

THE CHICKASAW NATION  
**2019 PROGRESS REPORT**



# CHOKMA!



*The past year was once again a year of progress and celebration for the Chickasaw Nation. We marked important milestones, celebrated new accomplishments and enjoyed many beneficial partnerships.*

*Quality programs and services continued to flourish as revenues from diversified tribal business endeavors allowed us to offer an abundance of opportunities in health care, housing, culture and more. Chickasaws from all walks of life continued to grow, learn and succeed as we remained, as always, committed to our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people.*

*Included in the 2019 Progress Report is an overview of the great progress, achievements and impact made during the past year. The following pages highlight the dedication and strength of the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw people. Our future is bright!*

*Sincerely,*

*Bill Anoatubby, Governor  
The Chickasaw Nation*



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*The Chickasaw Nation has more than 70,000 citizens worldwide and employs more than 13,500 individuals.*

*It is the 12th largest federally recognized tribe in the United States.*

*Jurisdictional territory of the Chickasaw Nation includes 7,648 square miles of south-central Oklahoma. It encompasses all or parts of 13 Oklahoma counties, including Bryan, Carter, Coal, Garvin, Grady, Jefferson, Johnston, Love, Marshall, McClain, Murray, Pontotoc and Stephens.*

*The tribal government is a democratic republic and was modeled after the federal government of the United States. Registered voters elect a governor and a lieutenant governor, 13 members of the tribal legislature and three justices on the tribal Supreme Court.*

*This year, the Chickasaw Nation Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) office issued 2,351 CDIB cards to eligible individuals and 1,934 Chickasaw citizenship cards.*

*The mission of the Chickasaw Nation is to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people. The Chickasaw Nation carries out the daily business and operations needed to ensure the longevity of the tribe.*

*The core values of the Chickasaw Nation are its fundamental, guiding principles. The tribe values Chickasaw people, cultural identity, servant leadership, selflessness, a can do attitude, perseverance, stewardship, trust and respect, loyalty, honesty and integrity, and teamwork. These governing principles are vital to the tribe, its employees and the citizens whom it serves.*



# EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

*Standing, left to right:*

**BILL ANOATUBBY**, Governor

**ROBYN ELLIOTT**, Secretary of Communications and Community Development

As secretary of communications and community development, Robyn Elliott promotes cultural pride among Chickasaw people by sharing timely and important information with the world through various media outlets.

**LISA JOHN**, Secretary of Culture and Humanities

As the secretary of culture and humanities, Lisa John is responsible for the Chickasaw Cultural Center and the development of programs to encourage cultural education, historical preservation and the arts.

**JALINDA KELLEY**, Secretary of Interior Services

As the secretary of interior services, Jalinda Kelley is responsible for many of the internal operations of the Chickasaw Nation. These services include Lighthouse Police, human resources, information technology, benefits and compensation, training and career development and tribal government services.

**TAMMY GRAY**, Executive Officer, Governor's Office

**CHRIS ANOATUBBY**, Lieutenant Governor

*Seated, left to right:*

**BILL LANCE**, Secretary of Commerce,

As secretary of commerce, Bill Lance oversees the many diverse businesses that are operated by the Chickasaw Nation. These businesses provide funding for the programs and services available to the Chickasaw people.

**DR. CHARLES GRIM**, Secretary of Health

As secretary of health, Dr. Charles Grim oversees the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and is responsible for all health programs and services offered to Chickasaw people.

**DAKOTA COLE**, Secretary of Treasury

As secretary of treasury, Dakota Cole provides pertinent and vital information to leaders to assist in key financial decisions, long-term strategic planning and management of assets and investments across the Chickasaw Nation.

**WAYNE SCRIBNER**, Secretary of Community Services

As secretary of community services, Wayne Scribner oversees tribal housing, youth services, education, social services and aging programs to ensure quality services for Chickasaw people and the communities in which they live. He is also responsible for the construction of tribal facilities.

**JAY KEEL**, Secretary of Family Services

As secretary of family services, Jay Keel oversees programs and opportunities that support strong and healthy Chickasaw families.



**Bottom row, left to right:**

- ALICSON SCOTT**, Patient Relations (EO)
- KARA BERST**, Outreach & Services (US)
- KAYCIE SHEPPARD**, CNDC General Counsel (EO)
- MELISSA EDGAR**, Project Development & Review (EO)
- PAULINE SLIGER**, Compensation (EO)
- LETA BURWELL**, Administration (US)
- LONA BARRICK**, Cultural Tourism (EO)
- JOSH BESS**, Family Support (EO)
- CAROL MCCURDY**, Training & Career Development (EO)
- MENDY WATKINS**, Budgeting and Support (EO)
- TERESA REAMS**, Health Finance (EO)
- JANA ELDRED**, Tribal Health (EO)

**Second row, left to right:**

- GOVERNOR BILL ANOATUBBY**
- CHENAE LIPPARD**, Heritage Preservation (EO)
- VICKY GOLD**, Communications Support Services (EO)
- TOMI TICE**, Nursing & Specialty Services (EO)
- BRENDA TEEL**, Revenue (EO)
- CYNDIE KEY**, Interior Services (US)
- CHRISTY ESTES**, Finance Headquarters (EO)
- DR. JUDY GOFORTH PARKER**, Commissioner, Health Policy
- DEBRA GEE**, Legal (EO)
- ANDREA HORNER**, Communications (EO)
- JANA REICH**, Commerce Finance (EO)
- KAREN COOK**, Aging (EO)
- CARRIE LAW**, Operations (US)
- KIRK PERRY**, Historic Preservation (EO)
- LT. GOV. CHRIS ANOATUBBY**

**Third row, left to right:**

- ALAN MARCUM**, Support Services (DS)
- KARISSA PICKETT**, Creative Services (EO)
- VALORIE WALTERS**, Culture & Humanities (US)
- RANDY WESLEY**, Executive Officer/Commissioner of Police,  
Department of Interior Services
- JOHNNA WALKER**, Foundation (CEO)
- DANNY WELLS**, Education (EO)
- SHEILLA BRASHIER**, Community Outreach/Development (EO)
- JERRY JONES**, Senior Advisor and Executive Officer of  
Department of Treasury
- LAURA STEWART**, Arts and Humanities (EO)

- LORI HAMILTON**, History and Culture (EO)
- MARTY WOFFORD**, Support and Programs (US)
- CHRIS THARP**, Tribal Health (US)
- JASON PERRY**, Outreach and Support (EO)
- REBECCA CHANDLER**, Nutrition Services (EO)

**Fourth row, left to right:**

- MATTHEW MORGAN**, Strategic Policy Development/Gaming (EO)
- JOE HILL**, Governmental Affairs (EO)
- KENNETH SMITH**, Construction Services (US)
- JIMMY TIGNOR**, Support (EO)
- JANA HARRISON**, Finance Housing (EO)
- JENNY TRETT**, Internal Audit (EO)
- RENEE SWEET**, Housing (EO)
- SHERYL GOODSON**, Primary Care Clinic/Public Health (EO)
- COLT DIGBY**, Youth Services (EO)
- SCOTT EMERSON**, Operations (US)
- DANNY HILLIARD**, Corporate Development (VP)
- CHRIS PHILLIPS**, Procurement (EO)
- CASSANDRA MCGILBRAY**, Safety and Quality (EO)
- C.J. ADUCCI**, Strong Family Development (EO)
- JONATHAN MOFFAT**, Digital Design and Development (EO)
- BOBBY JONES**, Human Resources (EO)

**Fifth row, left to right:**

- FRANK JOHNSON JR.**, Governmental Affairs and Partnerships (DS)
- DUSTIN NEWPORT**, Protective Services (EO)
- KYLE KEY**, Self Governance (EO)
- SEAN BOYD**, Market and Business Development (EO)
- JESSE ANDERSON**, Quality and Ancillary Services (EO)
- PALMER MOSELY**, Self Governance (US)
- STACY EDGAR**, Chickasaw Employee Access (EO)
- CHRIS KELLER**, Information Technology (EO)
- STEPHEN GREETHAM**, Senior Counsel (US)
- ADAM STAFFORD**, Business Analytics (EO)
- TOM JOHN**, Community Services (US)
- MARCUS MILLIGAN**, Chickasaw Cultural Center (EO)
- DR. PAUL EMRICH**, Mental Health Service (US)
- TODD CRAWFORD**, Support and Sustainability (US)
- JOE THOMAS**, Literary Arts (EO)
- TONY CHOATE**, Media Relations (EO)
- BRIAN ANOATUBBY**, Health Engagement (EO)

(CEO) – Chief Executive Officer · (EO) – Executive Officer · (DS) – Deputy Secretary  
(US) – Under Secretary · (P) – President · (VP) – Vice President



# CHILDREN & YOUTH

*The Chickasaw Nation offers a variety of meaningful programs, services and activities year round to engage and enlighten youth. These opportunities cover a wide variety of interests and are designed to help cultivate well-rounded, confident and successful individuals.*

This year, the Chickasaw Children's Village celebrated 15 years of service, impacting the lives of hundreds of students along the way. As the successor to the historic Carter Seminary in Ardmore, the Chickasaw Children's Village opened in Kingston, Oklahoma, in 2004. The new facility transitioned from a dormitory approach to a therapeutic model of residential services, providing residential and educational care for Native American children. Students reside in one of eight cottage-style homes, separated according to age and gender, with a pair of counselors who provide guidance, support and direction. In 2019, the facility served 89 youth and has served more than 1,200 since opening.

Also benefitting children, Chickasaw Nation child care opened its first center in 2002 with a license to serve 89 children from birth to 4 years of age. The current child development center in Ada opened in 2009 and a second center launched in Ardmore in 2017. The two facilities combined to serve more than 400 children in 2019.







The child care assistance program provides financial assistance to eligible Native American families living within the Chickasaw Nation. The program allows parents to choose from a broad range of licensed child care providers, including tribal child care centers, family child care providers, center-based child care centers and relative providers. The program has assisted more than 8,000 children since beginning in 1995. In 2019, the program served 792 families, including 873 Chickasaw children.

In pursuit of all-around wellness, the martial arts program began in 1993 to provide Chickasaw youth a healthy recreational activity and to help build self-esteem and character. The program offers a variety of martial art forms while incorporating the Chickasaw language into each lesson. In 2019, martial arts served 570 Chickasaw youth in locations across the Chickasaw Nation.

In conjunction, Chickasaw Nation camps, clinics and academies provide a safe and positive environment for personal skills development and motivation to help youth achieve future success. The programs incorporate sports, culture, wellness, nature and more. In 2019, more than 2,400 children participated in camps, clinics and academies throughout the year.



The Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA) is a weeklong academy for Chickasaw students interested in science, technology, aviation and space exploration through hands-on activities, challenges and teamwork. Forty-five Chickasaw students from across the country attended CNASA this year, which takes place at the U.S. Rocket and Space Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

In addition, Chickasaw Youth Clubs, located in Tishomingo and Sulphur, offer a place for children to participate in programs such as character and leadership development, education and career advancement, health and life skills, arts, sports,

fitness and recreation. In 2019, the two clubs combined to serve nearly 230 Chickasaw youth.

To help with other related necessities, the Chickasaw Nation provides eligible Chickasaw students ages 3 to 18 a youth clothing grant in the form of a \$200 Visa gift card for the purchase of clothing and shoes for the school year. Nearly 17,000 students received the youth clothing grant this year. The college clothing grant program provides \$150 to eligible part-time college students and \$300 to eligible full-time college students. In 2019, the program served 2,600 college students.

Implemented in 2006, the youth support reimbursement program provides donations or sponsorships for students who may need assistance in order to participate in various events, clubs, leagues or other activities. In 2019, the program assisted more than 3,300 Chickasaw youth with more than \$497,000 in support.

The school age and after school programs provide care to children ages 4 through 12 after school and during spring, summer, fall and Christmas breaks. The program allows children to experience exciting activities through age-appropriate field trips, park days and special events. Children also stay active through arts and crafts, theater productions, storytelling, music and dance, community service projects, scientific exploration and more. In 2019, 872 children attended the programs.



