

PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

Volume 7 Issue 3

Fall, 2003

A SEASON FOR GIVING

Pathways to Spirit is now seven years old. We thank all our supporters for guiding us all these years. It is because you were willing to give of yourselves in all your individual ways. Your financial help has paid untold propane bills to warm drafty government houses, purchased food for hungry families, given many elders telephone service and 128 families a home of their own. We always wish you could hear the voices asking for help and then the thanks of receiving.

We are now asking you to continue to remember. The needs are always there and a hand reaching in to lift a person's spirit cannot have a monetary amount placed upon it.

In the Lakota culture, the "give away" is a very important part of traditional life. At birth, death and all important ceremonies and occasions in between, the Lakota "give away" shows thanks to the Creator for all who have helped them through each step of life.

In our cultures' season of giving, we ask that you remember Pathways to Spirit and the work we do for the Lakota people.

There is always need for so many things and it costs us money to continue operating. We take no salary for our time and keep our expenditures to a minimum so that on average, over the last seven years, 95% of your donations have gone to our program services. Your dollars are being spent in the areas that you request. Many are kind to send funds for our very small operating expenses. In 2002 we were able to send more goods than ever.

We hope that many blessings came back to each and every one of you who made that possible. To continue to think of others in harder economic times says much about the spirit of helping others that lives in the hearts of many Americans.

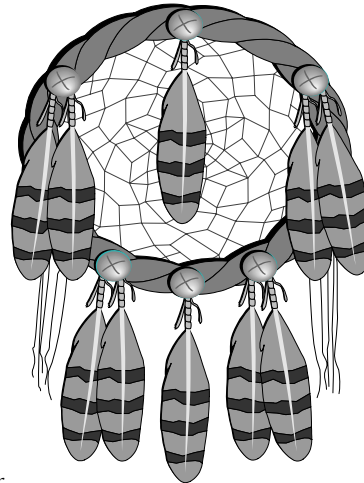
The great American poet and writer, Maya Angelou, in her book "*Wouldn't Take Nothing For My Journey Now*", says in regards to

charity, "I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. The size and substance of the gift should be important to the recipient, but not to the donor save that the best thing one can give is that which is appreciated. The giver is as enriched as the recipient. When we

cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream whose face we will never know will benefit from our action, as we who are downstream from another will profit from that grantor's gift."

With that we offer our thoughts for a beautiful and loving holiday season and ask that you please remember those on the reservation who so much

need our help. Together our gifts will bring love, happiness, and hope to the Lakota People. We ask that you send help for the holiday season and the projects that touch your hearts.



CAN YOU HELP A LOCAL LAKOTA CHILD?

We recently received a request from a young Lakota woman studying at CSU for help with her son.

She writes, "my son is very smart and athletic. Diabetes and heart disease run strong in our family. When we moved to Ft. Collins so I could attend

school I signed him up for sports. I want him to lead a healthy life since he has the health risks to fight against. I have tried to assure that he has a good routine at a young age for physical activity. Living on the reservation, sports like hockey and soccer do not exist and I want him to experience

different sports so that he will have more choices in life. I believe it will help him turn away from alcohol and drugs and develop team working skills."

The remaining sports fee is \$328. Can you help a young boy have a healthier chance at life?

HELPING MADE EASY

Remember to use your Albertson's Community Partner card with all your purchases. It's a great way to help us without putting out extra cash. Call or email if you don't have one. Want an easier way to donate? Sign up for Pay Pal at paypal.com. You can send your donations through the internet and never leave the house. We are charged a small fee but if it's easier for you, then it's OK with us.

Call if you have questions.

(970)282-8573

NATIVE AMERICAN SEWING PROGRAM NEWS

By Cindy Cunningham

We're happy to report on the success of several of our different sewing projects.

HOPI QUILT MAKING PROJECT

John Sullivan, founder and sponsor of the Hopi Project writes, "The quilting, I think, is beginning to come to fruition. I am sponsoring six Hopi women to attend quilting classes every other week. They are all really excited about it, and I know it's giving them a great deal of joy. The classes are being conducted in Winslow, AZ., by Eloise DeSpain who is a quilter and fiber artist." John has found a shop in New York City, which has agreed to carry the quilts made by Hopi women and sales are going well with a good profit on each quilt. The Hopi quilt making project uses four new sewing machines donated by Pathways.

