



WELCOME TO OUR **FIRST ISSUE** OF

Our Journey Ahead

The Future Has An Ancestral Heart



COUNCIL KNOWLEDGE-KEEPER TWILA CASSADORE
SERVING MEMBERS OF THE SAN CARLOS APACHE AFFECTED
BY WILD BRUSHFIRES IN JULY 2024.

Since our founding in April 2022, We have grown through powerful moments—hosting a community banquet to support Apache families after a brushfire, standing in solidarity at the Water is Life Rally, and sharing our story globally on the BBC World Service.

These milestones, of many, reflect our focus on building trust with tribal and grassroots partners, knowing that meaningful impact begins with respect.

Now we look ahead to our first Wellness Showcase this October, a key fundraiser for Red Road Project. Alongside this, we're planning health and wellness workshops with tribal youth led by our Council of Knowledge Keepers and Wisdom Ambassadors, ensuring that ancestral teachings guide our current and future generations. Together, we are stepping into a new chapter of collective healing, vision, and impact.

Welcome to our inaugural newsletter that shares our journey of bringing ancestral wisdom to the forefront of modern healing. We hope our story resonates with your internal desire to affect positive change in your world.

TLAZOCAMATI,

ANTONIO ROMERO (RARAMURI)
VICE PRESIDENT, CO-FOUNDER



In this newsletter you will find:

A recap of our journey, what we're currently up to, what we have planned, and ways for you to support and get involved!

JUNE 2023



RED ROAD JOURNEY CO-FOUNDERS TONY AND ANTONIO ALONGSIDE VERNON MESAYESVA AND FAMILY FOR THE PASSAGE OF STATE PROCLAMATION "WATER IS LIFE"

We visited Indigenous elder Arkan Lushwala at his Arawaka sanctuary in New Mexico and participated in a 3-day Earth Ceremony. In a beautiful act of generosity, Arkan provided Red Road Journey's first major donation, jumpstarting our organizational development and cementing a shared vision to work together for Mother Earth's healing.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Red Road Journey was invited to Rancho La Puerta, one of the world's leading wellness spas in Tecate, Mexico. Our co-founders Antonio and Tony presented our vision of Indigenous healing to over 150 guests during a week-long program. The response was so enthusiastic that we've been invited back on numerous occasions to host talks centered on healing through traditional Native modalities.

Milestones and Achievements

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO SINCE APRIL 2022:

Over the last few years, Red Road Journey has made remarkable strides, thanks to the support of our community and partners. Here are some highlights of what we've accomplished together:

MAY 2022

We joined the Water Is Life Rally, standing alongside tribal leaders and water protectors like Vernon Mesayesva, our Fiscal Sponsor and founder of Black Mesa Trust. We also played a role in drafting and delivering State Proclamation "Water Is Life" in recognition of our universal connection to water. This early act of solidarity laid groundwork for the trust we continue to build with tribal communities.

DECEMBER 2022

Our team was invited to the Hippocrates Health Institute in Florida for a 7-day wellness transformation program as a best-practice learning experience. This visit reinforced our belief in the healing power of food and holistic well-being, aligning modern nutritional science with our own ancestral approaches to wellness.



TONY AND ANTONIO WITH COUNCIL KNOWLEDGE KEEPER ROSA TUPINA FOR A MORNING PRAYER CEREMONY AT RANCHO LA PUERTA.

JULY 2024

We organized a community potluck on the San Carlos Apache Reservation to support over twenty families whose homes were destroyed by a wild brushfire. Led by our Council Knowledge Keeper Twila Cassadore and Co-founder Tony, we prepared traditional foods for those displaced. More than 275 tribal members were fed and nourished with ancestral foods, demonstrating the power of community and culture in healing trauma.

MAY 2025



PRESIDENT AND CO-FOUNDER TONY SKRELUNAS GIVES A TALK ON NAVAJO WELLNESS IN MEXICO.

The BBC World Service featured Red Road Journey on its renowned “From Our Own Correspondent” radio program. Journalist Stephanie Theobald joined us for a special workshop where Navajo elder Tom Chee – one of our Council Knowledge Keepers – demonstrated the healing benefits of communicating with horses. Through this broadcast, our story and teachings reached an estimated 300 million listeners worldwide, greatly raising awareness of our mission on the global stage.

