

WELCOME TO TRUTHSGIVING 2025!

This is our 4th annual installment of Truthsgiving: a community event to uplift the obscured historical truths of the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, and amplify Indigenous resistance and visions for the future.

We host this event in the hopes that it is only the beginning. Truthsgiving is an invitation for you to engage on your own journey of decolonization through relationships built on recognition, truthtelling, and respect.





7 Directions of Service (7DS) is an Indigenous-led environmental justice and community organizing collective based on Occaneechi-Saponi homelands in rural North Carolina dedicated to defeating the fossil fuel industry, advocating for legal Rights of Nature and developing a land, language and cultural center based on traditional Yesah teachings.

We carry a responsibility to be a strong voice for the lands, waters, and more-than-human world.

MEET 7DS CO-FOUNDERS

Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck is a citizen of the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation and she has dedicated the past 5+ years to defending her homelands against the Mountain Valley Pipeline and MVP Southgate Extension. She is leading a campaign to bring Rights of Nature laws to NC in order to protect the waterways in the path of these pipelines. She co-authored NC House Bills 795 and 923, the Rights of Nature/Rights of the Haw River, and the Rights of the Dan. Crystal completed her Doctorate at the University of Dayton, focusing on the social justice epidemic of Missing Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) tied to gas/oil pipelines. This led her to starting the Missing Murdered Indigenous Women Coalition of NC. Crystal is a Sequoyah Fellow with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society and a lifetime member of the National Congress for American Indians.

Jason Crazy Bear Keck is Co-Founder of 7 Directions of Service with his wife. With a multiracial heritage as Choctaw-Apache, French African Creole and European, Jason's leadership is driven by the power of grassroots solidarity and bridge-building across differences. He is former VP of outreach for an international men's organization and currently leads programming for men and boys that foster Indigenous values and healthy male identities.

BI:LAHÙK

"Thank you" in Yesá:sahį Ancestral Language of Monacan, Haliwa-Saponi, Sappony, Occaneechi, and Ohio Saponi communities

EVENT SUPPORT

Jan M. Burger & The Paperhand Puppet Intervention

Kids Zone by Lucas Brown

Art by Sam Cavalier

Food by **Trading Path Grill**

TRUTHSGIVING 2025 SPONSORS

Honor the Earth

Bioneers

Sierra Club North Carolina

NC Environmental Justice Network

NC Council of Churches



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Come with an **Empty Plate**. This simple teaching is one we return to again and again. Whenever we find ourselves as guests, the Empty Plate reminds us to practice "Waiting for an Invitation and Asking for Permission".

We cherish our community of supporters, and whether you are new or seasoned to our Indigenous-led movement, we ask that you also embrace the practice of showing up with an Empty Plate.

WHY TRUTHSGIVING?

By Jason Crazy Bear Campos Keck

Truth is what has been missing from the colonial capitalist dialogue globally since its inception on our Greatest Grandmother the Earth. Rightfully so, as Honesty and Truth are the original self-defenses from greed, exploitation, and hypocrisy. When we begin to understand and breathe life back into our Truth, we can begin the healing process and journey that exists for all two leggeds to return to responsibility, and universal connection.

May you be welcome on this day of humble Truthsgiving

May you take nothing personal, but rather a better understanding of our common colonial conditioning

May you use whatever lessons you come away with to be a stronger human and a more respectful relative to all of life, within you and around you

May you learn to develop your own voice in regards to your Truth, and may your Truth be more powerful than every lie he (colonization) has ever told

May your Truth free more people than every slave he (imperialism) has ever sold

May your Love, Spirit, and Truth be reconditioned to set us all free

TODAY'S FLOW

Welcome

Storytelling with Jason Crazy Bear Campos Keck and the Paperhand Puppet Intervention

Short film: Heart Cracked Open by Iximché Media

Panel: Southeastern Indigenous History & Resistance with Dr. Duvonya Chavis, Jason Keck, Dr. Crystal Cavalier-Keck and Dante Bowman

Short film: Vs. Goliath by Tikkun Olam Productions

Panel: Just Transition & Indigenous-Led Climate Resilience with Mary Crowe and Dr. Brandy Brown

Closing

TRUTHSGIVING MENU

Trading Path Grill For Catering Inquiries: 336-512-9519

Three Sisters Soup & Cornbread Wild Rice with Bison

Three Sisters Soup is a sacred and nourishing dish rooted in the traditions of Indigenous peoples across Turtle Island. It brings together the Three Sisters — corn, beans, and squash — three plant relatives that have sustained Native communities for countless generations.

When planted together, the Sisters care for one another:

Corn stands tall and strong, giving the beans a place to climb.

Beans return nutrients to the earth, keeping the soil rich and alive. Squash spreads low, protecting the ground and holding the moisture in.

Together, they teach that all beings have a role to play and that true strength comes from working together in harmony.

Sharing this soup is an act of remembrance and gratitude to honor the land, the ancestors, and the knowledge that is passed down through generations.

INTEGRATE

Educate Yourself

What do you know about Native /Indigenous Peoples past and present, and about Indigenous resistance to Thanksgiving? Start with the resources below, and make a practice of deepening your knowledge. For a list of resources visit:

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"The Pilgrims had hardly explored the shores of Cape" Cod four days before they had robbed the graves of my ancestors, and stolen their corn, wheat, and beans... The early Pilgrim settlers led the Indian to believe that if he did not behave, they would dig up the ground and unleash the great epidemic again."

From the 1970 suppressed speech of Wamsutta Frank James, Wampanoag

To read the full speech visit: 7directionsofservice.com/truthsgiving

Create New Traditions

Tell the truth at your Thanksgiving gathering or abolish it in your own life. Celebrate Truthsgiving by giving back to your community during this time, or hosting an event that celebrates Indigenous resistance and honors historical truths.

Support Indigenous-Led Movement

Support by giving your money, time, skills and/or land to initiatives that are led by and center Indigenous leadership. Remember the empty plate! Visit 7directionsofservice.com to get involve!

DONATE TO 7DS:

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WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

A space for quotes, your own insights, drawings, poems, etc.

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7 DIRECTIONS OF SERVICE