**Farai:** Alright, so as you were saying...

**?:** Uh, yeah, we're here, this is my sister Chio [phonetic spelling], but we're, we're here on behalf of our organization, which is Healing Arrows, Indigenous Wellness. It's a program that aims to help and aid and support uh, in different types of indigenous communities and the problems facing them, wherever that might be, and also to promote wellness, whether that be spiritual or physical, ah, emotional health, so that's something we, uh, are here to represent and we're here to form and learn and understand and get a greater grasp of everything that's going on. Like I said, there's 300, 400 tribes here, so the opportunity to get to know and learn and start this healing process that we've been under as indigenous people for so long, where we don't have our own narrative -- we've always depended on other media outsources to tell our story, and for the first time in history, what we're seeing is...we're able to narrate and tell our story as it's happening without any type of uh, uh, edit on the content or filtering through to make it softer for people to...this is raw. **01:11** It's what's really going on, so...um...and because of that, of this, this is...why we're here is to aid in that, help with the exposure, help and also make connections so we can understand and we can help, get our organization involved and make allies and hopefully collaborate in the future for other issues. Um...around the nation with other, with other...other communities. So...so, yeah, I'm the executive director of the program. This is my sister, Chio. She's the media specialist for us. She designs the website and stuff like that, so. This is my third time out here. I've been out here three separate times. I plan on coming back down some more, so...you're making connections and hopefully building an interconnectivity between all of us so that we can help support and again, take this forward to other places and other fronts wherever. **02:11** You look around and no matter where you go, you know, like I said, this is not just about this one pipeline. This is about, there's multiple layers to this. There's, there are things...about this, movement here with No DAPL that also involves uh...missing and exploited indigenous women. You also hear about all the stuff going on with the Tar Sands pipeline and you talk about this thing with Oak Flats and all these different types of issues, and even again with where I'm from, with the Navajo nation, we have the Peabody coal mine which is polluting our environment over there, so, again, just to see everyone and help interconnect what we're starting as a healing process. And a lot of that healing comes from education. And a lot of that is becoming aware of who we are as indigenous people, re-finding our voice, re-finding our identity and taking back some of the power that we've lost over generations of, of oppression and genocide, really. **03:06** You know, this is something that's really heavily ingrained in us, so I think that...um...a lot of people need to come out here and experience it, come out here and see what's going on, and talk about it. You know, being here is a whole different experience than reading it online or whatever. I mean, you're going to get a lot of information that way, but being here, you really feel that power and you really feel that medicine, and you kind of, something inside you wakes up. And I think that's what a lot, what attracts a lot of people here. And it's because of the healing process that's taking place here, and it's not just -- I mean, don't get me wrong, the pipeline is a forefront, that's the most important issue right now. We're making some really good -- but we're also realizing our power and our strength when we all come together.

**Farai:** Yeah, yesterday, I talked to this veteran who is a black woman, and she said that this was very healing for veterans who didn't believe in the wars they fought for. And I -- she and I had an interesting conversation about this as a kind of communal healing space, but people are here for different reasons and so, how do you relate...you know, I've only been here a few days, but there's so many different types of people to relate to, and...do you relate to people who are here...or how do you relate to people here, I'm just forming a question, who are more, kind of just looking to have an interesting experience and who may not have any particular...deep political knowledge or...does that make any sense?

