

# PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

Volume 9 Issue 3

Fall 2005

## A SEASON FOR THANKS AND GIVING

On October 1, 2005, Pathways to Spirit received a \$20,000 grant from the **Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community** of Prior Lake, Minnesota to assist in the moving of used mobile homes to the reservation in South Dakota. We would like to express our appreciation to the Shakopee Tribe for their trust in our efforts to fight homelessness on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Their faith in our project will enable us to move at least 18 homes in the coming year. Many reservation families will have a home of their own because of their generosity. We hope this year to improve this program by finding funding to put in wells, septic, electricity and propane.

We are also grateful to **Chris of Wallace Vacuum and Sewing**, for all his time spent reconditioning all the sewing machines that are donated to the Native American Sewing Project. Every machine that is donated goes through this process in order to ensure that there are no disappointments for the recipient.

Because of the generosity of **Susan Igou of The Bernina Sewing Studio in Boulder**, we are able to purchase new machines at a very reasonable price.

**Donna & Friday Palinkx of Loveland**, donate hundreds of hours searching the Front Range of Colorado for excellent condition used mobile homes. They can often be seen in the role of pilot car for the truck driver for the homes that are considered oversized loads.

**Richard Hill, retired architect of Ft. Collins**, has spent countless hours assisting us in finding the right architect for the Children's Library. His expertise has landed us an incredible "green architect", Paul Adams, who will begin a new design based on straw bale construction.

For 8 years, **Bob Lee of Empire Warehouse in Erie, Colorado**, has given literally thousands of reservation families the opportunity to have beds, furniture, household items, food, toys and school supplies. He has donated his truck driver and tractor to pull our semi at no charge to us. He has repaired and maintained our trailer for all these years. Recently his company made it possible for a spiritual leader on the reservation to have water and septic for the first time. There are no words to

express our gratitude to Bob.

Two incredible women, **Virginia Dare and Ruth Donnelly**, have given a monthly donation since our meager beginnings. Thank you so much for remembering us each month. Every month we are inspired when their donation lands in our mailbox. It's so inspiring to be remembered without asking.

**Dorsi Smith of Ft. Collins**, has kept our web site running for many years. She has three wonderful children and a husband to tend to but still finds time for us and Girl Scouts as well. Thank you.

**Cheri Franke, of Ely, Iowa**, was the original inspiration for the library project and she puts her attention on this constantly. She is responsible for us finding a "green architect". Doing things in an environmentally responsible way is very important to her.

We ask for blessings for each and every one of you who have ever given in any way to projects. None of them could be of success without your help. No donation is ever too large or small. We hope our tenth year will be a banner one and that you will keep remembering those who are suffering on the reservations.

## HELPING ELDERS THROUGH THE COLD WINTER

For many years, Pathways to Spirit has been providing reservation elders with oil filled electric heaters. Each heater costs approximately \$40 and we are already receiving many requests for help. These heaters provide additional heat for very cold, drafty homes.

We also, would like to ask for help in

purchasing propane for many families who run out quickly due to the extreme weather conditions in South and North Dakota. Pathways sends funds for propane directly to the propane companies. We are asked for help from families on the Pine Ridge, Rosebud, Standing Rock, Cheyenne River, Crow Creek,

and Lower Brule reservations. We receive many, many hundreds of requests and can only help a small number. It's very hard to say no to someone who has no heat or ability to cook when they run out of propane.

The price increase has made it even harder to make it through the winter. Please help!

# SHARE THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

## New Toy and Non-Perishable Food Collection

On December 8, 9, 10, Unity of Boulder is joining with Pathways to Spirit for a holiday new toy and non-perishable food collection.

We will be taking these items to the reservation on December 17th in time for all the celebrations. It is not necessary to wrap the toys but if you would like to do that, please mark each toy with a boy or girl tag and an age group.