# CHICKASAW ARTS ACADEMY

*In 2019, the Chickasaw Arts Academy celebrated 15 years of providing art instruction, exposure and inspiration to Chickasaw youth from across the U.S. Many students return annually to develop their artistic skills and gain hands-on experience during the academy.*

*The Chickasaw Arts Academy impacts students by providing high quality Native-focused classes taught by renowned artists. During the two-week academy, students prepare for an art gala and showcase presented on the academy's final day.*

*Chickasaw culture is embedded into academy curriculum, as students learn Chickasaw history, language, artistic styles and symbolization of Southeastern art. This academy provides opportunities and promotes a sense of self-worth, accomplishment and passion among Native American students.*

*The summer portion of the academy expanded this year by separating the levels of classes and offering instruction at two locations. The starting arts rotation (STAR) students worked on the campus of East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Intermediate and major level students studied at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma. The Chickasaw Arts Academy was established in 2005 to provide art programs for Native American students. Today, the academy offers classes on more than 30 different mediums.*

*The Chickasaw Arts Academy continues to make great progress in advancing arts education. Often, the academy is the only source of art instruction available to students during the year. It is a supplement to a well-rounded education and exposure to disciplines that may influence students' futures.*

*STAR students, ages 8 to 11, rotate through performing and fine arts disciplines. Intermediate level students, ages 12 and 13, choose rotations of classes from fine arts, performing arts or mass communications. The majors, ages 14 to 18, choose one area of focus from a variety of disciplines.*





Caleb Kretzschmar

## CALEB KRETZSCHMAR AND KASH VESTAL

*“The Chickasaw Nation, through all of the camps, has helped me with skills for success...” -Caleb Kretzschmar*

Throughout the year, the Chickasaw Nation offers camps, clinics and academies tailored to serve the many different interests of Chickasaw youth. Opportunities are offered in the areas of sports, culture, nutrition, arts and more. Each provides personal skills development, education and motivation to help youth explore new opportunities and learn new skills for a successful future.

Chickasaw citizen Caleb Kretzschmar, senior at Byng High School, participated in the 2019 Oklahoma Business Week, which takes place each summer on the campus of East Central University (ECU) in Ada. The camp, made

possible through a partnership between the Chickasaw Nation and ECU, is a weeklong summer program that introduces young leaders to the world of business.

Participants become part of a “company” and work together in various business events and competitions. Caleb was chosen as the chief marketing officer for his team’s company, the Purple Turtles.

“Being the chief marketing officer for our company taught me the importance of branding and marketing. The focus you put on your product and the message you want to convey is extremely important,” Caleb said.

Oklahoma Business Week gives students the chance to hear from business professionals and learn the behind the scenes work that goes into running a business. The Chickasaw Nation places a strong emphasis providing Chickasaw youth ample opportunities to grow and become future leaders.

“The Chickasaw Nation has helped me with life and education plans and goals. Just going to school by itself, it is hard to find ideas of what I want to do with my life. The Chickasaw Nation, through all of the camps, has helped me with skills for success, more skills than I thought I would ever have,” Caleb said.



Kash Vestal

Another summer camp, the Chickasaw Nation Aviation and Space Academy (CNASA) is one of many educational programs designed to promote lifelong learning and personal development. Established in 2003, CNASA's activities and curriculum are intended to spark interest in the aviation, space, science, engineering and math fields.

Chickasaw youth experienced a range of hands-on projects, team building exercises and friendly competitions at this year's camp. Activities included working with stomp rockets, hovercrafts, paper airplanes, airfoils, build-a-boats, a parachute investigation and an Apollo 11 challenge.

The Chickasaw Nation teamed up with a group of local volunteer pilots to provide campers with a real-life flight experience at the Ada Regional Airport. The group

of volunteers included tribal employees, local business owners and the Ada city mayor.

Chickasaw citizen Kash Vestal, 13, said the plane ride was the highlight of his experience at CNASA.

"The plane rides were awesome and we even got to do a two and a half G turn," Kash said.

Volunteer pilots shared their love for flying, covering multiple aspects of aviation, including pre-flight inspections, flight safety, radio communication and navigation. Prior to each flight, cadets were introduced to their pilots and airplanes, all of which varied based on flight pattern logistics and airplane payloads. Kash Vestal connected lessons from history class to his experience.

"I'm extremely interested in World War II and the planes

from that era. My class at Mill Creek researched a B-17 training mission crash that happened in Mill Creek in 1944 and we are in the beginning process of getting a monument established in Mill Creek for the 10 men killed that day," he said.

CNASA has sparked Kash's interest in flying. He plans to join the United States Air Force one day.

"I've also started my Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Young Eagles pilot's training coursework online that CNASA students received as part of their flight logbook," Kash said. "I plan to have the first part completed by January, so I can qualify for my free EAA pilot training session."



# COMMERCE

*With a successful economic business plan and diversified tribal business endeavors, revenues generated allow the Chickasaw Nation to offer an array of programs, services and outlets to meet the mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Chickasaw people. In 1972, the tribe purchased the Chickasaw Motor Inn, the first tribal business, which paved the way for successful investments and ventures in the years since. The Chickasaw Nation has grown to operate businesses in gaming, hospitality, gourmet chocolate, tourism, retail, health care, banking and financial services, manufacturing, energy, media and technology.*

The Artesian Hotel, Casino and Spa, located in Sulphur, celebrated its sixth anniversary in 2019. Throughout its years in operation, the



hotel has booked more than 123,000 rooms and served more than 600,000 guests through room bookings, restaurant and retail visits and spa customers. The Artesian also hosts community events, including the Spring Fling and Annual Artesian Fireworks Show, which allow local residents and guests to experience the historically significant area of Chickasaw Country.

Among the signs of continued growth, the Golden Mesa Casino, a partnership between Global Gaming Solutions and the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, opened in Guymon, Oklahoma,



in August 2019. The new facility is a beacon of partnership, tourism and progress in northwest Oklahoma. Global Gaming Solutions, a commercial venture of the Chickasaw Nation, continues to expand its consulting services in an effort to enhance tourism and economic development throughout the state.

In addition, MegaStar Casino, located near Willis, Oklahoma, opened in July 2019 with more than 600 electronic games. The facility includes a new Chickasaw Travel Stop, Kitchen 377 restaurant and additional amenities.

Also, WinStar World Casino and Resort recently became the official casino of the Dallas Cowboys, a partnership which is the first of its kind for an NFL franchise and gaming center. WinStar capitalized on the strength of both brands and the partnership in 2019 by creating unique on-and-off site Cowboys experiences and cross-promotional events for patrons.

In 2019, Bedré Fine Chocolate bolstered its brand with a transition to a fully sourced cocoa trace program. The program uses sustainable cocoa sourcing, focusing





on great tasting chocolate and creating value for all involved, from the farmer to the consumer.

In a related area, the Chickasaw Business Network focuses on increasing exposure of Chickasaw-owned companies through the Chickasaw Business Directory. The directory's intent is to promote citizen-to-citizen commerce and in 2019, added nearly 200 companies to the program. Through [ChickasawBusinessNetwork.com](http://ChickasawBusinessNetwork.com), Chickasaws can search and browse nearly 400 Chickasaw-owned companies located throughout the U.S. The numerous industries include construction trades, technology companies, health care companies, artisans and various other professions.

Focusing attention on areas of interest, Chickasaw Country actively promotes south-central Oklahoma businesses, attractions, recreation and events as a premier travel and tourism destination. In 2019, the Chickasaw Nation's tourism centers located in Oklahoma City, Sulphur, Davis, Tishomingo and Thackerville welcomed more than 1.2 million visitors.

In a relevant business connection, Chickasaw-owned Trace Fiber Networks aims to bridge the technology gap affecting small towns and rural communities within the Chickasaw Nation by building a reliable fiber network. To date, nearly 180 miles of buried fiber-optic cable and 215 miles of conduit have been installed. Once completed, through a partnership with the Oklahoma Community Anchor Network, Trace will operate an approximately 500-mile fiber-optic network

encompassing the Chickasaw Nation's boundaries, while connecting more than 40 communities and schools. It will also provide unsurpassed speed and connectivity to more than 100 Chickasaw Nation owned businesses, as well as a variety of facilities, including offices, Head Starts, hospitals, clinics, libraries and homes.

Another commercial interest, Chickasaw Nation Industries subsidiary Corvid Technologies performs computer simulations for national entities, such as the U.S. Department of Defense and NASCAR. In 2019, Corvid was awarded a \$223 million contract with the U.S. government to expand beyond computer simulations. Under the contract, Corvid will provide hardware and components for rocket-propelled vehicles.

On the financial front, Bank2 continued business as the top source of Native American home loans in the state of Oklahoma and the largest 100% Native American home mortgage loan servicing portfolio in the country. In 2019, Bank2 collaborated with the Chickasaw Nation Housing Department to begin a lease-to-own, GAP program. The purpose of the program is to provide interim home loan financing for eligible Chickasaws who are unable to currently qualify for a mortgage, but have potential for future qualification. Participants have the opportunity to lease an existing home of their choice with a portion of the payment going toward the equity in the home. After a specific timeframe, the borrower will assume the loan and Bank2 will provide a HUD 184 Mortgage.





# MAHOTA TEXTILES, LLC

*In a partnership with renowned Chickasaw artist Margaret Roach Wheeler, Mahota Textiles, LLC launched in October 2018 as the first tribally owned and operated commercial textile business in the U.S.*

*Inspired by Chickasaw and Southeastern Native American heritage and designs, Mahota currently offers purses, pillows and blankets. Each product is made using natural, environmentally friendly fibers and designed by Native American artists for a product that is meaningful and respectful to Native cultures. The launch of Mahota Textiles was recognized in [First American Art Magazine's](#) "Top Ten Native Arts Events of the Year."*

*Products are sold in several retail locations in Oklahoma and nationwide outlets, including the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, Institute of American Indian Arts, Autry Museum of the American West, Mississippi Museum of Art and the Oklahoma History Center.*

*The Mahota World Headquarters opened in Sulphur in July 2019. The retail space offers Mahota products, along with a showroom displaying artwork for sale by local Native American artists.*





Jimmie Ragland



## VETERANS

*Veterans services often works hand-in-hand with other tribal departments to ensure Chickasaw veterans are receiving the necessary care and attention for a happy, healthy life.*

The Chickasaw Nation is committed to honoring, serving and supporting Chickasaw veterans through a variety of services and assistance tailored to meet veterans' specific and unique needs.

The Chickasaw Nation Veterans Lodge, annual Chickasaw Veterans Conference and the Chickasaw Warrior Society were created in reverence for veterans' service to their country and to encourage fellowship among Chickasaw servicemen and women. Additionally, veterans services

often works hand-in-hand with other tribal departments to ensure Chickasaw veterans are receiving the necessary care and attention for a happy, healthy life.

Chickasaw citizen and Army veteran Jimmie Ragland enjoyed the elder veterans trip to Washington, D.C., in 2019. It is a trip he would have never made without the tribe's invitation, he said.

"It was a trip of a lifetime, so special. My wife and I have not quit talking about it," he said.

Jimmie feared health issues would prevent him from making the trip,

but with Chickasaw Nation Aging Division assistance and veterans services conducting the trip, he had no problems during his time in the nation's capital. During ceremonies at the Vietnam War Memorial, Jimmie found the name of a fallen friend etched into the famed monument.

"It was hard for me; one of the hardest Veterans Days I ever spent. But it was one of the most gratifying because I was able to find that name so many years after it happened," he said. "I wouldn't have missed that for the world. If



it had not been for the Chickasaw Nation, we wouldn't have been able to do it."

Chickasaw citizen Bill Green, a Vietnam War-era veteran, has benefited greatly from the tribe's emphasis on providing quality health care services. In fact, tribal services are why he is alive today, he said.

