

The Keya Foundation, Inc.

# Annual Report

Prepared By :

Jaylynn Farlee,  
Director



2025

605-218-1884  
325 S Spruce St.  
Eagle Butte, SD 57625  
[www.keyafoundation.org](http://www.keyafoundation.org)



# About Us

**Our mission** is to build partnerships with communities on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Reservation through education, social health, and cultural renewal to invest in themselves, their families, and their communities for a future of endurance, longevity and protection.

**Our work** is led by knowing that every effort we put forth needs to be directed at building the capacity of rural people to help themselves grow and prosper in life. We view each project as an opportunity to teach people what we know and for us to learn what they know.

**Our goal** is for those whom we mentor to replace us. More than that: Our ultimate goal is for those whom we mentor to outshine us.

**Our vision** is to build capacity within the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal communities.



# Our Team

The Keya Foundation is powered by an exceptional team of passionate and skilled professionals. We are immensely grateful for their hard work, innovation, and unwavering commitment to achieving our goals.



**Marcia O'Leary**

Community Member  
Board of Directors



**Candace Lee**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Board of Directors



**Karen Little Wounded**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Board of Directors



**Lyndsey Ducheneaux**

Community Member  
Board of Directors



**Courtney Claussen**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Board of Directors



**Sianna Moran**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Board of Directors



**Julissa Fillmore**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Board of Directors



**Jaylynn Farlee**

Community Member  
Director



**Carleyn Petersen**

Community Memeber  
Project Coordinator



**Eva Fielder**

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe  
Student Intern

# A Year in Review

Over the past year, the organization made significant progress toward advancing its mission and strengthening services for the community. Guided by our strategic priorities, we expanded core programs, deepened partnerships, and increased our overall impact across all areas of work.

Key accomplishments included the successful implementation of new initiatives, growth in participation across youth and community programs, and improved coordination with local and regional partners. We also advanced internal capacity-building efforts, including updates to organizational policies, staff development, and operational systems.

Financially, the organization maintained stable operations while leveraging resources to maximize community benefit. Investments in programming, staff, and infrastructure supported measurable outcomes and positioned the organization for continued success in the coming year.

Overall, this year marked meaningful progress in program delivery, community engagement, and organizational resilience. We remain committed to building on this momentum as we carry our mission forward into the next year.



# Programs & Services

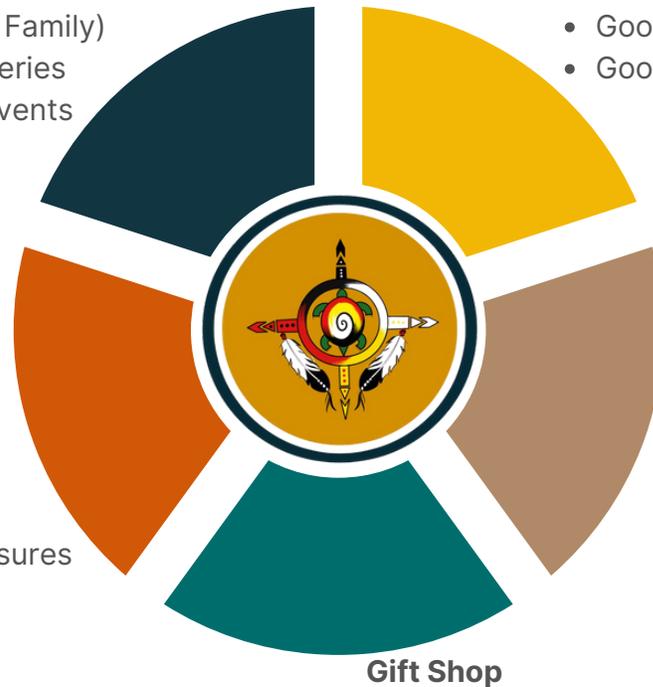
The program wheel below reflects the many ways the Keya Foundation supports our community. From youth leadership to food security and cultural programming, each area works together to uplift our families and honor Lakota values.

