

Building neHouse

RED FEATHER DEVELOPMENT GROUP 2005 ANNUAL REPORT



"Sacred Hoop" by DG House © 2005

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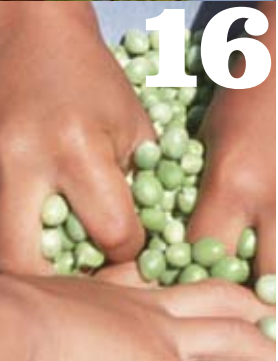
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For more information,
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website at www.redfeather.org.

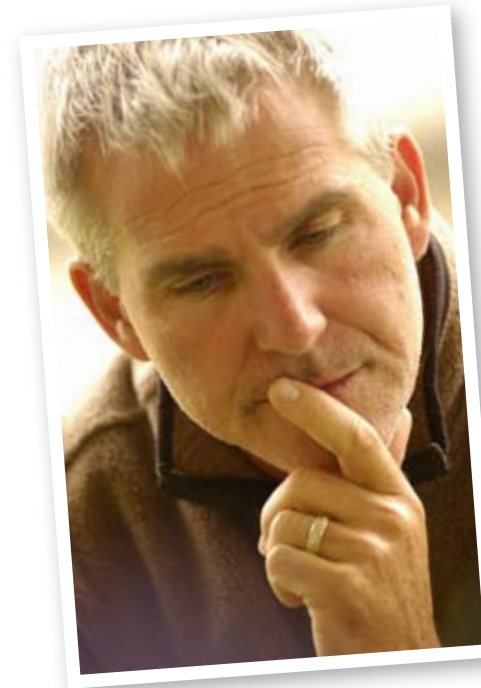


Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

Message from the Director

Before my involvement with Red Feather, I rarely, if ever, gave a thought to those less fortunate. I had what I now consider to be a very self-absorbed, materialistic point of view. I somehow thought that it was someone else’s responsibility to assist the majority of the world’s population that lives in utter poverty. Unfortunately, I’m confident that I shared this attitude with far too many other individuals pursuing the “American Dream,” whatever that may be.

It seems more and more that TV news and reality shows are obsessed with reports of self-indulgent caricatures of the super-rich on an endless shopping spree without a care in the world. We also see near continuous coverage of corporate executives engaged in theft, apparently consumed by extraordinary levels of greed. This kind of media coverage makes it appear that the majority of us are both obsessed with the pursuit of wealth and disdainful of those who have it. We then export this obsession beyond our borders, and much of the world’s population believes that this is what the United States represents.

It is unfortunate that those engaged in the effort to improve the world in which we live are absent from a media preoccupied with highlighting the most obscene act of the day. We could all learn so much from the examples set by Red Feather members and the native families we work alongside. They demonstrate on a daily basis that it is possible to succeed and not leave the world and it’s communities behind in the process. Your kindness and generosity has allowed Red Feather to take unprecedented steps in our endeavor to implement sustainable housing programs with the Northern Cheyenne Nation of Montana and the Hopi Nation of northern Arizona. It has also allowed us to bring on much needed staff members to manage the difficult task of working in some of the most remote communities in the United States.

Our ongoing challenge is to continue to ask ourselves what kind of world we wish to live in, and to recognize that we are all part of the problem and ultimately the most vital part of the solution. I want to express my deepest appreciation for all those Red Feather volunteers that have donated time away from their families and loved ones to help another family build a safe place to raise their children. For each tribal nation that has welcomed our organization onto the reservation, thank you. For all those that have financially supported our effort, I want to commend your undying generosity and to let you know that none of what we do happens without your involvement. You have provided hope to so many, and I look forward to what we can all accomplish with your continued participation in our worthy endeavor.

Sincerely,

Robert O. Young

*Founder / Executive Director
Red Feather Development Group*



If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves.

