



# HO-CHUNK NATION FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

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## What *are the Financial Literacy Workshops?*

In March, 2008 the Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Treasury held its first Financial Literacy Workshop. The workshop was held at the Majestic Pines Hotel with a total of 17 participants. According to our first session evaluations, the workshop was a success!

## What *was being taught?*

The curriculum was “Building Native Communities Financial Skills for Families,” developed by the First Nations Development Institute. The curriculum is Native American-based and teaches the basics of financial education (budgeting, savings and checking accounts, and accessing credit). Each workshop offers hands-on learning and encourages much participant interaction.

## Where *will the next workshops be held?*

Throughout the next several months, to ensure that the Financial Literacy Program reaches all who need or want financial education, the Department of Treasury will be traveling to all surrounding Ho-Chunk communities, including Milwaukee, Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul.

## When *are the next dates?*

The following dates have been scheduled:

**Black River Falls: April 22nd and 23rd**

**Wisconsin Dells/Baraboo: May 13th and 14th**

## Who *do you contact?*

If you are interested in attending a 2-day workshop or would like more information on the program please contact:

**Francesca Bird, Finance Liaison at (800) 779-2873 ext 1222**



# THE HO-CHUNK TRUST BULLETIN

## How has the Trust performed?

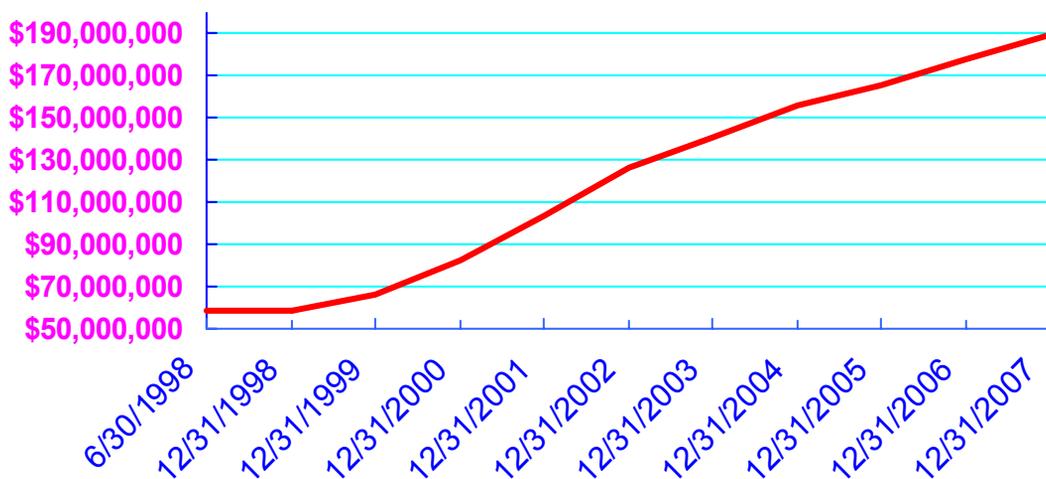
The Ho-Chunk Nation Minor's Trust Fund has continued to generate positive returns for its participants despite near historic levels of turmoil in the fixed income market. For the 12 month period ending 12/31/2007, the Minor's Trust returned +4.92% before advisory fee and +4.76% net of fee. The portfolio's benchmark, the Lehman Brothers Intermediate/ Corporate Index for A-rated or better bonds, returned +7.71%. Through an emphasis on high quality investments and an outlook focused on the long term, the Trust's portfolio has withstood the current crisis cycle and furnished a positive return.

Since mid-2007, the subprime crisis has leaked into virtually every asset class in the fixed income market other than U.S. Treasuries. This situation is now beyond what occurred during the 1998 crisis and might become the worst economic crisis since World War II. Presently, the credit crunch and liquidity squeeze has worsened, and the hardest hit sector has been the mortgage bond market. The Minor's Trust does have mortgage exposure but every bond is of very high quality and most are AAA-rated.

Our outlook for 2008 is that the fixed income market will recover as it did after the 1998 crisis, but in the short run there is some more pain to be felt as the economy slows down. Conversely, strong market dislocations also offer tremendous long term investment opportunities for the Trust's portfolio. The Minor's Trust is well positioned for the long run, and, as it has for almost 10 years, will continue to meet the needs of its participants.

### Historical asset growth: 6/30/98 to 12/31/07

Below is a graph of the Ho-Chunk Nation Minor's Trust Fund market value, since inception, *net of advisory fee*.



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Trust Performance Update