

MY DAD

GRADUATED FROM THE UNITED STATES INDIAN POLICE ACADEMY



A Story About Courage,
Service, and Making
Safer Communities

*Brave People
Strong Communities
Bright Futures*

By **Steven Juneau and Leo**
Illustrated for Our Future



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Dad packed his uniform, sturdy boots, notebooks, and our family picture. I felt proud and a little worried. He promised that everything he learned would help him serve people safely.



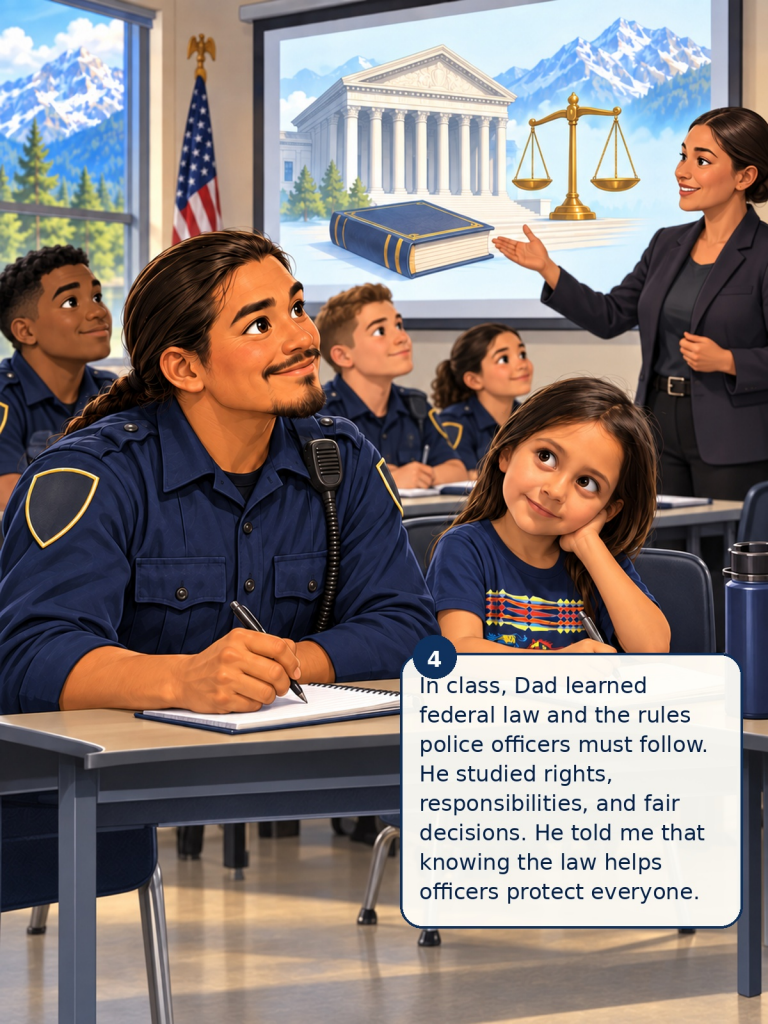
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Dad was leaving for thirteen weeks at the Indian Country Police Officer Training Program. Our goodbye hug was extra tight. I waved bravely because we were beginning this adventure together.