—Thomas Edison



Restless people all over the world create positive social change, sometimes transforming entire systems and effecting whole populations. Perhaps the most important action we, as individuals, can take to improve the state of our own nation is to offer support that effectively proliferates good deeds. As members of Red Feather, you have initiated that change. Your organizational and programmatic support of the American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative propels Red Feather forward. Each of us at Red Feather is passionate about solving the housing crisis affecting thousands of American Indian families. Founder and Director Robert Young has been bold in his vision of a community-centered solution. In his fixed determination to act, Robert has provided each of us with the sustained focus necessary to create systemic change within tribal communities. But it is you, our Red Feather members, that have

supplied Red Feather with the resources that make that vision possible.

Only through inspiration and vigilant awareness can we become the change we want to see in the world. Today you have the chance to be that change.

We have only just scratched the surface of the work ahead of us. Imagine what we can accomplish with your continued support and involvement.

Please take the time today to support Red Feather's educational endeavors and the construction of much needed homes on the reservation. Please renew your membership by filling out the enclosed envelope, but don't stop there. Tell a friend about Red Feather; bring Red Feather up in conversation over lunch; round up a couple of new members in an effort that goes beyond our own circles and spirals out in new responsibility for all of us, especially those who need our help the most.





Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

Volunteers at the TMCC ERC, August 2005

NORTHERN CHEYENNE STRAW BALE HOME CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Project Location: Northern Cheyenne Nation, Montana

Project Date: June 3 through July 1, 2006

Notify Red Feather by: March 17, 2006

The following is the weekly project arrival and departure schedule:

Week One: Arrive June 3rd
Depart June 10th

Week Two: Arrive June 10th
Depart June 17th

Week Three: Arrive June 17th
Depart June 24th

Week Four: Arrive June 24th
Depart July 1st

HOPI STRAW BALE HOME CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Project Location: Hopi Nation, Arizona

Project Date: September 2 - 30, 2006

Notify Red Feather by: May 2, 2006

The following is the weekly project arrival and departure schedule:

Week One: Arrive September 2nd
Depart September 9th

Week Two: Arrive September 9th
Depart September 16th

Week Three: Arrive September 16th
Depart September 23rd

Week Four: Arrive September 23rd
Depart September 30th



Red Feather volunteers at the Hopi build, April 2005.

2006 VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Red Feather would like to announce our 2006 straw bale home construction projects! Our first project will be on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, and our second project will be on the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. Additionally, we are currently working with the Hopi community to coordinate the simultaneous construction of two straw bale homes.

Please note the revised Red Feather volunteer fee below.

New Volunteer Fee:

Adults: \$250/person for one week,
\$50 for each additional week

Students & Seniors: \$200/person for one week,
\$50 for each additional week

Participants of Red Feather's straw bale home construction projects must volunteer for a minimum of one week, up to a maximum of four weeks. You must also be a Red Feather member in order to participate. Becoming a member entitles you to receive our annual report *Building One House*, information on special Red Feather events and announcements on volunteer opportunities. Becoming a member only requires a minimum donation of \$25 and must be renewed annually.

To join Red Feather's membership, please visit our web site at www.redfeather.org and go to our "Join/Donate" page to donate with your credit card. For check or money order donations, please mail to:

Red Feather Development Group
P. O. Box 907
Bozeman, Montana 59771-0907

Once you have donated, please complete

our online Volunteer Application and Participation Agreement.

Please note that Red Feather's book *Building One House: A Handbook for Straw Bale Construction*, available on our online "Merchandise" page, is required reading for every volunteer attending a Red Feather project.

If you are interested in volunteering for one or both of the projects mentioned below, please email info@redfeather.org or contact us at (406) 585-7188 and provide the following information:

- 1) Which project you would like to attend (remember, you can attend both!)
- 2) Your first choice of week(s) to volunteer
- 3) Your second choice of week(s)
- 4) Your phone number and your e-mail address
- 5) Any updates to your contact information.

