



Indigenous people have lived in our area for thousands of years. Before the lines and markers that would carve, capture, and define our state, they were here. Here in Rhode Island and southern New England their tribes include the Narragansetts, Wampanoags, Pequots, Nipmucks, and Niantics. Their words are spoken from our lips often without our own conscious recognition like Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Scituate, Aquidneck, and quahog.

November is Native American Heritage Month and in recognition of this locally, United Way of Rhode Island is proud to showcase the important work of the Tomaquag Indigenous Museum. The Museum was established in 1958 by Eva Butler, an anthropologist, with the guidance of the late Princess Red Wing (Narragansett/Wampanoag). It is Rhode Island's only museum entirely dedicated to telling the story of the Indigenous peoples of this land. The Museum, located in historic Arcadia Village in Exeter since the early 1970s, is also the only Rhode Island museum operated by Indigenous people.

United Way of Rhode Island collaborated with the Tomaquag Museum in creating an Indigenous Peoples Equity Challenge, a five-day exploration to provide education and spark conversation about Indigenous history, culture, arts, and issues of today. To take the challenge sign-up here: <https://unitedwayri.us12.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=fb1686ef671a7368d39a-facf9&id=ca8e67c197>

To learn more about the museum and the amazing work they are accomplishing, please visit: <https://www.tomaquagmuseum.org/history>