

Native American Fatherhood & Families Association

Mr. Albert M. Pooley, MSW, MPA
President/Founder



Presenting For:

2013 Tribal TANF

Child Welfare Coordination Grantee

Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

Many programs focus on the needs of women & children.

Little attention is paid to the unique needs of men as they struggle to become valuable family participants

Today, Native American men are often viewed as the cause of many family and social problems.

NAFFA takes the position that fathers are:

- ❖ The solution to address problems
- ❖ The greatest untapped resource available to communities
- ❖ Fathers must take the lead in keeping families together

Family

- Family is at the heart of Native American culture
- There is no other work more important than fatherhood and motherhood

Our greatest happiness & greatest sorrows come from our relationships with our family

Cultural Model

1. Truly love the people whom you serve
2. Love what you bring to the people

*This is essential in strengthening
the desire for positive change*

How is real change achieved?

- Real and lasting change must come from within
- Outside pressure rarely brings lasting change
Example: Knowledge, Preaching, Intimidation
- Change comes by filling life with:

Hope, gratitude, & confidence has powerful affect on changing attitude and behavior

There is no better way

Our Method Is

- ***Uplifting:*** one's spirit, attitude, self-image, self-worth, feeling welcome, wanted, needed and special
- ***Encouraging:*** strengthening hope, bring new hope, inspire a desire for change, confidence and trust in self and others

- ***Assisting:*** with recognizing opportunities, identifying resources, improving life skills and problem solving abilities
- ***Teaching:*** principles, responsibilities toward family, fatherhood, motherhood, marriage, and self-control

NAFFA's Position in Serving

Majority of people are not sick or ill!

- They have been:
 - Misled
 - Misguided
 - Misdirected
 - Misinformed
- Learned a lot of **bad habits**.
- Not right or wrong; good or bad; **HAVE BEEN FOOLED**.

Bringing Positive Change

We must be

- Forward thinking
- Forward looking
- Forward moving people

To honor the past, we must improve upon the present.

This is accomplished through strong fathers and mothers who are devoted to their families.

Common Vision

- Over 600 tribes in United States
- On and off reservations
- Wide age span, part native
- Diverse family dynamics (stepchildren, adoption, single parent, etc.)

NAFFA's Vision

Native American fathers and mothers
as models of healthy parenting for
happy and safe families *everywhere.*



Vision: Seeing a Meaningful Future and Working Towards It

- Brings meaning and direction to life.
- Determines what is meaningful.
- Develop self-control and positive attitudes.
- Ability to focus on shaping your future.
- Fosters strong leadership.

Vision without action is a daydream.
Action without vision is a nightmare.

-Japanese proverb~

THE PURPOSE OF LIFE:

to

HAVE A HAPPY and SAFE FAMILY

Leadership

Every institution must have a leader.

The family is no different.

Fatherhood is Leadership— The most important kind of leadership.

- Leadership does not mean that the father is the boss, in charge, or is more important
- Fathers, lead your families with love, kindness, and gratitude
- Parenting is a full and equal partnership

If fatherhood is leadership & the purpose of life is to have happy & safe families:

- It is the father's responsibility is to bring happiness & safety to his family.
- A good starting point is to bring happiness and safety to his wife.

Sacredness is a deep traditional value of Native people

- Native people generally accept symbols of nature to be sacred i.e.
- Mountains, canyons, rivers, burial grounds, animals, etc.
- As well as some items and some traditional ceremonies