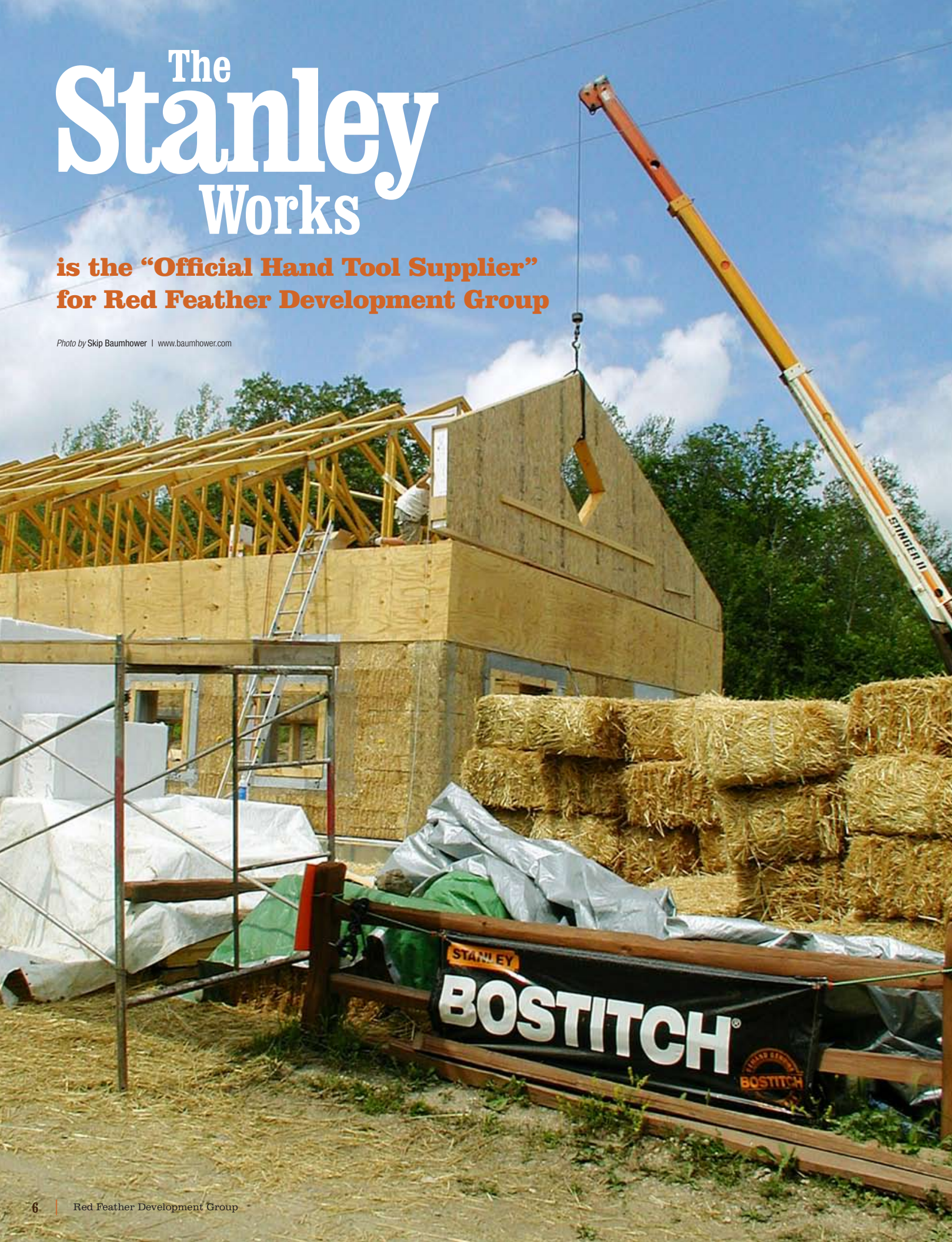


Hopi home gets a second coat of stucco.

The Stanley Works

is the “Official Hand Tool Supplier”
for Red Feather Development Group

Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com



Mary Tenakhongva, family and RF staff with donated Stanley home maintenance kit.

Red Feather Development Group is pleased to announce a new partnership with The Stanley Works as the “Official Hand Tool Supplier” of our American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative. Under this agreement, The Stanley Works will provide Red Feather with an array of tools to be used during the construction of each reservation home. In addition, The Stanley Works will make a financial contribution for ongoing support of Red Feather initiatives.

