

**GOODHUE COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES (GCHHS)**



**REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

<b>Requested Board Date:</b>	June 17, 2025	<b>Staff Lead:</b>	Nina Arneson
<b>Consent Agenda:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<b>Attachments:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Action Requested:</b>	Review and Approve a Letter of Support for the Honoring Dakota Project (HDP) from Goodhue County HHS Board, and Department.		

**BACKGROUND:**

On May 7, 2025 we received an email communication from Nicky Buck HDP Director, Jasmine Fiddler HDP Director of Education and Programming, and Kim Lampe HDP Director of Operations requesting an updated Letter of Support for the Honoring Dakota Project (HDP).

It should be noted that we have confirmed that this letter of support is strictly generic and does not mean there is an expectation of financial support. If there is an opportunity for the County to provide additional support beyond general engagement, then HDP would send a specific letter requesting that support.

**Attached, please find the email communication, HDP press release and the draft letter of support.**

This draft support letter is specifically from the GCHHS Board, and Department, but it could be easily adjusted to also come from the Goodhue County Board if so directed. The County Board meets prior to the HHS Board on June 17<sup>th</sup>, and this will also be on the County Board agenda.

**RECOMMENDATION:** GCHHS Department recommends approval as requested.

**From:** [Kim Lampe](#)  
**To:** [Johnson, Kris](#); [Flanders, Linda](#); [Anderson, Brad](#); [Greseth, Todd](#); [Majerus, Jason](#); [Betcher, Susan](#); [Arneson, Nina](#)  
**Cc:** [Kohlhofer, Anna](#); [Smith, Josh](#); [Nicky Honoring Dakota](#); [jasmine@honoringdakota.org](mailto:jasmine@honoringdakota.org); [Heather Lawrenz](#); [Emily Guida Foos](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for your continued support of the Honoring Dakota Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 7, 2025 9:05:18 AM  
**Attachments:** [template support letter hdp.pdf](#)

You don't often get email from kim@honoringdakota.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

**External Email - Use caution opening links or attachments!**

Dear Goodhue County Health and Human Services and Board of Commissioners,

On behalf of the Honoring Dakota Project, thank you for the opportunity to reconnect and share recent developments during our presentation. We appreciated the time spent reacquainting ourselves with you and reflecting on the journey we've taken together.

As we shared, the Honoring Dakota Project is entering an exciting new chapter—transitioning toward becoming an independent nonprofit organization with fiscal sponsorship. This evolution is rooted in a growing call to expand our partnerships beyond arts and culture to include work in education, governance, land stewardship, health and wellness, housing, and community development. The insights gained through our Ripple Effect Mapping session, conducted with the support of the University of Minnesota Extension and Blandin Foundation, were instrumental in guiding this transition and reaffirming the importance of our foundational relationships. Our continued success is a testament to Goodhue County Health and Human Services' early adoption and sustained commitment.

As we move forward, we respectfully ask you to consider formalizing your commitment to our continued partnership with an updated **letter of support**. In addition, we invite your ongoing participation in the following ways:

- Attend monthly **partner meetings**
- **Diversify** County representation at HDP meetings and events
- Collaborate with us on **funded** projects

Share and **market** HDP activities and events to your networks where appropriate

- **Join** us at the many engaging events and community gatherings
- Consider making a **donation** to support our organizational growth and programming

We truly value our longstanding relationship and the County's contributions to the shared vision of healing, truth-telling, and community well-being. We look forward to building on that legacy together.

We have provided a template letter for reference when creating a general letter of support. In the event a specific partner project or grant opportunity requires additional details concerning our partnership, an additional letter with those specifics will be requested.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or ideas—we are eager to continue this important work with you.

Pidamayayeye (Thank You),

Nick Buck, HDP Director

Jasmine Fiddler, HDP Director of Education and Programming

Kim Lampe, HDP Director of Operations

Attachment: template support letter

**Honoring Dakota Project**





# PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MAY 6, 2025**

## **CONTACTS**

Emily Foos - Red Wing Arts Executive Director  
emily@redwingarts.org  
678/862-8029

Nicky Buck - Honoring Dakota Project Director  
nicky@honoringdakota.org  
651/399-0010

## **HONORING DAKOTA PROJECT AND RED WING ARTS ANNOUNCE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT NONPROFIT STATUS FOR HDP**

Red Wing, MN – With gratitude and excitement, the Honoring Dakota Project and Red Wing Arts jointly announce an important milestone in their shared journey: the Honoring Dakota Project is transitioning to become an independent nonprofit organization.