Bill was hired by the tribe in 2016 to perform landscaping duties at the Purcell Area Office. A year ago, he was involved in a car accident where his upper chest and torso were injured. While X-raying his chest, doctors discovered lung cancer.

"The services provided to citizens by the Chickasaw Nation have made it possible for me to be employed and enjoy all the benefits afforded to employees,"

Bill said. "As a Chickasaw, I also benefitted from the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health and Medisaw. Without those vital services, I would not have been able to afford the surgery that made me cancer-free."

"I'm here because of the services the Chickasaw Nation provides its citizens and employees," he added. "It's all about what is best for our people."

Chickasaw citizen Leonard Monroe, former Air Force veteran and Tinker Air Force base civil servant, echoed Bill's comments.

Leonard is a runner and competes in 5K runs and programs sponsored by the Chickasaw Nation, and is an active visitor to the tribe's wellness center in Ada.

"The wellness centers have benefited me and my family. When the Ada center was first built (in 2004), I saw (relatives) come over, walk upstairs, workout, use the treadmills and enjoy healthy living," he said.

All three veterans also enjoy the farmers market nutrition and winter fruits and vegetable programs so they are able to keep fresh fruit and vegetables on the dinner table.

"The Chickasaw Nation takes care of you, especially with the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. They take care of Chickasaw elders and veterans," Leonard said.



# COMMUNITY

*The Chickasaw Nation offers numerous programs and services dedicated to strengthening and enhancing the Chickasaw community, communities within the Chickasaw Nation and the residents who call them home.*

In May 2019, the Chickasaw Nation opened a new transportation services facility on the Ada South Campus. The building houses the transportation services department and the road to work program. The 4,869-square-foot facility provides room for administration staff and office space for 30 regional transportation specialists. It features two conference rooms, a dispatch area, a break room and a fitness area. The new facility also includes a large state-of-the-art commercial wash bay area, to ensure transportation services clients experience a clean, comfortable ride and covered parking for the entire base fleet.

Chickasaw Nation Transportation Services offers access to affordable transportation in the community, providing more than 47,000 rides to medical appointments, job interviews and work sites for hundreds of Native Americans and community members during the last year.

In 2019, ground was broken on a new 1,848-square-foot Chickasaw Honor Guard facility next to the Chickasaw Nation Veterans Lodge on the Ada South Campus. The new building





will provide a dedicated area for the honor guard to conduct business, a storage area for equipment, a central meeting area and a kitchen facility. The Chickasaw Honor Guard was established in 1993 to conduct ceremonial duties of the Chickasaw Nation, for veterans of all backgrounds, and for events across the country. Since then, the Chickasaw Nation Honor Guard has provided ceremonial duties for hundreds of events each year, including 144 in 2019.

In 2014, the Chickasaw Nation and the State of Oklahoma announced the signing of a compact to make Chickasaw Nation license plates available to citizens at all state-licensed tag agencies. The Chickasaw Motor Vehicle Program issued the first license plate in February 2015. To date, more than 15,400 Chickasaws across Oklahoma have celebrated their heritage by displaying the car tags on their vehicles and more than \$1.06 million was returned to citizens last year through the license plate rebate program.

The Chickasaw Nation's emergency energy assistance programs provide assistance to citizens with urgent, unmet needs to help with utility bills and deposits. This year, the programs served nearly 4,000 Chickasaws.

The Chickasaw Warrior Society encourages community, establishes and supports camaraderie and personifies the Chickasaw warrior spirit. The Chickasaw Warrior Society promotes the relationships of servicemen and women to each other as well as the tribe. The society now has more than 1,600 members who share the common bond of military experience.





The fifth annual Chickasaw Veterans Conference took place at WinStar World Casino and Resort in 2019 with 361 attendees. Each year at the conference, attendees have an opportunity to gather valuable information on programs and services specifically designed to support veterans as well as fellowship with others who have served or are serving their country.

The Chickasaw Nation continues to partner with local governments to improve local streets, highways, community roads and bridges. This year, through joint projects, the tribe provided more than \$6 million in assistance to resurface or construct 22 miles of roadway.

As part of the concerted effort to share the story of the Chickasaw Nation and the Chickasaw people, the tribe developed the Chickasaw Heritage Series Curriculum. The curriculum supplements the Chickasaw Heritage Series film projects, focusing on specific events or individuals throughout the Chickasaw Nation's history. It was developed cooperatively with state educators to meet state academic standards and to share the story of the Chickasaw Nation with the next generation of Oklahomans. More than 100 Oklahoma teachers attended curriculum workshops in 2019, where they received lesson plans and resources to use in classrooms. The lesson plans help students better

understand the Chickasaw Nation's past and present contributions to the growth and development of Oklahoma.

The Chickasaw Nation Community Outreach Program conducts community council and Chickasaw citizen connection meetings in locations across the U.S. In 2019, 177 meetings took place with more than 5,000 attendees. The meetings offer the opportunity to fellowship with other Chickasaws living in the area and hear information and updates about tribal programs, services, events and more.



# LIGHTHORSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*The Chickasaw Nation Lighthouse Police Department (LPD) marked a significant milestone in 2019 as it commemorated 15 years of service to the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw citizens. On Oct. 1, 2004, a chief of police and six officers took the oath of office and LPD assumed authority and law enforcement functions from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Since that time, LPD has partnered with federal, state and local governments to provide the most efficient and effective law enforcement services to Chickasaws and communities throughout the Chickasaw Nation's jurisdictional boundaries.*



*LPD has 48 cross-deputation agreements with law enforcement agencies to maximize shared resources and protect and serve communities. Since 2004, the department has expanded with the addition of several special teams, including patrol and K-9 units, a criminal investigations division, a special weapons and tactics (SWAT) team and a dive team. Together, these teams use innovative policing methods and state-of-the-art technology to provide exceptional service and protection to the Chickasaw Nation and the public.*



*The department's cross-deputation agreements with agencies throughout the state enable officers to make a valuable impact on public safety throughout Oklahoma. These agreements effectively make additional officers available to cooperating agencies, enhancing safety and lessening the law enforcement burden faced by many small and rural communities.*





## CHIKASHA ITTAFAMA

*For Chickasaw citizen Catie Hamilton, the annual Chikasha Ittafama is a family tradition she will pass on to her children.*

Each spring, Chickasaw culture and traditions are celebrated and featured during the annual Chikasha Ittafama (Chickasaw Reunion), which takes place at the Kullihoma Grounds east of Ada. Hundreds of Chickasaws regularly attend the event for fellowship, stomp dancing, traditional Chickasaw games and more.

For Chickasaw citizen Catie Hamilton, Chikasha Ittafama is a family tradition that she intends to share with her children as they grow.

“You get to see different generations, from the elders sitting underneath the arbors sharing stories about cooking, adults learning cultural activities like finger weaving, stickball and corn husk dolls, to children running around playing traditional games,” Catie said.

After attending her first reunion at the age of 5, Catie would attend many more with her

parents, siblings, grandparents and cousins. Now as a mother, she keeps the tradition alive by bringing her two-year old daughter.

“Family is very important to me,” she said. “As Native people, family is a priority and I enjoy spending time with them.”

Catie’s family assists with cooking the traditional lunch meal, stickball game and the horseshoe tournament, which is named after her great uncle, Charles Shields.

Chickasaw elder and Catie’s grandmother, Rose Shields-Jefferson, taught her granddaughter about the Chickasaw culture, including language, hymns and cooking.

Catie and her husband, Clovis, believe it is important to pass the Chickasaw culture on to their daughter.

“We have started immersing her into the language, she attends stickball games and can pick up

the ball with her own sticks,” Catie said. “We attend most cultural events and she will be stomp dancing soon.”

They hope their daughter will share her culture with others as she gets older and feel it is important to grow up hearing the Chickasaw language.

“Our language is something that cannot be taken away from you and we want her to learn and understand what makes us different from other tribes and nationalities,” she said.

Kullihoma is a Chickasaw tribal reserve that was once a stomp ground, school and community. Kullihoma has become a favorite gathering place for reuniting Chickasaws. A winter house, corn crib, summer house and a mountain house have been constructed for visitors to enjoy.





# NEXTGEN

*Young Chickasaws from around the country gathered in Oklahoma City to learn, network and grow career skills.*

In May 2019, the Chickasaw NextGen Conference welcomed nearly 100 young Chickasaws from around the country to the Oklahoma City Boathouse District. The conference provided attendees with the opportunity to connect with resources, network with industry leaders and grow career skills.

Local business leaders and Chickasaw Nation representatives shared how to leverage skills and education into meaningful careers. Among the conference attendees was Chickasaw citizen Nathan Baker, who traveled from Kennesaw, Georgia.

“The NextGen conference was my first time to visit Oklahoma, and my first face-to-face interaction with anyone from the Chickasaw Nation,” he said. “I found a lot of value in the conference through hearing the Chickasaw story, the history of the Chickasaw people and the structure of the Chickasaw

Nation, along with the programs offered. It was an opportunity to interact with other Chickasaws.”

Guest leaders included Oklahoma City mayor, David Holt; filmmaker and executive director of deadCENTER Film Festival, Lance McDaniel; Devon Energy vice president of public and government affairs, Allen Wright; President and CEO of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, Mary Mélon; chairman and CEO of Gabbard & Company, Brian Gabbard; and Chickasaw Nation leaders Bill Lance, Dan Boren, Lisa John, Dakota Cole and Jesse Anderson.

Each spent time with attendees in speed networking portions of the conference. The fast-paced, question and answer sessions were a conference favorite and gave attendees opportunities to hear from professionals in a variety of executive positions.

“The roundtable discussions with business leaders was easily the most valuable breakout session,” Nathan said.

The various conference breakout sessions were filled with resume tips, personal branding techniques and interview strategies. Meeting Governor Bill Anoatubby and hearing firsthand about the importance of personal journeys and turning points along the way that could change the course of the future was a highlight for Nathan.

“This very day, here at this NextGen conference, could be a turning point in your life and in the future of the Chickasaw Nation,” Governor Anoatubby said. “You are the future of the Chickasaw Nation, and what you do from this day forward could have a profound impact on the lives of our people.”





# CULTURE & ARTS

*The Chickasaw Nation offers many opportunities to take part and share in the vibrant culture and heritage that binds Chickasaws as a people.*

The tribe is dedicated to the preservation and revitalization of the Chickasaw language by leveraging the latest technology to make learning more accessible. Rosetta Stone Chickasaw has been a successful language teaching tool, reaching more than 6,400 registered users since it was first implemented. In 2019, Rosetta Stone Chickasaw Level 3 was released for both Apple and Android devices. This new installment of 40 immersive lessons builds on the previous two levels and brings Chickasaws one step closer to fluency.

Another opportunity for learning, the Chickasaw Cultural Center (CCC) in Sulphur, Oklahoma, has shared Chickasaw culture with more than 820,000 visitors from around the world since opening in 2010. At the center, visitors have the opportunity to experience and connect with Chickasaw history and traditions and watch the story of the Chickasaw





people unfold through powerful performances, reenactments, demonstrations, collections and exhibits year-round. In 2019, the cultural center won 13 awards from various organizations, including being honored for ongoing efforts to preserve and protect the monarch butterfly population.

The Holisso: The Center for Study of Chickasaw History and Culture on the CCC campus focuses on the study of the Chickasaw Nation and other tribes in the Southeastern United States. Using advanced technology, the research center preserves and archives cultural, Native American language and historical accounts passed from generation to generation. In 2019, the 20,000-square-foot facility assisted more than 11,300 patrons with research and completed nearly 1,700 genealogy requests.

Also in Sulphur, the annual Artesian Arts Festival, which takes place on Memorial Day weekend in downtown, includes one of the most celebrated Native American art markets in the U.S. and continues to grow each year. Hosted by the Chickasaw Nation, the festival spotlights prominent Native artists from across the country. The 2019 Artesian Arts Festival featured 129 artists representing 19 Native American



tribes from 11 states and welcomed more than 11,000 visitors.

