



CHEROKEE NATION

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Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

April 11, 1994

Mr. Robert Zdenek
Program Officer
Annie E. Casey Foundation
One Lafayette Place
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Dear Mr. Zdenek:

I have recently learned of the interest of the Annie E. Casey Foundation in visiting the Cherokee Nation from Tom Rhodenbaugh of Christian Children's Fund. As you know, we collaborate with CCF in a number of the rural communities here in Eastern Oklahoma. We are quiet proud of our accomplishments over the past few years in building a diversified economic base, expanding preventative health and social services to our families and children and expanding our tribal self government.

We believe that our experiences, particularly those that have involved collaboration with Christian Children's Fund in support of isolated rural Cherokee communities, may be of interest to you and other representatives of the Foundation who, we understand, are exploring possible rural program models applicable to Native American populations.

For this reason, we want to invite you to visit with us to review our child and community development efforts, particularly those in some of our more isolated communities and explore possible collaboration with us. Of particular interest, is our educational enrichment and youth leadership development programs where we believe your experience and our interests must appropriately overlap.

I understand from Tom, that you and your team might be available to visit with us either the week of July 11th or 18th. Currently, my schedule is open at that time and we would welcome your visit during this period. We would recommend a minimum of two days to give you ample time to meet with local community leaders, CCF and our staff.