

ABOUT THE COALITION

The Healing and Wellness Coalition was formed in 2002 to address concerns in the community about substance abuse, diabetes, depression, loss of cultural identity, all resulting from intergenerational trauma.

WHAT WE DO

We celebrate the changing of seasons and Community Day with potluck dinners, Native American educational topics, door prizes, socializing, and honoring of significant community and tribal members (past and present). Thus far, we have honored female veterans, retired educators and community volunteers.

We provide opportunities to provide more grassroots training for community people and professionals for intergenerational trauma and family support groups.

We create a safe support group for individuals who need to address personal issues with no danger of retribution.

We collaborate with other groups focused on future leaders and preserving the seven core values, for a follow up Journey to Forgiveness and Healing to include history classes on the Trail of Tears and significant trail sites

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2003, the Coalition sponsored a day of Healing and Reconciliation where several pastors from local churches apologized to the Cherokee people for failing to recognize their spirituality.
- In 2004, 2006 and 2007, we held major conferences featuring nationally known and local speakers with expertise in historical grief and inter-generational trauma. Attendees included tribal members, mental health and medical professionals, ministers, non-Cherokees and people from other states and Canada.
- In 2006, we began sponsoring White Bison, Inc. to train community members and professionals with Wellbriety Programs. Approximately 70 community people have been trained and certified by White Bison to facilitate healing circles in this community.
- In 2011, The Coalition partnered with the Project Lazarus program to promote opiate suicide prevention. In 2013, Project Lazarus hired a community coordinator to educate our community on opiate addiction, prevention, and participate with coalition events.

- In 2012, members of the Coalition and Cherokee Youth Council members joined Don Coyhis, founder of White Bison Inc., on a documentary Journey to Forgiveness and Healing beginning at Tahlequah, Oklahoma. The purpose was to gain a better understanding of the trauma created by the Indian Removal act of 1838 and how we can break the cycle.

In Tahlequah, Oklahoma new friendships were formed with our relatives and Tribal officials of the Cherokee Nation and United Keetoowah Band in Oklahoma.

Leaving Tahlequah, we retraced the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears performing healing ceremonies and forgiveness prayers at sites with significant suffering by our ancestors. We ended our journey with a Homecoming and Universal Gathering of the Three Cherokee Nations at Kituwah Mound, the Mother Town of the Cherokee.

In 2013, documentaries of the Journey to Forgiveness and Healing were produced.

- In 2013/14 we engaged community people and tribal leaders on the substance abuse issue. A Task Force was created to explore possibilities and make recommendations for a residential treatment program to serve the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The Healing and Wellness Coalition is comprised of Native American tribal members, various tribal programs, several churches, traditional spiritual leaders, tribal elders and residents of neighboring counties. If you are interested in joining us please fill out the following information.

__I would like to be a voting member of the Coalition by paying the yearly \$10 membership fee.

__I would like to be a Friend of the Coalition to receive emails about activities open to the public.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Telephone _____

Mail to:
Cherokee Healing and Wellness
Coalition
P. O. Box 1601
Cherokee, NC 28719

We are an unincorporated non-profit association with an elected executive committee. We have no paid staff. We are funded by membership fees, grants, donations and fundraisers. We invite you to join us.

Mission Statement

The Cherokee Healing and Wellness Coalition is committed to enhancing the lives of the people by honoring and reclaiming the seven Cherokee core values especially by the reduction of substance abuse in a comprehensive manner primarily focusing on youth.

VISION STATEMENT

We walk in a manner that will positively affect seven generations.

Core Values

**STRONG CHARACTER
HONORING THE PAST
SENSE OF HUMOR
SENSE OF PLACE
SPIRITUALITY
EDUCATION
HARMONY**

CONTACT US:

Telephone:
828-788-2132 or
828-497-9498

Website:

www.cherokeehealingcoalition.org

**Check website for more
information about our history
and events**

CHEROKEE HEALING AND WELLNESS COALITION

SINCE 2002



**Promotes balance with Cherokee
traditional ceremonies, native
spirituality, holistic healing, and
cultural preservation.**