ART INSTITUTE AT SINTE GLESKA

Using four new sewing machines donated by Pathways, the sewing studio at the art institute has been busy running a girls quilting class. These classes for young women give them the pleasure of designing and making their own quilts. The studio recently costumed two traditional plays, in cooperation with the dramatic arts program at Sinte Gleska University on the Rosebud Reservation. These plays, based on traditional stories from the Inuit and Tlingit nations, required mask making as well as capes and other costumes were spectacular.

Also, four machines are now being used to assist Edna Little Elk, a beloved elder and lifelong quiltmaker. Edna, cut and finished sixty quilt tops entirely by hand during Au-

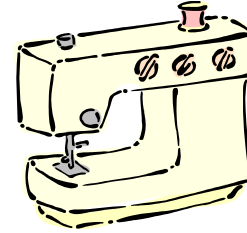
gust—her friends added up the number of quilt diamonds that she cut and sewed by hand and figured that it was approximately 34,000 fabric diamonds!

The Art Institute sewing studio plans to hold a program for making pieced star quilt pillows.

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT CIRCLE

Marlene Rouillard, Director of NAWEC, is seeking donations to sustain her sewing studio during these hard economic times. She is waiting for news on her grant proposal—meanwhile all the women in her group are in financial need. For the past two months she has concentrated on making a meal for the group each time they gathered at the sewing studio in Denver, Colorado. Pathways donated beads for a doll making project in August and fabric for making quilts in September. NAWEC really needs financial sponsorship from individual donors. We'd like to know if there's a group or an individual who would support the projects of this group either by forming a donation partnership with them or by sending a tax deductible donation to them through Pathways to Spirit. This Denver group is bringing together and supporting Indian women throughout the metropolitan area.

Finally, thank you to all who have donated to Pathways in support of the Native American Sewing Project.. We've



been able to do a lot with your financial donations and used machines and other sewing supplies. Recently we gifted one of the top quilt makers on the Rosebud Reservation with a new sewing machine and are plan-

ning to take her a serger when we visit the reservation next month. She supports her family by quilt making and has been ill, so having good sewing equipment is a great help.

To those who have never visited Rosebud or Pine Ridge, in a quilter's home the sewing machine is usually in a place of prominence in the center of the home. It is often in use day and night. It is not unusual for a quilter to make 25 or 30 quilts a month for a memorial or honoring ceremony. The gift of a well made machine makes a great difference to people's lives there—especially now as we go into the long winter. Money is shorter than ever now due to funding cuts across the board and particularly in the loss of a funding project for Indian families which, in the past, has purchased new shoes and clothes for the children at the start of the school year. The gift of a sewing machine is a gift with real value. A new machine costs \$160 and reconditioning a used machine cost \$25.

We thank you for all your support for this projects.

PLEASE SHARE A NEW TOY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

For children, life on the reservation is particularly hard. With the average yearly income around \$3500 and suicide rates among teens at six times the national average, knowing that someone from outside the reservation cares is very meaningful. Through our work on the reservations we have learned not

only the value and results of charity, but the amount of lift one can receive when they are given HOPE.

If you or your club, church or other organization you belong to can purchase a new toy for a reservation child you would be helping some very concerned parents.

We would like to have all toy donations by December 12th so that we will have time for distribution on the reservation.

Call (970)282-8573 or email us at: pathways@webaccess.net

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

NEW BEGINNINGS

Providing Housing –Saving Mother Earth Step by Step

Pathways to Spirit has been providing homes for needy reservation families since 1999. We search the entire Front Range of Colorado for suitable dignified used mobile homes and in doing so save Mother Earth from having crush mobile homes stuffed inside her. Since it's beginning we have moved 128 homes to Pine Ridge.

According to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, there are approximately 40,000 people on Pine Ridge. Half of that number are under the age of 18. With deadly black mold attacking many government houses and no way of stopping it, along with lack of enough housing, some estimate that 80% are considered homeless.

We can move a home to the reservation at an average cost of \$800. Many individuals have provided funding to give a reservation family a home. Many churches have donated money to move several homes. We are so grateful for these gifts. Many times your gift has allowed children to be brought home to their families from foster homes.

Donna and Friday Palinkx of Loveland,

Colorado have taken over the painstaking job of the search for good condition homes. We can't thank them enough for the great job they have done. The condition of the homes taken this year is beyond excellent. We are very proud.

