



Dream of Wild Health

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Dream of Wild Health Announces New Co-Director Joy Persall

By Jodi Bean

Minneapolis, Minn. - Joining Dream of Wild Health's full time staff is Joy Persall, the new Co-Director of Programs and Development. Joy's background in non-profit leadership and consulting will help support the organization's continued growth and development.

Over the last five years, Dream of Wild Health (DWH) has grown from a small staff of mostly part-time and seasonal volunteer staff on a ten acre organic farm in Hugo, Minn. to a bustling Native-owned non-profit with the farm, plus a Minneapolis main office, year round staff, an indigenous orchard, and more youth, family, cooking and farmers market programs. DWH has built a strong, involved community in the Twin Cities and Washington County to help support our mission *to restore health and well-being in the Native community by recovering knowledge of and access to healthy Indigenous foods, medicines and lifeways.*

Joy has been the Executive Director of Native Americans in Philanthropy and worked as the Associate Director of The Headwaters Foundation for Justice, where she led capacity building programs and co-founded the Fund of the Sacred Circle. In 2011, she was awarded the Bush Foundation Leadership Fellowship where she focused on team process, coaching and indigenous leadership.

DWH's Executive Director, Diane Wilson, says, *"Joy brings us an invaluable background and experience in philanthropy, leadership, and the Native community – plus, she gardens! We're extremely pleased she has come to DWH to co-direct this amazing, growing organization into the next phase."*

Joy holds an M.A. in Organization Management and Development and CEBC Coaching Certification from Fielding Graduate University, and B.A. in Multi-Cultural Nonprofit Management. Her experience in tribal and rural communities, small business, social justice and organizing adds a broad set of skills and experiences that will benefit DWH and our community partners.

As Joy explains, *"I believe that decolonizing our relationship to food, advocating and mobilizing around food sovereignty is crucial to healthy indigenous communities, in fact, to a healthier world. I am honored and energized to join in this work. I look forward to working with Dream of Wild Health and seeing you*

at the farm.” As a woman of Aniishinabe (Ojibwe) French Canadian descent, mother, grandmother, gardener, traveler, friend, Joy is committed to a life supported by community and family, working for equity and justice, and caring for our Mother Earth.

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Dream of Wild Health (DWH) is a 501c3 non-profit with an urban office in Minneapolis and a seasonal 10-acre organic farm in Hugo, Minn. DWH was gifted a large collection of heirloom indigenous seeds passed through several generations from a medicine woman, Cora Baker. We partner with dozens of urban and tribal organizations on programs that work to restore the mental, physical, and emotional health of our community. The mission of Dream of Wild Health is to restore health and well-being in the Native community by recovering knowledge of and access to healthy Indigenous foods, medicines and lifeways. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Pinterest](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Tumblr](#).