

2009 Outstanding Participant Award



Lynette Lunak

*Blackfeet Tribal Business Council
Browning, Montana*

Ms. Lunak's past was one of no family support (other than her grandmother who never gave up on her), domestic abuse, drug and alcohol addictions, guilt, and shame. With these many life hurdles, she was determined to create a better future for herself and her children. She participated in an Alcoholics Anonymous Program, received her Associate of Applied Science degree in Health, Wellness and Chemical Dependency Counseling from Blackfeet Community College, obtained employment as an administrative assistant, and realized, for the first time, her life was manageable.

Unfortunately, after many years of sobriety, she relapsed and

then, within three years, lost everything: her family's trust, her job, her children to Child Protective Services, and her family home. She was alone in a shelter for battered women, feeling devastated, depressed, and hopeless. She considered suicide then decided to try and take baby steps to pull herself back up.

Ms. Lunak went through 500 hours of On-the-Job training, various professional and life-skills trainings, and ongoing attentive case management and childcare support, and she slowly turned her life around.

Today, Ms. Lunak has been a successful full-time employee at Blackfeet Manpower for the past three years where she provides compassionate, professional Case Management services to clients. She has also been an active supporter and advocate for Blackfeet Domestic Violence Program and its collaborations with similar domestic violence agencies throughout the state of Montana.