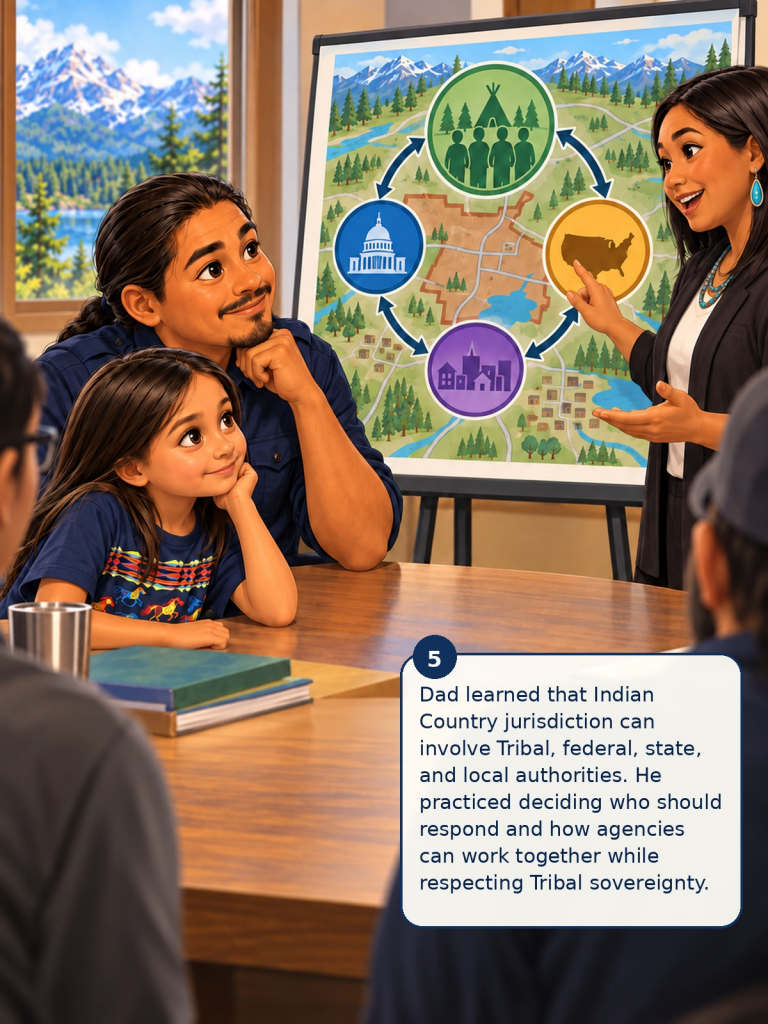
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Dad stayed in a simple academy dorm room with a bed, desk, and space for his uniform. Every evening, we talked by video. Seeing our picture beside his books made home feel close.



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In class, Dad learned federal law and the rules police officers must follow. He studied rights, responsibilities, and fair decisions. He told me that knowing the law helps officers protect everyone.



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Dad learned that Indian Country jurisdiction can involve Tribal, federal, state, and local authorities. He practiced deciding who should respond and how agencies can work together while respecting Tribal sovereignty.



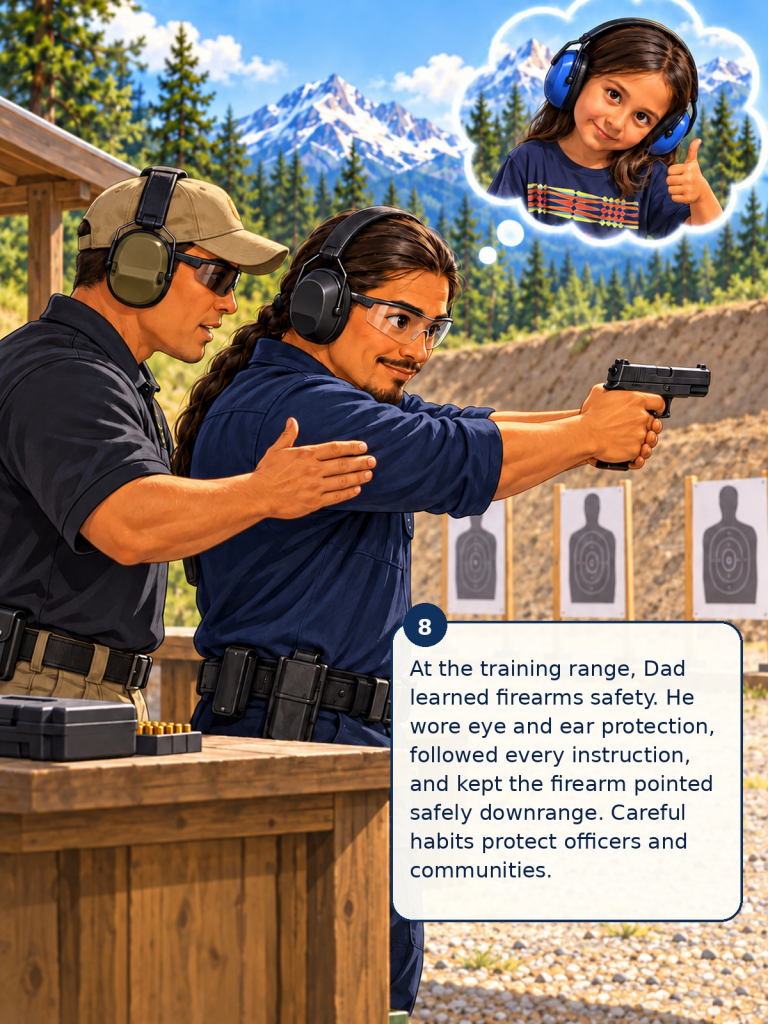
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Dad practiced writing police reports that were clear, complete, and truthful. He learned to record what he saw, heard, and did. Good reports help people understand what happened.



