

PATHWAYS TO SPIRIT

Volume 13

Fall, 2009

A SEASON FOR THANKS & GIVING

Your Help is Urgently Needed

The end of another year is upon us. In our efforts to save money in these more challenging economic times, we used our web site and blog to solicit donations. It did not net us the donations that we usually receive by using the good old fashion method-the US Postal Service.

We therefore need your help more urgently than ever. The winter is coming and coming way too early this year. Below freezing temperatures hit the Dakotas this year in October. The requests for propane, electricity and wood are already coming in on a daily basis. Last year we raised \$40,000 for propane and it was used in 2 months time. Our goal this year is \$60,000.

We are pleased to announce that once again The Sunshine Lady Foundation donated \$30,000 for our propane fund. Although this is a large amount we are still in need of another \$30,000 to be able to make it through the winter.

Pathways to Spirit operates on a very minimal yearly budget of around \$5000. 97% of donations go to program services. Remember, we are an all volunteer organization. As of this time our funds are at the lowest they have been since our inception in 1996.

As many of you know, our work is one of compassion towards our nations first people. We focus on basic needs such as food, housing, and utilities. These are not the interests of most foundations so your support is needed all

year round.

This year brought fulfillment to several projects. Because of your generosity, Duane Yellow Cloud received his greenhouse and books to learn how to expand his organic gardening business. Others on the reservation were inspired by his enthusiasm and have requested greenhouses also.

We made repairs on trailers and took several semi's loaded with donations to the Pine Ridge Reservation.

We were able to work with the Barr Foundation to help Harvey Iron Boy get the prosthetic foot needed one year after his amputation.

We moved 6 trailers to the reservation. So 6 more families got a home. Because of lack of funding and lack of available trailers this program has suffered. We still receive on average, 10 applications a week.

The Native American Sewing Project continues to provide new and used machines and sewing materials to many sewing groups on both the Pine Ridge and the Rosebud Reservations in South Dakota

You have trusted us with your dona-

tions and we value your trust. We are asking you at this time to reach as deeply as possible into your pockets and help us continue our work. We promise to use you donations in the best possible way to bring dignity and hope to the Lakota people. We are setting our goals for 2010

and need your support more than ever. As our nation has endured difficult economic times, this has effected many non-profits' ability to continue. We have been blessed to



have your support and know that you appreciate our work. We do make a difference in the lives of those we serve. Sometimes it may seem small but to listen to those on the reservation it is anything but small.

We are nearing the end of 2009 and wish to once again ask that you all receive much good in your lives and that through the spirit of service we can enhance and brighten the lives of the less fortunate. Please send your tax-deductible donation today. Thank you.

NEW TOYS NEEDED FOR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

The holiday season is coming for the children on the reservations. We are asking your assistance in purchasing a new toy for children in need.

This time of year is especially difficult for the parents as their limited funds are even more depleted due to winter weather.

Please send or bring your gift by our office by December 5th so that we will have it in time to take to the reservation on December 12th.

Native American Sewing Project Update

by Cynthia Cunningham

The cost of reconditioning a used, donated machine starts at \$25 (school rate) and increases when new parts are necessary. Each machine we receive is serviced before we send it off to an individual or school. As well, machines break down from time to time and we try to repair those.

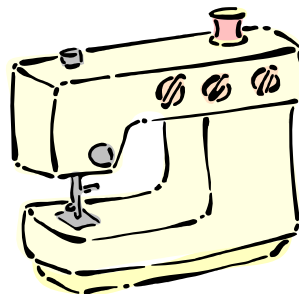
Do you have a working treadle machine that you would like to donate to an elder on the reservation? Please let us hear from you if you do!

Treadle machines are highly valued by the elders on the reservations.

Most elders learned to sew on these machines and are very comfortable with them.

If you would like to gift a new sewing machine (\$250) or pay for

the reconditioning of a used one (\$25) this holiday season please send your donation to Pathways to Spirit by check or PayPal. Be sure to earmark it for the **SEWING PROJECT**.



Thank you! Your contribution will be truly meaningful to someone who receives a sewing machine this winter.

PROPANE FUNDS URGENTLY NEEDED! EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!

UNITED NATIONS OFFICIAL TO VISIT PINE RIDGE RESERVATION TO INVESTIGATE HOUSING CONDITIONS

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Raquel Rolnik, was to visit the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota on November 1st during her official visit to the United States where she will be focusing on the human right to housing. She will investigate conditions in public housing as well as homelessness, the foreclosure crises and the lingering impacts of Hurricane Katrina. South Dakota is one of six states Ms. Rolnik will visit in addition to Washington, D.C., during her official mission to the United States. Pine Ridge is her only scheduled visit to an Indian reservation.

The Rapporteur's visit will provide an opportunity for her to view housing conditions on Pine Ridge, meet

with tribal and community members and examine the Treaty and Trust obligation of the U.S. Government to the Lakota and other Indian Nations which includes housing, education, health and other social services. The UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples, adopted in 2007 by the UN General Assembly, affirms the international character of these Treaty Rights and the obligations of countries to honor and uphold them. Housing remains a significant problem on the Pine Ridge reservation and throughout Indian Country. A preliminary report provided by the Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing Authority stated:

"housing built and indirectly maintained by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(through thoroughly inadequate grants in aid to the Lakota Oglala Sioux Pine Ridge Reservation) is in a deplorable state. Holes in the walls are inadequately repaired by the resident with duct tape and cardboard, mold is a constant menace to health, the units are severely overcrowded, and trash is not collected, among many housing problems.

