

# PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

Volume 11, Issue 2

## STRAW BALE HOME NEARS COMPLETION



We are very happy to report that the straw bale home that is being built in American Horse Creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota is nearing completion.

We are so grateful to Dave Hanson and Eric Iverson from Washington state for their unbelievable effort in driving all the way to South Dakota and leaving family behind for several weeks to bring a new way of building and living to the people on the reservation.



Our contact for this project on the reservation, Michelle Salvatore, just informed us that two tribal district representatives, Connie Whirlwind Horse and Austin Watkins, have gone to the site several times now and continue to take other tribal members to inspect the building. All are beyond pleased with this idea and feel it is an answer to housing for the elderly.



Things and new ideas move very slowly on the reservation but momentum is building for this idea. Michelle told us that Dr. Sylvio Mannel of the Oglala Lakota College and Lakota Land Project Coordinator, GPS'd the site and took pictures.



Michelle took 12 people to the site this week and all are hopeful that this type of housing could be a long term solution to the housing problem on the reservation.

According to Dave Hanson, one of the builders, "Our re-

ipient, Willard Clifford, was helpful and worked with us when he could. He will be a good person for the house because he will take care of it and happily show it to others who may be interested in the straw bale option for the future".

After Dave and Eric's first trip they reported to the financial backers of the project that the reservation is a contrasting picture of beautiful prairie and sky, along with poverty, disease, desperation and hopelessness. He said he met a man who recently attended his high school reunion. He was 43. One half of his class is deceased.

Dave and Eric said that they hoped their little straw bale house would plant a seed of hope.

In August, Dave and Eric made the long journey to American Horse Creek again and continued work on the house. As you can see from the pictures, things are progressing.

At this point, Dave said, "The house is turning out well. It will definitely be one of the warmest houses on the reservation this winter and even unfinished it was noticeably cool in the heat. Our recipient will have a good house, thanks in large part to the generosity of the donors. We think we have planted

a small seed that my bring positive returns in the future on the reservation. There is lots of interest in alternative, low-cost housing and with more education things will happen"

We visited the site in August and my heart was happy at seeing the beautiful place that was chosen, even though remote. Surely this is the most beautiful home on the reservation.

Word of this house is spreading rapidly and many people want one. We are receiving calls from elders asking to be considered.

So far \$15,000 has been spent on building this home and more is needed to complete it. We need your help. After this one is completed we will have something to show foundations that support projects such as this.

So once again, we are asking you to reach deep into your pockets and send as much as you possibly can as quickly as you can so that we can complete this house in the fall.

This is an amazing feat from two dear souls from Washington state. Dave and Eric are examples of people going beyond the call of duty to help those who are less fortunate.

# PREPARING FOR THE COLD WINTER

It's coming again, just like it does every year. Yes, winter. A coldness comes to the reservations in South Dakota. A coldness that seems to last forever. The prayer on the reservation is that all make it to see the grass turn green in the spring.

Life is even harder in the winter as the houses on the reservation are poorly, if at all, insulated. It's al-

ways amazing to me to sit inside a home and experience snow falling on my head.

We are not able to insulate all the homes on the reservation but we are able to take the electric heaters that are like radiators.

Because of your generosity in the past, we have been able to provide

many families with small children and the elderly with an additional source of heat.

These heaters are very safe and also economical. We are already getting requests to be put on the list.

\$40 provides one heater. We ask you to please help a family stay warm.

**We would like to thank New Belgium Brewery of Ft. Collins, Colorado for their grant of \$2000 towards our local Colorado projects. New Belgium is a state of the art micro-brewery. They have been featured on "60 Minutes" for being a "green technology business". We encourage anyone visiting Ft. Collins to take a tour. It's quite amazing. Thank you, New Belgium, for your faith in our efforts.**

## NATIVE AMERICAN SEWING PROJECT

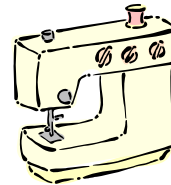
Sewing comes alive again in the early fall on the Lakota reservations and among Lakota women living in the cities. Summers are full of outdoor activities and everyone is too busy to sew. In the fall, new sewing projects will abound in the wellness clinics and programs for the women, families, elderly and teenagers.

The Native American Sewing Project is getting ready to deliver a box of beautiful woolen blankets in soft deep colors of green, lavender and rose red. The women in this workshop will be able to give them as gifts or sell them to help with holiday expenses.

A special thank you to Iris Anda of Colorado who gave us hundreds of

yards of leftover professional quality curtain fabrics for a curtain making workshop on Rosebud Reservation. The workshop is sponsored by Habitat for Humanity and this fabric will provide the women with their needed materials. This class is for women who have received homes from Habitat. They will receive Habitat "sweat credit" for completing the workshop.

We continue to need financial donations to pay for reconditioning donated sewing machines and for buying supplies like the beautiful woolen blankets mentioned above.



