



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

June 3, 1994

Emma Mitchell, Chairperson
Mendocino County Aboriginal Native
American Education Center, Inc.
P.O. Box 574
Talmage, California 95481

Dear Emma:

Sorry for the belated response to your letter. I am very sorry to hear about the Indian Center. The Cherokee Nation does not have any kind of loan program for community organizations outside the Cherokee Nation.

You may want to try the Vanguard Foundation in San Francisco or the Tides Foundation. They have both made grants to Native communities. Also, Denise Quitaquit used to work at the Ira-Hita Foundation in San Francisco. You may want to try calling her.

Writing to Ada Deer about your status may make you feel better but I doubt that it would change anything. A complex set of federal statutes, rules and Congressional mandates dictate whether funds can be used for non-profit organizations or federally recognized tribes.

Emma, you alone are not totally responsible for keeping this center going; don't feel so bad. If it is a direct benefit to the community, then there should be some shared responsibility for keeping it going. You shouldn't beat yourself up because of something that should be kept alive by the entire community, not just Emma Mitchell.

With regard to corruption among our own ranks. I think all of us "sixties" folks understood a long time ago that we could not idealize our own people. We have had several hundred years of acculturation which has produced a number of people who have no sense of interdependence, love or responsibility for their own people.