The Chickasaw Nation Museums and Historic Sites Department oversees the Chickasaw Council House Museum, Chickasaw National Capitol, Chickasaw White House, Fort Washita and Boggy Depot Park. Each of these locations has important, historical meaning

to the Chickasaw Nation and Chickasaw people. Combined, the five locations served nearly 38,000 visitors in 2019.

The Chickasaw Nation Language Department provides various types of services to communicate and share the Chickasaw language. The department offers classes, study groups, trainings, camps, special projects and more. In 2019, the department served more than 32,000 unique users of online language resources.

Sharing and continuing Chickasaw culture and traditions includes competitions that have been played for hundreds of years. The Chickasaw Nation currently has three competitive stickball teams, the Chikasha Bak Bak youth team, Chikasha Toli adult men's team and a newly formed adult women's team, Chikasha Toli Ihoo. Chikasha Toli Ihoo was established in 2019 and has grown to include more than 50 members.

Another way of sharing and preserving culture, the Choctaw Hymns app 3.0 was released this year, which added 29 hymns to the app for a total of 66 hymns. The app was created to preserve age-old hymns in the Native language and allow for convenient access to the Choctaw Hymnal, a staple in many churches. It features adjustable font sizes and an easy-to-navigate table of contents menu. The Choctaw Hymns app is available for Android or Apple devices.

In addition, the Chickasaw Historical Society was established by tribal law in 1994 and has since worked to promote, preserve and protect Chickasaw history and culture. The society has nearly 600 members around the country.

With a similar focus to uphold and share culture, the Chickasaw Nation Dance Troupe travels year-round in an effort to educate, preserve and restore Chickasaw dance traditions. This year, the dance troupe performed at nearly 100 events.



# CHICKASAW PRESS

*This year, the Chickasaw Press and White Dog Press combined to release six titles ranging from children's books to the history of the Chickasaw Nation.*

*New releases from Chickasaw Press include Protecting Our People: Chickasaw Law Enforcement in Indian Territory by Michelle Cooke; Exploring the Depths of History: A Selection of Nineteenth-Century Water Wells in Indian Territory by Towana Spivey; and a paperback version of Chickasaw Removal by Daniel F. Littlefield Jr., Amanda L. Paige and Fuller Bumpers.*

*The Chickasaw Press imprint, White Dog Press, released three titles, including Koni by Sherrie Begay, Kari A.B. Chew, Steffani Cochran and Donna Courtney-Welch. A graphic novel titled Chickasaw Adventures: The Complete Collection combines all issues of the Chickasaw comic book with five new unreleased issues.*

*Chikasha Holisso Holba, by Vinnie May Humes, was republished as a language and coloring book. The original book paired Humes' initial illustrations with their Chickasaw names and English translations.*





# DEVELOPMENT

*Several tribal development projects continued in FY 2019. A list of current and completed projects is below.*

**COMPLETED PROJECTS:**

- **Nittak Himitta' (A New Day) Women's Recovery Center** – Ada, Oklahoma  
Offers recovery services designed to focus on healing and strengthening the entire family.
- **Transportation Building** – Ada, Oklahoma  
Houses the transportation services department and road to work program.
- **Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center** – Ada, Oklahoma  
Features a free weight area, aerobic studio, large cardio room, separate exercise areas for adults and children, a hydration area, men's and women's locker rooms, an elevated walking track, a conference room and office space.



TRANSPORTATION BUILDING (ADA)



CHICKASAW NATION WELLNESS CENTER (ADA)



CHICKASAW NATION PHARMACY (ADA)

- **Chickasaw Nation Pharmacy** – Ada, Oklahoma

Includes a fully automated pharmacy floor, with the capability of three robotic dispensers. The space consists of a walkup area, mail out station, storage and four drive-thru lanes. Connects to the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and provides additional space for expanded services.

- **Capitol Campus Improvements** – Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Three open air pavilions surrounding the Chickasaw National Capitol for multipurpose uses.

- **Border Casino** – Thackerville, Oklahoma

A more than 85,000-square-foot gaming facility with approximately 2,500 new gaming machines, restaurant and retail space.

- **MegaStar Casino and Chickasaw Travel Stop**

– Willis, Oklahoma

A more than 42,000-square-foot gaming facility and Chickasaw Travel Stop location. The facility has approximately 600 new gaming machines and a restaurant.



BORDER CASINO (THACKERVILLE)

**PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION:**

- **Chickasaw Nation Community Center** – Achille, Oklahoma

Will offer a versatile venue for reunions, meetings, celebrations and other events.

- **Chickasaw Nation Gym** – Ardmore, Oklahoma

Will offer a place for Chickasaw citizens and community members to gather for group or individual physical activities.

- **Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services**

– Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Nutrition services offers information and support through the food distribution program, farmers’ market nutrition program, summer food service program, Get Fresh! cooking classes and the farm to school program.

- **Casa Blanca Building** – Norman, Oklahoma

The building will house the first Chickasaw student center and the recruitment and retention program at the University of Oklahoma.



CHICKASAW NATION COMMUNITY CENTER (ACHILLE)



CHICKASAW NATION GYM (ARDMORE)



# EDUCATION

*With an emphasis on education, the Chickasaw Nation offers citizens across the country educational opportunities and assistance to continue learning and expanding their knowledge at all ages and phases of life.*

This year, the fee assistance grant was introduced to assist with higher education tuition and enrollment costs. The new grant is intended to help with fees other tuition assistance does not, making education more affordable to Chickasaw students. In 2019, through the higher education and career technology programs, the Chickasaw Nation invested more than \$25 million in scholarships, grants and other forms of financial support to more than 5,400 Chickasaw students.

The Oklahoma State University (OSU) Center for Sovereign Nations, an initial joint investment of OSU and the Chickasaw Nation, promotes the understanding and respect of tribal sovereignty and Native American student success. In 2019, the center served more than 5,200 students and more than 13,600 since opening in 2015.

The Chickasaw Nation acquired the historic and architecturally significant Casa Blanca building near the University of Oklahoma (OU) campus in 2019. Once renovations are complete, the building will house the first Chickasaw student center, as well as the recruitment and retention program at







OU. Plans are underway to establish similar student centers at Murray State College in Tishomingo and East Central University in Ada.

The recruitment and retention program assists Chickasaw students who attend OU, the University of Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma City Community College. Designed to meet the academic needs of

students, the program assists in the development of academic skills, identifying campus and tribal resources, creating networks of support on and off campus and building a stronger connection to Chickasaw culture. The recruitment and retention program served nearly 400 students in the 2018-2019 school year.



At the secondary education level, the Chickasaw Nation offers \$150 to high school students for graduation expenses such as cap and gown, graduation announcements and other associated costs. This is a one time, additional reimbursement for graduating high school seniors. In 2019, 464 Chickasaw high school seniors were funded a total of \$69,600.

The honor cord program provides distinctive cords to Chickasaws graduating from high school to wear during commencement ceremonies. The program presented 469 honor cords to students in 2019.

The Chickasaw Honor Club awarded incentives to more than 2,700 Chickasaw students and distributed nearly 6,700 awards during the 2018-2019 school year acknowledging good grades, perfect attendance and outstanding achievement.

The Chickasaw Nation Johnson-O'Malley (JOM) program contracted with 52 public schools and one community based program to provide school supplies to more than 9,200 Native American students during the school year. Also, the school supply assistance program

provided classroom essentials to 150 Chickasaw youth not attending a participating JOM school within the tribal boundaries.

The Chickasaw Nation Early Childhood and Head Start Programs promote the school readiness of children from ages 3 to 5 years. The programs work from the philosophy that early childhood education should address children's needs in all areas of development: physical, social, emotional and cognitive. In 2019, the facilities located in Ada, Ardmore, Sulphur and Tishomingo combined to serve more than 400 students.

The adult learning program provides academic instruction for Chickasaws attempting to complete their High School Equivalency certification. The program also offers tutoring assistance to Chickasaw students in the basic areas necessary for vocational or college entrance exams. This year, the program served 267 individuals.



# SCIENCE, ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND MATH

*The Chickasaw Nation's Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and robotics programs are designed to spark and continue interest in each of the fields of study. Depending on grade level, students participate in one of several teams and compete in various robotics competitions across the country. Sixty-four students participated in STEM and robotics teams this year.*

*The Chickasaw Nation STEM Academy served as the regional hub for Oklahoma in the nationwide Apollo Next Giant Leap Student Challenge. The challenge was a partnership between NASA and the Northwest Earth and Space Sciences Pipeline, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing mission.*

*Also, the Chickasaw Nation hosted the second FemSTEM camp in 2019 for middle school aged young women. This weeklong camp sheds light on STEM paths and careers through hands-on activities and information from female professional speakers working in STEM fields. Topics covered include hydrology, agriculture, veterinary medicine, geology, health, zoology, meteorology, engineering and robotics.*





## DAVID AND KATELYN HOLCOMB

*Father and daughter reach educational goals, crediting higher education assistance from the Chickasaw Nation for its part in the achievement.*

Father and daughter duo David and Katelyn Holcomb recently celebrated the accomplishment of a lifetime. In May 2019, both Chickasaw citizens graduated from college, giving thanks to the Chickasaw Nation for providing resources to achieve their success.

Through the Chickasaw Nation Higher Education Grants and Scholarships program, the two were able to fund their education and graduate on time and with honors.

“Returning to school after nearly 25 years away was not easy. There were many levels of support in my life, and I include the Chickasaw Nation as a very important one,” David said. “The financial assistance was invaluable. The generous level of funding for tuition, books and clothing directly impacted the timing for me to complete my

degree. It allowed me to take multiple classes per semester and continue straight through all without a break.”

David grew up in Freer, Texas. From an early age he knew he was Chickasaw and recalls his grandmother’s Chickasaw flag hanging proudly in her home.

After receiving his calling to ministry, he earned a Master of Divinity. He continues to serve as minister of discipleship at River Oaks Community Church in Clemmons, North Carolina, while pursuing ordination within the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. David continues to connect to his culture through the Chickasaw language and attending monthly community council meetings.

Katelyn Holcomb was raised in many states, including Ohio, South Carolina, California, North Carolina, Alabama, and currently

lives in Texas. Like her father, she has always known of her Chickasaw heritage.

She is grateful to the Chickasaw Nation for the support she received during her educational journey and beyond. Katelyn received a Bachelor of Science in special education for kindergarten through 12th grade and began her teaching career at Taylor Elementary in Frisco, Texas, in August 2019.

“The scholarships encouraged me to focus on my studies and work hard to achieve my goals. I believe that the Chickasaw Nation influenced me to live every day with courage and pursue my aspirations by being a woman of honor,” she said. “As I step into work each morning, I am fully prepared to model Chickasaw values to my students.”

# TEWANNA EDWARDS

*“The Chickasaw Nation takes care of its elders. I thank God every day that we’re Chickasaw.”*

Among the attendees of the 2019 Chickasaw Nation Elders Conference was Chickasaw citizen Tewanna Edwards, who has attended the conference for the past six years. She enjoys working the AARP booth and connecting with other Chickasaw elders.

“It is like a giant family reunion,” Tewanna said. “I really enjoy connecting with the other attendees and the fellowship.”

She praised staff for their wonderful job on the conference and noted that it shows how much work is put into making the conference enjoyable for everyone who attends.

During the conference, attendees are provided information, resources and updates regarding tribal and non-tribal programs and services. The two-day event also allows elders to reconnect with old friends, meet new ones and learn more about the Chickasaw Nation.

This year, Tewanna brought her sister, Quinnie Witzke, along with her. This was Quinnie’s first conference. She also enjoyed volunteering at the AARP booth and taking in the history presentation provided.

Quinnie spends a lot of her time studying Chickasaw culture by analyzing maps of old Indian Country. The 2019 conference will not be her last, as she looks forward to attending again in the future with her sister.

This year, Tewanna planned her family reunion around the elders and veterans conferences. Her brother, James Woodrow Anderson, is a Chickasaw veteran.

“I am proud to have Chickasaw heritage,” Tewanna said.

