



Shelley Buffalo is an enrolled member of the Meskwaki Tribe, also known as the Sac & Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa. Shelley served her community as Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Coordinator and now offers consultancy for food sovereignty and local foods initiatives. She is an advocate for indigenous food ways, food justice, and rematriation. A mother of two sons, Shelley made a living as a house painter and artist before finding her passion in farming and seed saving. The Meskwaki are unique in that their land based community is a settlement, not a reservation. Established in 1857 with the purchase of 80 acres near Tama, Iowa, the Meskwaki Settlement has grown to approximately 8,400 acres.



Matilde Cachiguango Muenala, is a Kichwa-Otavalo indigenous woman from Ecuador, immigrated to the United States in 2001 with her husband and two young daughters and later on had her third baby. All these years she dedicated herself to working as an artisan. Creating, selling jewelry, and various other things as she had done in Ecuador. This knowledge was inherited from her ancestors. She is the owner of Spinning Handiworks, a local store where she sells handmade products from different countries of the Americas, especially products of the Kichwa Otavalo nationality of Ecuador. Matilde also owns Sabiduria Nativa Kichwa where she uses her maternal ancestral knowledge to promote natural health pathways and to offer her service as a doula, integrating her knowledge and wisdom to help each mother with pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum. Matilde graduated from Santa Dorotea College in Ecuador. She continues to study so that indigenous voices outside the territory do not lose their identity. She believes that it is important for the next generation to know their ancestral roots. Which is why she tries to set a pathway for her daughters and those of her community. So that they do not forget their ancestral provenance. Her goals are to continue studying and fighting for knowledge regardless of the obstacles that will arise, because everything is possible!