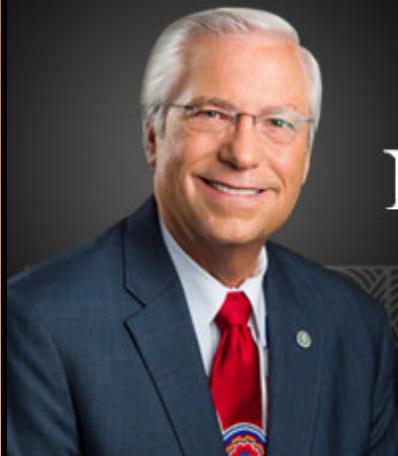


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CHEROKEE NATION®



Notes from the Chief

What I'm working on for You

Osiyo --

As Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, I have focused our agenda on prioritizing homes, health and hope. For me it's more than a phrase that's on a poster or a magazine. To me, it's the future of our tribe. We have expanded our health clinics and secured a federal partnership for a new state-of-the-art hospital. We have increased hope with more jobs and more opportunities to pursue education.

On the homes front, we are being just as progressive. Recently, we shifted our housing rehabilitation program under the umbrella of the Housing Authority of Cherokee Nation, which over the past 50 years has proven to be an effective and efficient organization with a strong national reputation across Indian Country.

The Housing Authority has multiple satellite offices across our 14-county jurisdiction, and those field offices will now host our housing rehabilitation staff. This merger of similar programs is logical and will immediately benefit our people. The demand for housing services continues to increase, and now all of our housing programs are in a one-stop shop.

Since fall 2012, the Housing Authority of the Cherokee Nation has constructed more than 325 new homes for Cherokee families under the tribe's New Home Construction program. In the coming months, that number will rise as more new homes are completed and we break ground on future homes. The housing rehabilitation program helped renovate or replace 609 Cherokee homes through its department in FY15.

Our housing team has a heavy workload and huge demand continues to climb, but this transition will provide better organization and increase networking and communication, which will result in improved services for Cherokees.

Soon we will address even more home repair issues for elders and the disabled because the Cherokee Nation was awarded an \$800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. We will utilize this funding specifically to assist some of our most vulnerable citizens, and the new HUD money will free up our existing budget to do more housing rehabilitation or replacement homes for all Cherokee families. We can make Cherokee homes more comfortable by making energy-efficient upgrades, fixing a leaky roof or remodeling a bathroom to make it handicap accessible.

Streamlining our capabilities in the housing arena will ensure quality homes keep our Cherokee families safe and secure as they pursue their dreams.

Wado,

Bill John Baker



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