PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

Volume 9 Issue 2

Late Summer 2005

HELP IS NEEDED AS MUCH AS EVER!

In 2006, Pathways to Spirit will celebrate its 10th anniversary of assisting native peoples. As in all our newsletters, once again we want to thank all our dear and loyal supporters. We will be planning some special events to mark the 10th year and look forward to announcing them in January.

For now, we want to once again ask for your assistance. Our country is now suffering another great loss as it did on "911" . At that time we held back on fundraising to defer to the people of New York City.

Now the people of the Gulf Coast are enduring an unbelievable crisis enduring homelessness, illness, loss of hope, income and relatives. We all must support the efforts to help them recover their lives.

At the same time, the native peoples of our country go on with the same struggles. We are hoping your generosity can assist this cause as well. Maybe we can all dig a little deeper and share our amazing fortune with several groups in need.

Things for Pathways have been a little slower this year and many volunteers have been unable to do their usual but we have continued on. Things are picking up very nicely at this time and we would like to keep the momentum going.

There are many ways to give to our efforts without using any extra money. One is through our involvement with the Albertsons Community Partnership program. Call, write or email us for a Community Partner card and each time you shop at Albertsons or use their pharmacy, show the card and we will receive a portion of the amount you spent. It's a simple way to help and it really helps us. Many of you already have the cards. For those who already have the card, please remember to use it when you shop. Our quarterly donation has dropped significantly leading us to believe you have set your cards aside. Let's please get this program going stronger again. Also, for those who purchase over the internet, we have so many sites that share income with us from your purchases. It easy and it's another way to make your dollars go further. For those who purchase from Amazon and Barnes and Noble, simply go onto our website first. On the homepage there are banners for both companies at the bottom of the page. If you go into these companies from our website and make a purchase, we receive a portion.

You can also click on "How you can Help" and it will take you to the page that lists all the companies that share their profits with us. Soon the holidays will be coming and for those who shop by internet, we appreciate your help.

We are a true grass roots organization. We are all volunteer and spend many hours finding ways to help the native people. For our new readers, we would like to review some of our programs and remind you that volunteers expertise is always needed. Funding is critical as with all non-profits and many of the bottom line programs we fund are not funded by larger foundations. We really depend on all of you.

As winter is coming, the need for propane for heating and cooking is very high. Houses are not well insulated and it gets extremely cold in South Dakota.

We continue to send good condition used mobile homes to the families most in need. Last year we sent 50 and so far this year only 13 because of lack of funding. Please keep in mind that most families on the reservation keep all the relatives who have no place to go. This means many houses hold 25 people on the average. Your donation can changes lives.

The Native American Sewing Program continues to be blessed with very good support. Recently a fabric store in Boulder donated beautiful fabric. This will be spread out among our many programs.

We have now found 3 architects interested in the Children's Library Project and we are in the interview process. It is going to be very difficult to decide.

Once again, thank you for remembering all those in need at this time. We appreciate all of you who send something every month without any asking.

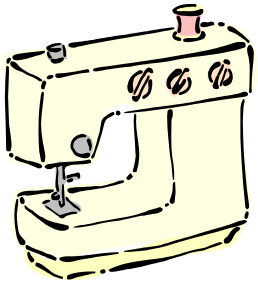
Blessings to all!

NATIVE AMERICAN SEWING PROJECT

by Cynthia Cunningham

Recently, our friend Denise One Star talked about being at Pow Wow dances and really enjoying seeing so many children now dancing in outfits made by their families. She said, "the happiness in parents eyes as they watch their little ones dancing in outfits their families have designed and sewn, lets me know that what we're doing here on the reservation in teaching sewing to families is working to strengthen our people." Denise has been involved with the sewing program from the beginning. She is a good friend of Pathways and an accomplished Pow Wow dancer as well as a skilled sewing instructor and has started many sewing groups on the Rosebud reservation in South Dakota.

Basic sewing is taught in community groups or through the schools by Denise and other sewers on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. Classes are often social occasions with entire families coming to these workshops and everyone taking part. Marla Bull Bear talked to me about starting four new sewing groups for youth in underserved communities on Rosebud this fall, one of them being Milks Camp, her home community. These programs are sponsored by the Native American Advocacy Programs and Pathways to Spirit, who recently gave Marla four new sewing machines to carry with her to teach her classes. With another summer coming to a close there is seasonal inspiration to begin quilt and shawl making classes on the reservation.



Financial help is needed by the Native American Sewing Project to buy machines and sewing tools for the sewing programs we support on the Rosebud and Pine Ridge reservations and the Native American Women's Empowerment Circle in Denver.

We are also hoping to raise the funds to buy two new sewing machines for the new Juvenile Detention Center in Rosebud. New Bernina sewing machines can be purchased wholesale at around $150. This juvenile center opened recently and many Lakota people are coming together in support of the center and the youth incarcerated there. This center fills a critical need in the local community, providing an environment where young offenders can be incarcerated and rehabilitated within the greater confines of their own traditional culture. Previously sent off the reservation, these youth are now held and worked with by professional staff and counselors at the center while still within reach of further support by their own families and the traditional teaching of community elders.

We feel this is an important and innovative development for the Rosebud community and a model for other reservations, and we like to do all we can to offer our support.

