Blackjack,  
Sunktanka Program  
horses

# Arts Coordinator Program



Han Mitakuyepi, Wasicu ia Anne O'Keefe-Jackson, Dakota ia Mahpiya Amaste Win emakiyapi ye. I am so excited to be back working at Dakota Wicohan. I will be the Arts Coordinator. This is a new part-time two year position that organizes and leads Dakota Wicohan's Community Arts Project. This project will host a monthly artist's support group, organize a two

day training for a group of Dakota artists in MN., and implement new strategies to decrease costs and increase visibility & sales for our artists. This will include everything from creating a wholesale group to purchasing art supplies to launching a new website for our artists. This also includes building a master/emerging artist apprentice program. I will continue to update everyone on the progress of this program and I look forward to working and visiting

with everyone soon.

If you are a Dakota artist, in any art field and interested in participating in this project, please feel free to call me. Pidamaya ye!

Mahpiya Amaste Win  
Anne O'Keefe-Jackson  
Arts Coordinator  
(507) 697-6272



# AmeriCorps Promise Fellow

Han Parents and Guardians!

This month I will be focusing on the upcoming service projects for Spring and Summer. A lot of exciting things being planned!

I am currently working on a Gardening Project. If you would like to volunteer your time to help with the garden please call me at (507) 697-6272.

Shakeena Pazi

AmeriCorps Promise Fellow



## Contact Us:



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(507) 697-6272  
(507) 697-6240 FAX

Like us on Facebook!



[www.dakotawicohan.com](http://www.dakotawicohan.com)



## TO DONATE:

If you would like to donate to Dakota Wicohan Programs you can fill in and mail the cut out below. Or you can scan the QR code and donate via Razoo to Dakota Wicohan and the Dakota 38 Sunktanka riders.



Donations are accepted through Pay Pal, QR code scan or by email. Pay Pal email address: [dakotawicohan@gmail.com](mailto:dakotawicohan@gmail.com) or scan the QR code to donate online.



### Dakota Wicohan Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to receive our newsletter via email.

# Announcements:



## Oral History Project

On the behalf of Dakota Wicohan and everyone who has participated in or helped with Dakota Wicohan's Oral History Project, I am excited to report that we are nearly complete. The still untitled project runs roughly 55-minutes in length and includes interviews with Dakota elders, scholars, and language speakers. The goal of the project is educate people across the state on the history and experience of Dakota peoples in Minnesota, encourage community involvement, and encourage Dakota people to learn their language.

Later this month, Dakota Wicohan will share the project with the elders involved in the project and their families to be certain that those who took part are happy with how they have been represented. In the spring, Dakota Wicohan will start sharing the project with a larger audience across the state. We are excited for the next step and hope everyone has a chance to see this new project. Pidamaya ye!

- Simon Goldenberg  
Project Coordinator

## WANTED: MN Dakota Artists

Dakota Wicohan will be starting up a new Dakota Community Arts Project. This project will include a monthly artist's support group, idea sharing, a two day training with the First People's Fund, a field trip to an art gallery, visit and share with other artists around the state of MN, build a website, and much more! This project will support all art fields. If you are a Dakota artist or know of someone in the state of MN, please contact Anne O'Keefe at (507) 697-6272.



*This has been a tough time for our Communities with loss of loved ones...Dakota Wicohan would like to extend our deepest heartfelt condolences to all families and friends grieving loved ones.*

*You are all in our thoughts and prayers.*

"Wanna takuye tawah'indab he, tuwe nag'i maka akan ed unmps'ni, mah'piyati hetkiya cekiya akan iyayapido, he wakanyedo, nitakuye ahanna, tuwe kinhdapi, tuwe ded umps'ni, hedakeptedo, hehan iyonaks'ices'nikte, iyokpi unptedo. Hecah' he apcedo"

"Dakota people believe when you lose a loved one, when their body is no longer here on this earth and when their spirit enters heaven with a prayer, it is a sacred time for us, it is then when they see their loved ones who in the past have also journeyed home, their hearts will then not be saddened, but be filled with happiness..."



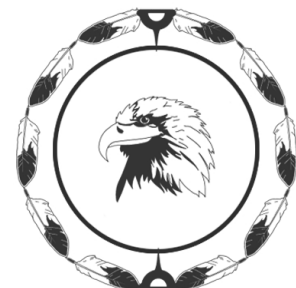
## Sunktanka Program







### Kick-Off Event!!

Bring your families out to a fun filled day of events to kick-off our 2013 Sunktanka season on May 11, 2013 at the RWF Fairgrounds!

- Horse Games!
- T-shirts!
- Food!
- Program sign up!
- Family Fun!

Call for more information: (507) 697-6272



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>Wikoska Program 3:30 - 4:45 Meets every Wed.</p> 	1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<p><b>Koska</b> 3:45-5:30</p> 	<p>6 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> 6-7:30 p.m. <b>Koska (Drums)</b> 4:30-5:30</p>	<p><b>Koska</b> 3:45-5:30</p> 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			<p>13 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> 6-7:30 p.m. <b>Koska (Drums)</b> 4:30-5:30</p>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
			<p>20 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> 6-7:30 p.m. <b>Koska (Drums)</b> 4:30-5:30 Dana Woods w/Wikoska Program-Digital Stories</p>			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			<p>27 <b>Tiwahe Gathering</b> 6-7:30 p.m. <b>Koska (Drums)</b> 4:30-5:30 <b>NO WIKOSKA</b></p>	<p>Redwood Schools are OUT for Spring Break</p> 		
31						
 <p>Happy Easter!!</p>						