



## Faces of Marianjoy

Marianjoy is comprised of associates that come from many varied cultures, backgrounds and experiences. We value these differences as we firmly believe it makes us stronger as an organization.

**Associate Name:** Jaclyn Blackwell

**Department:** Therapeutic Recreation

- **What is your country of origin or the country of origin of your ancestors?**  
Native American (Potawatomi), Wales, Germany, Sweden, Scotland
- **What specific aspects from your culture or background that would you like to share?**  
Native Americans or American Indians do not like to be called “Indians” it is a very negative slang term it is like using other names banded by other ethnic groups. Please refer to them as Native American as they are natives to this county not Indians as proclaimed by Christopher Columbus upon his arrival to America when he thought it was India.
- **Are there specific days or times of the year that are considered special or sacred – if so, why?**  
Pow-Wow’s are considered sacred but take place several times a year. These events often take place outdoors as well as inside. They must take place facing a certain direction to the sun and often include various ceremonial dances and regale (outfits).
- **What are some of your family customs that you recall from your childhood (or from current times)?**  
Remembering to include the four colors of red, white, black in yellow in anything native especially dream catchers to represent the directions of the wind. Dream catchers are actually made from natural elements from outdoors not man made rings or leather.
- **Are there dietary preferences, special recipes or other traditions around food or food preparation, if so, please describe?**  
Frybread is a very native tradition and easy to make. It is often take similar to an elephant ear or a funnel cake. Corn soup but that is an old Native recipe not shared.
- **What languages are spoken or written?**  
Many languages are still spoken but are of course English is mostly spoken. Each Nation (tribe) has its own languages which are still passed on. Including a class at University of Michigan to speak Ojibwa (Chippewa) language.
- **Is there anything else you would like to share that you feel is important in order to attain a better understanding of your culture?**  
Natives are very peaceful people and do not like to fight for their beliefs. Natives that are often shown in western movies are completely false.as they were very few Natives who fight. Natives still live within the community and are integrated like everyone else. Some still live in poverty level housing on reservations as well with no running water or electricity. These are the people who need assistance from others.