

PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

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MIRACLES DO HAPPEN Pahin Sinte Children's Library Becomes a Reality

In December of 2007 the miracle of a library for the children of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota began to happen. It all started with the generosity of the Board of Directors of the Lorraine David Children's Library in Erie, Colorado. They were in the process of building a new library and we were able to find a home for the old library in Porcupine, South Dakota. Finally it was all coming together.

Carolyn Tail, who started the Cokan Tio-spaye Owayawa, an alternative on-line high school, gave us a very large space to work with— a space larger than the one the library came from.

The donation consisted of 3800 children's books as well as all the contents of the library down to the last pen and pencil.

In February, we loaded the library contents onto our 48 ft. semi and headed to the reservation with our volunteers.

Still, the task of raising the money to actually build the space into a room separate unto itself had to take place. In 3 weeks time we were able to raise \$8500 from our donors. In two trips to the site consisting of a total of 8 days we finished it.

We want to extend our deepest thank you to all our generous donors and volunteers who made this dream possible.

We decided we would like to add to the Native American section of the collection and were able to do that because of all those who donated new books from our wish list on Amazon. We got all 68 books that we requested within a two week period.

The library is cozy and along with the books it includes a DVD player with a diverse collection of educational videos for the children. There is also an entire section of



Lorraine David Children's Library

magazines that offer information about the natural world from A-Z. We are sure this library is one of the most beautiful spaces on the reservation and the children love it.

Recently, when I visited the library, I was talking to a little girl and she said she couldn't really talk to me at this time because she had to put her books back on the shelves. Everyday students from the Oglala Lakota College in a nearby town come and do story time with the children.

Pathways has completed a very worthwhile and life changing project for the children on the reservation. Our role will now be one of support.

We extend our thanks to the Board of the Lorraine David Children's Library. They were honored on April 27th in a community celebration at the library.

Paul Thew, a local Colorado builder, led the construction. He donated all his time and expertise. We really needed his talents and he was right there as soon as we asked. None of the rest of us had building experience but we did it under his guidance, direction and patience.

Thank you to local volunteers: Jim Capano, Roberta Davies, Susanne Emerick, Cheri Franke, of Ely, Iowa, Linda Meadows, and Devon Parker. Their enthusiasm and dedication to the project carried us through some very late nights.

We want to thank Carolyn and Eli Tail from Porcupine for sharing their school with us and the community.

Thank you to Kathy Fry, Rod Kemper, Nancy and Chuck Bloser, Franklin Klausner and John Cunningham, and our truck driver Tracy Perry and his wife Lois for helping us load the semi.

Thank you Cindy Cunningham for helping raise a good part of the funds.

And always, thank you to Bob Lee of Empire Warehouse for providing the tractor trailer to pull our semi.

To see an excellent video of the library and the government housing project where it is built, go to our website at :

www.pathwaystospirit.org

Click on "blog" and it will come up under the section marked library. We know you will enjoy it.

LIBRARY PHOTOS



Moving Day Volunteers



Preparing for Educational Videos!



This looks interesting!



Must be an interesting story!

Albertson's Community Partner Cards

Many years ago, Pathways to Spirit became part of the Albertson's Community Partner Card Program. At that time hundreds of our supporters got the cards from us and used them to the extent that we received around \$500 every quarter.

Then Albertson's was sold to another corporation who temporarily stopped

the program. Last summer the program was reinstated. Albertson no longer uses the same cards you all had a few years back. Only a few people have requested their new cards from us and the quarterly check is around \$20. This is a big hit for us. As you all know, we are a small grass roots organization and we really need your support in

every way possible.

Please call or email today for your free community partner card and every time you shop at the store or pharmacy, show your card and we will receive the benefits of your purchases. It's easy and costs your nothing and helps us with our operating expenses. Thank you.

Organic Gardens on the Reservation

One Man's Dream Inspires a New Project

We are going to share with you a letter we received from Duane Yellow Cloud from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. We were so inspired by Duane's request that we decided to ask for your help with the hopes of this request becoming an inspiration for other families on the reservation.

Families could begin growing their own food and possibly grow enough to sell to other families who have no land.

We hope Duane's letter will inspire you all to help begin the "Sustainable Living Project".

"My name is Duane Yellow Cloud. I am a full blood Oglala Lakota Sioux. I grew up in the Porcupine District. I have a family of 8 children and my wife. We all live in a 3 bedroom home along the west bank of Porcupine Creek. In the spring of 2006 I started to raise my own vegetables. It was so successful that I wanted to try it again. Since then, I got serious with growing a garden. It is what is known as an organic garden.

On our family monthly income, we often would travel to Rapid City to shop for food, clothing and other supplies. The length of the trip is about a 90 mile drive one way to Rapid City. During one of those trips this past year, I decided to stop at a green house supplier called **Plantsmyth**. They sell all types of garden supplies for the do it yourselfer.

I consider myself one of those "do it yourselfer" individuals who would like to get started on a larger project, which would include a greenhouse. I would use the greenhouse all year long to grow a vegetable garden to produce fresh vegetables to help our community grow and to help my family to eat healthier and nutritious foods.

I understand the responsibility involved with having a greenhouse. An economic responsibility would mean that development of fresh produce would assist with a healthier lifestyle for my family and my people. A social responsibility means that I would assist with a healthier lifestyle for my family and

my people. A social responsibility means that I would be contributing to the development and promotion of more sustainable ways of living in this community. Those who have visited this community have been witness to the consumptive ways of living which breeds corruption, waste, and degradation of the land.

Therefore, I am requesting your help assisting me with the development of a greenhouse project on the Porcupine Creek. This will be the first greenhouse for any family along the creek."

Pathways has decided in the last year to develop projects that really make a difference and can change the hard reality of life on the reservation.

We have built 2 straw bale structures, the children's library, provided 262 mobile homes and now we ask your help in acquiring a greenhouse for Duane and his family. We have looked into the cost of a small greenhouse and all the parts necessary for Duane to have success and feel we need to raise \$3500.

Please join in our excitement by sending your donation today.

PROPANE \$\$ ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. PLEASE HELP!

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: pathwaystospirit@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 _____ Greenhouse _____

Native American Sewing Project _____ Propane _____ Electricity _____ Sacred Voices _____

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



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DONATIONS URGENTLY NEEDED!

This newsletter comes with an urgent request for your financial donations. Pathways to Spirit is going into its 13th year of helping our friends on the reservations. An incredible amount of diverse help has taken place with the efforts of 6 people.

Much time has passed now and volunteers get worn out and lives change. In the last year, several project managers moved on to other things and we were left very short-

handed. All of us have other jobs and responsibilities and we rely heavily on your financial help to keep things going.

We have a small operating budget but we do have monthly expenses. At the same time the needs of the people remain very high.

As the children go back to school they need school supplies and as the weather gets colder the need for

propane and electricity increases.

Elders struggle the most and we have always been there for them. Many lose their spouses in the winter for some reason and we have helped with funeral expenses.

Our funds are dangerously low and we are asking for your help. If you can reach deeper into your pockets and share what you have with those in need we would be very grateful.

Native American Sewing Project

We are proud to report that we continue to help set up sewing groups on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations. We ask for your continued support for these sewing groups through the donation of good condition used sewing machines, fabric, and all the things that go with sewing such as scissors, needles, thread, cutting boards, etc. Every donation goes to a family or group who truly use and respect these gifts. For around \$175 we can purchase a new Bernina machine. If sewing is meaningful to you, pass on your love for sewing by donating to this project.