

2022



Indian Land Tenure
FOUNDATION®

ANNUAL REPORT



About ILTF

Our Mission

Land within the original boundaries of every reservation and other areas of high significance where tribes retain aboriginal interest are in Indian ownership and management.

Investment Committee

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Hans Dieter-Klose

Diana Schutter

John Schweers (passed away in May 2022)

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Committed individuals turning talk into action

When a group of parishioners from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis gathered at the Indian Land Tenure Foundation five years ago to talk about reparations for the taking of land from Indian people, ILTF president Cris Stainbrook was skeptical. Over the years there have been plenty of folks wanting to support the work of the Foundation, but once they discover the complexities of Indian land their enthusiasm tends to wane and efforts fizzle out. In this case, however, that's not what happened. "I honestly didn't think they would follow through," Stainbrook said, "but I was absolutely wrong about that. All of them have stayed committed and it has just been miraculous."

The "miracle" in question is the overwhelming response to the Beyond Land Acknowledgement Fund, an effort that resulted from that initial visit. ILTF has facilitated numerous land recovery projects over the years. With the new Fund, many more organizations and individuals can participate in a meaningful way. "It kind of caught us off guard," Stainbrook said. "We didn't know there were this many people who wanted to support the return of Indian land to Indian hands."

The consequences of history

There's a certain wisdom that comes with age, the realization that you don't know everything, the sense that time is short and something needs to be done. None of the folks who gathered at ILTF that day are young. All of them are white. They originally came together to seek knowledge about the taking of Native land, and what they learned was disturbing.

"We are so ignorant of our own history," said Mike Miller, a longtime supporter of Indian causes and a member of the American Indian Movement since 1973. "The way white people have dealt with the Native community is one of the real stains on the development of this country and I don't think we have ever come to grips with it," said retired pastor John Buzza. "The consequences of what our ancestors did are very much embedded in our lives."

Like many Minnesota churches, Holy Trinity issued a land acknowledgement statement. Unlike most congregations, they turned their words into action, organizing a remarkable \$250,000 donation to ILTF. That's what spawned the Beyond Land Acknowledgement Fund.

For longtime educator David Berg, the quest to help Native people recover their land was personal. He spent his early years in a reservation community in South Dakota. After his father's passing, Berg was raised by his grandparents on a farm in Wisconsin. "I was just a young boy but we would walk behind the team of horses preparing the fields and we'd pick up arrowheads and spear points. We had cigar boxes full of them," he recalled. "It made me realize that there were people who had lived there long before we did."

In addition to Miller, Buzza and Berg, the Holy Trinity group included Randy Nelson, Chuck Jordan and Ron Duty. Like Berg, Nelson was born in South Dakota but his family had no connection to the Native people who were all around them. It was only after studying overseas and working in marginalized communities in Chicago that Nelson realized how little he knew about his own history. "There is more than one side to the story," said the retired theology professor. "The side that I had grown up with was the dominant one, but it was not the real one. I'm grateful to have a chance later in life to do work that might benefit some of the communities that I didn't even know existed."

Everyone needs allies

In addition to partnering with ILTF, the group has worked closely with others in the Native community. Red Lake Nation citizen Jody Beaulieu has provided valuable insight and support. As a young woman, she was part of the 1969 occupation of Alcatraz by American Indian students, a seminal moment in modern Native history. She was at the 1973 Wounded Knee occupation, too. "Everyone needs allies," she said. "We learned at Alcatraz that we needed people from off the island to bring in food and supplies. There have been a lot of things that have happened over the years where we have counted on support. It's not about just the tribes. What happens to American Indians, and the unwillingness over the years to accept the truth, affects everyone."