Since its inception, the Honoring Dakota Project has been nurtured by Red Wing Arts with a shared vision to bridge community through arts and culture while acknowledging and uplifting the Dakota people and their homeland. Red Wing Arts has proudly supported the growth of Honoring Dakota Project, offering stewardship, infrastructure, and encouragement for the work to take root and flourish.

Over time, the Honoring Dakota Project has grown far beyond the boundaries of Red Wing and the traditional mission of Red Wing Arts. Through intentional reflection and guided by a commitment to ensure Dakota leadership remains at the heart of the work, Red Wing Arts has supported a thoughtful transition plan to help HDP establish itself as an independent nonprofit.

“This transition is not an ending, but a deepening – of vision, purpose, and capacity. It allows the Honoring Dakota Project to grow its roots wider and deeper across Minnesota and beyond,” said Nicky Buck, Director of the Honoring Dakota Project.

Red Wing Arts and Honoring Dakota Project remain close collaborators during this transition. Red Wing Arts currently holds two active grants that include HDP as a key partner, and both organizations are committed to continuing their work together with creativity and care.

This decision was further informed by a Ripple Effect Mapping (REM) evaluation conducted in September 2024 with the support of the University of Minnesota Extension and the Blandin Foundation. The REM process revealed the deep and expanding impact of HDP’s work – from education and governance to land stewardship, health, housing, and community development – and affirmed that independence would allow HDP to fully embody its holistic, Indigenous-led vision.

“The Honoring Dakota Project has grown into a powerful force for connection and change,” said Emily Foos, Executive Director of Red Wing Arts. “We are proud to have stewarded this project since its inception. As HDP enters this exciting new chapter as an independent organization, Red Wing Arts remains committed to the work and to walking alongside our Indigenous community as collaborators and allies. We have learned so much from being in this work – lessons in humility, relationship, and responsibility – and we carry those lessons forward with gratitude.”

As Honoring Dakota Project begins this new chapter, it will remain grounded in the core principles that have shaped its identity and work:

- Rooted in Indigenous leadership
- Inclusive education and community healing
- Intergenerational empowerment and visioning for seven generations
- Creative, land-based spiritual connection
- Relationship-based systems transformation

The Honoring Dakota Project continues to be deeply grateful to its founding and sustaining partners – including the Prairie Island Indian Community, Red Wing Arts, the City of Red Wing, Goodhue County, and numerous funders – whose shared commitment has made this moment possible.

### **About the Honoring Dakota Project**

The Honoring Dakota Project is dedicated to creating community engagements, projects, and events that provide education to discover our shared stories, bridge our communities, and create a space for healing.

### **About Red Wing Arts**

Red Wing Arts aims to build a vibrant community fueled by the arts. They enrich lives by connecting, celebrating, inspiring and leading through shared art experiences. Their vision is a community alive with creativity.



[www.honoringdakota.org](http://www.honoringdakota.org)

[www.redwingarts.org](http://www.redwingarts.org)



## Goodhue County Health and Human Services

426 West Avenue  
Red Wing, MN 55066  
(651) 385-3200 • Fax (651) 267-4882

June, 2025

### Re: Letter of Support & Gratitude – Honoring Dakota Project (HDP)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Goodhue County Health and Human Services (GCHHS) Board and Department to express our strong support for [the Honoring Dakota Project \(HDP\)](#) as well as our deepest gratitude for having had the opportunity to be a part of HDP since the beginning.

Our partnership with HDP has been grounded in mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to improving the health and wellness of all community members. Their leadership, rooted in Indigenous knowledge systems and community-driven approaches, has been vital in developing and delivering culturally meaningful and impactful initiatives.

HDP and all of us in this network have played a pivotal role in bridging communities and creating spaces for learning, sharing, and healing through community engagement and projects. The efforts have fostered understanding, respect, and unity among diverse groups, reflecting the true spirit of community collaboration.

We are committed to supporting HDP through strengthening our connections and working together to build a physically and mentally healthy and resilient community.

We are dedicated to supporting HDP including working together to address social determinants of health, healing of historical trauma in Goodhue County, and strengthening connections to build even a more resilient community.

Pidamayayeye (Thank You), and if you need any additional information or if you have questions, please connect with Nina Arneson, GCHHS Director at [nina.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov](mailto:nina.arneson@goodhuecountymn.gov) or 651-385-3200.

Sincerely,

Susan Betcher, GCHHS Board Chair