She and her family are very active in the Chickasaw Nation and use many of the programs and services offered, including over-the-counter medications, elderly energy assistance

program, along with housing and transportation services.

Tewanna also loves to give back to other Chickasaw citizens. She is a Peacemaker with the Chickasaw Nation District Court. Once a month, she makes her way to Ada, eats a meal with the elders in the senior center and participates in peacemaking court.

She has also been featured in the documentary “And Our Mothers Cried,” which highlighted and discussed the Native American boarding school era in Oklahoma. Tewanna attended Carter Seminary as a child and recounted her time there in the documentary.

Coming from a family with 10 children, Tewanna knows the importance of taking care of family and those you care about.

“The Chickasaw Nation takes care of its elders,” Tewanna said. “I thank God every day that we’re Chickasaw.”





# ELDERS

*The Chickasaw Nation is committed to serving Chickasaw elders through programs and services uniquely designed to enrich, assist and improve their well-being.*

Chickasaw Nation Senior Centers, located throughout Oklahoma, offer a place for Chickasaw elders to congregate, fellowship and enjoy other activities. The centers offer meals and education regarding a variety of subjects, as well as the chance to take part in trips, social events, group activities, health screenings and exercise classes. This year, the senior centers provided more than 163,000 congregate breakfasts, congregate lunches and homebound lunches to eligible Chickasaw elders, 60 years of age or older.

Senior centers are located in Ada, Ardmore, Colbert, Connerville, Duncan, Kullihoma, Madill, Oklahoma City, Pauls Valley, Purcell, Sulphur and Tishomingo.

The impa imma (elder frozen meal) program provides meals transported directly to Chickasaw elders' homes. Program participants live within the Chickasaw Nation service area, but outside





of a Chickasaw Nation Senior Center homebound delivery route. This year, the program delivered nearly 3,000 meals.

In 2019, more than 4,500 participants were served through the Chickasaw Nation Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. This program serves Chickasaws 55 years of age and older, Chickasaw Warrior Society members and disabled Chickasaw citizens. The program provides \$100 in checks to eligible Chickasaw citizens for farmers' market purchases.

In addition, the Chickasaw Nation Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides \$50 in checks to all eligible Native American seniors, 55 and older, as well as non-Native American seniors, 60 years of age and older, who reside in a Native American household. The program worked with 194 local farmers who offer fresh, locally grown produce at 77 markets and roadside stands.

In the winter months, the winter fruits and vegetable program offers Chickasaw elders healthy fruits and vegetables to fill the gap between growing seasons in the senior farmers' market

nutrition program. This year, 2,815 participants received 12,212 bags of fruits and vegetables.

The foster grandparent program was implemented in 2015 through a collaboration with the Corporation of National Community Service. The program offers qualified Chickasaw elders the opportunity to assist young children one-on-one and receive a stipend for their time and effort. Program volunteers spent more than 12,000 hours assisting 47 children in classrooms during 2019.

The Chickasaw Nation's elderly energy assistance programs provides eligible Chickasaw elders with \$250 in assistance once per winter and summer for home heating and cooling. This year, the programs provided utility assistance to more than 4,000 Chickasaw elders.

The supplemental lawn mowing program provides biweekly lawn care services for Chickasaw elders. In 2019, the program served more than 900 Chickasaw elders and mowed more than 3,500 lawns.

The assisted living supplement program provides up to \$2,500 per month for Chickasaw elders to live in a state licensed assisted living facility. The program was developed to keep Chickasaw elders in a home-like setting as long as possible. In 2019, more than \$869,000 of supplemental assistance was provided to Chickasaw elders in assisted living facilities throughout the United States including: Oklahoma, Washington, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, Colorado, California, South Carolina and Idaho.

Over-the-counter medications are provided through Chickasaw Nation Senior Centers and mailed to Chickasaw elders living outside of the Chickasaw Nation boundaries. This year, the program provided nearly 14,500 medications.

The elders' chore program was implemented in 2000 to provide cleaning and housekeeping services for elders requiring assistance. In 2019, the program provided nearly 3,900 services.





# ELDERS CONFERENCE

*Since 1993, the Chickasaw Nation has hosted the annual Chickasaw Nation Elders Conference, which features guest speakers, entertainment and presentations relevant to and about Chickasaw Nation elders or programs and services. The 2019 conference hosted nearly 500 elders at the WinStar Convention Center in Thackerville, Oklahoma.*





## RHONDA NAIDU

*Diagnosis during routine mammogram at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center proves vital in cancer-fighting efforts.*

For Chickasaw citizen Rhonda Naidu, an annual mammogram was something she routinely put off. A busy attorney with her own practice, Rhonda would schedule her appointment through the Chickasaw Nation, but by the time it came around, her busy lifestyle would get in the way.

After a few years of putting it off, she finally got her first mammogram. Soon after, she got a call that the results showed something suspicious so her doctor recommended a biopsy.

“I was doing the biopsy and the doctor literally said the words, ‘I think it’s carcinoma.’ I was laying there thinking – he really just said that,” Rhonda said.

The next day, once the test results were in, her doctor confirmed Rhonda had breast cancer.

Staying within the Chickasaw Nation health system and referral network was important for Rhonda. Following a lumpectomy, she was referred to an oncologist and started chemotherapy.

During that time, she was also referred to a geneticist who would estimate her risk of having a mutation in one of her BRCA genes. Most inherited cases of breast cancer are associated with mutations in one of the two genes. Though her chances were less than 17%, the geneticist found that she did in fact carry the (BRCA2) cancer gene.

“While I was doing my second round of chemo, I got a call from the geneticist who said I had the gene,” Rhonda said.

The news from the geneticist meant there was an increased risk of the cancer returning after chemotherapy, which could potentially include ovarian cancer. Though she had not planned more surgeries, the information from the geneticist changed things.

“Once I finished chemo, we made the decision to do a double mastectomy with reconstruction and then a hysterectomy,” Rhonda said.

The year 2009 became a year of cancer treatment and surgeries for Rhonda, all while working as much as she could. The hard decision ultimately paid off. Ten years later, she runs a thriving law practice in Oklahoma City and has a strong focus on good health and wellness.

“I’m still on a particular medication that increases your chances of arthritis and bone pain and all of that. The more I work out and move and try to stay healthy, the better I feel,” she said.

Rhonda is a member of Healthy Living OKC, a wellness center in Oklahoma City that partnered with the Chickasaw Nation to offer free memberships to eligible Chickasaw citizens. She regularly visits the center, working with a personal trainer three days a week.

“It’s been instrumental in keeping me healthy. I’m 55 years old and I feel like I’ve got a lot of life to live,” she said.



# MCKAYLA BEAVER

*Chickasaw Nation WIC program provides support and nutritional assistance to families with young children.*

As a mother, Chickasaw citizen McKayla Beaver, like most parents, wants to make sure her little boy, Decklin, is getting the nutrition he needs to grow. Seeking guidance and support, McKayla reached out to the Chickasaw Nation Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

WIC is a non-discriminatory program serving Native and non-Native applicants, which provides pregnant or postpartum women, infants and children, up to the age of 5, nutritious foods at no charge. WIC educators and nutritionists also provide helpful nutrition information and counseling to moms and families.

“WIC has impacted my family from the beginning. I was able to buy formula for my son as a newborn and now am able to purchase nutrient-rich foods for him.” McKayla said.

She is also very happy to have guidance in knowing if Decklin is hitting his growth milestones.

“I enjoy all of the services offered by WIC but knowing that my child is on track is comforting,” she said.

The staff at the WIC program monitor child participants in an effort to address nutritional needs and work with parents on meeting those needs through

monthly disbursements for purchasing nutritious food. McKayla uses these wellness appointments to chart her son’s growth and progress.

They say it takes a village to raise a child and McKayla has found a part of her village in the WIC program.

“The women in the WIC clinics are helpful, understanding and seem to really care about my child and me,” she said. “The program has enhanced the quality of life for my family. I know I have a program that will help.”





# FAMILY

*The preservation of family has always been essential to the Chickasaw Nation and developing strong family bonds remains a focus today. The Chickasaw Nation offers numerous family support programs and services to Chickasaw and Native American families.*

The Chickasaw Nation Foster Care and Adoption Program provides temporary or permanent care for Native American children placed into tribal or state custody. The program emphasizes keeping Native American children in tribal homes when a relative or kinship placement is not available. This year, the program opened 11 new foster care homes and completed 61 adoptions.

In addition, child support services assists in receiving court ordered child support for Native American children. The program also provides various resources and advocates to work with parents or guardians raising and supporting Chickasaw children. In 2019, more than \$2.8

million in child support obligations were collected and distributed to families through the program.

Also benefitting children and adults, the chokka chaffa' (one family) program focuses on preserving the family unit by providing home-based services for Native American families identified as at-risk. This year, the program managed an average 49





open cases per month, which included an average 60 children. Assistance is also provided to prevent removal of the child from the family home, or to make the home suitable for reunification.

In a related area, the chipota himmita (young child) program aims to strengthen the family system by providing child development education and screenings, support groups and home visits to Chickasaw families. In 2019, the program

served 148 Chickasaw families, which included 251 children, through group services inclusive of Chickasaw cultural activities.

Established in 2012, the hinoshi' chokma' (good paths) program provides young Chickasaws, ages 14 to 21, with assistance in goal setting and life skills. Using an incentive-based approach, the program rewards participants as they accomplish a number of set goals. Monthly group meetings provide an opportunity to learn valuable life skills in the company of other individuals with similar goals. Program mentors strive to make a positive impact using their knowledge and experience to guide participants to success. The program served more than 200 Chickasaw youth this year.

In conjunction, medical family therapy concentrates on a patient's biological, psychological, social and spiritual health. As part of a comprehensive care team, which includes medical providers, nursing staff and case managers, therapists provide valuable resources during the course of a patient's path to improved health in a medical setting. In 2019, the program served more than 15,100 patients.



Focused on overall well-being, the Hina' Chokma (Good Road) Men's Recovery Center is a culturally-guided, trauma informed residential substance abuse program serving Native American men. The program provides adult males and their families a healthy community and integrated treatment services promoting spiritual, emotional, physical and social wellness. This year, the facility served 234 individuals.

Another facility of comprehensive healing, the Aalhakoffichi' (A Place for Healing) Adolescent Transitional Living Center serves Native American youth and their families in need of support and recovery services stemming from significant mental health, substance use and family relational issues. In 2019, the center provided care for 79 youth in a healthy environment to focus on treatment and recovery.

Furthermore, violence prevention services provides assistance to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, who reside or are relocating within the Chickasaw Nation. In 2019, the program served nearly 1,000 individuals.

Chickasaw Nation Outpatient Services offers individual, couples and family counseling services, as well as therapy groups and educational workshops to address a variety of topics. The program served more than 3,600 Chickasaws in 2019.

Also contributing to the improvement of others, Chickasaw Nation Recovery Resource Services provides specialty court and recovery support services, including full service substance abuse treatment to Chickasaws and other Native Americans participating in the Pontotoc County Drug Court program. Support services include assessments, recovery outpatient services and recovery intensive outpatient services. This year, the program served nearly 4,900 individuals.



# WOMEN'S RECOVERY CENTER

*The Nittak Himitta' (New Day) Women's Recovery Center, a 13,500-square-foot residential substance abuse facility serving Native American women, opened on the Ada South Campus in December 2018.*

*The new facility accommodates expectant mothers, and mothers with infants and children up to age 12, which eliminates a barrier to treatment by keeping the family together. The facility's proximity to various Chickasaw Nation services also allows for additional health care options for women and children in the program.*

*The center offers a strength-based approach, concentrating on a patient's self-empowerment while on the road to recovery. The program focuses on the holistic approach to care and addresses co-occurring disorders as well. Each individual receives an assessment and an individualized treatment plan. The program also includes individual counseling, family counseling, group therapy, experiential therapy, alcohol and drug education, nutrition education, wellness, HIV/AIDS education, fetal alcohol and child abuse education, domestic violence and tobacco cessation education.*

*Treatment staff includes licensed mental health professionals and certified alcohol and drug counselors trained in trauma-informed care. The program is certified by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.*

*Previously, men and women shared a limited space for recovery. The dedicated women's facility increases the current Hina' Chokma Men's Recovery Center's capacity to serve by opening additional beds and creating space dedicated for Native American men.*





## RANDY PICKENS

*“The Chickasaw Nation has done so much for me. I went from not being able to do anything, in a wheelchair, to walking with a cane. I’m definitely stronger now.”*

In 2016, Chickasaw citizen Randy Pickens began experiencing numbness and weakness in his left arm while living in Washington, D.C. His private insurance would not cover an MRI, and he did not have access to Chickasaw Nation health facilities because of the travel distance.

