

## 2021: A Year in Review



*Wakanyeja kin Tokeyachi Wounspe Tipi (Children First Learning Center) doubled the number of students and bought a building to expand capacity for the immersion school for future years of growth. Leland Little Dog (seen right) offers teaching and insight to the students.*

*Sicangu Health Initiative hosted their first-ever summer camps. Along with sharing space with our plant relatives, children did art and learned how to play lacrosse. The youth also learned about traditional foods and skills, such as setting up a tipi.*



*Our Food Sovereignty Initiative expanded their Sicangu Harvest Market by hosting 20 farmers' markets with over a dozen participating vendors. This included their Fall Harvest Bash (seen left). In addition to the markets, FSI offered a mobile market that allows accessibility to outlying communities on the reservation.*



*After a long process driven by Sicangu Lakota youth, nine Lakota children who died at the Carlisle Indian Boarding School returned home. Team members were able to attend the events and participate in documenting and lifting up the voice of the youth through social media.*



## Wolakota Buffalo Range Becomes the Largest Tribally Managed Herd

In October 2021, Wolakota Buffalo Range celebrated the release of 100 wild buffalo from nearby national parks on the range's 28,000 acres of native grasslands.

This additional buffalo, along with other new arrivals this fall, brought the current population of the herd to approximately 700, making Wolakota the largest Native-managed bison herd in the world. This feat is especially impressive given that just a year ago there were no buffalo roaming Wolakota's pastures.

The bison release was the capstone of a celebration hosted by the Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) to recognize the hard work and collaboration of various partners who have made possible the historic success of the Wolakota Buffalo Range. Attendees included students from two local schools, community supporters, foundation partners, and others.

Prior to the buffalo release, a lineup of speakers spoke to those in attendance, including Duane Hollow Horn Bear who hosted ceremony for the release and Nick Tilsen from NDN Collective. Partnership and hope emerged as the major themes from the presenters.

"What makes us so strong is that we look generations ahead," said Jillian Waln, who moderated the event. Waln, the Community Engagement Coordinator for REDCO and Sicangu CDC added, "We might not reap the benefits of this project, but future generations to come definitely will."



## REDCO Launches Program That Will Pay Sicangu Citizens To Learn The Lakota Language

In December 2021, The Rosebud Economic Development Corporation announced that it is seeking applicants for a new language preservation initiative designed to eliminate barriers for citizens to become fluent Lakota speakers. Lakolya Waoniya — "Breathing Life into the Lakota Language" — is a three-year, paid holistic development experience centered on developing Lakota language fluency and strengthening Lakota lifeways for future generations. To learn more about the program, ask questions, and apply, email [lakotalearner@sicangucorp.com](mailto:lakotalearner@sicangucorp.com) or use the QR codes below. Additional updates and information on how you can get support on the application can be found on Sicangu CDC's Facebook page.

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## FSI Sees Success in 2021, Launches Internship Programs for 2022

Even with the challenges of navigating a global pandemic, Sicangu CDC's Food Sovereignty Initiative saw much fruit and success with their farmer's market and internship programs. They hosted 20 Farmer's Markets and expanded their markets with a mobile market, offering greater accessibility for the communities on the reservation. They also launched their TSA box program, offering fresh fruits and veggies to community members as a convenient subscription box service.

For 2022, FSI is now taking applications for their program Waicahya Icagapi Kte (They Will Grow into Producers) - which is a year-long paid apprenticeship for adult tribal citizens who are interested in gaining hands-on experience and support in food production and farm management. Participants will earn \$15/hr and will have the opportunity to receive up to \$5,000 in start-up funding upon completion of the program. Applications are due January 28th.



## Keya Wakpala Saw Great Progress in 2021, First Home Coming 2022

Keya Wakpala is a multi-phased community-scale green development. Over the past several years, REDCO has laid the (figurative) foundation for the project by conducting community engagement activities, site planning, and feasibility studies.

In 2021, the KW team completed the critical design for Phase I, and are busy with infrastructure planning, developing a community based vision for the Innovation Center, and a whole range of financing options to support home ownership.

Watch for that first Keya Wakpala home to rise from the earth this year!



## Other Program Highlights

### Rosebud Construction

In December 2020, Rosebud Construction hosted a groundbreaking for a new, state-of-the-art child care facility that will integrated Lakota language and knowledge into the design and programming at the site. Work on the building's foundation is in progress and the RCI team anticipates that the project will be complete in mid-to-late 2022.

### Tatanka Funds

Tataka Funds hosted various classes around financial literacy and homeownership and built capacity to create partnerships to help benefit the Oyate.

### Sicangu Propane

In 2021, Sicangu Propane saw another successful year serving the Oyate. They carried the bulk of the propane sales to citizens, worked tirelessly through the cold weather and made sure customers were taken care of while also staying safe during a global pandemic.

## Our 7Gen Ecosystem: An Introduction

As Lakota, we believe we are all related and that it is our duty to create a better world for future generations.



Our 7Gen Ecosystem is an innovative nation building partnership developed to tackle the enormous challenges and opportunities facing the Sicangu Lakota Oyate. The three partners are distinct organizations with interconnected activities operating under a shared vision and set of values. As Lakota, we believe we are all related, and it is our duty to create a better world for future generations.

- At **REDCO**, we do this by developing amazing leaders who run great organizations. REDCO is focused on tribal enterprise and policy development.
- At **Sicangu CDC**, we do this by empowering people, strengthening families, and building community – Lakota style. Sicangu CDC is focused on revolutionizing the food, housing, education, and healthcare systems of the Sicangu.
- At **Tatanka Fund**, we do this through supporting personal finance, business entrepreneurship, and homeownership.

To achieve maximum impact, we are developing and implementing a 7Gen Plan and framework for making decisions that will support change-making and nation- building activities for the next 175 years.

## REDCO Appoints Clay Colombe as Next CEO

The Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) Board of Directors announced the appointment of Clay Colombe as the new Chief Executive Officer of the organization and its subsidiaries. An experienced leader in business and finance, Colombe succeeded Wizipan Little Elk, who vacated the position in October to take a position in the federal administration.

Colombe – an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe) who also has Nez Perce ancestry – has committed his professional career to creating economic and financial opportunities for Native people. Most recently he has served as REDCO’s Chief Financial Officer and Director of Financial Services, a position he began in 2017. In that role he oversaw budgeting and accounting for over a dozen subsidiaries, and served as an advisor in the creation of REDCO’s two sister 501(c)3 organizations: Tatanka Funds and Sicangu Community Development Corporation.



“I am humbled and thankful for the opportunity to serve as the next CEO of REDCO, and very grateful to Wizi for laying the groundwork and vision for REDCO to become leaders in Indian Country,” said Colombe. “I look forward to continuing to work with the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council, REDCO Board of Directors and our amazing team to build on what we have already accomplished and continue to grow the entire REDCO ecosystem.”

*Sicangu CDC*



*REDCO*



*Tatanka Funds*

