

**RESOLUTION OF THE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE OF THE
FORT APACHE INDIAN RESERVATION**

- WHEREAS,** the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe is composed of elected representatives from all segments of the population and areas of the Reservation; and
- WHEREAS,** concerns of the Tribal Council include the health and social welfare of all members of the Tribe, including young parents who are teens; and
- WHEREAS,** the Johns Hopkins University's Center for American Indian Health has maintained a project site on the White Mountain Apache Reservation since 1980 and has conducted a number of research projects among Apache infants and, as a result, has contributed to the overall improvement of health of infants and young children; and
- WHEREAS,** while working with infants, Johns Hopkins staff members have noted that about 1/3 of mothers of infants taking part in Johns Hopkins programs have been teenagers who have often related to Johns Hopkins staff difficulties they've experienced as pregnant adolescents or teen mothers; and
- WHEREAS,** the Johns Hopkins Share Our Strength (SOS) service program resulted from the desire of Johns Hopkins staff to provide emotional support and encouragement to pregnant adolescents and teen mothers; and
- WHEREAS,** support and encouragement have been provided through a program begun in 1996 which offers one-on-one, in-home lessons about general health care, infant care, nutrition, and breast feeding, and, as a result, general knowledge about all of these topics have increased significantly among teen mothers; and
- WHEREAS,** this project is supported by other segments of society which deal with adolescents such as school administrators, counselors, teachers, health care providers, parents of teen parents, as well as tribal leaders, and many individual community members; and
- WHEREAS,** because of lack of funds and staffing, no similar program has existed for fathers of teen-formed families despite the expressed desire for such a program by teen mothers and community people who state that these fathers also experience difficulties that are unique to fathers of infants born to teen mothers; and

WHEREAS, the Johns Hopkins University has applied for funds to upgrade the SOS program to include lessons on parenting, bonding, and child development, and has proposed to build into these lessons a component to scientifically evaluate and compare a group of parents who have received these lessons to another group of parents who have not received these lessons in order to develop a culturally appropriate parents program; and

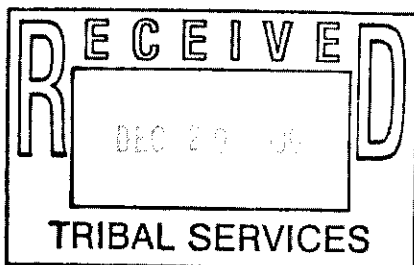
WHEREAS, the University has received funds for a Fathers' Program which will include home visitations to teach fathers, among other things, parenting skills, conflict resolution, and the building of domestic relationships; and native field workers will act as case managers by linking fathers with existing support services such as employment, education, and counseling opportunities; and Johns Hopkins personnel will contract with national experts to work with tribal leaders and policy makers to expand employment opportunities for young fathers; and

WHEREAS, the Fathers' Program also proposes to employ case-control methods to compare outcomes between fathers taking part in the Program to those not taking part; and

WHEREAS, the eventual aim of both the SOS program and the Fathers' Program is to be able to turn them over to the Tribe for ultimate management and operation once the programs are operating smoothly.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe that it hereby approves: 1) the upgrading of the SOS Program for pregnant teens and teen mothers to include lessons on parenting skills and that a case-control evaluation method be incorporated into the development of this upgraded Program, and, 2) the development of a Fathers' Program as outlined above with case-control methods to compare outcomes of interventions applied to one group of fathers with outcomes of another group of fathers to whom no interventions were applied.

The foregoing resolution was on December 1, 1999, duly adopted by a vote of SEVEN for and ZERO against by the Tribal Council of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, pursuant to authority vested in it by Article IV, Section 1 (a), (b), (g), (t) and (u) of the Constitution of the Tribe, ratified by the Tribe on September 30, 1993, and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 12, 1993, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984).



Frank J. [Signature]
ACTING Chairman of the Tribal Council

Gandy Hanney - Bunnette
Secretary of the Tribal Council