

received
7-12-93



THE GIVING OF THANKS TO THE FIRST PEOPLES

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July 2, 1993

Chief Wilma Mankiller and
Charlie Soap
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
PO Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Wilma and Charlie,

We are writing to you, our advisory committee and past participants of the Giving of Thanks to the First People in hopes that you will support us through the dreaming of this years gathering.

I'd like to update you on highlights of the year's work thus far. The Working Committee has been very busy putting together the 1993 event. As you know, 1993 has been named the "Year of the Indigenous People" by the United Nations. We intend to join with the U.N. in honoring all Indigenous People at the Giving of Thanks this year at the Cathedral. Within the continuum that has been established of honoring the four directions, ceremony, speakers and performers, we will expand both the form of the event and the participants to include the great diversity represented by all nations and colors. We are working from the principle that all people are indigenous; all races, all colors come from ancestors who at one time were land based and lived close to the rhythms of the earth. So this year the four colors of humans will all be represented and honored at the ceremonies.

There will be four stages this year, one in each of the four directions of the Cathedral, and the audience will be placed so that they face into the middle of the Cathedral enabling them to see the stages. In this way, greater audience participation will be possible. There will be action taking place in all parts of the Cathedral and the seating will be closer to a circle.