“Here at home and around the world, The Stanley Works supports organizations that share Stanley’s commitment to make something great, both with our products and in our communities,” said John

Lundgren, Chairman and CEO of The Stanley Works. “I can think of few better examples of this spirit than Red Feather. Its American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative builds upon each tribe’s unique traditions and leverages community education techniques to develop a hands-on, how-to approach to solving housing problems on these reservations. We salute Red Feather on its long-term vision of self-sufficiency and unique approach to education, and are proud to lend our support to these efforts.”

“Red Feather would like to thank Stanley for its continued generosity and involvement in Red Feather’s American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative,” said Robert Young, Founder and Director of Red Feather Development Group. “Stanley’s role as Red Feather’s Official Hand Tool Supplier is a testament to its concern for those less fortunate and its belief that a safe place to call home is a necessity for all families throughout the world. We consider it an honor to work in partnership with such a company, and we look forward to Stanley’s continued participation in Red Feather’s endeavor.”

About The Stanley Works

The Stanley Works (NYSE: “SWK”) is a worldwide supplier of consumer products, industrial tools and security solutions for professional, industrial and consumer use. Consumer products include hand tools, mechanics tools, tool storage, and hardware. Industrial tools include fastening systems, auto assembly tools, storage systems, professional laser measuring and leveling tools and hydraulic attachments. Security Solutions includes the integration and supplying of security systems and access control solutions, including automatic door and locking systems for commercial applications.





National Summit

The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sponsored the *National Indian Housing Summit* (NIHS) September 19th-22nd in Reno, Nevada. HUD Deputy Assistant Secretary Roger J. Boyd, ONAP Information and Communication Manager Francis Harjo, and EPA National Tribal Programs Coordinator Charles Bearfighter Reddoor worked diligently to sponsor Red Feather at the summit.

Red Feather presented its work in “*Designing and Building Healthy Communities*”—a forum focused on models of healthy tribal communities, new concepts and designs for healthy communities, and models of innovative world communities. Red Feather also debuted the latest film production of *Building One House*, narrated by Robert Redford, written and directed by Reid Carolin of Halfway to Hardin Films, Christine Edwards of Fitzgerald Brunetti Productions, Ward Serrill of Pyramid Communications, and Phil Lucas. From that debut came interest in showing the film at the *Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival* in Nevada City, California, January 13th-15th. *Hatch Film Festival* in Red Feather's home town of Bozeman, Montana, showed the film this past October in its Native American showcase.

Representatives from nearly every tribal housing authority in the country, including Native Hawaiians, attended the National Summit. Concurrently, more than 50 vendors from across the states held a trade show representing lenders such

as Wells Fargo Bank, JP Morgan Chase and Washington Mutual, and contractors including those who manufacture and sell modular homes, construct with insulated concrete forms, and build log homes. Red Feather had the opportunity to promote its corporate supporters—Stanley, Bosch, Permlight, and Insulation Solutions—while also presenting its model for sustainable construction in Indian Country, the *American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative*.

One vendor of particular interest to Red Feather was SMA—a solar inverter company that supplies the North and South American renewable energy markets with the highest efficiency, most reliable inverters available—a potential off-grid power source for small rural reservation villages. Red Feather hopes to develop a partnership with SMA as an additional component of sustainability in Red Feather's Initiative. Additionally, Red Feather talked with representatives from the University of Illinois-Urbane/Champaign about initiating a study of the cost of operating a straw bale house versus a conventionally constructed home of the same size.

It was truly a pleasure for Red Feather to be involved in the *National Indian Housing Summit* this year and to have had the opportunity to share its model for sustainable, replicable development with so many wonderful people. Red Feather would like to give a special thanks to Rodger J. Boyd, Francis Harjo and Charles Bearfighter Reddoor, all of whom made it possible for Red Feather to attend.

Busby Northern Cheyenne Reservation Montana Profile

Statistics can never capture the spirit of a person let alone a culture. In each of our experiences with the Northern Cheyenne, Red Feather staff have made friendships built on trust. We have encountered deeply reverent elders, hard-working young people, socially conscious and intelligent townspeople. The statistics we present here are merely indicators of various elements that call attention to the need for affordable housing and healthy homes within the Northern Cheyenne population.