After losing function in his left leg and left side, and weeks of consultations, Randy could barely walk.

“I’ll never forget it,” he said. “It was eight o’clock. I got up that morning and thought, ‘I’ll just go to the

emergency room.’ When I got to the hospital, I couldn’t walk anymore.”

Doctors believed the paralysis was caused by a disc pressing against his spinal nerve. They performed an emergency cervical fusion, but it did not help. While in recovery, he began having trouble breathing and was diagnosed with a pulmonary embolism.

As he recovered from the life-threatening embolism, his previous symptoms worsened. He lost function in both arms and legs, and was eventually paralyzed

from the neck down. He spent weeks in a rehabilitation center.

Unable to work or lead his normal life, Randy relocated to his home state of Oklahoma in Feb. 2017, where relatives in the Ardmore area could provide assistance. By then, he was confined to a power wheelchair, using an assistive device to control the movement with his mouth. Unable to move, travel was grueling.

Upon moving to Oklahoma, he visited the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center, where he received





a referral to visit a neurologist at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

After two spinal taps and further testing, Randy was diagnosed with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy (CIDP), a neurological disorder in which the inflammatory system attacks the insulation around the nerves, causing an interruption in communication between the brain and the peripheral limbs.

In Aug. 2017, nearly a year after his symptoms started, Randy began a long and painful process of IV infusion treatments and rehabilitation therapy. The treatments helped and his condition started to improve.

“It took months to move my toe,” he said. “Then I could barely move my foot. Within a year, I was moving. I could scratch my nose, my ear.”

In Oct. 2018, Randy started physical therapy through Chickasaw Nation Outpatient Physical Therapy.

“When I started, I couldn’t get out of the wheelchair,” he said. “After almost a year, I can walk with a cane. I just love them (the therapists). They’re good people.”

While still working to overcome some limitations, Randy continues to get stronger and is now able to attend church and family gatherings, and is able to move his arms and legs.

“It’s hard work,” Randy said. “The Chickasaw Nation has done so

much for me. I went from not being able to do anything, in a wheelchair, to walking with a cane. I’m definitely stronger now.”

Through his adversity, a warrior’s spirit persevered, and he is now a source of motivation, encouragement and hope for other Chickasaw Nation Outpatient Physical Therapy patients.

“I never asked why,” he said. “Why is this happening to me? I guess it all depends on how you look at things. It’s good to be back home.”



# HEALTH & WELLNESS

*The Chickasaw Nation is devoted to offering unique and vital health programs and services to Chickasaws and other Native Americans in its service area and beyond. The Chickasaw Nation Department of Health recorded more than 970,000 patient encounters at the medical center and outlying clinics in 2019.*

The Chickasaw Nation Medical Center Emergency Department has recently completed renovations that improve the check-in process and reduce wait times. Renovations include new triage rooms, patient examination rooms and a virtual visit clinic. The virtual visit clinic is a telemedicine service that gives providers the ability to consult with patients in Oklahoma from the comfort of their home. In addition to emergency department renovations, a streamlined sign-in process improves initial care for patients with handicap accessible electronic touch-screen kiosks and a trained medical professional in the lobby. In all, the renovations aim to reduce delays in patient care.





Another health-related achievement, a new, state-of-the-art Chickasaw Nation Wellness Center was recently completed in Ada. The 25,350-square-foot wellness center features a free weight area, aerobic studio, large cardio room, separate exercise areas for adults and children, men's and women's locker rooms, an elevated walking track and an interactive PRAMA studio. The PRAMA studio is a cutting edge interactive system that combines lights and music to create an immersive and fun experience. Additionally, the wellness center exercise areas are equipped with treadmills, elliptical machines, rowing machines, free weights and strength equipment and offer numerous exercise classes.

Combined, Chickasaw Nation Wellness Centers, located in Ada, Ardmore, Purcell and Tishomingo, experienced more than 154,000 visits this year.

In conjunction, the tribal health program serves Chickasaws with medical, dental and orthodontics, durable medical equipment and hearing aid needs. This program provides funding for qualifying medical or dental claims up to \$5,000 per citizen per fiscal year. In 2019, the program served more than 2,100 medical clients, providing approximately \$1.2 million





in assistance, and 5,000 dental clients, providing approximately \$6.7 million in assistance. The durable medical equipment benefit provided more than 1,000 services, including wheelchairs, lift chairs, walkers, wound care supplies and diabetic pumps. In addition, tribal health provided 750 pairs of hearing aids to qualified Chickasaws through the tribe's audiology department.

In an effort to support the health and well-being of Chickasaws living outside tribal boundaries, the services at-large program includes the eyeglasses program and health spending account (HSA). The HSA provides a \$200 monthly benefit for elderly and permanently disabled Chickasaw citizens. In 2019, the program fulfilled more than 18,000 requests, providing approximately \$3.5 million in assistance. The eyeglasses program, which assists Chickasaws no matter their location of residence, provides an allowance of \$200 toward contact lenses or one pair of glasses every two years. In 2019, the eyeglasses vouchers were provided to more than 5,300 Chickasaws, providing approximately \$1.1 million in assistance. The eyeglasses are made by Chickasaw-owned Oklahoma Optical.

Oklahoma Optical has retail locations in Ada, Ardmore, Norman and Tishomingo. During 2019, Oklahoma Optical served approximately 10,000 customers, including more than 5,600 Chickasaws.





A new e-commerce website is under construction, which will allow clients to choose from a wide selection of brand name frames from the comfort of their home with a virtual try on feature.

Also on the medical forefront, construction on a new, two-story, 32,000-square-foot pharmacy was recently completed. The new facility includes 12,000 square feet for a fully automated pharmacy floor, with the capability of three robotic dispensers. The space consists of a walkup area, mail out station, storage and four drive-thru lanes. Pharmacy services expanded to include hypertension, asthma, immunization clinics and a new medication assisted treatment service. The medication assisted treatment service was introduced in 2019 to combat the opioid crisis.

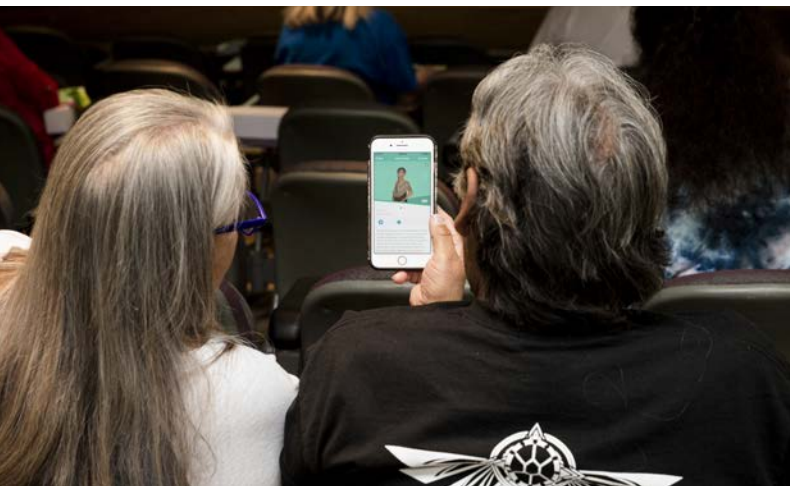
The Chickasaw Nation offers a variety of prescription programs and options to fulfill needed medications. The pharmacy department operates inpatient and outpatient pharmacies at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center and outlying clinics, as well as a pharmacy refill center which handles mailed prescriptions. This year, the pharmacy department dispensed more than 1.9 million prescriptions.

The medication assistance program provides prescriptions for Chickasaw citizens in need of

a medication that is not a part of the Chickasaw Nation Department of Health's formulary. During 2019, the program prescribed more than 32,000 prescriptions, valued at more than \$4.6 million.

The native/non-native spouse program, housed within the tribe's pharmacy refill center, provided a total of 176,520 prescriptions to Chickasaws, their spouses and dependents, and citizens of other Native American tribes.





Distributed by the Chickasaw Nation Aging Division, Chickasaw elders are also able to receive select over-the-counter medications shipped directly to their home at no cost. This program provided more than \$20,000 in medications in 2019.

Addressing educational needs in the health field, the new family medicine residency clinic, Aaithana (a place of learning), opened in 2019 at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. The clinic, which provides graduate medical training under the direct or indirect supervision of an attending physician, has 12 patient exam rooms, one osteopathic manipulative medical room and one treatment room.

Technological advances have enabled the Chickasaw Nation to offer unique and convenient services to assist with a variety of health care needs. In 2019, an online service launched to allow Chickasaws to request or change a primary care provider through [Chickasaw.net/PrimaryCare](http://Chickasaw.net/PrimaryCare).

Also online, the Chickasaw Nation Virtual Medical Visit, a web-based audio/video telecommunication physician-patient appointment service, allows patients in Oklahoma with certain non-life threatening injuries and ailments to see a doctor from the comfort of their own home. In 2019, the service had more than 3,000 virtual patient visits.

Additionally, AYA – Your Fitness Journey is celebrating one year since its launch and, so far, has had more than 21,000 downloads. AYA users have combined to take 1.9 billion steps, totaling more than 870,000 miles walked. The unique app, designed to keep users moving by combining physical activity with Chickasaw history and culture, is available for Apple and Android devices and compatible with a variety of activity trackers, including Fitbit, Healthkit and Google Fit.



# NUTRITION SERVICES

*Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Services offers a variety of programs to families throughout the Chickasaw Nation, promoting the best possible nutritional values for healthy living.*

*The Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program for Children provides eligible children a nutritious food benefit valued at \$30 per school-age child in the household for each of the three summer months without a school meal. The program served more than 30,000 children from 168 Oklahoma school districts.*

*In addition, the Packed Promise program provides an online grocery shopping experience with store-to-door deliveries to eligible families. Each child receives a 30-pound box of shelf stable food shipped to his or her home once a month and a \$15 FRESH check to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables locally. Each box provides food for one meal and two snacks for every school day for the month. This year, more than 40,000 boxes of food were shipped, totaling 1.2 million pounds of food.*

*Also, the food distribution program served in excess of 4,500 participants with more than \$2.9 million in food provided to eligible families. The program offers grocery store locations in Ada, Ardmore, Duncan and Purcell and is designed to raise nutrition levels in the Native American population.*

*In conjunction, the summer food services program provides meals to children between the ages of 1 and 18 during the summertime. The program began in 2006 with three sites serving approximately 10,000 meals. This year, the program served 79 sites and more than 67,000 meals were provided to children in various locations throughout the Chickasaw Nation.*





## MIKE ORR

*“My doctor empowered me to take control of my health. She literally took a caring interest in me.”*

Several years ago, Chickasaw citizen Mike Orr was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes by his family physician in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

“I got the diagnosis and my doctor put me on several different medications to help,” Mike said. “I started taking my blood sugar count, but I never really got enough information to help me turn it around, get it under control and start to improve. As time went by, I continued to get worse.”

Some of his health issues included significant problems with neuropathy, a condition that affects the nerves of the peripheral nervous system. The neuropathy caused foot pain and he also experienced vision issues and numbness in his hands.

“These were things I didn’t realize were diabetic related,” Mike said.

Unable to receive health insurance through the company he worked for, his only access was through

his wife’s employer. With insurance costs rising each year, it eventually became too expensive to stay on her insurance. So, he and his wife made the decision to remove him from their insurance coverage.