Fatherhood is Sacred

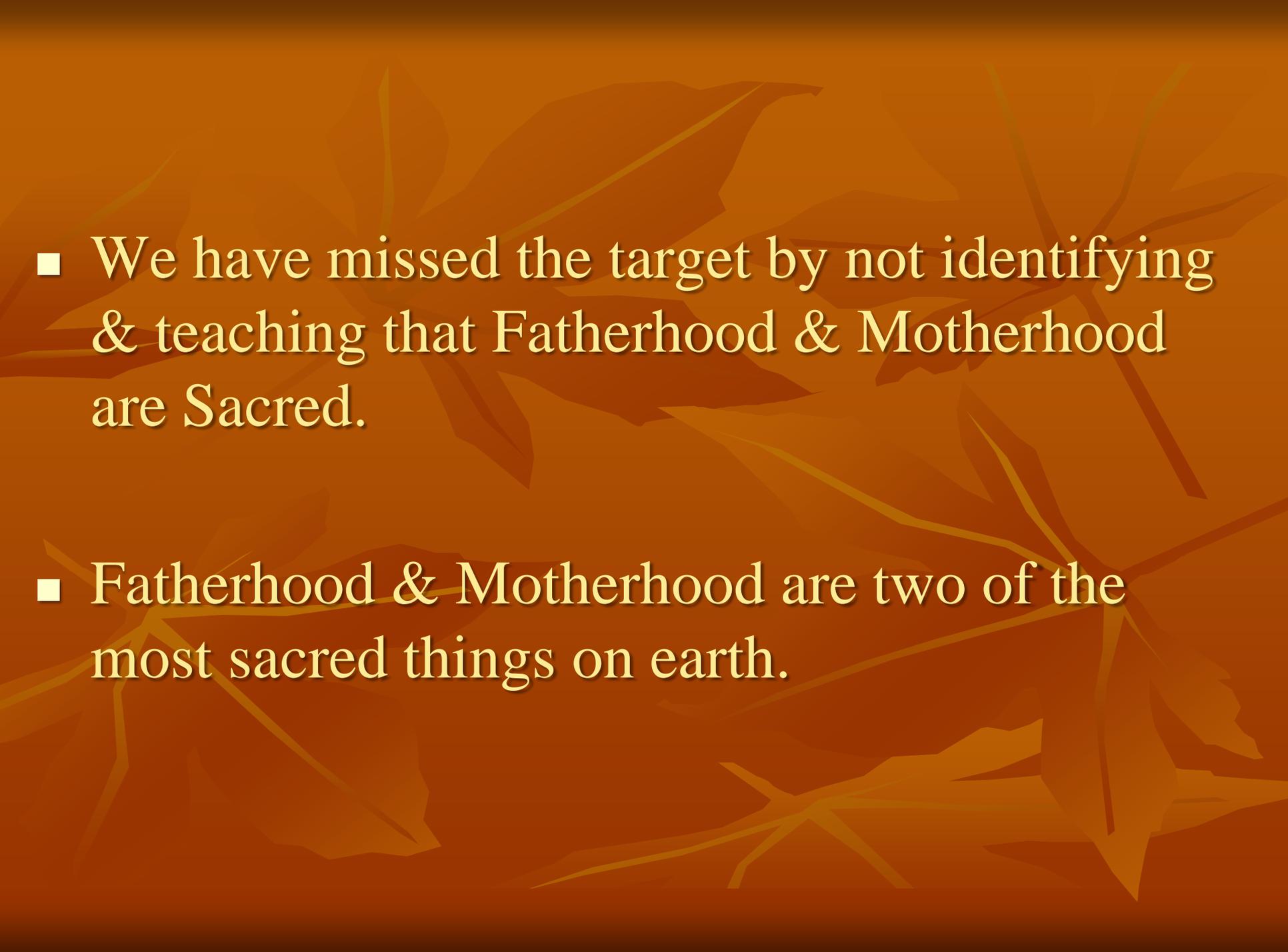
&

Motherhood is Sacred

Hitting The Mark

- **Matthew Emmons**
 - **Athens 2004
Summer Olympics**
 - **Lost the Gold
Medal**
 - **Hit Wrong Target**



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- We have missed the target by not identifying & teaching that Fatherhood & Motherhood are Sacred.
 - Fatherhood & Motherhood are two of the most sacred things on earth.

NAFFA has found when individuals understand their role as father or mother is sacred, they:

- Become easier to work with
- Are self-motivated to improve and change their lives
- Involve themselves in the lives of their families and communities
- Develop a stronger commitment to becoming a blessing to their families, not a burden

Native people come from a greatness.

**Great heritage, great history, great
cultures, great people!**

***Understand, if we came from greatness
we must return back to greatness.***

Goodness comes before greatness

- Must allow goodness into your life, why?
- Cannot give something you do not have.
- If goodness is not present you cannot share it or give it.
- Must Stand on your own individual
GOODNESS.

**Native American Men Make Great
Husbands, Fathers, & Leaders**

**Native American Women Make Great
Wives, Mothers, & Leaders**

**Gratitude is the beginning of
Greatness**

Character & Integrity

- Character—keeping your promises
 - Broken promises bring broken hearts, broken friendships and broken homes
- Integrity—being consistent, reliable, dependable, and even predictable

People love and have confidence in people who have character and integrity

Order

Even the universe must have order to function properly.

- Rules bring order to our lives
- Rules must be:
 - Clear
 - Fair
 - Consistent

If rules are not clear, fair, and consistent, they are **basically useless**

Without Order, there is Chaos.

- Chaos: confusion & disorder
 - Loss of freedom
 - Can be individual, family or community
 - Willful rebellion & disobedience
 - Gossip, rumors & lies
 - Keeping secrets, isolation, resentment, fear
 - Blame and criticize others, may say “that’s life; that’s normal” **Not True, Not Normal!**

Life is a process of solving problems, when you stop solving problems you become the problem

Foundational Principals

- Rule or code of conduct to guide your life
 - Good and true principals
 - Never change
 - Apply to all our needs
 - Gives us confidence to deal with life's problems

“When a man values his privileges more than his principals, he soon loses both.”