There was disbelief on their faces. They couldn't believe this beautiful home was theirs!

Donna and Friday recently wrote a letter as to why this project was so important to them

and we want to share their sentiments with all of you.

"My husband and I started working as volunteers on this project because home has always been so important to us and our family. It touched our hearts when we heard that many people were having to leave their homes and separate their families because of black mold. After accompanying the truck driver to Pine Ridge on a home delivery, we knew we had to help. The man who received the home had such a huge heart. The family of 8, 6 children ranging in ages from 1 month to 12 years old were anxiously

awaiting our arrival. They were so excited. They were living in a home filled with black mold. Two of the six children suffer with asthma. As the driver positioned the home on the land, the children couldn't wait to get inside. As the driver opened the door, everyone piled in and there was disbelief on their faces. They couldn't believe this beautiful home was theirs! The mother told how this was a dream come true for her and her husband. She told us all her goals and dreams for their home and how it will not only get them away from black mold but also the rampant drug problem in the government housing. She had so much joy and happiness on her face. She spoke of finally having a place to make a home for not only her children but her future grandchildren as well. We realized we had brought them a home but actually something much bigger. They were brought hope for the future."

We have 3 homes waiting to go and no funds. Please give a family hope! No donation towards this project is too small.

A GENEROUS DONATION OF \$100 FROM CAPPY CAGAN WAS GIVEN IN MEMORY OF MICKY HAWK WING

Volunteers are urgently needed for:

- **Head program to pick up donations of furniture and appliances and haul to our semi**
 - **General Contractor for the building of the Library**
 - **Research assistant for our grant writer**

YES! PLEASE COUNT ME AS A SUPPORTER OF PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

4307 Goldeneye Drive, Ft. Collins, CO. 80526(970) 282-8573 www.pathwaystospirit.org email: pathways@webaccess.net
Please make your tax-deductible donations payable to: Pathways to Spirit

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Enclosed is my contribution of _____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other

Earmark my contribution for: General Operating Budget _____ Moving a Mobile Home _____ Sewing Project _____

Library Building Fund _____ Propane _____ Help for Local Lakota Boy _____

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR NEW ADDRESS WHEN YOU MOVE AS BULK MAIL IN NOT FORWARDED!



A COLORADO NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

4307 Goldeneye Dr.
Ft. Collins, CO 80526
(970) 282-8573

*We're on the web at:
www.pathwaystospirit.org*

We wish to thank **Savita Krausse**, her family and friends for dressing 150 new dolls in culturally correct dresses and making 150 sets of beautiful handmade wooden furniture. If only you could see the meticulous detail in this project. What a way to spend your spare time in the summer!

LIBRARY BECOMING A REALITY

Plans for the building of the Library on the Pine Ridge Reservation are picking up speed. We want to keep you informed of all progress and ask for your input on the design of the exterior/interior of the building. We urge everyone to go to our web site and look at the pictures of the exterior/interior design of the building. (www.pathwaystospirit.org)

Ft. Collins architect, Richard Hill, has joined forces with the original designer, Scott Rowland of Santa Barbara, California. We are very grateful to Mr. Hill and his wife Beth, a long time volunteer and supporter of Pathways.

The scale model is built and we are looking into the possibility of construction with straw bales. If you have expertise in this area, please call us at (970) 282-8573. We also want to hear from contractors

and builders in the traditional ways if you or your crew would volunteer building time. We need to know actual labor costs and would like to get as many experienced carpenters, plumbers, etc. to volunteer services to keep costs down.

We have the complete support of the Porcupine District Tribal Representatives as well as educators, spiritual leaders and elders to move forward.

Soon we will be heading to the reservation for a series of meetings which will move the process ahead even further. Two different pieces of tribal land are available and we will be offered what is called a "99 year tribal lease". This makes the land free. Both pieces of land are near established water, sewer and electric lines.

This will be a true partnership with the town of Porcupine and the Tribe.

Our first grant proposal is 99% completed. All we are needing is some statistical information and we're ready to submit to several foundations.

This is very exciting. It's a very large project and we need much expertise from so many of you. We welcome your input and skills and referrals of people you may know who can help make the most beautiful, useful library we can.

There are no libraries on the reservation. We know the population would benefit greatly from this project. With all of us working together with one heart one mind to serve the children and families of the Porcupine District, we know this dream will become a reality.

Please call us to get on the volunteer list in your area of expertise.