- Population 695 (89.5 % American Indian);
- Per capita income: \$8,383—2.6 times less than the US average of \$21,587;
- 50.3% poverty rate—5.5 times higher than the 9.2% US average.
- Northern Cheyenne unemployment rate: 27%—5.2 times higher than the US at 5.2%.
- In 2000, median value of owner-occupied housing was \$49,162, decreasing dramatically since 1981 when the real median value was \$83,781.¹
- Nearest grocery store: 17 miles

According to the Northern Cheyenne Social Preservation Project²:

Alcoholism, drug use, and crime are all proportionately related to economic indicators. Current infrastructure is terribly inadequate to support manufacturing or other large scale employing business ventures. On the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, there are dirt roads and outdoor toilets, insufficient street lighting and poor waste management. Tourism is non-existent. As you will see from the data below, the data collected by the Northern Cheyenne Social Preservation Project paints a much grimmer picture for the reservation than do 2000 Census Bureau statistics. Unemployment is 65-78% or 23 times that of the US and poverty strikes 87% or 8 times the US average.

Waiting list for housing on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation:

- Over 700 families await affordable housing
- Of the 800 existing units 403 are in need of minor to extensive rehabilitation
- As many as 5-8 families are living in one house

Crime occurs 2.5 times the national rate on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation:

- 65% of arraignments in 2000 were related to alcohol and drugs
- Family violence is “reported to be an epidemic on the Reservation.”

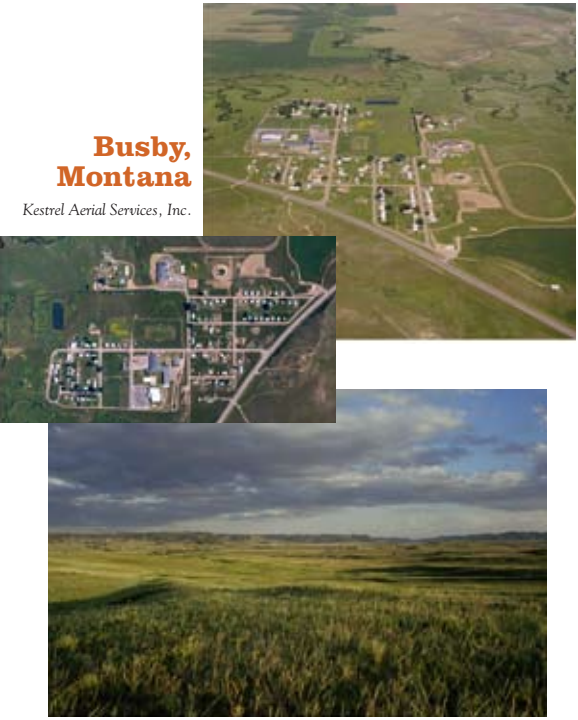
Diabetes on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation:

- 14% (US-3%)
- 78% of school age children possess 1 or more risk factors for diabetes

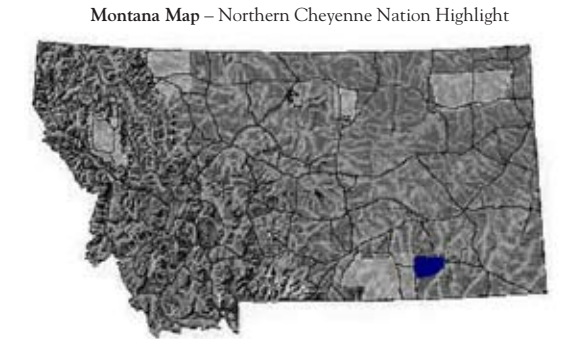
¹ 1999: US Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, (<http://factfinder.cenecuse.gov>). Information from Northwest Area Foundation Website at www.nwaf.org

² Northern Cheyenne Social Preservation Project, “Social Preservation” <http://www.socialpreservation.org/socialpres.html>, 2004

P E R S P E C T I V E



Northern Cheyenne Landscape, Montana
Photo by: Michael Rosenberg



Northern Cheyenne



The Northern Cheyenne Nation lies where the wild edges of the Dakotas merge with the calm rolling hills of eastern Montana. Neighbor to the Crow Nation on the west and bordered by the Tongue River on the east, the Northern Cheyenne are known for their steadfast defense of the quality of land, air, and water—as well as their quality of life—in the face of coal development in surrounding areas. The tribe is also careful to manage its timber resources by selectively harvesting trees. The use of straw bales for much needed homes maintains the Northern Cheyenne respect for the land and trees because the resource is renewable, locally available and volunteer-friendly.