**?: 04:37** It does make sense, and...I think...what makes -- I've met people here from tribes and countries I've never even heard of before. You know, like I've met a lot of people all over the place, and they all have, they're all different. Everyone here is an individual to a degree and everything, but one thing that we all share is that we're all human. And this is a very human issue. It's one thing to fight about policy, it's one thing to fight about, you know, tax rates or all the other political jargon, right? But to sit here and really grind it down to just a really basic human necessity that we all share, and what helps us relate to each other is that realization that we're all human beings. And regardless of whatever life you live outside of here, regardless of what job you have, what degrees you might have, what care you own or what house you live in, regardless -- where you come from, or what color your skin is, it doesn't matter. At the end of the day, we are all human beings, and water is life to everybody. And we're seeing that, and we're building this relationship and this understanding of what it's like to be a human being again. And...in fact, I was talking to...my brother here, Benji, I was talking to Benji Buffalo here, last time I was here, and we had said something really, he had said something that really resonated with me. **06:00** He said, if you ever lose your faith in humanity, come to Standing Rock. Because when you come here, you see how helpful and how loving people can be and how selfless they can be when nothing else matters except...taking care of one another. And we forget that living on the outside, but here, we're a community and we're a people. We are in a sense, here, standing at Standing Rock, you're a part of this tribe that exists within these boundaries.

**Farai:** And we are here in Fort Benji -- Fort Buffalo, Fort Buffalo, of Benji Buffalo, who is the best host in the world and brings such beautiful, nurturing energy, and you guys just performed in a snow fort like...with your, like warming your drums against a heater in a blizzard. So I think that's pretty awesome. I think the arts have been a really big part of this experience, and I don't know, what, any thoughts on that?

**?: 06:57** You think that what is?

**Farai:** The arts.

**?:** Yeah, one of the big things, like my brother was saying, is we're all human being, and part of being a human being is having that ability to express yourself and having that ability to be an individual, you know. And even as singers, we sing these songs in a very traditional way, but we all have our own voices. And when we sing together, we sound as one, but our individuality shows through that. And even with our signs, you know, our signs that here, the signs that say protect the sacred, the signs that say [inaudible], you know, those signs are very powerful, and that art -- that media really helps bring...bring compassion to Standing Rock from other places in the world. You know, that media draws a lot of attention. So to have our artists here that are able to design such things and are able to create some things, and even...these structures that we have here like this snow fort we're sitting in right now, you know, this is a work of art. You know, this takes ingenuity. This takes something...very primal that I think in modern day society where everything is provided to us, we kind of step away from that, you know, and we don't really remember how to do these things. So, uh, even that to me, even the construction that's happening here, the winterization that's happening here, um, the way people are speaking on the microphone, our songs...our signs, our flags that we hang outside of our camp, all of these things express our individuality and remind us again that we are all human and we all come together like that, and that's my opinion on the art. **08:33** I think it's a very, very integral part. As indigenous people, you know, something as simple as our clothing was a piece of art. Everything we wore every single day had a purpose, you know, and it was made to be beautiful, and it was made so that the spirits may find us easy. All the bright colors and our feathers and everything like that, they're to help the spirits find us. So all this art here I think really brings a lot of spiritual power here as well, too, not just from a human standpoint but from a spiritual standpoint as well.

**Farai:** And I want to talk to your sister. Chio? Hi, Chio. Introduce yourself and...

**Chio:** Hi, my name is Chio Jim. Uh, I am the media specialist for Healing Arrows. Um, I am also Dene and Ottawa and Mexican.

**Farai:** So, yeah, so what do you, what do you feel like you're getting from this and what do you think that you're giving to this whole space and experience of being at Standing Rock?

**Chio:** Well, first, you know, just showing up and kind of really...being here changes your perspective as far as your understanding of what this...what this is about. I mean, not just No DAPL, but as far as the bigger picture of, like the boys had said earlier, really just being more about creating allies and interconnectivity between you know, everybody, of all different backgrounds and cultures. And also hearing a lot about other struggles that people are going through and realizing that there's so much out there to fight for and so much out there that needs to be corrected. **10:14** Um...and it was kind of something that people don't realize hearing the No DAPL movement on the outside. They think it's just about this pipeline and just about this one river, and no, this is about so much more, and it's really changed my perspective being here, um, to kind of grasp the larger picture of what this, what this really signifies. As far as really what I feel like I'm bringing to it is...you know, just being here and sharing my personal stories with people that I know and um, trying to document as much as I can about what it, what this really means to different types of people, and such like that, and just, you know, spreading the word and giving a bigger understanding, trying to show that through my own personal experience here.