

GONA

(Gathering of Native Americans)

COMMUNITY WELLNESS GATHERING

GONA focuses on addressing historical and intergenerational trauma, strengthening Native identity, and promoting resilience through four Indigenous worldview themes: **Belonging, Mastery, Interdependence, and Generosity**

SEPT. 26-27, 2026

► **Saturday, Sept. 26:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

► **Sunday, Sept. 27:** 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

► **Location: 7th Generation**

7957 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI



Don Lyons



Participation in GONA has been shown to:

- **Improve individual, family, and community health** by reinforcing pride, identity, and cultural connection
- **Strengthen relationships** across community members and generations
- **Increase resilience, hope, and leadership skills** among youth and adults

Games, crafts and stories!

Open to all Tribal community members.

**Lunch and snacks provided*

**Giveaways (while supplies last)*

Registration required

- Open to the first 50 who register

Facilitator: Don Lyons

Don Lyons, MSW, is an Internationally acclaimed speaker, trainer, facilitator, and leader. Don is a citizen of Leech Lake Band of Ojibway and descendant of Six Nations Mohawk. Born and raised in Detroit Michigan, Don remained connected to his Indigenous roots through the love and support of his parents, grandparents (boarding school survivors), and mentorship from the urban native community of Detroit. Being a urban native Don has been blessed to come from a blended family of racial and tribal backgrounds. This diversity of experiences has shaped and feed Don passionate for applying the inherent brilliance of indigenous knowledge systems throughout his life. Don has always found ways to Indigenise spaces and places he has been. Don contributed his success in his personal and professional life to love and support of his friends, family, elders, and the ability to remain connected to traditional ceremonies, singing and dancing.

Don brings 15+ years of experience working with hundreds of communities, organizations, and businesses Internationally and across Indian Country as a highly skilled facilitator, evaluator, trainer, coach, and leader. Don brings his lived experience, passion and professional expertise to help build self sufficient Indigenous Nations. Don lives in East Lansing MI with his wonderful wife Elizabeth and two awesome kids-Niwiin and Sofia.



Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan

"Working Together for Our Future"

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