

ARTIST STATEMENT AND DESCRIPTION



About the Artist:

Gerald Dawavendewa (Hopi/Cherokee) grew up in the Hopi village of Munqapi in northern Arizona and is a member of the Hopi Tribe. He attended the University of Arizona (UA) where he received a bachelor's degree in fine arts. Gerald's artwork includes "Earth Bundle," which was sent aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor launched in 1994. Dawavendewa is also author and illustrator of a children's book entitled "The Butterfly Dance," which was a project in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute National Museum of American History. Through his artwork, Gerald hopes to share his culture, educate the public about the rich heritage of his Native tribes, and promote a greater understanding of the Native world.

About the Conference Image:

The image for the 28th Annual "Protecting Our Children" Conference is titled "Gathering Around Her." A young girl holding a butterfly basket representing the ability to give life stands in front of Mother; both wear headresses with cloud and rain designs, symbols of nourishment and life. On one side stands Grandfather, representing wisdom, tradition, and the continuation of Native culture. To the other side stands Father, who symbolizes protection and strength. All gather around her to ensure her well-being, growth, and the continuation of the Native way of life.