

## A WALK FOR HOPE

The Native American Interfaith Ministries, Inc. ("The Healing Lodge") enjoyed a two-day fund raising campaign. August 23-24 2003 was claimed to be the "Healing Lodge" weekend. This weekend was intended to educate our communities about our nonprofit ecumenical faith based community organization and its Ministry and the services offered. As a gateway to services we realized that the significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking as when we created them. As a faith community we must nurture and provide social support for the well-being of those that share that faith, and then reach out to those in need within our neighborhoods and throughout our county.

On August 23, 2003, the Native American Interfaith Ministries, Inc. ("The Healing Lodge") sponsored its 1<sup>st</sup> annual "Walk for Hope" walkathon. It was 4.1-mile walkathon from Prospect United Methodist Church to Burnt Swamp Baptist Building in Pembroke, N.C. The walk began at 7:00 a.m. and breakfast was prepared and served by Mr. Larry Locklear following the event. There were over 150 participants and 110 registered "walkers." The age ranged from little toddlers being pulled in a wagon to participants in their early seventies. We had three of our County Commissioners (Mr. Noah Woods, Mr. Raymond Cummings, and Mr. Hubert Sealey) walking to get a better understanding of county needs by talking with walkers. There were health professionals and providers (Drs. Martin L. Brooks, Tulula L. Lowry), clergy (Revs. Jerry Scott, Bill J. Locklear, and Michael Cummings) from the Holiness Methodist, United Methodist, and Baptist denominations, HEALTHKEEPERZ (Mr. Howard Brooks), B.A.R.T. (Ms Brenda Hunt), and Alpha Pi Omega Sorority all walking to gain insight in community need as well. It was a successful event with over \$4500.00 dollars raised from local businesses, organizations, and individuals. It was not only a success financially but for one morning, it was good to see this large group of people donate their time, finances, and energy for a good cause. They participated with good hearts, laughing and talking along the way. Even the people passing by in their vehicles showed support by encouraging words and being gracious enough not to be annoyed by the hold-up. It was not a competition to see who could finish first; it was a gathering of community members showing support for the Healing Lodge. There were also several participants who donated their time by handing out bottled water at several spots to the walkers. It is nice to see that people can still get up early in the morning (especially a Saturday) and with such passion to help raise funds for a worthy cause as the Healing Lodge Ministry. This is an event that you must be a part of next year.

Events continued that night with a Gospel Sing at Redeemed Assembly of God Church on HWY 211 hosted by Rev. Jim Butler. This was another spiritual filled event as the following groups filled the church with sweet melodies:

Mr. John Lowry and "The Drama Team" from Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Dwight Locklear  
Lucy Maynor Lowry  
Prospect Community Men from Prospect United Methodist Church  
Baptist Trio from the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association office.

This event was uplifting and a delight for all that attended.

The weekend concluded with local churches collecting pledges and donations to fund the programs, administration, and future building plan of the organization.

As Executive Director and on behalf of the Board of Directors of N.A.I.M. I would like to thank everyone who donated their time, finances, energy, supplies, and even smiles to help with our weekend. We look forward to having an even larger crowd and success next year. A special thanks to the Prospect Fire Department, the Pembroke Rural Fire Department, Robeson County Sheriff Department and the Pembroke Rescue Department for their help and support. If you have question about services or would like to donate your time, energy, or finances, please contact the Native American Interfaith Ministry, Inc. (Healing Lodge) at 910-522-0900.



County Commissioners  
\*Noah Woods  
\*Raymond Cummings  
\*Hubert Sealey

Dr. Martin L. Brooks





Mr. Howard Brooks, Dr. Tulula L.Lowry, Nurse Cherry Beasley (L)

Dr. Waltz Maynor (Ph. D.)&RevJerry Scott (F)



People at the finish point awaiting a health breakfast prepared by Mr. Larry Locklear