The Lakota Nation, among other Indian Nations, is a party to treaties with the United States, signed in the mid and late 1800's. Among the United States Treaty Obligations is the provision of subsistence and housing, guaranteed to them for their stolen lands and the extermination of their primary means of subsistence, the Buffalo".

The Link Foundation Passes the Torch

A sister organization to Pathways to Spirit, the Link Foundation suffered a terrible loss with the passing of Stephanie Schwartz in August of this year.

Stephanie worked tirelessly to keep

the foundation going along with her Board of Directors after the passing of the founder, Audrey Link in 2008.

We have been asked to continue their work and we appreciate their trust in us to do that.

To all those who donated to the Link Foundation over the years, we ask for your trust and continued support so that we may carry the torch to support the disabled and elderly just as Stephanie and Audrey did. Our sympathy to all.

MARCI'S STORY

by Rich Winter, Todd County Tribune

2009-2010 was supposed to be 'the year' for Todd County high school senior, Marci Rodriquez. (Rosebud Reservation) Blessed with good looks, athletic talent and an outgoing smile, the 18 year old senior had the world by the tail.

That all changed on a tragic night in late May when Marci was thrown from a vehicle and left paralyzed from the chest down.

Her spinal cord was not severed, her back was broken which caused a compression of the spinal cord. It has been stated that with two or three years of intensive physical therapy she might gain a greater degree of

mobility. A medical source has suggested that getting Marci on her feet, on a daily basis causing the stimulation of the nerves around her injury is crucial to her long-term prognosis.

Before her accident Marci was an athlete-a talented basketball player. The Lakota Nation Invitational basketball tournament (www.lakotaelite.com/) will take place in Rapid City in Mid-December. Marci's friends and her team of fundraisers will place an ad in the program for financial help for her as well as a table selling items to help meet Marci's ongoing medi-

cal expenses.

Currently Marci's fundraising team is waiting to receive equipment that has been donated, until they are fitted, they won't know if the equipment will work for Marci. Immediate needs are for a Neuro-Muscular Stimulation Device and cash donations for Marci's Medicaid co-payments for her physical therapy, which will start in November..

If Marci's story touches your heart, please earmark your donations for the **Marci Rodriquez Medical Fund.**

WINTER PROPANE DONATIONS CAN SAVE A LIFE!

BARR FOUNDATION PROVIDES PROSTHETIC FOOT

In 2008 a dear friend of Pathways to Spirit, Harvey Iron Boy, had his foot amputated. Harvey is a headman and respected elder in the Porcupine community on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

Harvey was unable to afford a prosthetic foot and became disabled and unable to continue his work finding needed services for the elders. We

watched him hop around with a walker and lose his strength.

One year later, Pathways spoke with Valerie Horan of the Horan & McConaty funeral homes in the Denver, Colorado area. We asked what happened to the prosthetic devices of those who passed on. Valerie's staff turned us on to the Barr Foundation who takes these

devices and sends them to third world countries.

After speaking with them about Harvey Iron Boy, they were thrilled to provide the prosthetic foot he needed to get his life going again. We hope to help more on the reservation through this amazing foundation.

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

4307 Goldeneye Drive, Ft. Collins, CO. 80526 (970) 282-3819 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 _____

Native American Sewing Project _____ Propane _____ Marci Rodriquez Fund _____ Greenhouse _____

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



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SPIRIT OF SERVICE

Pathways to Spirit Receives Recognition in a New Book

Much to our delight, we were recently advised that Pathways to Spirit would be mentioned in a new book, **“Spirit of Service: Your Daily Stimulus for Making a Difference”**. Check your local bookstore for a copy.

Inspired by President Obama’s national call to service, this daily reader will hopefully inspire many to meet the challenge of helping others with hope, energy, personal resources, and innovation.

“Spirit of Service” prompts you to engage with short daily readings that explore the many ways you can get involved in service to others.

Pathways to Spirit has been involved in service to others for 13

years as of this writing. Our involvement with the Lakota people has brought us more than we have been able to give. Pathways is in a very great need of volunteers. Most non-profit organizations report that volunteers experience burn out and move on.

We need your help not only for financial donations but for the expertise you have in many areas that could be of service to our organization.

We urgently need strong men willing to help with loading furniture and household items onto our semi. This program has suffered lately due to lack of volunteers. We receive many calls for donations but do not have enough staff to do all

the pick ups. Our friends on the reservation need these items, so we need your help.

We are always in need of grant writers, those experienced in public relations and media, carpenters, plumbers, and electricians. There are many retired folks out there who could really add a lot with all their years of experience in the work force.

We are all volunteer and hope you will join us in the spirit of service. It does the heart good.

Call us at 970-282-3819 or email us to sign up today and allow your expertise to shine with the spirit of volunteerism. We can make a difference.