Finally a message of **THANKS** from Pathways to Spirit to the wonderful people who have donated money, tools, used and new sewing machines, and time to this project. The sewing programs we support are strong and growing more so, and we continue to work with each of them to keep the equipment we donate running smoothly and to provide instruction and materials.

We could not do it without your help.

ONE HEART ONE MIND

Nurturing New Generations by Cathryn Cunningham

One Heart One Mind has had a slow summer season as people everywhere have been less inclined to knit warm clothing as temperatures on the reservations have hovered near 100 degrees. As fall and cooler weather approaches however, I am happy to say this project is revving up again, and we have lots of new ideas.

First, I will soon be starting a weekly knitting night at The Tea Spot, located on 13th Street between Walnut and Canyon in Boulder, Colorado. We will keep fliers and copies of Kristin Spurkland's knitting book on hand in case anyone takes an interest in knitting for the babies. As the Christmas season draws near we will have nights themed around knitting for donation in which I will offer instruction in the hat and bootie patterns. Through donations I hope to put together kits with needles, yarn and patterns for the hats and booties. These kits will be available for sale and I will be happy to offer instruction or advice to anyone at any level of experience. We would like to take this project to some local schools. I will offer workshops in knitting and then pass along some of the books and yarn that have been donated. Maybe you can start the same kind of project in your home town.

I am excited to be gearing up and look forward to a season of warmth and kindness to friends on the reservation. A thousand thanks for the donations we've received. It's inspiring to pass on the knitted baby hats and booties to reservation families.

CAN YOU HELP A LAKOTA STUDENT?

A request for help has come from a very responsible young student at Chadron State College in Nebraska. He is finishing his fourth year of studies and is in need of $400 for his books. He received financial aid for all of his expenses except his books.

Right now, he has started school and is sharing books with another student and going to the library but that is very difficult and not very practical.

We have watched this young man over the years and know that he really deserves this help. He has always worked during school and the summers and has managed to stay completely away from drugs and alcohol. We know he would appreciate your help. Thank you.

YOUNG WOMAN PARALYZED IN ACCIDENT

On April 30th of this year, our dear friend, Jennifer Black Elk, was severely injured in a car accident. Jennifer is the daughter of Wallace Black Elk who is now deceased. Grandfather was a highly respected medicine man. Jennifer's spine was damaged in the accident and she is now paralyzed from the chest down. We have all been inspired by her courage and will to walk again over the last several months.

Jennifer is now being released from the hospital and has many needs. She cannot work at this time and takes care of her two children and beautiful grandchild.

The family needs immediate help. They have had to move to a first floor apartment, and of course, for now their income has dropped substantially. Jennifer used to sleep on the floor but this is no longer possible and is in need of a hospital bed. We have found one for $400. As you can imagine there are many other special needs some of which social services cannot help until her disability is approved and others that are not covered.

We know Jennifer would greatly appreciate any help you can offer at this time.

Donations can be made through PAY PAL

We keep trying to make it easy for you to donate to our causes. **Pay Pal** is a great way that many have used to send financial contributions. Just go on the internet and sign up for **Pay Pal** and they will deposit the money in our account. This is especially helpful for donations coming from out of the country.

MONTHLY DONATIONS CAN BE MADE BY AUTOMATIC TRANSFER FROM YOUR BANK TO OURS!

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY FOR THE PROPER FORMS.

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 _____**$25** _____**$50** _____**$100** _____ **Other**

Earmark my contribution for: General Operating Budget _____ **Moving Mobile Home**_____ **Student's Books** ____

Native American Sewing Project _____ **Jennifer Black Elk** _____ **Propane** _____ **Library Building Fund** _____

PLEASE NOTIFY US OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGE. BULK MAIL IS NOT FORWARDED.

PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT
A COLORADO NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

4307 Goldeneye Dr.

Ft. Collins, CO 80526

www.pathwaystospirit.org

Email: pathways@webaccess.net

Homelessness on the Reservation

The reservations of South Dakota are an amazing place. The land stretches for miles with gently rolling hills and ponderosa pine covered bluffs. Then you come to the Badlands. Amazing rock formations that send an eerie chill up your spine. All this land and many thousands of people without a place to live.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs tells us that around 40,000 people live on the reservation. Some estimate that 80% are homeless. This means some living on the street and most living in over crowded situations with relatives. Most homes average 20-25 people in the winter time.

When we talk to people regarding our work, many think these living conditions are not possible in the USA. They are possible and we have witnessed it over and over again. Government housing is substandard and there is not enough HUD funding to repair all these houses. So many go for years in deplorable conditions. Faucets leak and normal wear and tear to a house is not repaired. Many houses have deadly black mold.

Our small organization is unable to build houses at this time but we are able to take very good condition used mobile homes to the most needy. Foundations are not willing to pay for the transport of used mobile homes so we are left to ask individuals and churches for help. With your help we have moved 167 homes to date.

Thus far in 2005, Pathways is grateful for the almost $12,000 for our mobile home project and we have moved about 13 homes. But more help is needed.

We have over 600 applications of truly desperate people looking for shelter. Winter is coming and funds have run out.

Many families have land and have been on tribal housing lists for up to 20 years with no hope in sight. Some families have their children removed by social services because they do not have a proper home.

$900 helps a family receive a home and get their family back together.

No donation is too small. We know these are times when many are asking and we too need your help.