On Sunday the 10th we will be accepting used, good condition, furniture and household items at the Unity Church at the corner of Valmont and Folsom in Boulder. We **do not take clothing**. Please call us at

(970) 282-8573 for questions regarding these larger donations. **Do not** call the Unity Church for this information.

If you know of any schools or organizations that would like to contribute to this collection, please let us know so that we may contact them.

This is a particularly hard time of year for the parents on the reservation so your donations are really very much appreciated.

We look forward to meeting all our Boulder supporters in person and make some new friends as well. So please come out and join us. And

don't forget to pass the word to family and friends.

We know many are asking for help, especially at this time of year, but we hope you realize that people on the reservation have no where to go for help except from organizations like ours.

If you live somewhere other than Boulder you can send or deliver your item to our office at 4307 Goldeneye Dr., Ft. Collins, Colorado 80526. We are accepting these items from all over the country.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

## ONE HEART ONE MIND

### Knitting and Crocheting Project

Thank you for the beautiful hats, booties, blankets and sweaters you've been sending. We're ready to send another shipment of knitted items to the Lakota Tiwahe (family) Center in Rosebud, South Dakota. We hope to send yet another before Christmas. The summer heat slowed the flow of knitting, but the cooler weather has lit the fire again.

In Boulder, you may drop off the knitted items at the Unity Church on the corner of Valmont & Folsom on December 8, 9, 10, between 9 and 5.

You can also call the Pathways office at (970) 282-8573 for drop off or pick up locations any time of year.

Winters in South Dakota are very cold and distances between homes on the reservation are great. We'd like to continue our support for the young mothers in protecting, nurturing and keeping their babies warm. Please continue knitting as we average 50 requests per month from the family center. If you'd like learn, we will be giving classes in Boulder during the winter. Call for more information. We're eager to teach

this art to all-young and old alike.

We highly recommend using the patterns in a book called, **"Knitting from the Heart"** by Kristine Spurkland. We also recommend her new book, **"Crochet from the Heart"**. Kristine encourages people to knit and crochet for charity and she has listed Pathways to Spirit among the organizations to knit for in this new book. We are very grateful for that recommendation. Get the book for some really fun patterns and projects!

## IF YOU DO HOLIDAY SHOPPING ON THE NET.....

We at Pathways to Spirit realize that everyone is not able to give at the same level. For that reason we have found other ways to give without spending one extra dollar.

An Albertsons Community Partner Card is so easy and convenient. All you do is call, email, or write for a free card. Every purchase you make at Albertson's including the pharmacy gives us a free donation.

The holidays are soon upon and if internet shopping is a way for you, go to our website and click on "How You Can Help". Once there you will see a number of places to shop that will give Pathways a percentage of your purchase. It's actually fun and easy.

If books are you fancy, click on the Amazon or Barnes and Noble banners either on our homepage or on

the "How You Can Help" page. At the Shop2Give page, we actually receive \$2 just because you join. You can purchase flowers, books, music, clothing, etc. at many of these sites.

Bookmark this page or make it a favorite and it's even easier. We hope so much you will take advantage of this easy way to give. It won't even make a dent in your checkbook.

# THE NATIVE AMERICAN SEWING PROJECT

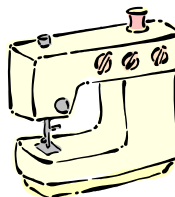
by Cynthia Cunningham

Recently we've received donations of several sewing machines, a serger, and a knitting machine. We are very grateful for these donations as a sewing machine is truly a gift to many Lakota families.

As Pathways approaches its 10th year we are happy to report that approximately 600 machines have been received and donated. Last month we received a donation of many, many yards of beautiful, new, curtain fabric from *Feather Thy Nest* in Boulder, Colorado. This fabric was given to the women who sew together in Mission, South Dakota on the Rosebud Reservation. We are so grateful for this

donation.