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On a closed training course, Dad practiced pursuit driving around cones and through careful turns. His instructor taught him to stay alert, control the vehicle, and make safety the first decision.



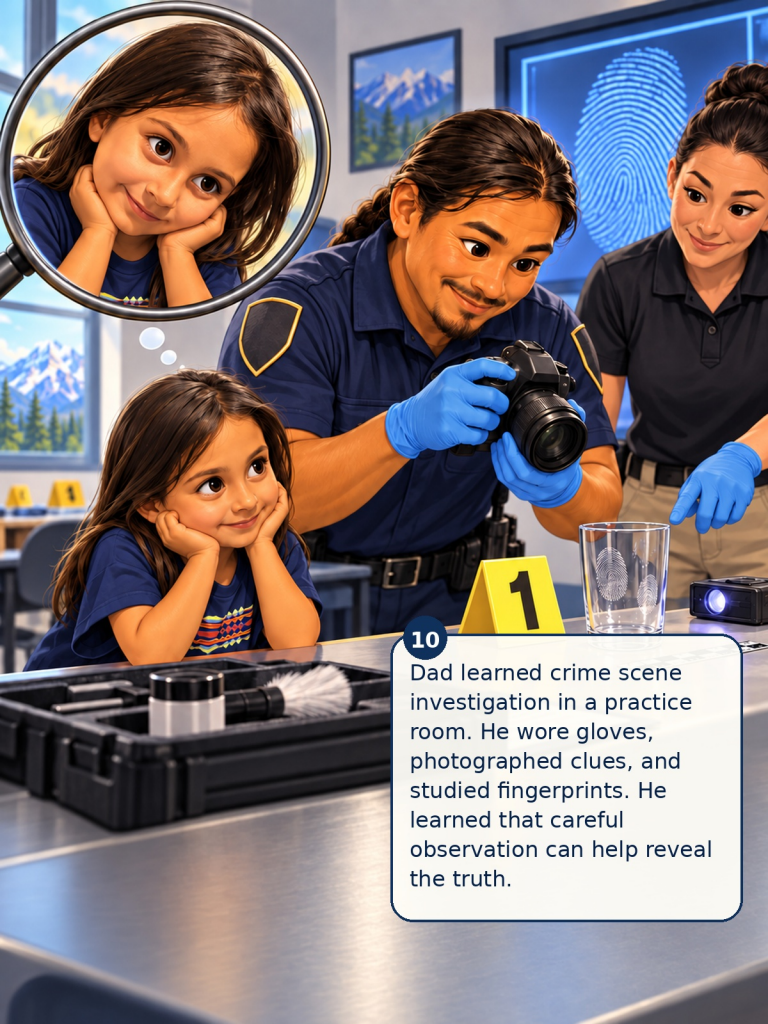
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At the training range, Dad learned firearms safety. He wore eye and ear protection, followed every instruction, and kept the firearm pointed safely downrange. Careful habits protect officers and communities.



