

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Industrial
Development

(620 62)

Indians
FEB 14 1963

Hon. A. S. Mike Monroney
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Senator Monroney:

This is in response to your request of January 31, 1963, regarding
the American Self Help Foundation.

We are not familiar with this organization. Therefore, we are asking our Area Office in Muskogee to contact Mr. Parker for further information, and to determine what assistance we may be able to offer. We are also alerting our Anadarko Area Office with respect to this organization.

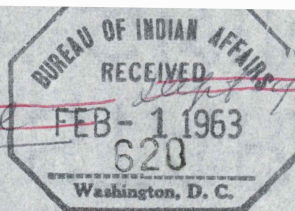
Sincerely yours,

(SGD) JAMES E. OFFICER
ASSOCIATE

Commissioner

Enclosure

Mr. J. N. Lowe



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AMERICAN SELF HELP FOUNDATION

Gifts to others as an expression of love and esteem is a fine Christian act. When the one receiving the gifts comes to the place that he expects the gifts, demands them and relies on them, then they are a detriment to the giver and the receiver.

The giver becomes the sole supporter and the receiver loses his desire to do something for himself. In the case of the American Indian both sides have lost. The Government in giving doles to the Indian People have discouraged any self improvement on their part. A new approach must be found to save this stalwart race of people.

All Americans must realize that they too have a responsibility, not only for the Indians sake, but for their own sake as well.

The American Indian problem has been with us a long time and it cannot be cured over night. It is a long time program that must be undertaken with much thought, much action, much determination, much love, prayer and dedication.

We have been promised help by the authorities in Washington, but as yet we have not had a plan to present to them for action.

We have assistance from the Department of Interior and we feel that under the present plan they have done about all that can be expected. However, many changes must be made.

In order that we may move forward in this program of building a self sustaining population the American Indian, we present the following plan of action. This program is set up in the Ponca City, Kay County area as a pilot plan, with hope that it will spread to all communities where there is an Indian population.

The PURPOSE of the American Self Help Foundation, shall be to enable the American Indian to earn a reasonable standard of living while preparing himself for productive occupation in American Society.

The American Self Help Foundation can help preserve the dignity of the American Indian by teaching him to stand on his own feet. While the Indian is learning and earning a living it will be necessary for his income to be supplemented. This assistance must be given in such a manner that the Foundation will be self sustaining, once it is established. The Indian man or woman must be taught that he is given this assistance with an obligation to pay back to the Foundation the sums loaned.

It is proposed that the following shall be named in setting up the Board of Governors for the Foundation:

One Representative from each of the following:

Indian Tribal Council	Kay County Medical Assoc.
Kay Co. Guidance Clinic	Kay County Health Assoc.
Ponca City Public Schools	Rotary Club
Northern Okla. Junior College	Lions Club
Oklahoma State University	Kiwanis Club
Oklahoma University	American Business Club
Chiloecco Indian School	and other interested
Ponca City Ministerial Alliance	Civic Clubs
Okla. Indian Mission Club	

The duties of the Board of Governors shall be:

1. Screen applicants for participation in the program.
2. Establish courses of Study and Training Programs.
3. Guide the Applicants in their courses of work.
4. Seek Funds for the establishment of the Foundation Loan Fund.
5. Seek Industries for this area that will employ Indian People.
6. Work with the present Governmental Agencies to eliminate duplication.
7. Seek ways of directing the energy of the Indian People as a whole into a better way of life.
8. Urge the educated Indians to give their help in creating a desire among the Indian People for self improvement.
9. Create a favorable community atmosphere that will encourage all to assist in the self help program.

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183/4251
E. K. Jordan