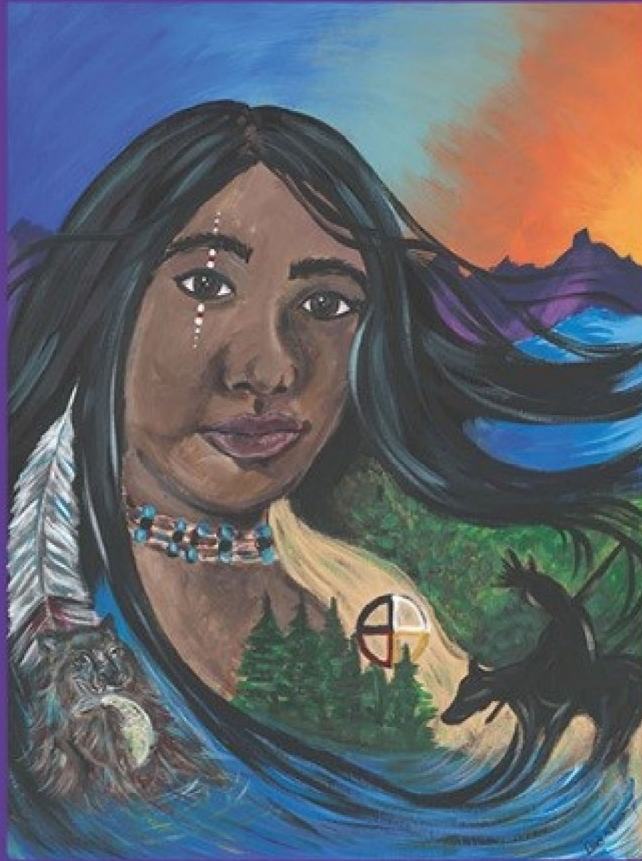


WATER *Life's Flow* SOIL *Provider Of Generations*



AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE HERITAGE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2015

"We thank and honor our Mother Earth, she enables life for all creation. Mother Earth provides us, life giving water, and soil. We go to water to quench our thirst, for cleansing, and to grow life to what we grow in the soil. Mother Earth is the central figure in the painting as she is the source of all life. The sun is divided into four sections to demonstrate the four times of day; the mountains are the Appalachian Mountains. The Trail that develops out of Mother Earth's clothing is the Trail of Tears where thousands of Native Americans perished. The bear figure signifies the end of the trail. Strategically placed in the center of the trail is the circle of life symbol representing the importance of balance, beauty, and harmony with nature, self, and society. The bear symbolizes the great strength and protective qualities that our proud race encompasses."

- Dakota Dameron, Keweenaw Sioux Tribe, Sisseton, Minnesota

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