

## **HowNiKan February (Mkos Gises) 2009, vol. 30 issue 1 - page 19**

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation (CPCDC), under the directorship of Kristi Coker, not only makes loans to Indian-owned businesses, but also sponsors numerous programs that provide financial assistance to tribal members and CPN employees. Most recently, there was a series of "Financial Health Workshops" offered during the lunch hour for four separate days. The series began in January and concluded this month.

All the workshops are structured to help participants develop positive attitudes and new habits about managing money and credit. This workshop is just a sample of the financial training that is planned throughout 2009, each session conducted at the noon hour, lunch provided, for tribal members, employees, and CPCDC participants.

A fairly new and very popular program that the CPCDC provides is the Individual Development Accounts (IDAs). IDAs are matched-savings accounts that enable medium to low income individuals to build assets and enter the financial mainstream. The IDA is designed for participants to save for a specific purpose, such as education, home purchase, or paying off credit card debt. What a terrific program!

Recently, I attended the graduation of 24 participants from the 2008 IDA Program. These participants contributed up to \$900 of their own money and received matching funds of \$1,800 for a total savings of \$2,700 each. In addition to reaching the savings objectives, participants received a certificate for completing the year-long financial course.

During the graduation exercise, several individuals gave their testimony as to how the program helped their quest to develop financial management skills. There is no doubt that the IDA program is a valuable offering. It is proof positive that the Citizen Potawatomi Nation continually finds innovative ways to meet the needs of our people. Congratulations to the 47 adults and 16 youth who have completed the program.

The next session begins in April for adults and June for youth. If you would like more information about any of the CPCDC financial education programs, you can contact a staff member at 405-878-4697.

On a completely different topic, it is that time of year again to prepare for our tribal election. If history holds true, voter turnout will be significantly higher during the election of the Nation's Chairman than other election years. My election ad will be forthcoming in the next edition of the HowNiKan.

My support for the Chairman's position will be no surprise. I support a proven record; a continual positive change; a leader who represents his people well – one who has passed the test of time and provided superb leadership.

I support Chairman Rocky Barrett...the top elected official of a Nation that is recognized throughout Indian Country for its progress, innovation and leadership.

I continue to cherish the opportunity to serve as your tribal Vice Chairman.

Megwetch,  
Linda Capps

My fellow Citizen Potawatomis,

In my 20 years of elected office, I have never felt as strongly about the election as I do this year. I beseech each of you to vote and encourage your family members to vote. Casting your vote this year is of greater importance than ever before.

Leadership of this noble Tribe requires the respect of our tribal members, government officials, employees, business associates, and customers. Our top elected official should have this highly coveted respect throughout Indian Country and across the nation.

**I believe that Chairman Barrett has earned this respect. I encourage you to vote for Chairman Barrett. He is the best person for the job. He is proven and capable of great accomplishments. He has, and deserves, the respect of our Tribe and our community.**

If Chairman Barrett is elected, I will continue to serve as long as our tribal members want me in office.

I cherish the opportunity to serve as your Vice Chairman. It is a high priority in my life to serve you with faithfulness and dedication.

*Linda Capps*, Vice Chairman



*Ad Paid for by Linda Capps*