## Community Programs

- Tiospaye Kin Iglukininpi (Reviving the Extended Family)
- Summer Family Night Series
- Partner & Community events

## Youth Programs

- Natural Helpers Program
- Good Relative Circle Program
- Good Relative Award Initiative



## Food Security

- Produce Prescription Program
- Eating Like Our Ancestors Project - Unci Kitchen Toolkit

## Environmental Work

- CRST Community Exposures to Metals in the Air

Gift Shop

## Program Highlights

### 1 Youth Programs

- **The Natural Helpers Program** is a key peer-support initiative that equips nine trusted student leaders, trained during the 2024-2025 school year, with tools to recognize distress and connect peers to vital resources. Highlights from their activities include the creation of a Lakota affirmation coloring book to promote positive self-talk, participation in the Cansasa Harvest, and leading peer-to-peer Vaping Prevention presentations. The program successfully launched its 2025-2026 iteration, already organizing a Red Ribbon Week Dodgeball Tournament and initiating school wide movements on positive peers and anti-bullying campaigns. Core partners in this work include the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Schools and Sacred Heart Center.

- **The Good Relative Circle (GRC) Program** serves as an advanced leadership cohort, expanding upon foundational peer-support skills for older students (7th and 8th grade). Rooted in Lakota values, this program successfully launched its new after-school model, completing training for nine advanced leaders. The GRC students demonstrated community leadership by participating in the holiday community events, attending leadership conferences, and are currently developing a podcast series to feature youth perspectives on critical topics like mental health, goal setting, and self-care in the new year.
- **The Good Relative Award Initiative**, a continued partnership with Cheyenne-Eagle Butte Schools, consistently promotes positive behavior and cultural values. This effort ensures that students who exemplify the designated monthly Lakota Value are recognized by school staff votes, celebrated via local media outlets, and provided with a goodie bag, effectively reinforcing positive behavior and cultural integration throughout the school year.

## 2 Food Security

- **The Produce Prescription Program**, is an innovative, research-based program directly addresses the link between food insecurity and diet-related chronic illnesses. It provides eligible families with vouchers for nutritious frozen and fresh produce, aiming to positively impact health outcomes and reduce chronic conditions (such as diabetes and hypertension). The program is currently active, with participant completion expected in February 2026.
- **The Eating Like Our Ancestors Project** reconnects the community with traditional Lakota foodways, grounded in the wisdom of our elders. In 2025, we interviewed 12 Cheyenne River elders to document their recipes and teachings. This work culminated in the creation of the Uncí Kitchen Toolkit, a resource featuring elders' stories and youth illustrations. The Foundation distributed over 200 toolkits to CRST members and over 150 toolkits to CRST schools through seven presentations, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of Indigenous food systems in print and digital formats.

## 3 Gift Shop

- **The Keya Foundation Gift Shop** serves as a vital platform to promote and sustain local economic development by featuring everyday products designed by Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) artists. In 2025, the shop expanded its reach, successfully fulfilling orders for schools, local community members, regional organizations, and customers across the country.

## 4 Environmental Work

- **CRST Community Exposure to Metals in The Air**, was established to generate current outdoor air pollution data for the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) communities, directly addressing the loss of local air quality monitoring efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2025, the Foundation raised public awareness by hosting presentations at the Missouri Breaks Research Symposium and further invested in infrastructure by equipping five CRST schools with their own Purple Air Monitors, expanding the local monitoring network.