WE INVITE YOU TO LISTEN [HERE](#)

SEPTEMBER 2024

We had the honor of co-hosting the [World Dream Day Summit](#), a global event founded by thought-leader Ozioma Egwuonwu. Red Road Journey opened the summit with a blessing of the Sacred Directions and an Apache water prayer, sharing our Native ways of thinking with an international audience. Our message made a profound impression – we were invited back as a permanent “Dream Ambassador” for future World Dream Day celebrations, reflecting the global impact of our vision.

MARCH 2025

On our fourth visit to Rancho La Puerta, we led workshops on foraging and traditional foodways of Baja California. Apache Knowledge Keeper Twila Cassadore guided guests to gather native seeds and herbs, then helped them prepare a traditional dish from the Kumiai people’s recipes. Participants reconnected with the land through taste and story, an experience that will help shape our own [Red Road Project](#) wellness center and has inspired our tech initiative [NativeAI](#).

CHECK OUT THE [VIDEO](#) OF OUR FORAGING WORKSHOP IN MEXICO

JUNE 2025

We hosted “Walking with the Ancestors: A Day of Apache Cultural Wellness” on sacred lands in Sedona. At sunrise, Yavapai-Apache elder Don Decker led a prayer at Boynton Canyon (the Apache place of emergence), followed by guided visits to ancient cliff dwellings and petroglyph sites. The day ended with a traditional feast – acorn stew, corn dumplings, fresh fruits – prepared by Apache cooks and shared in ceremony.

This powerful gathering embodied the vision of Red Road Project: Indigenous-led wellness experiences that create economic opportunities for tribal communities while deepening cross-cultural understanding in a respectful way.



TRADITIONAL APACHE SINGER MARTIN LORETTO SAYS A BLESSING AT AN APACHE FEAST AT THE WILDHEART ORGANIC FARM IN RIMROCK.

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TONY AND COUNCIL KNOWLEDGE KEEPER TOM CHEE
AT AN EQUESTRIAN WELLNESS TALK IN FLAGSTAFF.

Current Projects and Upcoming Events

OCTOBER WELLNESS SHOWCASE

We are excited to announce our first-ever Wellness Showcase from 10 - 13 October! This special event will bring together community members, supporters, and holistic wellness practitioners for a day of healing and culture – all in support of building Red Road Project. The Wellness Showcase will feature live demonstrations of traditional Native healing modalities (from food showcases to running workshops), inspirational talks and storytelling, Indigenous arts and music, and hands-on workshops.

All proceeds from the event will go directly toward the development of [Red Road Project](#) – a wellness space that brings together Indigenous wisdom, community, and healing. By attending or sponsoring this showcase, you will help us take a big step toward realizing a world-class intertribal healing center just outside Sedona, Arizona.

Stay tuned for our next Showcase which is slated for Spring 2026 – we invite you to join us for this uplifting experience and please spread the word!

NATIVE AI: PRESERVING ANCESTRAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) WITH AI

Another exciting initiative underway is NativeAI, our effort to bridge tradition and technology for current and future generations. NativeAI is an emerging platform that leverages artificial intelligence (AI), virtual reality (VR), and augmented reality (AR) to preserve Indigenous ecological and land-based knowledge in a tribally-managed database.

Here's how it will work: Tribal members will gather data by uploading photos and descriptions of plants, herbs, animals, and sacred sites, including the cultural and historical significance of each. Using AI, the system will categorize and enrich this knowledge, while our elders and knowledge keepers guide and verify the information to ensure it stays authentic. Finally, through AR/VR technology, anyone (from students to hikers) can point their device at a certain plant or location and instantly receive rich Native wisdom and stories in real-time.

We are currently laying the groundwork for NativeAI. In Phase I (Year 1), our goal is to build the core database by logging 500+ entries of traditional knowledge and to train 20 tribal members in data gathering and AI tech methods. In Phase II, we plan to expand to more tribal nations and partner with schools and universities so this knowledge can enrich educational curricula. By Phase III, we hope to launch a user-friendly mobile app for outdoor enthusiasts, herbalists, and cultural learners, so the public can engage with Native knowledge on the land in an interactive way.

