



Sharon Indian School Foundation

Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
King William, Virginia

Support Us

Every contribution to the Sharon Indian School Foundation makes a difference! Your generosity funds important cultural preservation efforts and scholarship opportunities for tribal citizens. All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

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About Us

The Sharon Indian School Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operating directly out of the historic Sharon Indian School building located in beautiful King William, Virginia. Our mission is to celebrate, share, and sustain the legacy of the Sharon Indian School and local Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe. With the focus on educational assistance and cultural revitalization, the Sharon Indian School Foundation prioritizes enriching the lives of tribal citizens and preserving tribal history for the benefit of future generations to come.



"The Sharon Indian School foundation helps me fund my education through a scholarship, and I am immensely grateful for this contribution. At JMU, I work as the President of Native Student Union to empower indigenous voices in higher education. I am also the first person in my family to attend a four-year university and my success here is important to me so that I can make my ancestors' and elders' sacrifices worthwhile."

Hannah Brown
Upper Mattaponi Tribal Citizen and Sharon Indian School Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Culture & Community

In addition to providing stewardship to the Sharon Indian School building, we are dedicated to offering opportunities that empower Upper Mattaponi tribal citizens. Working to preserve traditional knowledge, foster community development, and support higher learning, our organization hopes to instill a sense of pride among our people. Efforts we proudly support include:

- **Educational Scholarships**
- **Cultural Preservation**
- **Youth Programs**
- **Annual Upper Mattaponi Pow Wow**

"I am tremendously appreciative of the educational scholarship I have received from the Sharon Indian School Foundation. As a health services major at VCU, this support affords me the opportunity to achieve both my academic and future career goals so that one day I'll be able to give back and serve my tribal community."

Kathryn Soule (left)
Upper Mattaponi Tribal Citizen and Sharon Indian School Foundation Scholarship Recipient

Piper Real (right)
Upper Mattaponi Tribal Citizen



Historical Legacy

Sharon Indian School has played an important role in shaping the cultural identity for generations of local tribal citizens. Upon construction in 1919, dozens of Native American youth were educated within its' one-room structure. When Virginia's Supreme Court ruled against segregation in public schools, the schoolhouse doors were closed in 1965.

The federally-recognized Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe has since reclaimed ownership over the building, with King William County returning it to the tribe in 1987, according to Chief Ray Adams. Today, it continues to serve the community as a space for tribal meetings and cultural gatherings. Sharon Indian School also remains on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Buildings, and is the last public Indian school still standing in the Commonwealth.

"As a symbol of tribal initiative and determination, Sharon Indian School is a reminder of a national struggle for Indian parents to see their children educated, and constitutes one of the lesser-known chapters of the national narrative reflected in the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court desegregation decision."

Virginia Department of Historic Resources