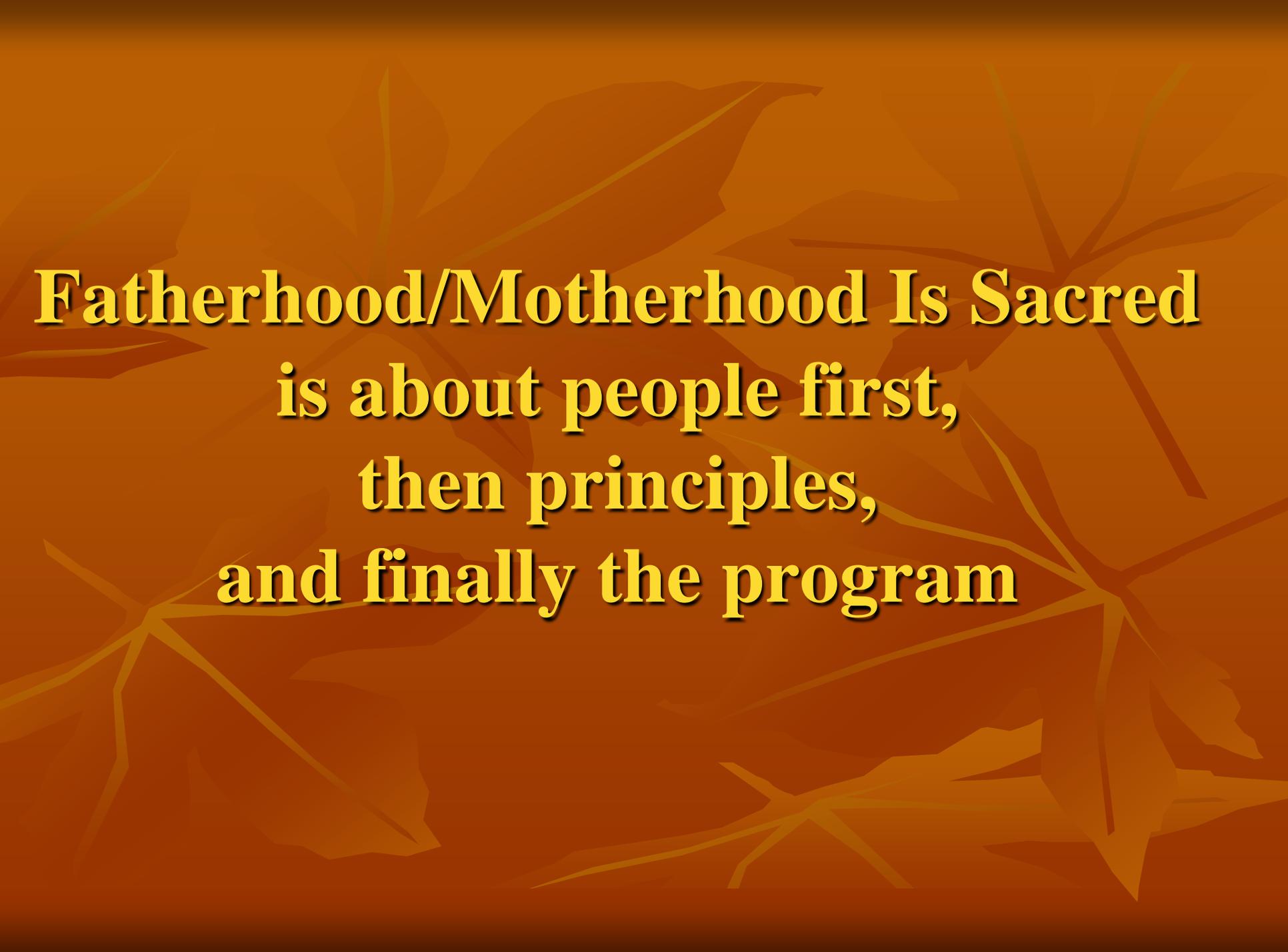
~ Dwight D. Eisenhower ~

Stability: The ability to change

- Attitude – The power of one

There is nothing that will have greater impact on your happiness than your attitude, not your age, your looks, your education, your wealth, or even your culture.

- Gratitude - A grateful man is a smart man



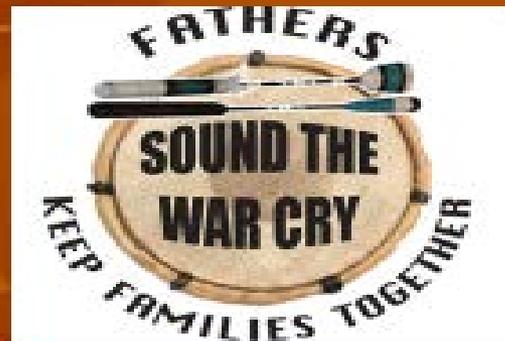
Fatherhood/Motherhood Is Sacred
is about people first,
then principles,
and finally the program

MAKE YOUR PLANS FOR

**2nd Annual National
Native American Responsible
Fatherhood Day**

June 14, 2014

**Mark your calenders
For next years celebration**



Upcoming Conference

SAVE THE DATE

**10th Annual National
Native American**

**“Fatherhood Is Leadership”
Conference:**

November 4-6, 2013

**Marriott Hotel
Mesa, AZ**



For a schedule of additional events visit our website:
www.nativeamericanfathers.org

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR PROGRAMS

Please call 480-833-5007

Contact Information

Phone: 480-833-5007

Email: apooley@aznaffa.org

Website:
nativeamericanfathers.org