



# Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

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## Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe to Benefit from \$1 Million SMSC Grant

February 14, 2006

**Prior Lake, Minnesota** –A \$1,000,000 grant to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community will fund economic development, job placement, and training opportunities. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe is comprised primarily of descendants of Mdewakantonwan, a member of the Isanti division of the Seven Council Fires of the Dakota Nation and part of the larger Great Sioux Nation. After the Dakota War of 1862, the Dakota people scattered to escape persecution, and many more were removed from Minnesota. Many, including the Flandreau Santee Sioux, settled in South Dakota and Canada.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community grant will help the Flandreau Tribe purchase a convenience store located off Interstate 29 and State Highway 34. The convenience store has 16 motor fuel pumps and 17 acres of land. The enterprise may employ as many as 25 full-time employees when it is operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The second part of the grant will fund purchase of a 9,175 square foot building in Sioux Falls for lease to the Indian Health Services to house their Internet Services offices. This office will train and employ 50 employees and follow Indian Preference hiring procedures after it relocates from its current office in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

In fiscal year 2005 the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community made a \$350,000 grant to the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota for economic development. With the grant the Flandreau Tribe purchased equipment for the *Lakota* and *Dakota Journal* newspapers.

Major recent SMSC donations include: \$1 million to the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe of North Dakota for economic development; \$1 million to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe of Minnesota for economic development; \$1 million to the Bois Forte

Band of Chippewa of Minnesota for a wellness center; \$808,473 to the Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma for debt reduction and economic development; \$800,000 to the Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska for community improvements and tribal programs; \$1 million to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of South Dakota for an elderly complex; \$750,000 to the Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota for community improvements; \$750,000 to the Mandan, Arikara, and Hidatsa Nation of North Dakota for housing initiatives; \$250,000 to the Minneapolis American Indian Center for renovations; and \$250,000 to the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska for an indoor aquatic center.

### About the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

The SMSC utilizes its financial resources from gaming and non-gaming enterprises to pay for all of the internal infrastructure of the Tribe, including but not limited to housing, roads, water and sewer systems, emergency services, and essential services to its Tribal members in education, health, and welfare. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community has a charitable giving program which comes from a cultural and social tradition to assist those in need. Over the past several years the SMSC has donated more than \$56.5 million to charitable organizations and Indian Tribes, including more than \$14.5 million in fiscal year 2005. The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota, is the owner and operator of Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Playworks, Dakotah! Sport and Fitness, The Meadows at Mystic Lake Golf Course, and other enterprises on a reservation south of the Twin Cities.

**For more information, contact 952-496-6160**