Looking forward, we are in need of a \$600 gift to purchase four new sewing machines for the Juvenile Detention Center in Rosebud. A curriculum will be developed around instruction in the use of these machines so that the incarcerated youths can learn to sew, take care of a machine, and learn to design and make traditional tribal dance clothing. The staff at the JDC anticipates being able to use these machines in restoring creativity and self-



sufficiency to the lives of their incarcerated youth.

In Denver, The Native American Women's Empowerment Circle hopes to give its annual Christmas gift of groceries—a ham, potatoes, vegetables, cranberry sauce, and dessert with some treats for the small children. There are 250 Indian families in the Denver area who request and receive these Holiday dinner baskets and a donation of \$1000 is needed to bring Holiday food to them. Many of the Native American families are part of the community at the Four Winds Survival Project's Native American Women's Empowerment Sewing Circle.

## RECEIVE NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY

As you may know, Pathways to Spirit is an all volunteer organization. On average, 97% of all our donations go back into program services and 3% goes toward operating expenses. We are always looking at ways to use more of your donations for our programs. We are also concerned about the environmental impact of wasted

paper. If you are interested in getting your newsletter electronically, please send or email your email address. We would also like to have your email address to let you know when we will be in your specific area with our semi or a special event. This would save us post-card postage.

It is no problem if you would still like to receive our newsletter by mail. You are on the list. Some like to share it with a friend. We are grateful for that.

So unless we hear otherwise, we will continue sending your letter by mail. But do let us know if you would like to be electronically notified for special events.

### 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 or use PayPal.com

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Earmark my contribution for: General Operating Budget \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Home \_\_\_\_\_ Heater \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday Food Basket \_\_\_\_\_ Propane \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_ Sewing Project \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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



4307 Goldeneye Dr.

Ft. Collins, CO 80526

[www.pathwaystospirit.org](http://www.pathwaystospirit.org)

Email: [pathways@webaccess.net](mailto:pathways@webaccess.net)

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## BITS AND PIECES

Recently, Pathways to Spirit has had many good things happening to fulfill our goals. Being able to find a partner in Boulder for our toy collection is certainly high on our list.

A Fairfield Inn in Loveland and Westminster, Colorado are changing out all there mattresses and box springs. So this means around 250 families on the reservation will have better sleeping conditions. They will be taken to the reservation in two separate loads. One in December and one in January.

With the grant of \$20,000 from the Shakopee Sioux Community, we will resume our movement of homes to the reservation. Our goal is to take 50 homes so we need additional help from individuals, churches, and other organizations to make that possible. With fuel being higher, the average cost is now \$1000. This program provides the opportunity for people to have their own home and in many cases, have their children returned

from Social Services of South Dakota. There is always great pride and hope in owning your own home. Gardens are popping up and horse corrals as well as chickens and goats. It's very heartwarming to see.

We received an unexpected grant from the Andrew Hebb Trust in Harvard, Massachusetts. It's so nice to know that people far from the reservation understand the ongoing needs. We were told by Donna Hebb that she found us on the internet. Our web site has provided us with many new friends and supporters. We are very grateful for the trust.

In our last communication, we asked for \$400 for text books for a college student in Chadron, Nebraska. Your response was overwhelming. We were able to take care of that right away. He has one semester left to graduate and we are sure he will need this help one more time. Please keep that in mind. Wal Mart has

offered him a manager position which would mean he would leave school but he has stuck with his studies and we are all proud of him.

We also received the donation for the hospital bed for Jennifer Black Elk from one individual. Her disability has not been approved as of yet so we try to help her with her rent whenever possible. Jennifer is the youngest daughter of Wallace Black Elk. Grandfather Wallace is now deceased but was a great friend to Pathways.

Pathways is always in need of volunteers. If you are familiar with public relations and fundraising and would like to donate some time to our organization, it would be very greatly appreciated and is so needed. We want help in spreading the word about what we do and how we do it. We also need people with expertise in grant writing. Give us a call. With the internet we reach the world.