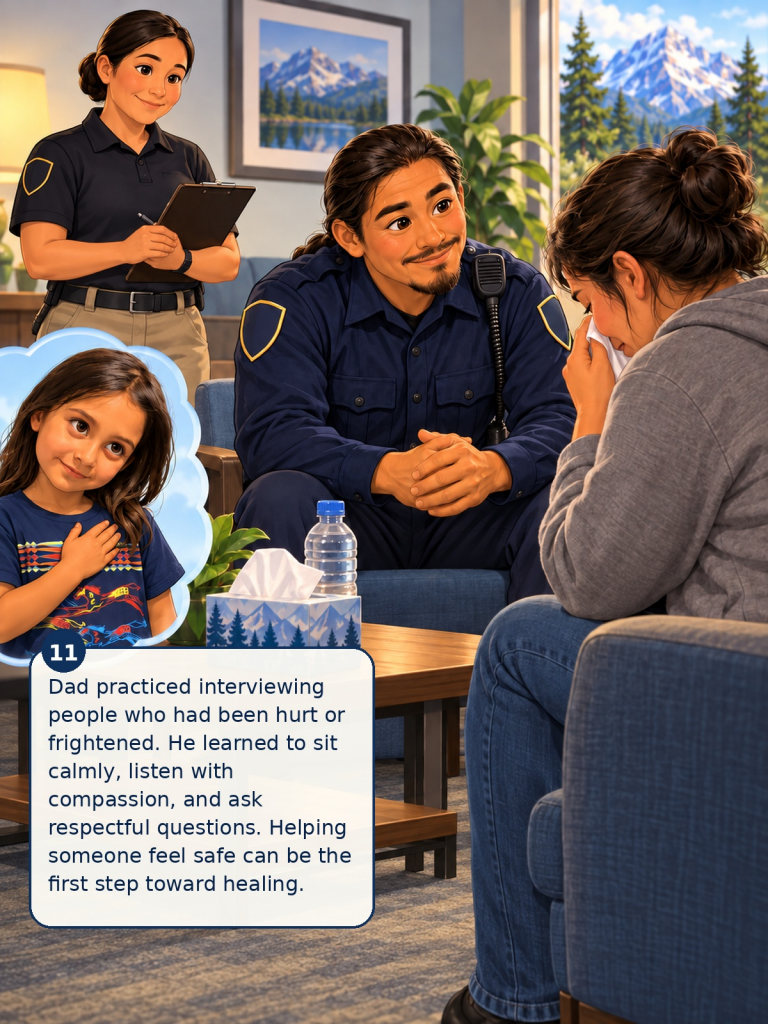
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Fitness was part of every academy day. Dad ran, stretched, and trained with his classmates. He said exercise builds strength, focus, and endurance for the hard work of helping people.



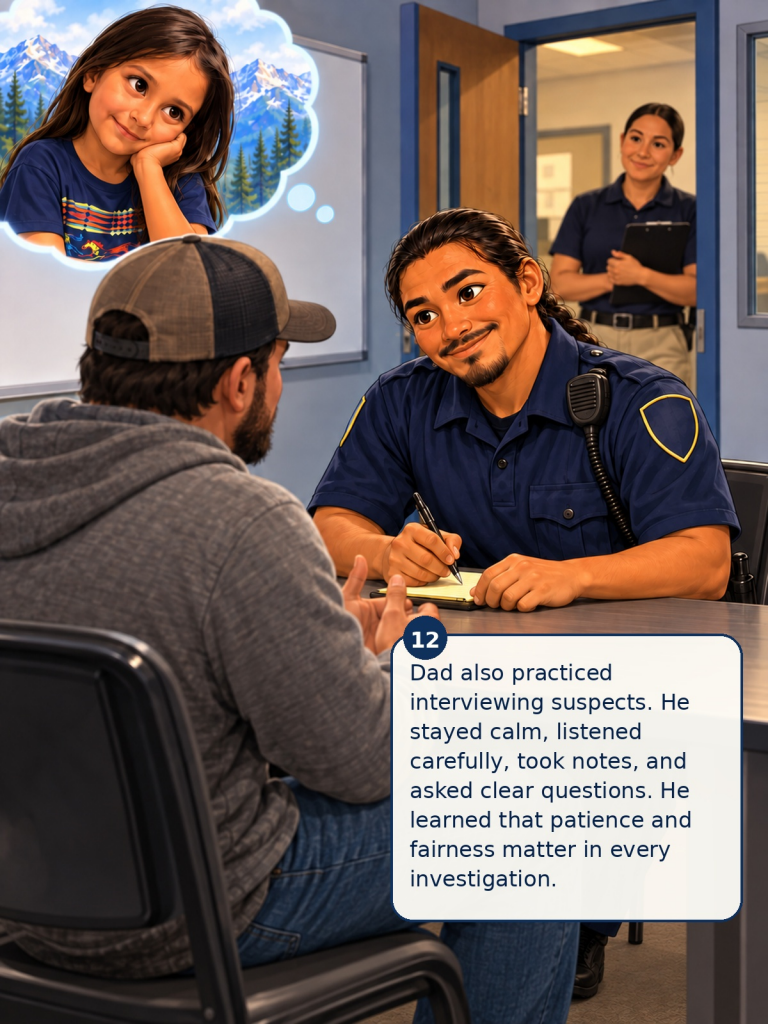
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Dad learned crime scene investigation in a practice room. He wore gloves, photographed clues, and studied fingerprints. He learned that careful observation can help reveal the truth.



