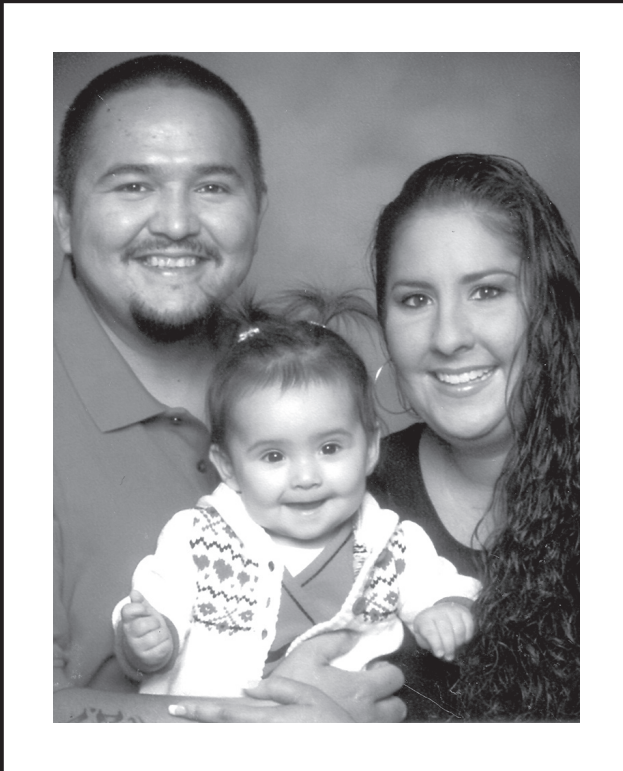


JO-DAN SHIPPENTOWER



I'm Jo-Dan Shippentower a tribal member and employee of the tribe. I have worked in the elders care services and the maintenance department. I am glad to see all the services being provided to our elders. They have been through a lot. For example, being punished for being an Indian. All of you have my respect and admiration.

I have enjoyed visiting and providing help for you in the past. Weather it was delivering lunches, picking up your garbage, moving your belongings, lawn services, and anything else you needed. Now we are losing a generation. A generation that is being tested more than any of us has with gangs, alcohol, and drugs. This new generation is going to be lost without our help. Some say that they don't ask for help. When sometimes all they are waiting for is someone to reach out to them.

Everyone is witnessing the problems that are going on. It could be your grandchildren, son, daughter, nephew, or niece. We have a youth center now and activities for young kids to participate in. What do we have for the ones in between our elders and young kids? These are the ones who will be running our tribe soon. I want to work with them and our elders to figure out what we can do for them. Try and get them involved with our culture and ceremonies. We have a canoe family, now let us try and get a cultural family.

Helping our Puyallup kids first before we bring other non-Puyallup tribal kids in. I have my wife Angela Shippentower and my one year old daughter Aiyana Shippentower. They are truly a blessing to me. We want what any parent wants for their child and that's a bright future.

Most of us didn't grow up with a silver spoon in our mouths. Being brought up in an Indian house we were taught to be respectful and not to brag about what you have. Be kind and not to judge people who have less than you. When those that are in need lend a hand. I want to be one of your next council members who will do just that. With the help from my people we can save this generation before we lose anymore to gangs, alcohol, drugs, and prison. Let's find something for them to do. Thank you for your time.

Jo-Dan Shippentower