## 5 Community Programs

- **Tiospaye Kin Iglukininpi (Reviving the Extended Family)** is a key family strengthening initiative that supports parents and caregivers raising children from birth to age 18. Rooted in traditional Lakota values and cultural teachings, the program utilizes the Positive Indian Parenting Curriculum in an intensive eight-week series, blending essential cultural knowledge with modern parenting practices. In 2025, the program significantly invested in sustainability by completing Facilitator training for 16 community members and undertaking necessary curriculum adaptations to align with community culture and values. The first pilot cohort was successfully implemented, reaching two families and eleven youth, with firm plans for expanded enrollment in the new year.
- **The Summer Family Night Series**, organized in partnership with local organizations, offers a vital opportunity to strengthen community ties and promote intergenerational connection. These free, family-friendly events are designed for all ages, creating a safe and welcoming environment for community members to gather, incorporating yard games, a shared meal, and various fun activities. Over the course of four events in the summer of 2025, the Foundation, with critical partner support, hosted a significant gathering of approximately 700 families, underscoring the strong demand for safe, family centered gathering spaces.
- **Community & Partner Events.** We are deeply grateful for the numerous opportunities to collaborate with our valued community partners, promoting unity and empowering participants through holistic, cultural, and inviting activities. Through active community collaboration, the Foundation maintains an integral presence in key local events throughout the year, including the Buffalo Harvest(s), Wakiyan Aglipi (Returning of the Thunders), Santa Claus Meet and Greet, Festival of Trees, and the Cheyenne-Eagle Butte K-12 Wacipi (Powwow).

Strong, collaborative relationships are essential to our success. Over the past year, The Keya Foundation significantly expanded and strengthened relationships with funders, Tribal programs, local organizations, and allies to broaden our impact across the community and support Lakota culture. The accompanying bar graph illustrates the growth of these critical partnerships.



# Organizational Development



The ability of the Keya Foundation to deliver on its mission is directly linked to the strength and clarity of its internal organization. In 2025, we focused on strategic improvements across our governance, operations, and leadership to build a more resilient and impactful foundation for the future. These vital changes ensure we can sustain and expand our work.

## 1 Policy & Governance

- Revised Board Policies: The Board of Directors completed a comprehensive review and revision of the Foundation's governance policies, ensuring alignment with best practices and organizational strategy.

## 2 Board Leadership & Capacity

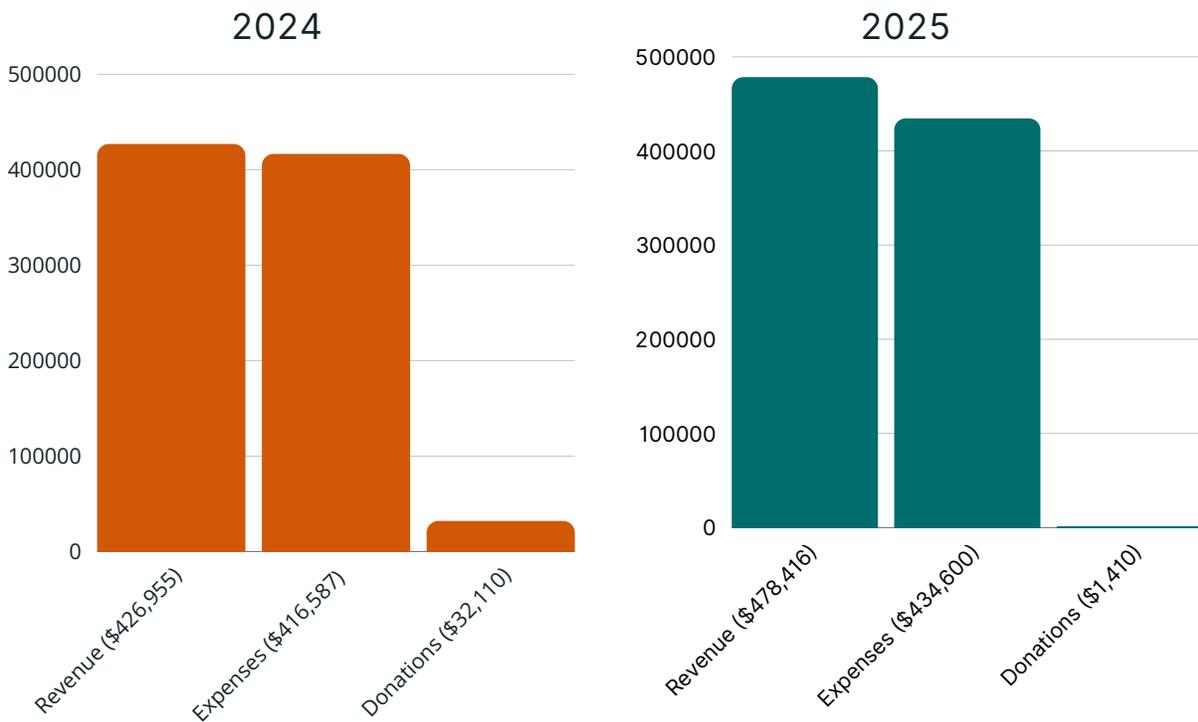
- New Board Member Integration: In April 2025, the Board welcomed three new members, bringing our team of directors to seven. A comprehensive orientation and training program was conducted for these members, focusing on fiduciary responsibilities, board roles, and a detailed organizational overview.