Call to Action

Join Us as Partners: To bring NativeAI to life, we are seeking like-minded partners and supporters. In particular, we welcome funding partners or philanthropic allies, tech collaborators (developers, AI/AR specialists), and Indigenous knowledge keepers who are passionate about cultural preservation. If you or your organization would like to support this groundbreaking initiative – whether through financial support, technical expertise, or contributing knowledge – we would love to hear from you. Please reach out to us at info.redroadjourney@gmail.com to start the conversation.

Our Featured Knowledge-Keeper

KYLE SUMATZKUKU

OUR QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHT ON SOMEONE
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR COMMUNITY

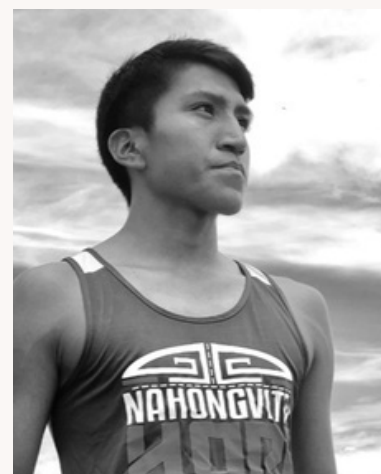
Kyle Sumatzkuku (Moenkopi, Hopi), also known as “Running Fox” in his community, is one of the fastest Native runners in the United States. Raised in the high-altitude mesa country of Third Mesa, he became the first Native to cross the finish line at the 125th Boston Marathon, completing the race in 2 hours, 26 minutes, and 17 seconds.

To achieve this, he trained relentlessly, running 80–100 miles a week, with 18–19 miles on his “Sunday long runs,” and he qualified for Boston by running the Shiprock Marathon. Kyle views running as prayer and healing: he runs to honor his ancestors, to pray for those who cannot run, and to inspire environmental stewardship.

Kyle’s dedication extends beyond personal achievements. He sees running as a pathway to protect sacred lands and build community. His involvement with organizations like Wings of America, which develops Indigenous youth through running, reflects this commitment.

By sharing Hopi running philosophy and technique with the next generation—both through Wings of America and through his role as a Youth & Wisdom Ambassador with Red Road Journey—he helps young and older people alike connect cultural teachings to physical wellness.

Kyle embodies our mission to bridge ancestral knowledge with modern life, and we are honored to work alongside him.



A Message From Our President

TONY SKRELUNAS (DINÉ)
PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER

Yá'át'ééh. Shí éi Tony yinishyé.

Hello, my relatives, and welcome to the inaugural issue of Our Journey Ahead. Sitting with our elders in the gardens of Rancho La Puerta, I was reminded of a simple truth: the path to healing is not new—it is the oldest path, woven from ancestral wisdom that teaches us to live in harmony with ourselves, our communities, and the Earth. In my Navajo (Diné) tradition, this balance is called hózhó, or walking in beauty.

I've seen this wisdom in many forms: greeting the sunrise with gratitude, cleansing body and mind through ceremony, and elders sharing seeds and stories that safeguard our future. These are not just old ways—they are living solutions for today's challenges. Since our founding, I've been humbled to witness teachings that restore hearts and lands alike—from a prayer that brought rain to a shared meal of ancestral foods that healed grief. These moments remind us that the future has an ancestral heart, and our mission is to build a bridge so that all people, Native and non-Native, can walk in its beauty.

Thank you, Ahéhee', for walking this red road with us. Your support helps us bring elders to share their wisdom, host journeys and wellness gatherings, preserve seeds for future generations, and spread this message of healing near and far.



Ways to Support and Get Involved

- Attend or Sponsor the Wellness Showcase: Join us in October for a day of healing, or consider sponsoring the event.
- Donate to Red Road Project: Every contribution is tax-deductible and brings us one step closer to realizing our mission.
- Partner with NativeAI: Collaborate with us on this cutting-edge initiative.
- Spread the Word: Share our story and newsletter with friends and colleagues.

Tlazocamati for your generosity and support. With your help, we are raising the collective consciousness and healing our communities, one step at a time.

We're Now On Social Media

GIVE US A LIKE, FOLLOW, OR SHARE!

 REDROAD.JOURNEY