



The **Lakota way** is to live life in a selfless manner with purpose, dignity, and without vulgarity or violence.

The **Oglala of the Tintatunwan Band of the Oceti Sakowin** (*Seven Council Fires*), come from a nation of strong leaders who live a spiritual life and who protect and provide for their **Tiyospaye** (*extended family*) way of life, especially focusing on the proper upbringing and protection of our **Wakanyeja** (*Sacred Children*) and their **Tiwahe** (*families*).

WE'RE HERE FOR ONE REASON: THE CHILDREN

When Lakota children are abused, a little bit of our culture, spirit and soul dies. That's because children (*along with women and elders*) are at the center of the Oglala Lakota social construct. And no one is more vulnerable than a child.

That's why the **Oglala Lakota Children's Justice Center** (*OLCJC*) exists. We provide advocacy to children who have been traumatized by sexual, emotional and physical abuse. We are committed to advocating for the best interests of our Lakota children with recommendations for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.



LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

OLCJC, formerly known as **CASA**, has been serving the needs of Lakota children since 1999. We are located on the **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation** and serve children living in the nine districts of this 3,468.86 sq. mile reservation. **OLCJC** is a Native-led 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving innocent and vulnerable children who have been traumatized by physical, emotional and sexual abuse.



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WE DREAM OF A DAY...

... when we are no longer needed.



We use contemporary methods along with traditional **Lakota** customs to provide comprehensive advocacy for children and their families.

HELPING THEIR SPIRITS HEAL - AND SOAR

During times of crisis, our program provides safety through the transitional processes with collaborative placement agencies and ongoing traditional therapy through ceremony. We work to strengthen the spirit of the child to overcome past trauma through the following:

- **Re-education by teaching the necessity and value of traditional cultural ceremonies for girls and boys.**
- **Re-acculturation, which is the orientation to know and practice the Lakota culture to experience its impact in healing of the physically and sexually abused child.**



We enhance advocacy services to children, including comprehensive culturally competent services for traumatized children.

"We must help children from the point of trauma throughout healing and restoring – so they are living, not simply surviving."
– Arlana

"The work I provide is to help children create a friendship within themselves, leading to healing and happiness through ceremony."
– Lawrence

"WHEN LAKOTA CHILDREN ARE ABUSED, A LITTLE BIT OF OUR CULTURE, SPIRIT AND SOUL DIES."

WHEN YOU PROTECT A CHILD, YOU PRESERVE THE FUTURE

OLCJC exists for all the **Lakota** children in the nine districts of the **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation**. We help children who have:

- Been traumatized by sexual, emotional & physical abuse
- Witnessed violence
- Experienced grief and loss
- Suicidal ideas and may need intervention through culture and healing

And here is how we protect the children:

- We assist law enforcement, the Child Protection Agency, and the court system by conducting culturally appropriate forensic investigations.
- We work to systemically increase prosecution rates of perpetrators within the parameters of the Oglala Sioux Tribal Jurisdiction with improved Child Protection Team Protocol, Chain of Evidence and Protection of the Children.
- We strengthen Case Management Services of the children to include culturally appropriate methods of advocacy for their Holistic needs.
- We increase community awareness and education through public forum discussions, training on child abuse, and mandatory reporting requirements/procedures.
- We advocate for better laws that will hold offenders accountable.



Arlana Bettelyoun
Executive Director

Lawrence Swalley
Case Manager/Cultural Provider

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN WILL NEVER END

Arlana Bettelyoun is the Executive Director of OLCJC and has given national presentations regarding preparing Children for Court, Children's Code, and has been recognized for National awards for Child Advocacy in Indian Country.

Arlana was instrumental in co-leading the Oglala Sioux Tribe's Wakanyeja na Tiwahe Wooke (Child and Family Code) which was a historic document passed into law by the Oglala Sioux Tribe in May 2007.

Over the past 10 years, **Lawrence Swalley** has been a Social Worker with the Child Protection Service Agency for Pine Ridge. He currently serves as our Case Manager/Cultural Provider (formerly Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program) where he represents the holistic and best interests of children, who have been physically and sexually abused, within the Judicial System.

He has been providing Cultural Orientation for children and families amongst his people by utilizing the Creation Story of the Lakota.

FOLLOWING THE CONSTRUCT OF OUR ANCESTORS

Under the **Oglala Lakota Culture Matriarchal Social Construct**, Elders, Women, and Children are at the Center (*Sacred Hoop*). They come first and foremost, above everything and all else. For this reason, the Culture is all inclusive. There is no room for discrimination, or exclusion.

- Girls and women come from Wooke (*Water/Egg*).
- Boys and Men come from Iyan (*Stone/Seed*).

The man's role is to provide the home and create a Spiritual Shield over his spouse and children for the rest of his life. He is Defender and to live without making excuses; this is his Duty.

The woman brings forth life and is responsible for upholding the Laws of Creation throughout the societies, knowing the medicines, and nurturing the children in generosity without favoritism.

The Seven Sacred Ceremonies develop the girl into a woman and the boy into a man for the purpose of creating the miracle of the child or family.

HELP US MAKE THIS ORGANIZATION UNNECESSARY

We dream of a day when we no longer need to advocate for children. We dream that all people will be treated with respect and care. We dream that all children can grow into adulthood without facing the fear of abuse. And we dream that you will help us make all of this come true.

Your contributions are tax deductible and support our efforts to protect, heal and help Lakota children. Please do what you can. The children need your help – today.



We protect and heal our **Wakanyeja** affected by neglect and abuse. This is the best way to teach children how to stand strong.