

The Bemidji Pioneer

Walking Shield coming to Leech Lake
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Staff at the Cass Lake IHS Hospital and the Leech Lake Tribal Health Division will be assisted with the provision of healthcare by the reservists from the 6250th U.S. Army Hospital unit for two weeks in July.

The unit is based in Washington State. They have also acquired the services of dentists and hygienists from a sister unit in California. Reservists are on duty and in uniform during the time they are on assignment.

The Operation Walking Shield Program began in 1994 and has become a leading civil-military collaborative program in the United States. The program is designed to improve the quality of life for American Indians living on our nation's reservations, while at the same time, provide meaningful training opportunities for military personnel.

The Operation Walking Shield Program areas include housing, infrastructure development, health care, and humanitarian aid to American Indian tribes. Walking Shield and tribes' work together to develop projects on the reservations. Walking Shield then locates military units whose personnel training needs match the project activities. The military deploys manpower and equipment to accomplish the projects. Materials needed to support the Operation Walking Shield projects are provided by the participating tribal organizations.

Collaboration between the Army unit, the Cass Lake IHS staff, Leech Lake Tribal Health and Gaming will result in reduction in the backlog of patients waiting for dental care, immunization clinics in communities around the reservation, additional staffing in laboratory, pharmacy, nursing, food service, EMT services and social work.

Childhood immunization clinics are scheduled as follows:

- Ball Club Clinic, 9 a.m. to noon July 11.
- Headstart Round-up, July 11 10 a.m – 6 p.m.
- Inger Clinic, 1-4 p.m. July 11.
- The Nest (Cass Lake) 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 12.
- Cass Lake Boys & Girls Club 1-5 p.m. July 14.
- Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.m July 17.
- Bemidji Clinic, 1:30-6 p.m. July 18.
- Inger Clinic, 9 a.m. to noon July 20.
- Ball Club Clinic, 1-4 p.m. July 20.
- Onigum Clinic, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 21.

For further information, contact Joann Losh at 335-3236, Emily Bakken at 335-4513 or Jenny Jenkins at 335-3205.