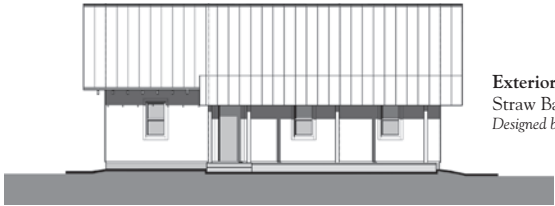
Red Feather would like to thank the Northern Cheyenne Nation for once again inviting our staff to the first in a series of project meetings. Our most recent meeting was a prelude to continuing our long-term friendship with the Northern Cheyenne Nation and progressing with a June 2006 straw bale home project with the Roundstone family.

Lead by Herman Bear Comes Out and Thomasine Elkshoulder of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority, the meeting took place in Lama Deer, Montana, the largest town—population just over 2000—on the reservation. Red Feather staff presented adjusted concept sketches, addressed questions and concerns, and encouraged first-time homebuyers Mark and Tammy Roundstone to continue their good work despite the challenges of securing the title

status report on allotted land. Our discussion of basic functionality and spatial necessities in design helped Red Feather staff to understand the particular requirements of the Roundstone family. Red Feather continues to develop the construction documents for the upcoming June build and embraces the idea of building this straw bale home as a model from which other Northern Cheyenne tribal members can learn.

Throughout the pre-construction process, it is essential that Red Feather actively engages with community members and tribal leaders in order to understand the impacts of building within culturally specific regions. Tapping into the existing knowledge of those we serve is essential in the process of building healthy communities. On a local level, Red Feather will yield to the community's wishes in determining the most appropriate candidate for a home. Other factors such as completing a Home Buyers Education course, land site approval, community relations, and the ability to secure a mortgage are all dynamics that Red Feather, tribal housing and each interested individual or family will consider.

Red Feather's mission to assist American Indian communities is one of positive support and guidance, open to suggestion and evaluation at every step. As the Roundstone project comes to fruition in the warmer months of 2006, Red Feather looks forward to making more Northern Cheyenne friends in support of healthy communities and culture.



Exterior Perspective
Straw Bale Home
Designed by Nathaniel Corum



Red Feather Initiates The Indigenous Builders' Exchange

Photos by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

This spring, Red Feather hosted its first Indigenous Youth Cultural Exchange between Hopi elementary students and Yup'ik Eskimos of Goodnews Bay, Alaska. Six Yup'ik high school students and their teachers camped alongside Red Feather volunteers in Hotevilla, Arizona (Hopi Reservation) in order to assist in the construction of Hopi tribal elder Mary's straw bale home and to share their culture with Hopi students.

The pilot exchange was a tremendous success; however, after evaluating the program and its outcomes in light of Red Feather's mission and our current focus, Red Feather has adjusted the trajectory of the exchange. We found that high school students have a limited capacity to directly lead their own communities toward sustainable development or to further transfer their knowledge of straw bale construction to the community at large—despite being hard working and joyful to work with. That is why Red Feather is currently seeking individuals in leadership positions or with leadership potential who are seriously invested in sustainable development for their own communities. We seek native college-age students, community leaders, tribal housing authority staff, and homemakers interested in learning the details of straw bale construction. We would like these native individuals to participate in the construction projects on their own reservation and also to spend up to four weeks on the sister reservation, further enhancing their technical skills in sustainable development.

