



NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 9, 2008

Contact: Debby Pafel
202-208-4289

Indian Trust Beneficiaries' Visits Increase Significantly Since Opening of New Tulsa Office

Open House will Celebrate New Office in South Tulsa

The Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) has moved its Tulsa office to a more convenient location at 1323 E. 71st Street, Suite 101, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74136. Since opening in October, the new location has experienced about a four-fold increase in the number of visits by Indian trust beneficiaries.

“This new location offers more convenience in two ways,” said OST Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) Warren Austin. “Not only is it closer to the population we serve but it also provides for easier access to the office.”

The location was chosen after OST surveyed zip codes of beneficiaries and determined that the south Tulsa location would be closer to the beneficiary base being served. The Tulsa office, one of only three urban OST offices, serves local tribal members, *plus* more than 8,800 American Indians who live in Tulsa's urban area.

On December 18, 2008, OST will host an open house to celebrate the completion of the move. Although the formal open house hours are from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., visitors will be welcome all day. Beneficiaries will have an opportunity to tour the facilities and meet their FTO and other OST staff. The FTO is their principal contact regarding all aspects of their trust assets.

OST's Trust Beneficiary Call Center (TBCC) complements local services with trained operators who have access to various trust systems. The TBCC telephone number is 1-888-678-6836. It is open Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon, Mountain Time.

###

The mission of OST is to perform our fiduciary trust responsibilities to American Indian tribes, individual Indians and Alaska Natives by incorporating a beneficiary focus and beneficiary participation while providing effective, competent stewardship and management of trust assets.