Also, we're asking for a donation of \$200 to purchase a new sewing machine (wholesale) for a young woman whose children have been hospitalized with black mold disease. We'd like to give her a good start at her heart's desire which is making clothes for her children.

Our third request is for donations to purchase sets of measuring tools. Each set contains: cutting mat, good scissors, a rotary cutter an extra blade, and a metal ruler. The wholesale price is \$80.

Thank you to all our donors. The Lakota culture is a sewing culture. Your donations bring happiness.

## NEW BEGINNINGS

### Moving Good Condition Used Mobile Homes

We continue to move good condition, used mobile homes to the reservation. So far, we have given over 200 families homes.

It's so fulfilling to go to the reservation and see families in their homes with gardens and swing sets and the things all families want for

their children.

We are grateful to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Community of Prior Lake, MN for their role in funding the move for 97% of these homes.

We still count on individuals, organizations, and churches to move the rest and we still need help to

continue. In time we hope to be able to switch all funding to the straw bale homes. But until much more funding is secured, we want to keep these homes moving from the Front Range of Colorado to the reservations in South Dakota.

Please continue your support.



## COLEMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2007 Recipients Chosen

Each year Pathways to Spirit awards scholarships to as many students as possible in the amount of \$250 in honor of Coleman Marshall.

Coleman passed into the spirit world in 2006 just short of his high school graduation. This scholarship is a celebration of his life and love of his family, his love of reading, and his pride in the traditional Lakota ways.

Coleman had a gentle spirit as he

spoke of difficult events in his life with an old man's sense of peace and understanding.

This year, Pathways was pleased to be able to present three students with the \$250 award.

The awards went to:

Michael Garneau, Lucy Peterson and Bruce Crow Eagle.

Michael is pursuing a degree in Human Services at Sinte Gleska University in Rosebud, South Dakota, with the goal of helping youth.

Lucy Peterson is studying at Jamestown College in North Dakota, majoring in criminal justice/political science. She intends to go to law school.

Bruce Crow Eagle is a student at Sinte Gleska University in Rosebud, South Dakota. He is studying law enforcement and computer science.

Congratulations to these recipients for their hard work and dedication to their people. We wish them great success in the future and thank all who contributed to make these grants possible.

## VOLUNTEERS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED!

Pathways to Spirit has many opportunities for volunteers. With the internet, many of these opportunities can be fulfilled by people not only in Colorado, but anywhere in the world.

We also invite retirees and their vast experience to join us in our efforts.

Call (970-282-8573) if you think you can help with any of the following:

- Project leader for the Mission of Mercy. Secure parking lot locations for our semi trailer to be parked for a day to receive donations.
- Strong bodies to pick up furniture donations.
- Volunteers to help with building straw bale homes.
- Research foundations on the internet for funding.
- Public relations. This includes getting our name and mission out there in as many ways as possible.

**PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT URGENTLY NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL DONATIONS.  
REMEMBER, WE ARE ALL VOLUNTEER AND 97% OF YOUR SUPPORT GOES TO OUR PROGRAMS!**

**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@comcast.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 \_\_\_\_\_ Straw Bale Home \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships \_\_\_\_\_

Native American Sewing Project \_\_\_\_\_ Propane \_\_\_\_\_ Electric Heater \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Home \_\_\_\_\_

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



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## ONE HEART, ONE MIND

It's already cool in the mornings on the reservation and soon it will be freezing. Reservation life is a very rural life. Houses there are built in small communities that are quite a distance from each other and many people live far from the towns where the services that support early childhood needs are located. Young mothers on the reservations often walk long distances with their babies when a ride isn't available. A warm knitted or crocheted hat, booties and mittens for a little one is necessary in the South Dakota winters. And the love that goes into a hand knit or crocheted item is priceless.

Thank you United Methodist Church of Brookside, MI for sending boxes of really beautiful knit and crochet baby hats, mittens, scarves, sweaters and the homemade polar fleece booties!

We also want to thank Nan Knight and her mother, Shirley for the knit hats they have been sending to us for years. Even though Shirley suffers with painful arthritis in her hands, she continues to knit for our projects.

Pathways would also like to thank Priscilla Ullman for her ongoing gifts of handmade baby blankets. Priscilla has given approximately 50 warm and lively colored hand made receiving blankets each year for the past three years to this projects.

We really thank those who have worked with such consistency to support this project. You are the backbone.

And, if you don't yet know of her, we

would like to introduce you to Kristin Spurland and to her two books, "*Knits from the Heart*" and "*Crochet from the Heart*". Kristin's message of "quick projects for generous giving", were the inspiration for our starting this project.

We continue to feel that handmade baby clothing and huggable bears and dolls and warm handmade socks carry a real message of love and support for a young mother learning parenting skills.

Thank you Kristin for your vision and your beautiful patterns. We are continually inspired by your compassionate spirit.

Won't you join in and provide a young mother with warm handmade items for the winter?

**A young Lakota student at Chadron State College in Nebraska needs \$350 for books!**

**Can you help?**