



**Pokégnek Bodéwadmik**  
POKAGON BAND OF POTAWATOMI



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **FOUR WINDS CASINOS TEAM MEMBERS RAISE \$15,000 FOR THE BERRIEN COUNTY SUICIDE PREVENTION COALITION**

NEW BUFFALO, Mich. – October 10, 2024 – The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi’s Four Winds® Casinos are pleased to announce that Four Winds team members raised \$15,000 for the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition (BCSPC). The mission of BCSPC is to connect the people of Berrien County to the information and resources they need for emotional wellness, thereby preventing suicide.

Four Winds team members participated in a Celebrity Dunk Tank event on Thursday, September 19 where they had a chance to dunk Four Winds Directors, Vice Presidents, and Senior Vice Presidents. Through a payroll deduction, team members were able to purchase three or more balls to throw from 10 feet, 20 feet, and 30 feet. There was also an option for a one-time-dunk! The \$15,000 raised was comprised of proceeds from the event, along with an additional contribution from Four Winds Casinos.

Commenting on the donation, Brittany Frenchko, Chairperson for the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition said, “I want to express my sincere gratitude to Four Winds Casinos for their donation of \$15,000 to the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition. Their continued support year after year is truly inspiring.”

Mary Smith, Chief Operating Officer of Four Winds Casinos added, “Four Winds Casinos is very proud of the giving spirit of our team members. We have been involved in supporting so many important causes and organizations over the years, and we sincerely appreciate the efforts of the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition to provide critical resources to help prevent suicide.”

Citing the most recent data from Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, [SAVE.org](https://www.save.org), suicide was the eleventh leading cause of death in the U.S., taking the lives of more than 49,000 Americans. 1.6 million Americans attempted suicide in 2022 with an average of 135 suicide deaths every day. The suicide rate among males was approximately four times higher than the rate among females. Males make up 50 percent of the U.S. population, but about 80 percent of suicide deaths in the U.S. Suicide rates were higher among adults aged 25 to 34 and 75-84, with a rate highest among 85 years or older.

For more information on the Berrien County Suicide Prevention Coalition, please visit [www.berriencares.org](https://www.berriencares.org).

### **About The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana**

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi’s sovereignty was reaffirmed under legislation signed into law by President Clinton in September of 1994. The Pokagon Band is dedicated to providing community development initiatives such as housing, education, family services, medical care, and cultural preservation for its more than 6,000

citizens. The Pokagon Band's ten-county service area includes four counties in Southwestern Michigan and six in Northern Indiana. Its main administrative offices are located in Dowagiac, Mich., with a satellite office in South Bend, Ind. In 2007, it opened Four Winds Casino Resort in New Buffalo, Mich., followed by Four Winds Hartford in 2011, Four Winds Dowagiac in 2013 and Four Winds South Bend in January 2018. The Pokagon Band operates a variety of businesses via Mno-Bmadsen, its non-gaming investment enterprise. More information is available at [www.pokagonband-nsn.gov](http://www.pokagonband-nsn.gov), [www.fourwindscasino.com](http://www.fourwindscasino.com) and [www.mno-bmadsen.com](http://www.mno-bmadsen.com).

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