At first, Mike was able to find discounted access to his medications. After a year, however, the cost increased to the point where he was no longer taking his medications and his health began to worsen.





“The type of neuropathy I had was a burning pain in my feet and it was a very regular occurrence. My vision problems, the numbness in my hands, they got significantly worse,” he said.

At his daughter’s recommendation, Mike called the Chickasaw Nation.

“I thought, I can drive two hours to Ada, it’s not that far. I can go to the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center,” he said.

Mike began seeing a primary care provider at the Chickasaw Nation Medical Center. Through his provider’s guidance and recommendations, his health began to turn around.

“My doctor empowered me to take control of my health. She took the bull by the horns,” he said. “Instead of telling me where to go for information, she printed things off and put it in my hand. She gave me exercises to work on and a lot of knowledge about the types of foods that have a negative impact on a diabetic person. She literally took a caring interest in me.”

Within two months, Mike’s foot pain was significantly better. He also went to the eye clinic at the medical center to receive glasses and his overall health steadily improved.

“In the course of a year, I lost 90 lbs.,” Mike said. “My A1C went to a level that was low enough that I was once again termed as borderline diabetic.”

His doctor also regularly decreased the dosage on his medications as he improved.

“I went from taking in the neighborhood of 18 different prescription medications, to probably six. That was huge for me,” he said. “I went from feeling like I might not live to see my daughter get married and I might not live to see my grandchildren, to thinking, wow, I’ve got to move down to Ada so I can spend time with my kids and my grandkids.”

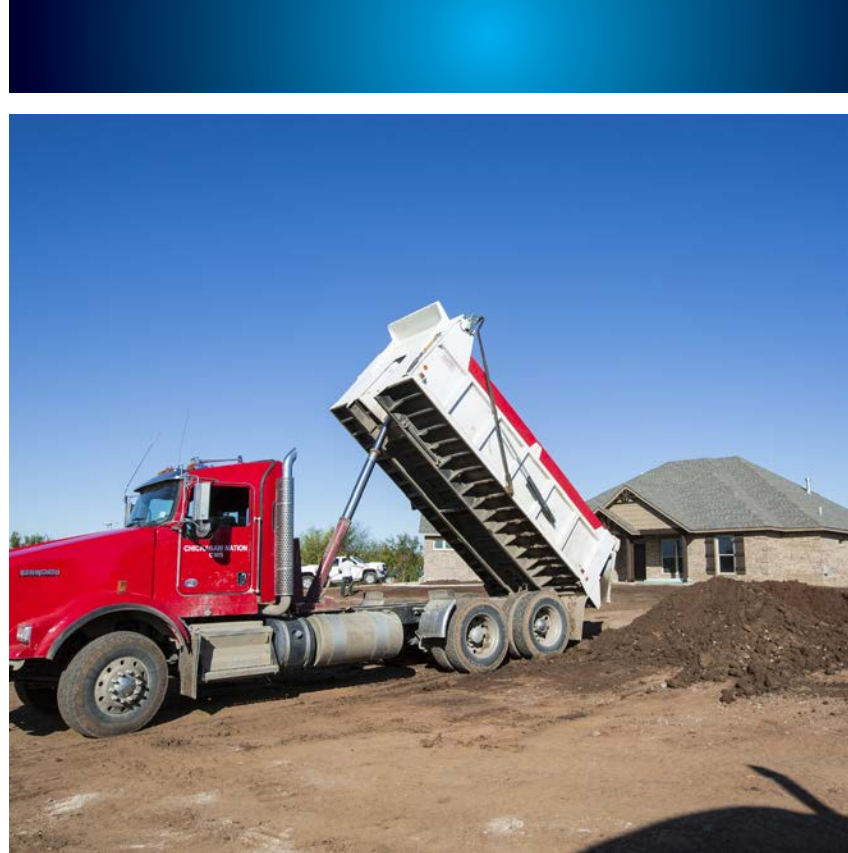


# HOUSING

*With an understanding that quality, affordable housing is a key component of a happy and fruitful life, the Chickasaw Nation offers several housing programs and services to supplement a variety of needs.*

The chuka chukmasi (beautiful home) program is a secondary market home loan program for the purchase or refinance of a primary residence. In 2019, the program assisted 58 Chickasaws in making their dream of owning a home a reality, with a total loan value of more than \$8 million.





The grant funds program, a one-time down payment and/or closing costs assistance benefit, supports Chickasaws with costs associated with purchasing a home. This year, the program served 570 Chickasaws with a total of more than \$1.1 million in assistance.

The Chickasaw Nation operates multiple programs with the goal of assisting Chickasaws with home repairs and maintenance. Chickasaw Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) Minor provides a \$5,000 grant toward the repair and rehabilitation of privately owned homes of low-income Native Americans. The program served 216 Chickasaw families this year. Also, an at-large

home improvement grant assisted 365 Chickasaws. Forty Chickasaws were awarded a grant to make their homes handicap accessible.

In addition, housing management services operates two rental programs, a homeowners program and a storm shelter program to assist Chickasaw families with housing needs. This year, the department assisted 870 Chickasaw families in the rental program and 673 Chickasaw families in the homeowners program.

More than 200 storm shelters were installed for Chickasaw homeowners this year. In addition, 115 Chickasaws received an at-large storm shelter grant.

In conjunction, the elder home maintenance program assists with small home repairs and installs rails and ramps to support Chickasaw elders with mobility and safety. The program made more than 1,000 repairs and served 521 Chickasaw elders in 2019.

Another related service assists Chickasaw elders and families with special needs with the repair or construction of private driveways. In 2019, the Chickasaw Nation's driveway program served nearly 50 families.

# CHICKASAW FARMS



*Chickasaw Farms, located in Davis, Oklahoma, provides landscaping products to Chickasaw homeowners, which includes a set number of trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers and sod.*

*Eligible homeowners receive an initial landscaping package of three trees, six shrubs, three ornamental grasses and 12 flowers. Every other year, Chickasaw homeowners may qualify for a supplemental package of one tree, two shrubs, two ornamental grasses and six flowers. Chickasaw homeowners may also receive up to 10,000 square feet of quality sod.*

*This year, the program provided 164 initial landscaping packages and 231 supplemental packages to nearly 400 Chickasaw homeowners.*

*The program also harvested and installed nearly 195,800 square feet of sod for eligible Chickasaws with newly constructed homes. In addition, more than 236,300 square feet of sod was picked up by Chickasaws for use on their property.*



# WADE MILLER

*Chickasaw Employment Access participants receive support every step of the way while in pursuit of educational and career goals.*

When it comes to planning a career, there are many choices to consider. Colleges, technical schools, apprenticeships and internships are just a few of the options available. Chickasaw Employment Access (CEA) navigators match Chickasaws with programs tailored to meet their specific needs. Participants receive support every step of the way while in pursuit of educational and career goals.

Chickasaw citizen Wade Miller attributes his career success to the technical training provided by

his area technology center, with support from CEA. He is currently working for a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractor in Ada.

“I didn’t want to sit in a traditional classroom for hours at a time taking notes,” Wade said. “I could not see myself working in an office, so I chose to take my own path. I would rather work with my hands. That led me to heat and air work.”

Obtaining his HVAC certification with the help of CEA, Wade

chose a profession with years of projected stability and suited his individual desires.

CEA serves Chickasaws in four areas: adult training, employment opportunities, career guidance and partnership development. Program opportunities are offered in and outside of the Chickasaw Nation boundaries.





## ISABELLA MIRE

*Chickasaw student gains real-world experience during a summer internship at the Chickasaw Press.*

Growing up just hours from the aboriginal Homeland, Chickasaw citizen Isabella Mire of Charenton, Louisiana, connected with her heritage through an unlikely avenue. While completing an eight-week internship at the Chickasaw Press, Isabella learned about video animation and was immersed in Chickasaw heritage.

“Not only did I learn wonderful things at work, but the people with

the internship program made sure we learned about Chickasaw culture too,” she said. “We beaded, went to the Chickasaw Cultural Center and participated in cultural activities. I still have my corn husk doll.”

A junior at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, Isabella decided an internship at the Chickasaw Press would give her a taste of what it is like to work her first “real job,” and give her an

opportunity to explore Oklahoma. She is working toward her Bachelor of Fine Arts, with a concentration in video animation.

“I would like to go into children’s media, educational animation,” Isabella said. “Besides babysitting or being a nanny, this was my first experience working in an office setting. It was a great experience. I not only worked with animation, but saw how other



tasks at the Chickasaw Press were accomplished.”

The Chickasaw Nation Internship Program was developed to train young Chickasaw ambassadors to become leaders in their local communities, states and nation. The program exposes students to real work environments, giving them the experience needed to successfully gain employment upon graduation. Isabella was one of 46 interns who were able to work with professionals in their fields through the program.

During the six-to-eight week internship, interns are paid a biweekly salary, provided housing

accommodations and travel expenses for any participant living outside the job location area. The Chickasaw Nation also provides internship opportunities throughout the country, including Washington, D.C.

“The experience made me feel like I have a family away from home,” Isabella said. “The whole experience made me feel like I was wanted. I felt welcomed.”

In 2010, the Chickasaw Nation built internship housing units to better accommodate the students. There are a total of six housing units, each consisting of two private bedrooms and

bathrooms with a shared kitchen, living and laundry room. The housing units provide recreational activities, as well as a storm shelter.

Offering students the opportunity to gain valuable experience in their respective fields before graduating college provides motivation in finding and maintaining meaningful employment and securing a successful future for themselves. The internship program is focusing on nurturing a highly energized, loyal and capable workforce.



# EMPLOYMENT

*By offering unique and valuable training experiences, career services and preparation, the Chickasaw Nation is empowering the Chickasaw workforce to attain and succeed in meaningful employment.*

The career development services program was implemented in 2007 to provide pre-employment training and a barrier removal plan for participants seeking employment. Participants receive training, instruction and experience by completing a variety of labor projects for the Chickasaw Nation. In 2019, program participants completed nearly 300 projects.

The Chickasaw Institute partners with technology centers, universities and colleges to provide career development, training and certification opportunities to Chickasaws. This year, the program provided more than 40,000 hours of on-the-job training to participants.

The school-to-work program provides Chickasaw students the opportunity to pursue higher education goals while receiving full-time pay and benefits. In 2019, the program served more than 120 Chickasaw students with employment training related to their particular course of study.

The Toksali SMART program provides structured employment opportunities and training to Chickasaw youth that will aid in the development







of healthy and productive work behaviors. Nearly 400 students participated in the program in 2019 at worksites throughout the Chickasaw Nation.

The Chickasaw Nation Re-Entry Program provides transitional employment and training services to individuals with employment barriers. Participants learn the necessary skills to help prepare them for successful futures. In 2019, the program served nearly 100 Chickasaws.

The vocational rehabilitation program provides programs and services to Chickasaws with disabilities through individualized plans of employment, which are based on each individual's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities and capabilities. The program served 171 Chickasaws in 2019.

The career services program offers pre-employment services and support for participants once they have completed job readiness training. This year, the program served 266 Chickasaws with training, resumes and mock interviews.

The Chickasaw Nation Atali Program offers professional clothing to Chickasaw citizens and

Chickasaw Nation employees. Customers may choose from a wide selection of men's and women's professional clothing at wholesale cost. The program served 640 individuals this year.



# CHICKASAW EMPLOYMENT ACCESS



*The new Chickasaw Employment Access (CEA) Division offers training, resources to remove employment barriers, education, access to vocational certificates and licenses and career preparation. CEA navigators match citizens with programs and pre-employment training opportunities tailored to meet their specific needs. Chickasaws also have the opportunity to earn benefits as they participate in training programs.*

*In addition to preparing Chickasaws for careers, the division partners with area businesses and entities to provide worksite training sites and possible permanent employment. Since program implementation, more than 500 employment placement opportunities have been created.*



# ANGELIA SEELEY

*Chickasaw citizen tributes resources offered by the re-entry program for helping to make positive life changes.*

Chickasaw citizen Angelia Seeley serves as a career counselor with the Chickasaw Nation Re-Entry Transitional Employment Program, which aids Chickasaw citizens with legal barriers to employment.