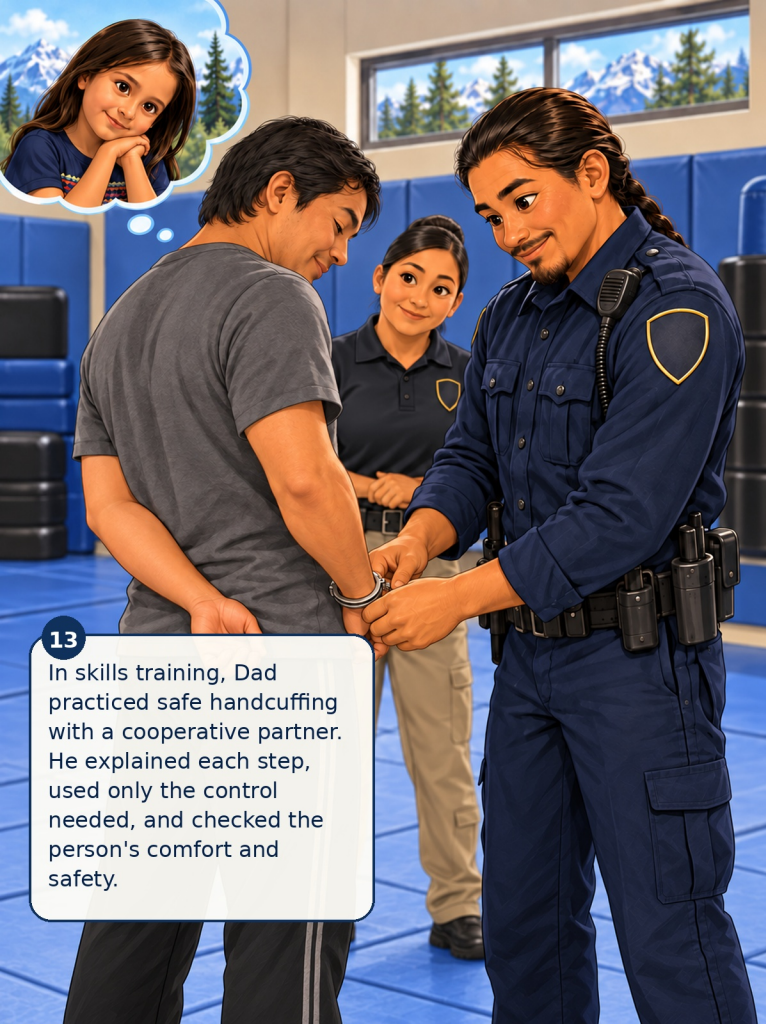
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Dad practiced interviewing people who had been hurt or frightened. He learned to sit calmly, listen with compassion, and ask respectful questions. Helping someone feel safe can be the first step toward healing.



