



WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING BRIO LIVING SERVICES A SAFE, WELCOMING PLACE FOR ALL TO LIVE AND WORK.

November is Native American Heritage Month

Native American Heritage Month is observed every November to honor the rich culture and traditions of Native Americans. It is also a time to celebrate Native culture through the exploration of art, music, food, and more. While the contributions, accomplishments, and culture of Native Americans should be acknowledged and celebrated every day, this month provides a time to renew your focus on learning more about the Indigenous community in your area.

Honoring Native Land: Land acknowledgment is a traditional custom that dates back centuries in many Native nations and communities. Today, land acknowledgments are used by Native Peoples and non-Natives to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live. To learn more about the land and who resided here before us, please visit <https://native-land.ca/>



Spotlight of Rosa Salas, Certified Nurse Aide from LifeCircles PACE Holland and a proud member of the Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians (GRBOI)

"The GRBOI is a native sovereign nation based along the Grand River and other waterways in present-day Southwest Michigan, spanning the cities of Grand Rapids and Muskegon". (Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians 2023)



Unfortunately, I was not raised in my native heritage due to my mom being adopted as an infant. I have been able to reconnect over the past 30 years and am proud to call myself a Native American. Our tribe has been trying to become federally recognized, and we are hopeful this will be the year. I found it interesting that my heritage can be traced as far back as 1700 and even know the name of the chief that I am related to. I take comfort in knowing my tribe started right here in my own backyard. I enjoy going to pow wows and seeing the magnitude of detail that goes into making traditional regalia (traditional dance wear). One of my favorite foods is fry bread. I look forward to continuing to grow in the knowledge of my heritage so that I may pass it down to future generations.





TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS OF MICHIGAN

America is a vast land of many cultures, dating back thousands of years to the original inhabitants of the land. Every November we celebrate the history and heritage of Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Island communities across the country today during Native American Heritage Month. We share the history and continuing culture of America's Indigenous peoples, so it is not forgotten.

Fun Fact... Did you know?

We owe our Constitution to the Iroquois.

It is not just goods we use daily that we owe to Native innovation. Historians believe the United States Constitution was modeled after "The Great Law of Peace," the constitution that governed the Iroquois Confederacy. Benjamin Franklin was said to have studied it in detail as inspiration for the Constitution we adhere to today.



If you would like to learn more ... here are some resources

<https://www.nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov> <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/resources/indigenous-education>

