



**Pokégnek Bodéwadmik**  
POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **POKAGON BAND AND ITS FOUR WINDS CASINOS CONTRIBUTE \$860,000 TO THE CITY OF SOUTH BEND AND LOCAL NON-PROFITS**

*Funds Are Part of A Voluntary Local Agreement*

SOUTH BEND, Ind. – January 26, 2022 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi and its Four Winds Casinos are pleased to announce that they presented checks totaling \$860,000 to South Bend Mayor James Mueller and representatives from several area non-profits today at a ceremony at Four Winds South Bend. This contribution is part of a voluntary local agreement between the Pokagon Band and the City of South Bend. In addition to the annual payments to the City of South Bend, the Pokagon Band also funds a variety of community development projects and causes.

“The Pokagon Band is very pleased to be able to make these contributions to the City of South Bend, the Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County, YWCA of North Central Indiana, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, Jobs for America’s Graduates Indiana, Beacon Health Foundation, the Bowman Creek Project, South Bend Community School Corporation, and South Bend Venues, Parks & Arts for the renovation of Howard Park,” said Rebecca Richards, Tribal Chairwoman of the Pokagon Band and CEO of the Pokagon Gaming Authority. “Not only is South Bend home to hundreds of our Pokagon Citizens, but also many of our employees that work at Four Winds South Bend. We are very proud to support the city, along with these important organizations that play a vital role to serve the residents of the community and help make South Bend a better place to live.”

“We are grateful for our government-to-government relationship with the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi and their generous contributions to the City of South Bend, which help fund a variety of city services and community development initiatives,” said Mayor James Mueller. “We also value the support they provide to numerous organizations that provide essential services to our residents and community. We look forward to continuing our partnership into the future.”

The Pokagon Band voluntarily entered into an agreement with South Bend to make annual payments from revenue derived from its Class II gaming devices at its Four Winds South Bend casino. The annual payments are in lieu of property tax payments and provide funding for city services and funding for community development initiatives related to the Band’s trust lands in South Bend. One percent of the Class II revenues is paid directly to the city and another one percent is paid to the South Bend Redevelopment Commission to contribute to the improvement of educational opportunities and to address poverty and unemployment in the city. The

agreement between South Bend and the Pokagon Band is similar to those in three additional communities where the Pokagon Band's Four Winds Casinos operate including New Buffalo, Hartford and Dowagiac Michigan.

In addition to the annual payments to the City of South Bend, the Pokagon Band also proposed to fund a variety of community development projects and causes. Organizations receiving a portion of today's revenue share are:

- The Boys & Girls Clubs of St. Joseph County received \$20,000. The amount will be used for academic enrichment programming.
- The YWCA of North Central Indiana received \$25,000, \$20,000 of which will be applied to crisis services programs to help clients work toward self-sufficient and violence-free lives. \$5,000 will be applied to children's services to ensure the safety of children, mitigate toxic trauma, and break the cycle of violence.
- The Food Bank of Northern Indiana received \$20,000 which will be used for the Senior Nutrition Program, and an additional 200 seniors who will receive a 7 – 10 lb. bag of assorted food items. The Senior Nutrition Program currently serves 750 seniors a month. This program serves low-income seniors in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties.
- Jobs for America's Graduates Indiana received \$50,000 which will be used to identify youth that need services via mobile units, Goodwill, and Youth Service Bureau street programs including staying in school, career training and guidance.
- Beacon Health Foundation received \$100,000 for an expansion that includes the General Pediatrics Unit, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Clinic, Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NIC), all-private patient rooms, playrooms, teen hideout spaces, Family Enrichment Centers, roof gardens and a two-story glass ceiling Atrium.
- The Bowman Creek Project received \$100,000 to revitalize Bowman Creek and catalyze social, economic and environmental sustainability in the surrounding community.
- The South Bend Community School Corporation received \$100,000 for dual language immersion, a summer academy, and national board certification for teachers.
- South Bend Venues, Parks & Arts received \$445,000 for the renovation of Howard Park.

#### **About The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana**

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi's sovereignty was reaffirmed under legislation signed into law by President Clinton in September of 1994. The Pokagon Band is dedicated to providing community development initiatives such as housing, education, family services, medical care, and cultural preservation for its more than 5,900 citizens. The Pokagon Band's ten-county service area includes four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. Its main administrative offices are located in Dowagiac, Mich., with a satellite office in South Bend, Ind. In 2007, it opened Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., followed by Four Winds Hartford in 2011, Four Winds Dowagiac in 2013 and Four Winds South Bend in January 2018. The Pokagon Band operates a variety of businesses via Mno-Bmadsen, its non-gaming investment enterprise. More information is available at [www.pokagonband-nsn.gov](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov), [www.fourwindscasino.com](http://www.fourwindscasino.com) and [www.mno-bmadsen.com](http://www.mno-bmadsen.com).

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