



Introducing Winifred Andrews (aka) Wini. Wini has worked for the Dakota Indian Foundation since October, 2012. She is the Lakota Culture “Go to” person for me as the director. If I have questions about Cultural understanding, Wini is the person I ask and get honest answers. I have asked her to provide us with some insight into the uniqueness of Lakota/Dakota/Nakota customs and traditions. This is the best way to gain knowledge.

Born on August 20, 1950, her mother gave birth to “chekpas” (twins). Her brother Wilfred James was born at home, her mother didn’t know she was carrying twins, Wini was born a few hours later at Gregory, South Dakota Old Hospital. The Twins joined 7 siblings at home. Six siblings had made their spiritual journey before the birth of the twins. Wilfred was child #14 and Winifred was #15 born to Jess Sr. and Mercy Stone Arrow Andrews.

During her early years, Wini attended public schools in St. Charles SD (Grades 1-8), Bonesteel SD (Grades 9-10) and Gregory SD (Grades 11-12) High School graduating on May 25, 1970. She went on to attend 1 year of Accounting at Aberdeen School of Business. To further her opportunities Wini took classes through Black Hills State University, Lower Brule Community College, the University of South Dakota and Mitchell Technical School.

Before becoming employed by the Dakota Indian Foundation, Wini had spent her adult life working with Native Students, first at the Pierre Indian Learning Center, Pierre, South Dakota until 1997. She continued working with Native Youth at St. Joseph’s Indian School, Chamberlain South Dakota until her retirement in 2012.