The program provides eligible Chickasaws opportunities to become self-sufficient through training and on-the-job work experience.

Angelia started as a program participant and now works in the program to assist others. She is in a unique position to offer counsel, build up work ethics and help others traverse employment barriers.

“Entering the re-entry program changed my life,” Angelia said. “Something clicked, and I found my purpose in life, my passion and the meaning of life: To help

one another. I thank God daily for everything that has happened in my life. It has led me to where I am now.”

Angelia spent 15 months on a team fulfilling service-based work with the re-entry program. During this time, she cut and delivered wood, mowed lawns in the summer, installed sheet rock, converted garages into rooms, created holiday baskets and roofed houses all for Chickasaw elders. As a driver, she picked up and drove workers to their worksites and would also help others get to medical or educational appointments.

“It was all about proving myself,” Angelia said. “I was grateful to be given a second chance.”

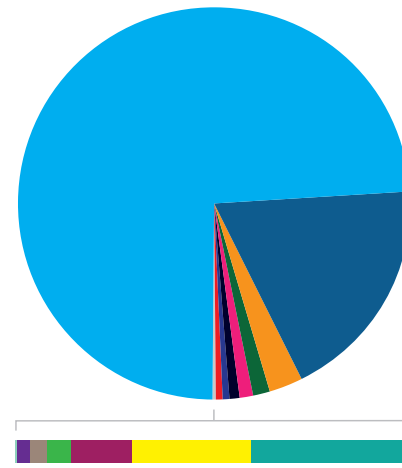
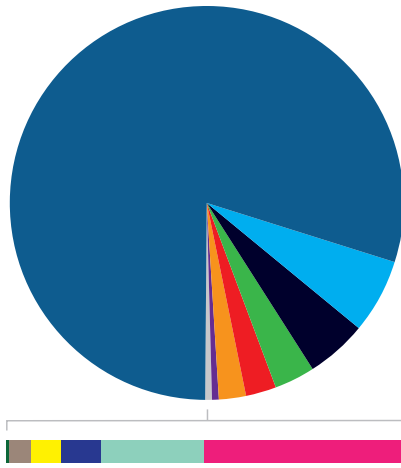
She was on the right track but wanted to reach for more.

Through the tribe’s school-to-work program, Angelia continued working for the re-entry program while finishing a bachelor’s degree from East Central University in Ada. She also completed an internship with the program.

Before graduating this year with a Bachelor of Arts in human services counseling, Angelia was offered a full-time job with the re-entry program, the position she currently maintains.

“The re-entry and school-to-work programs have changed my life, because I wanted to change,” she said. “The re-entry program has all the resources available to help Chickasaws succeed but it’s all up to the individual and the willingness to want change in their lives.”





### PROGRAM REVENUES

Health	\$310,335,256	79.99%
General government	23,524,650	6.06%
Housing	18,955,299	4.89%
Social services	13,424,286	3.46%
Transportation	9,281,962	2.39%
Education	9,167,507	2.36%
History and culture	1,331,582	0.34%
Legal	980,315	0.25%
Public safety and defense	508,308	0.13%
Regulatory services	195,571	0.05%
Aging services	145,602	0.04%
Natural resources	104,015	0.03%
Judiciary	15,650	0.00%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$387,970,003</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

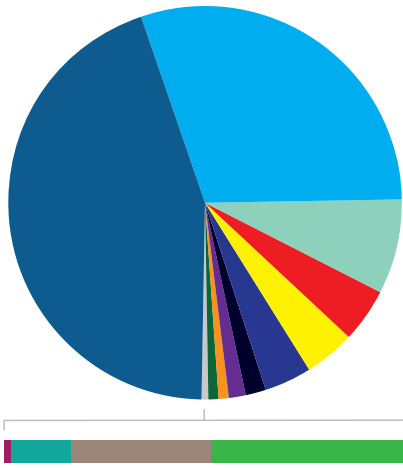
### TOTAL REVENUES

Business-type activities	\$1,242,783,742	74.12%
Health	310,335,256	18.51%
General revenues	45,985,619	2.74%
General government	23,524,650	1.40%
Housing	18,955,299	1.13%
Social services	13,424,286	0.80%
Transportation	9,281,962	0.55%
Education	9,167,507	0.54%
History and culture	1,331,582	0.08%
Legal	980,315	0.06%
Public safety and defense	508,308	0.03%
Regulatory services	195,571	0.01%
Aging services	145,602	0.01%
Natural resources	104,015	0.02%
Judiciary	15,650	0.00%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,676,739,364</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### CHICKASAW NATION COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS

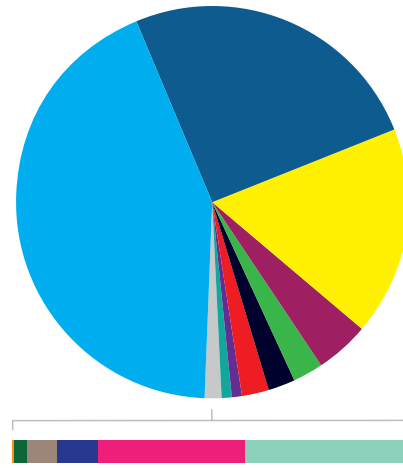
ASSETS	2019*	2018*	2017*	2016*	2015*	2011*
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,066,525,771	\$861,706,683	\$747,004,792	\$645,502,946	\$644,196,698	\$445,077,066
Investments	1,182,237,875	1,140,699,442	936,546,680	854,411,419	662,012,941	160,722,759
Accounts and notes receivable	182,690,118	149,422,527	165,226,381	127,035,572	147,486,209	97,487,773
Inventory	14,955,665	12,373,953	11,745,655	10,070,266	10,251,979	9,599,307
Capital assets	1,160,096,689	1,052,146,265	1,081,165,073	1,069,722,867	1,052,024,400	941,736,948
Other assets	103,489,432	144,752,992	90,596,844	96,822,709	87,993,730	96,479,554
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,709,995,550</b>	<b>\$3,361,101,862</b>	<b>\$3,032,285,425</b>	<b>\$2,803,565,779</b>	<b>\$2,603,965,957</b>	<b>\$1,751,103,407</b>
LIABILITIES						
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$219,504,389	\$227,293,994	\$155,156,360	\$133,458,091	\$154,047,951	\$103,667,866
Other current liabilities	1,942,377	6,597,907	3,997,224	1,718,553	294,092	274,132
Deferred revenue	52,477,976	80,398,920	67,390,934	70,182,212	68,814,567	39,170,874
Long-term liabilities	100,107,633	45,807,455	71,503,678	44,158,461	54,200,461	183,299,155
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$374,032,375</b>	<b>\$360,098,276</b>	<b>\$298,048,196</b>	<b>\$249,517,317</b>	<b>\$277,357,071</b>	<b>\$326,412,027</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$3,335,963,175</b>	<b>\$3,001,003,586</b>	<b>\$2,734,237,229</b>	<b>\$2,554,048,462</b>	<b>\$2,326,608,886</b>	<b>\$1,424,691,380</b>

\* The Chickasaw Nation has implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 34, Basic Financial Statements - and Management's Discussion and Analysis - for State and Local Governments. Statement 34 changes our method of recording and reporting our fixed assets. In the past, when the Nation purchased a fixed asset it was shown as an expenditure in the current year. Now the purchase is shown in the balance sheet as a capital asset and depreciated over its useful life.



### PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Health	\$332,087,690	44.45%
General government	226,112,573	30.27%
Education	57,955,421	7.76%
Housing	32,517,784	4.35%
History and culture	30,486,593	4.08%
Social services	29,376,248	3.93%
Legal	12,124,148	1.62%
Transportation	10,625,269	1.42%
Regulatory services	6,598,650	0.88%
Aging Services	5,782,281	0.77%
Judiciary	1,643,844	0.22%
Natural resources	1,179,103	0.16%
Public safety and defense	512,185	0.07%
Other	53,920	0.01%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$747,055,709</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



### TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Business-type activities	\$570,826,113	43.31%
Health	332,087,690	25.20%
General government	226,112,573	17.16%
Education	57,955,421	4.40%
Housing	32,517,784	2.47%
History and culture	30,486,593	2.31%
Social services	29,376,248	2.23%
Legal	12,124,148	0.92%
Transportation	10,625,269	0.81%
Regulatory services	6,598,650	0.50%
Aging Services	5,782,281	0.44%
Judiciary	1,643,844	0.12%
Natural resources	1,179,103	0.09%
Public safety and defense	512,185	0.04%
Other	53,920	0.00%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$1,317,881,822</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### CHICKASAW NATION COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS (CONTINUED)

ASSETS	2007**^	2003*	1999	1995	1991	1987
Cash and cash equivalents	\$261,142,708	\$44,110,100	\$21,382,840	\$8,390,315	\$2,676,018	\$1,475,745
Investments	135,492,638	83,051,961	12,548,410	10,808,494	2,377,124	456,067
Accounts and notes receivable	33,410,225	10,866,857	34,522,723	12,233,018	5,492,809	2,955,034
Inventory	5,756,908	4,423,512	2,946,081	1,354,260	622,463	101,274
Capital assets	491,909,941	160,551,121	64,169,108	22,254,896	11,044,786	7,624,301
Other assets	82,438,273	3,533,497	4,448,349	3,338,548	175,647	164,707
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1,010,150,693</b>	<b>\$306,537,048</b>	<b>\$140,017,511</b>	<b>\$58,379,531</b>	<b>\$22,388,847</b>	<b>\$12,777,128</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>						
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$51,061,288	\$36,574,115	\$15,469,160	\$7,835,065	\$2,113,361	\$732,860
Other current liabilities	248,217	195,938	857,191	254,696	117,844	-
Deferred revenue	56,727,826	23,157,248	22,734,254	5,843,206	4,777,146	2,649,411
Long-term liabilities	117,621,901	3,726,733	6,315,839	11,482,758	734,463	115,135
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$225,659,232</b>	<b>\$63,654,034</b>	<b>\$45,376,444</b>	<b>\$25,415,725</b>	<b>\$7,742,814</b>	<b>\$3,497,406</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$784,491,461</b>	<b>\$242,883,014</b>	<b>\$94,641,067</b>	<b>\$32,963,806</b>	<b>\$14,646,033</b>	<b>\$9,279,722</b>

^ In 2007, the Chickasaw Housing Authority received guidance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding the treatment of Mutual Help housing units. This guidance states that such units should be recorded as other assets, rather than as capital assets on the balance sheet until the property is ultimately conveyed.



# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

## **Area offices:**

- Ada Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-7256
- Ardmore Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 226-4821
- Duncan Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 470-2131
- Office of Career Services \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-7294
- Oklahoma City Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (405) 767-8971
- Pauls Valley Satellite Office \_\_\_\_\_ (405) 207-9883
- Purcell Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (405) 527-4973
- Sulphur Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 622-2888
- Tishomingo Area Office \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 371-9512

## **Health Clinics:**

- Ada \_\_\_\_\_ (800) 851-9136
- Ardmore \_\_\_\_\_ (877) 242-4347
- Purcell \_\_\_\_\_ (877) 584-3289
- Tishomingo \_\_\_\_\_ (877) 240-2720

## **Other Important Numbers:**

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Chickasaw Agency \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-0784
- Chickasaw Lighthouse
- Police Department \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-7213
- Chickasaw Nation
- Medical Center \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-3980

## **Tribal Government & Administrative offices:**

- Chickasaw Nation
- Headquarters \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-2603
- Chickasaw Tribal Legislature \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 436-1460
- Chickasaw Nation
- Supreme Court \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 235-0281
- Chickasaw Nation
- District Court \_\_\_\_\_ (580) 235-0279





# **BILL ANOATUBBY, GOVERNOR**

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