Upon evaluating the youth exchange program, we saw very clearly that we could make a much larger impact and accomplish the goals of our mission through focusing more intensely on the communities with whom we have already established relationships: the Hopi and Northern Cheyenne. This not only minimizes the cost (environmental and financial) of airfare, but reinforces the educational objectives of the housing initiative

already established within these communities. Through the intense and relevant process of building a Red Feather home, friendships form that cross boundaries that too commonly keep people apart. It also gives each native group the chance to focus solely on the home building process just as any other Red Feather volunteer does—including camping and eating each meal at the site.

We are currently identifying both Northern Cheyenne and Hopi participants that wish to learn the technical details of straw bale construction for their own communities. In June 2006, Red Feather will host a group of engaged Hopi tribal members at the Northern Cheyenne straw bale build. Then in September 2006, Red Feather will host a group of Northern Cheyenne tribal members at a Hopi build. These individuals will receive twice the exposure to straw bale construction methods as they would working solely on the homes in their own villages. They can be a part of the process from start to finish while also learning best practices of the partner reservation.

Red Feather sees the Indigenous Builders' Exchange as a complement to the educational objectives of the American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative through focusing on the people that are or will be the policy makers for their tribes and nations in just a few short years.

We look forward to this new and exciting path.



Photos by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com



AIAS Forum 2005

The Global Gathering of Architecture and Design Students

December 29, 2005 – January 1, 2006

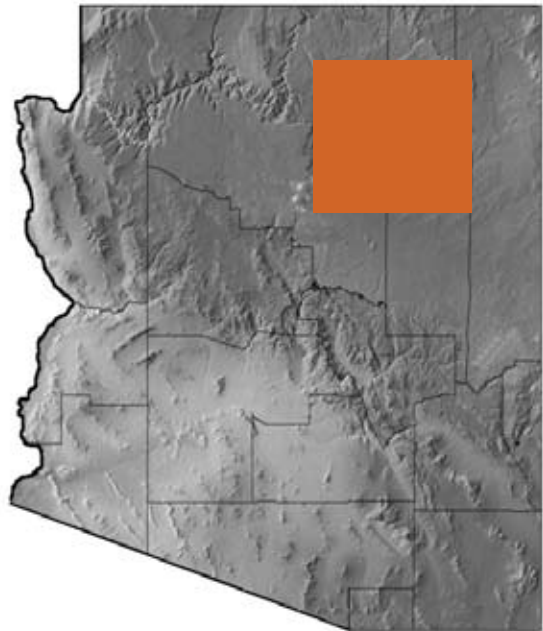
Red Feather Development Group was invited as a keynote speaker to the annual American Institute of Architecture Students Forum. This year's AIAS Forum was located in Cincinnati, Ohio, and titled *Building from Crisis*. The Forum analyzed and held in-depth discussions of the social reaction and ethical responsibility of architects to disasters of all kinds. Future and current designers from throughout the United States converged for a series of lectures pertaining to the ethical accountability of design professionals in times of crisis.

Hopi tribal elder Mary Tenakhongva and Red Feather's Design/Build Associate Eric Wandmacher attended the annual conference as representatives of Red Feather and its mission. They addressed the affordable housing crisis affecting Indian Country today and how Red Feather's American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative is one well-conceived solution to the housing needs on reservations.

For ages, social, economic and natural disasters have provided the human race with unique problems and opportunities. Whether the sacking of Rome, the burning of London, the Great Depression, the race riots of Los Angeles or the most recent tragedies from terrorism and natural disasters, humans have responded to crisis with an unparalleled level of compassion and creativity.

Red Feather's keynote speakers highlighted the ongoing crisis in reservation communities that global media has quietly ignored. This year's AIAS Forum was a unique and influential opportunity for Red Feather's representatives to educate and motivate an audience whose members can make substantial positive impact in our rapidly developing world.

Very special thanks to Mary Tenakhongva for traveling such great distances within a short time-frame, with very little notice and most of all being paired with a traveling companion of so many personalities. *Thanks Mary!*



Hopiland

Dozens of Bacavi residents expressed interest in straw bale home ownership at the open house held in April ‘05 upon completion of Hopi elder Mary Tenakhongva’s home. Bacavi—just across the highway from Mary’s straw bale home in Hotevilla—is located on the Third Mesa of the Hopi Reservation, a high altitude desert region of north central Arizona where the Hopi have lived continuously for centuries. Since then, Red Feather has been invited to the village of Bacavi to initiate sustainable housing there. Together, we are working out the details to address how Red Feather and Bacavi can improve housing conditions.