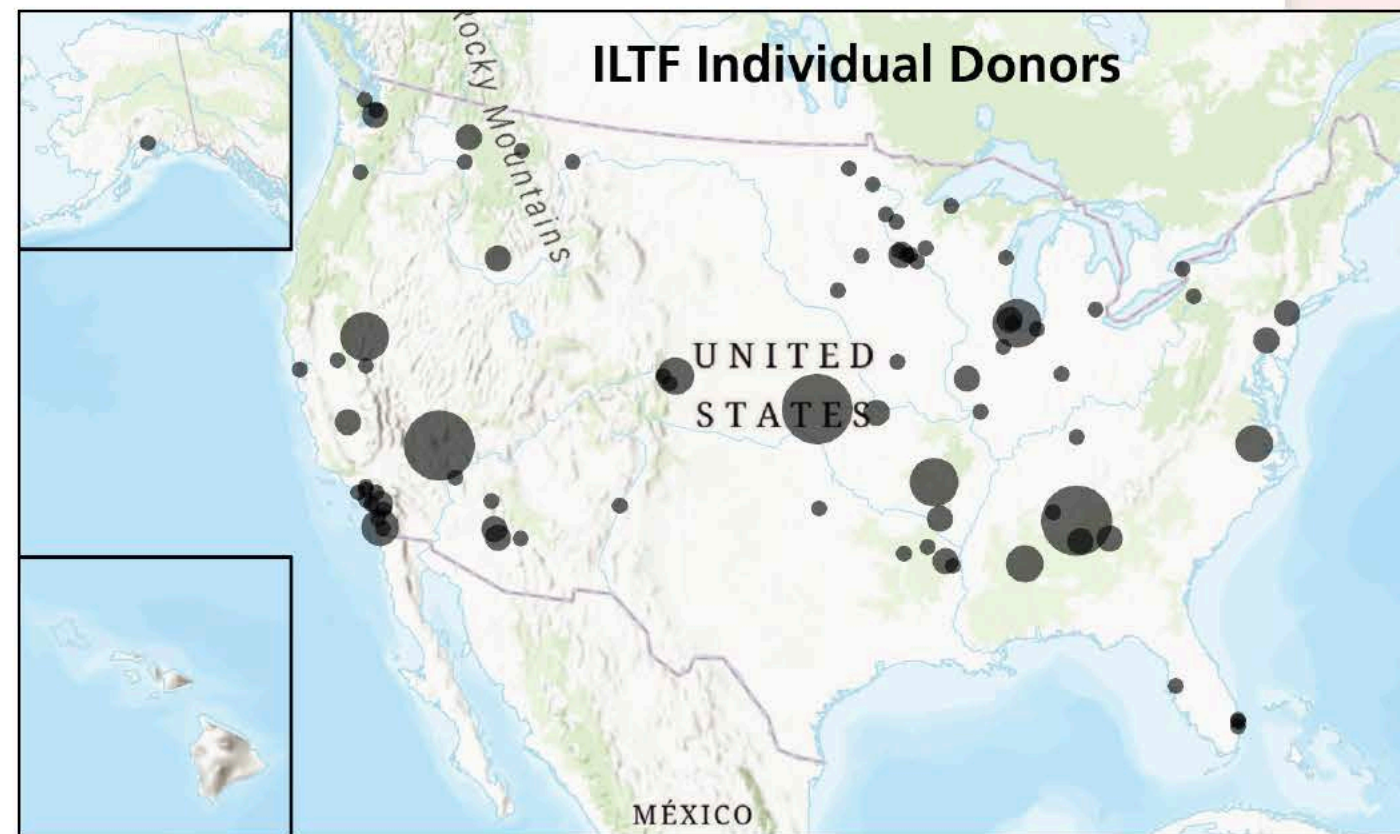


An overwhelming response

When the members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church made a \$250,000 contribution to ILTF for land recovery, it wasn't only about money. "It's more about just showing up and the commitment of personal values that they bring to the table," said ILTF President Cris Stainbrook. "The Beyond Land Acknowledgement Fund was an outgrowth of their gift, but also of the time and support they have given us."

ILTF has facilitated many land recovery projects. The new Fund offers a way for more organizations and individuals to participate in a meaningful way. Response to the campaign has been remarkable. More than 150 organizations in Minnesota have issued Land Acknowledgement Statements and many are taking concrete action to raise money on a broad scale. Churches and schools have launched educational programming and created new opportunities for Native students. Some are building broad community coalitions. As indicated in the map above, ILTF receives contributions from across the country and more than 250 individuals have given to the Fund. "Over the years we've heard from plenty of people who are not happy with the work we do," Stainbrook said. "We don't often hear people tell us 'Good job' never mind make substantial contributions. This experience has been truly gratifying."

