



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The objective of this section is to highlight representative NAO nonprofit members of various sizes, geographic locations and subsectors to showcase the great work our members are doing across Oregon!



1136 Paiute Avenue  
Warm Springs, OR 97761

[www.wscat.org](http://www.wscat.org)



### What does your organization do? Who does it serve?

WSCAT's mission is to promote community development in Warm Springs by empowering individuals and groups of people to realize their potential, become self-reliant, and affect positive change for themselves, their families, and their community. We do this through an Individual Development Account program, financial education classes, "Indianpreneurship" small business classes, Homeownership classes, "Building Native Communities: Financial Skills for Families" classes, free tax assistance, and financial and small business counseling. We serve primarily tribal members living and/or working on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

### What has been your organization's biggest accomplishment lately?

WSCAT's largest program is the Individual Development Account program, in which we have had 40 people enroll and 34 people graduate in the past year; these people completed financial education and asset specific education to purchase homes, buy vehicles, start businesses, renovate homes, and attend school. This year, we have expanded that program to serve youth who want to attend college and vocational school, including training 54 high schoolers in "Financial Skills for Families: Building Native Communities" curriculum. WSCAT has also helped artists start a nonprofit (<http://indianguiver.firstnations.org/nl180708-09-2/>), helped over 400 people file taxes, provided financial and small business counseling to over 50 individuals, and taught homeownership and business classes to 53 people.

### How has being an NAO member helped you succeed in furthering your organization's mission?

NAO membership has allowed Tananawit, our artisans' group, to receive assistance in becoming its own 501(c)(3) organization and developing a two-year work plan for the artists. It has also provided us an opportunity to network and grow as an organization.

### Anything else you'd like to share?

WSCAT is working to convert a 5,000-square foot, early 1900s structure known as the Old Commissary into a small business incubator with retail and office space to serve the Warm Springs Reservation community and travelers on Highway 26. The Old Commissary will provide Warm Springers a place to grow business ideas, share native art, food, and hospitality, and bring the reservation into its own as a regional economic resource.

*Special thanks to Leah Guliasi  
IDA Program Administrator,  
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