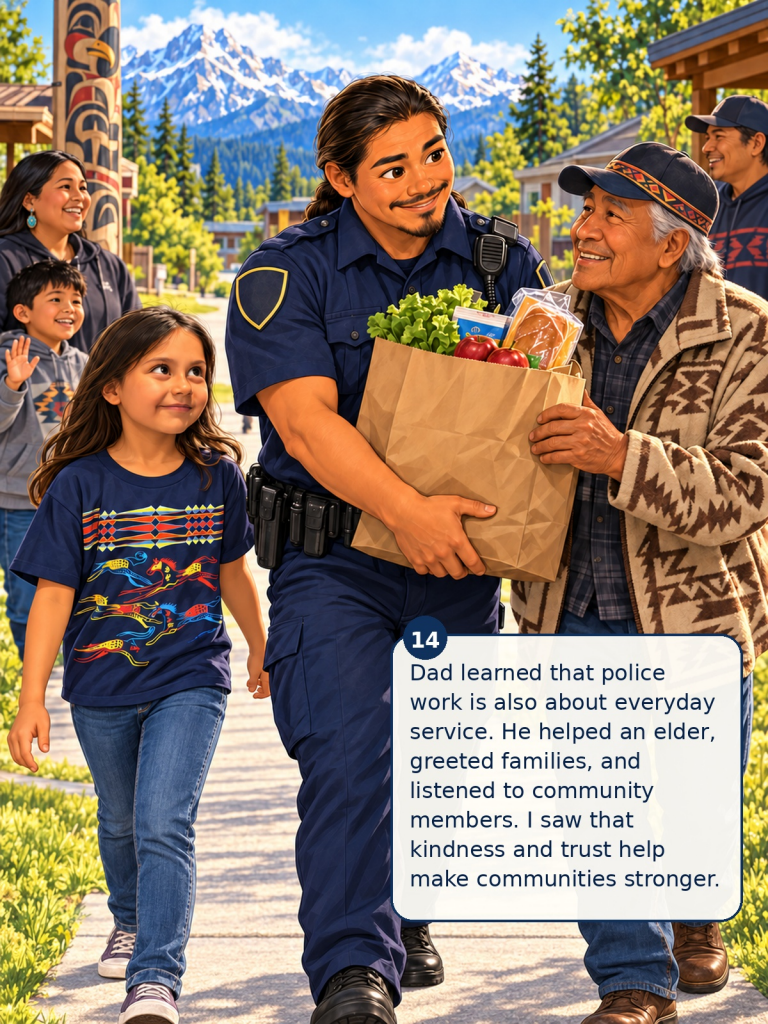
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Dad also practiced interviewing suspects. He stayed calm, listened carefully, took notes, and asked clear questions. He learned that patience and fairness matter in every investigation.



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In skills training, Dad practiced safe handcuffing with a cooperative partner. He explained each step, used only the control needed, and checked the person's comfort and safety.



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Dad learned that police work is also about everyday service. He helped an elder, greeted families, and listened to community members. I saw that kindness and trust help make communities stronger.



15

After thirteen weeks, Dad graduated as a police officer! I ran into his arms and told him how proud I was. He came home ready to serve with courage, knowledge, and a caring heart.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Steven Juneau

Steven Juneau grew up on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and is a third-generation veteran. He served more than 30 years with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Justice Services, including as Academy Director, and continues to serve leading the National Native Justice Institute with education, prevention, consulting, and resources that help Tribal Nations strengthen community safety institutions. Steve writes these books so children can understand the courage, learning, and service behind the work their families do.

Leadership is temporary. Institutions endure.

ABOUT NNJI



NATIONAL NATIVE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

The National Native Justice Institute is an education, prevention, consulting, and free-resources institution. NNJI supports Tribal leaders, governing bodies, public-safety professionals, and community institutions in making the best-informed decisions for their own communities while respecting Tribal sovereignty. We lead with real-life, lived Tribal community experience. Our work helps strengthen the people, policies, training, partnerships, and systems that keep Native communities strong and safe.

BRAVE PEOPLE. STRONG COMMUNITIES. BRIGHT FUTURES.

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