



Maine-Wabanaki REACH

Dear friends of Maine-Wabanaki REACH,

We speak to you with two voices and one vision.

Wabanaki: Imagine Wabanaki people fully harnessing our vast knowledge and strengths toward restoring our communities, leading with the vision of vibrant, self-sufficient communities that we know we can be.

Maine: What if Mainers recognize that our own liberation is tied to the liberation of the Wabanaki, and that by listening and learning, we may find our strengths, be honest, and help build Maine communities on knowledge, understanding and respect for our interconnectedness.

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Right now, Maine-Wabanaki REACH is working with this vision in mind. As a friend of REACH you are an integral part of the process. We are grateful for your ongoing commitment to our work and our vision. We invite you to join us in supporting two exciting initiatives:

4th Annual Wabanaki Wellness Gathering ~ “Art, Music and Healing” **October 2017 – Passamaquoddy community of Pleasant Point/Sipayik** A two-day gathering by and for Wabanaki communities



For the past three years, REACH’s annual Wabanaki Wellness Gathering has been a place where we Wabanaki, and those in our communities working toward wellness, could gather, connect, share, and learn together. Tapping into our own vast network of knowledge, we highlight the work of our Wabanaki people for or within our tribal communities. The gatherings are a combination of presentations, discussions, and workshops focused on understanding history, decolonization, resilience, and healing.

Last year the annual Wabanaki Wellness Gathering was held in Indian Township. The theme was “Food is Medicine: Decolonizing our Diets” and an evening Shared Supper and Drumming event raised food and funds for the Indian Township Food Pantry. This year our theme is “Art, Music, and Healing”. We are very fortunate to host Dr. Darryl Tonemah, a Native health psychologist and musician (Kiowa, Comanche and Tuscarora) who will deliver the keynote presentation helping us to understand historical trauma and how we can become more traumainformed in our care and service to our tribal communities. Also an award-winning musician, Tonemah will provide music and entertainment for our community fundraiser that will benefit the Sipayik Youth Council.



Fundraising Goal: \$7,000 that will allow us to provide two full days of presentations, discussions, and art and healing workshops to approximately 100 members of the Wabanaki communities; art materials and supplies for workshops; healthy food to nourish body and soul throughout the gathering and for the evening Dinner & Show. Funds will help us bring Dr. Darryl Tonemah from New York to downeast Maine and will help support the work of other tribal presenters.

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Exploring Wabanaki/Maine History A two-hour educational experience for Mainers



How do we best tell the story of relationships here in Wabanakiland? With input from Wabanaki educators, scholars, and REACH staff, a powerful new experiential learning exercise has been created to bring participants through 500 years Wabanaki/Maine history of relationship to each other. It is supported by beautiful art work by University of Maine art education students and faculty. Together, we tell the story of colonization through key historical events.

REACH has already offered a soft launch. Adults and teenagers have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to participate and learn what they did not know that they did not know. Participants most often share how the experience connects to their personal lives. As one participant said, “I found this so moving that now I feel the need to look at my world differently and ask myself what do I need to do differently.” With additional funding, REACH will be able to not only finalize the presentation of this exercise to share across the state, but also make it available online for anyone to provide this outstanding educational tool in their own communities.

Fundraising Goal: \$10,000 that will provide 20 presentations for up to 600 people, materials to support additional presentations, volunteer training, and website development for sharing by June 2018. This work will also be supported through extensive volunteer commitment and in-kind donations from like-minded organizations.

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Your donations to these initiatives will strengthen our work, our communities and our world. **Please consider a donation of \$100 or more today and invite 10 of your friends to do the same by using the link below. Every dollar counts. Act today. Together, we can make this vision a reality.**

Click on this link to visit our website <http://www.mainewabanakireach.org/donate>
Our deadline is September 30th.

Thank you for all that you do.

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