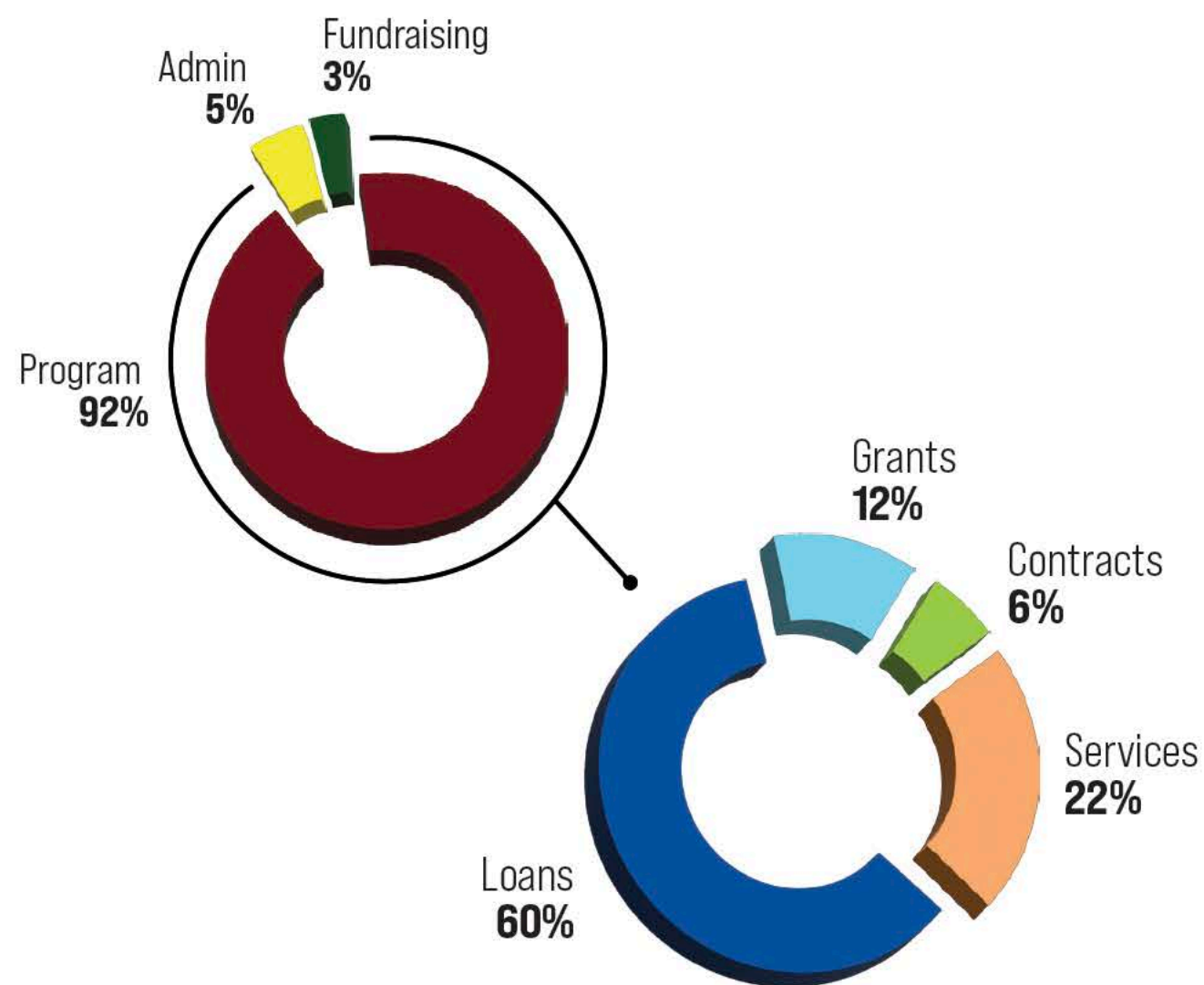
For more information on the Beyond Land Acknowledgement Fund, and to learn how you can get involved, please contact David Garelick at ILTF via email at dgarelick@iltf.org.





Financials

Expenditures:



Assets

2022

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,830,430
Investments	\$20,746,007
Accounts Receivable	\$307,055
Grants & Contracts Receivable	\$ 6,898,285
Interest Receivable	\$616,856
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assests	\$27,091
Inventory	\$202,495
Notes Receivable, net allowance for uncollectible notes of \$3,599,554 and \$3,003,304	\$21,101,248
Property and Equipment, Net	\$383,583

TOTAL ASSETS

\$69,656,737

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$1,416,962
Grants Payable	\$226,188
Deferred Revenue	\$180,438
Funds held for others	\$6,003,754
Notes Payable	\$23,178,183

Total Liabilities

\$31,005,525

Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	\$28,973,097
With donor restrictions	\$9,678,115

Total Net Assets

\$38,651,212

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$69,656,737