## 3 Operation Enhancements

- Updated Website Launch: The Foundation launched a fully updated website to enhance user experience, improve accessibility, and provide clearer access to program information and resources.
- Social Media Strategy Development: A comprehensive social media content calendar and strategy were developed to strengthen the Foundation's community engagement and increase awareness of our mission and impact.

# Financial Health

During the fiscal year, The Keya Foundation managed funding across multiple grants and programs, with total revenues of approximately \$478,416 and total expenses of approximately \$434,600, resulting in a positive operating surplus that reflects responsible fiscal management, adherence to grant budgets, and continued investment in mission-driven programs. The majority of expenses supported direct program costs, staffing, and participant support across community-based initiatives.



Equipment Category	Item / Description	Approx. Value	Notes / Vendor
<b>Environmental Study Equipment</b>	Air quality and environmental monitoring equipment	\$10,139.38	MESA Labs, SKC Inc.
<b>Program Equipment</b>	Honda Outdoor Generator	\$1,173.34	Used for community and field programming
<b>Office Equipment</b>	Kyocera TASKalfa Printer/Copier/Scanner	\$4,324.30	Purchased from Century Business

# Summary

During the past fiscal year, The Keya Foundation advanced its mission by supporting youth, families, and community members through culturally grounded programs and partnerships. Across multiple initiatives, the organization focused on strengthening community connection, supporting positive development, and creating opportunities for learning and leadership.

The Keya Foundation responsibly managed approximately \$478,416 in grant and program funding, directing the majority of resources toward direct program costs, staffing, and participant support. The organization ended the year in a stable financial position, reflecting strong fiscal stewardship and continued capacity to serve the community.

Through collaboration, cultural knowledge, and community engagement, The Keya Foundation continued to build momentum toward long-term impact and sustainability.

## What Next?

Priorities for 2026 will build on the momentum of 2025, focusing on strengthening policy and governance, updating internal systems and procedures, and advancing stability through fundraising initiatives and strategic planning. We also plan to expand key programs, increase community engagement, enhance staff and volunteer capacity, and implement improved measures for tracking our impact. Throughout all efforts, we will continue to center Lakota cultural values and the needs of Cheyenne River Sioux tribe families and communities.



# Wopila Tanka

The Keya Foundation extends sincere gratitude to our funders, partners, board members, staff, volunteers, and community members whose trust, collaboration, and commitment made this year's work possible. Your support strengthens our ability to deliver culturally grounded programming, invest in youth and families, and continue building a healthier, more connected community.

As we move forward, we remain committed to responsible stewardship, community-led solutions, and sustaining programs that reflect the values and strengths of the people we serve. Thank you for standing with us and being part of our shared journey.



Phone Number

**605-218-1884**



Mailing Address

**325 S Spruce St  
PO Box 493  
Eagle Butte SD 57625**



Website

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