

Rural LISC grant will help NCIHA produce Fry Bread Cook Off and Crafts Fair in Ukiah

The Ukiah-based tribal government agency, Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority, recently received a grant from the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit Rural Local Initiatives Support Corporation to help produce its annual fall festival.

This year, the fifth annual Fry Bread Cook Off and Crafts Fair will be held on Oct. 7, from 3 to 7 p.m. at Alex R. Thomas Jr. Plaza.

While the festival currently serves the local tribes by promoting their unique culture, the event also brings together residents of the region to share in the one-day celebration.

By transforming the plaza into a traditional gathering place for song, dance, art and cooking, the event also could become a draw for tourism, not only locally and regionally, but internationally.

The \$13,500 grant will allow the tribal agency to measure the number of attendees and money spent by participants more accurately as well as calculate the economic impact of the event, including the temporary jobs created.

“We’re looking forward to having a more accurate idea of how the festival helps not just our community, but the region as a whole,” said Darlene Tooley, NCIHA executive director.

For the grant, the Sacramento-based nonprofit worked with the California Coalition for Rural Housing, a partner of NCIHA and its tribal housing capacity development project.

Mutual Housing California will administer the grant. Mutual Housing staff also will have a resource table at the event with information about the affordable housing developer, the 3,200 residents of its communities in Northern California and the advocacy work it does for sustainable, affordable housing.

The Black Horse Blues Band will be featured at this year’s event while the Round Valley Feather Dancers and the Manchester Point Arena Native Dancers also will perform.

Chuck Billy, lead singer for Testament, will MC.

While many local organizations and businesses contribute to the event, past sponsors have been the Sherwood Valley band of Pomo Indians, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Manchester Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Tyme Maidu Tribe of

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops sustainable housing that is affordable to a diversity of households. Our housing builds strong and stable communities through resident participation and leadership development. For more information, call (916) 453-8400 or visit our website at www.mutualhousing.com.

continued on back



Berry Creek Rancheria, Mooretown Rancheria and Cahto tribe of Laytonville.

This past year, the event raised \$5,000 for local nonprofits.

This year, the beneficiaries will be NCIHA, Resource For Native Development and the United Native Housing Development Corporation.

Established in 1980, the Northern Circle Indian Housing Authority has worked with member tribes to develop, construct, and manage more than 350 well-maintained, affordable homes on 11 reservations that create safe and healthy communities for families to live and raise children.

For more information, visit <http://www.nciha.org/index.html>.

Founded in 1988, Mutual Housing California develops, operates and advocates for sustainable housing for the diversity of the region's households.

A member of NeighborWorks America—a congressionally chartered nonprofit organization that supports community development nationwide—nearly half of Mutual Housing's residents are children.

For more information, visit www.mutualhousing.com.