



LITTLE TRAVERSE BAY
BANDS OF ODAWA INDIANS

**MIGIZI REHABILITATION
+ AVIARY**

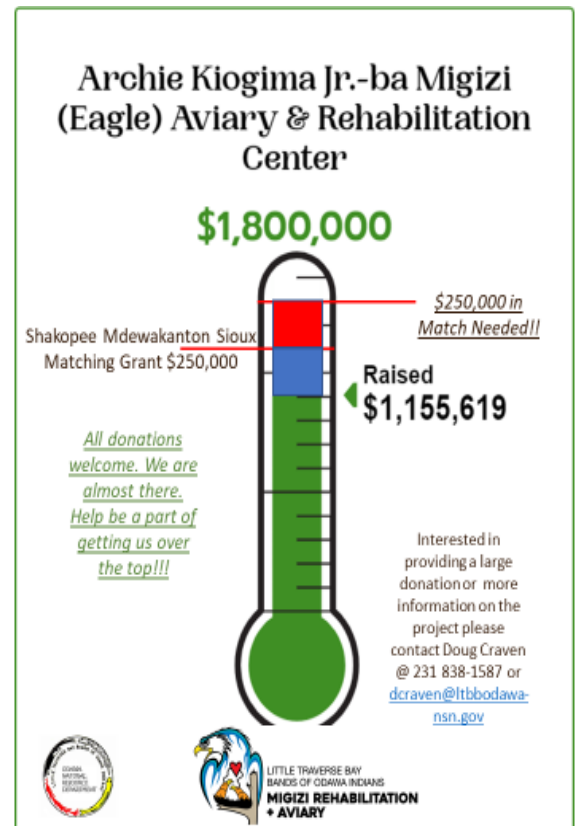
MICHIGAN ODAWA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBE AND WINGS OF WONDER PARTNER ON EAGLE AVIARY AND RAPTOR CENTER

Little Traverse Bay Bands and Celebrated Michigan Raptor Rehabilitator Collaborate on First Tribal Eagle Aviary and Raptor Center East of the Mississippi River

The Archie Kiogima Jr. ba Migizi (Eagle) Aviary and Rehabilitation Center will enable tribe to save federally protected eagles and educate public on their importance to Native American culture

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) was awarded \$250,000 matching grant from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community as a part of its continued campaign to fund and build the *Archie Kiogima Jr. ba Migizi Aviary and Rehabilitation Center*. The grant will expire in July of 2024 as such LTBB is seeking like-minded Tribes, groups and individuals assistance in helping us achieve enough donations to recoup the award. The care and protection of injured Eagles and other raptors through the construction of top-notch facility on Tribal land nestled within a Northern Michigan is within reach!

LTBB has had a long-term relationship with one of the country's most celebrated raptor rehabilitators, Rebecca Lessard founder and operator of *Wings of Wonder* (WOW) located in Empire, Michigan. During that time, the LTBB Natural Resource Department rescued and transported dozens of eagles and other injured birds of prey to WOW for treatment. Many of these raptors were able to return to tribal lands for release back into the wild. However, after rehabilitating hundreds of eagles and other raptors for over 30 years Rebecca Lessard is now retired. Please help the LTBB Natural Resource Department (NRD) cement *Wings of Wonder* (WOW) and former longtime WOW icon Rebecca Lessard's legacy through donation funds necessary for the construction of the *Archie Kiogima ba Migizi Aviary and Rehabilitation Center*. Total project costs are estimated at \$2.3 million. The funding campaign is on the way to that funding goal however a significant amount of funding is needed yet. A minimum of \$250,000 in additional donations are needed in order to fully realize the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community grant as such LTBB has recently created an informational webpage(<https://ltbbodawa-nsn.gov/migizi-aviary/>) on the project with online donation capabilities.



The Bald Eagle, “Migizi” is a highly respected and significant cultural species to many Native American Tribes, including the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Preserving this highly revered and significant cultural species for the next seven generations is a high priority for the LTBB.



- The What: Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians (LTBB) Natural Resource Department is seeking like-minded Tribes, groups and individuals in the care and protection of injured Eagles and other raptors through the development of top-notch facility on Tribal land nestled within a Tribal community. The facility will be the nations 1st Tribal Eagle Aviary east of the Mississippi River.
- The Need: The retirement of Rebecca Lessard and the closing a Wings of Wonder(WOW) means that there is no long a raptor facility providing services to northern MI and the eastern UP. Upwards of 20-30 eagles per year went through the WOW facility for rehabilitation. There is currently not a facility available to address the need.
- The How: The LTBB Migizi Aviary and Rehabilitation center has 3 phases: 1. Rehabilitation mews to rehabilitate injured eagles and other raptors, 2. Animal lab/clinic for intensive care, check in, food preparation and office space, 3. Migizi Aviary flight pen to permanently house non-releasable eagles.
- The Cost: The total cost of the facility is \$2.3 million. LTBB kicked off the funding Campaign March of 2021 and to date has raised \$1 million. The project was put out to bid. 1st two phases came in at \$1.7 million and Phase 3 came in at \$600K. The bid is valid through July 15th. \$1.3 million needed to complete all phases.