



May 2007

Dear Citizens for our Community:

Although it's been six months since we sent our last newsletter, we have not been idle! First, we want to thank you for your continued support of this cause. We are very encouraged by your letters and the donations we continue to receive.

In the battle against Native American casinos, the challenge has changed from raising awareness in the community to dealing with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) which is the Federal agency that controls whether or not land can be placed into trust. The process for putting land into trust is lengthy and complicated. The Ho-Chunk Nation has made application to the BIA to have their land in Lynwood (approximately 119 acres) placed into federal trust. If this application is approved, the land will forever be removed from property tax rolls and become the sovereign territory of the Ho-Chunk Nation – free from the control of the State of Illinois, Cook County, Bloom Township and the Village of Lynwood. Under the rules of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), the Ho-Chunk would be able to open a casino on this land if they obtain such approval. Responding to this Federal agency requires expertise which is costly. We believe the Ho-Chunk application fails to meet the standards required by Federal law and should not be approved. Therefore, we decided to seek the advice and knowledge of professionals in this area to help us oppose the Ho-Chunk's application with the BIA.

After much consideration, and taking into account the show of support we have received from you in the past, we decided to seek this professional help. We have found someone who is very knowledgeable in the standards required by the BIA and who has agreed to begin researching these matters on our behalf. An estimated cost for this work is \$12,700. This decision was not made lightly and we believe it will prove to be a wise one. However, we have made an agreement to limit the expense to the amount of support we receive. We want you to understand that this research is vital to making our case against the Ho-Chunk application for land in trust with the BIA. We need your help to prevent Lynwood from becoming a "Casino town".

Recently, we have had a few encouraging contacts. One was from Barb Lindsay of One Nation United (ONU) whose website is located at [www.onenationunited.org](http://www.onenationunited.org). ONU was founded in 1989 in Washington State as United Property Owners and merged with One Nation of Oklahoma to become One Nation United. ONU represents more than 300,000 American citizens who have joined together to defend our private property rights, protect the free enterprise system, and reform seriously flawed federal Indian policy for the benefit of both Native Americans and non-Native Americans. We are thankful for this contact.

We also received an encouraging email from Teri Harmon of No More Land Grabbing, who states "I am trying to help my community in gaining a voice against the process of how Indian tribes take land into tribal trusts and out of local and state control." Teri recommends checking out [www.nomorelandgrabbing.com](http://www.nomorelandgrabbing.com) where a petition can be signed for the good for everyone across our country facing similar problems.

As many of you know, Deb, the wife of our C4C President, Carl Smits, has been battling cancer. At this time her treatments are finished, and they are waiting for the final testing to be assured the cancer is gone. Please remember Deb and Carl and their beautiful family in your prayers during this time of waiting.

With your support, we will continue the fight to defeat this reservation/casino. We thank you again for all of your prayers and encouragement.

The C4C Executive Committee

Note: Although donations to C4C are not deductible for income tax purposes, they help cover our existing expenses such as insurance, legal fees, monthly phone bill, newsletters and the hiring of experts. (If you know others interested in receiving future newsletters, please ask them to send us their name and address. Thanks!)