Bacavi Community Service Administrator Gail Poley participated in the construction of Mary’s home in Hotevilla and has been an enthusiastic and proactive community leader for her own village. Red Feather was honored that Gail invited the Bacavi village lieutenant governor and Bacavi board members to participate in the October and January meetings. Gail envisions bringing back to Bacavi the community cohesion of the past including work parties, traditionally known in the Hopi language as “na’ ya”. During Red Feather’s October visit, we saw na’ ya in action: Hopi men helped one another harvest corn and Hopi women worked together to shuck the corncobs.

Bacavi’s effort to nurture Hopi tradition and culture is evident in the small, tightly-knit village where residents care for and watch over one another. Gail gave Red Feather staff a short tour of a village restoration project: a 100-year-old piki house—a walk-in “house” where piki bread, a paper thin blue corn delicacy, is stone baked. Additionally, Gail imparted to Red Feather the need for a healthy home for one particular family important to the entire village of Bacavi: the Shebolas. Young Matthew Shebola is surviving acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and the family is in need of a healthy home.

Since that meeting, Stanley Tools has generously donated a major portion of the materials cost for the Shebola straw bale home. In the meantime, Red Feather is working with Bacavi Community Administration to identify an additional Hopi family in need of housing. Red Feather and the Hopi people have established a commitment to build two homes simultaneously, a large step for Red Feather. This is possible not only by the proactive response of the Hopi people—especially residents of the village of Bacavi— but also by the addition of Red Feather staff and equipment. This is an exciting time as we look forward to the simultaneous September 2006 Hopi builds.



Help Bring the Shebola Family Home to Hopiland

When Kerri Shebola learned that her son Matthew, now 7 years old, had acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, it meant uprooting the whole family from everything they had ever known. The Shebolas left their home on the Hopi Reservation to seek medical attention for Matthew in Tucson, Arizona, where the small family took up residence in a small, furnished apartment. In order to fund their travel to Tucson, the family held a reservation yard sale and sold many of their household belongings. In the past, Matthew has undergone chemotherapy treatment at Phoenix Children’s Hospital. Unfortunately, the treatments failed, and this June Matthew underwent a bone marrow/stem cell transplant as a last-ditch effort to save his life. Although successful, the transplant has severely compromised Matthew’s immune system and requires that the family live in a very healthy environment through his recovery process.

Matthew and Kerri’s 9-year-old daughter Danielle want more than anything to live in Bacavi. Their time in Tucson is the only time that Danielle and Matthew have spent off the reservation. They both want to be with their extended Hopi family again, to be with their friends at Hopi Day School. There is one caveat: Matthew must return to a “healthy home” that will not compromise his already vulnerable immune system.

Since the transplant this June, Matthew has virtually no immunity against infections or sickness. All of the immunizations he received as an infant have been “erased” from his body as the donor cells rendered them ineffective, leaving him vulnerable to a variety of life-threatening illnesses. Unlike most, Matthew cannot fight viruses, bacteria, or even molds and spores.

Most Hopi homes are heated by coal- or wood-burning stoves; the particulate matter and carbon monoxide generated by these stoves or by forced air heat could compromise Matthew’s health. Because of last year’s intense rain and flooding, many traditional Hopi homes were infested with mold—another potential source of illness for Matthew.

A Red Feather home for the Shebolas in Bacavi will have in-floor radiant heat—a highly efficient “slab on grade” system that reduces the amount of particulate matter (dust, pollen, pet dander, mold spores, and germs) circulating in the home and does not require a crawl space. There will be no carpeting to harbor allergen-producing dust mites or mold-causing spores. We will use low- to no-VOC (volatile organic compound) paint, varnish, and solvents. Furnishings will be solid wood rather than composite products dependent upon formaldehyde. Additionally, the super-

insulated exterior straw bale walls will reduce temperature fluctuations felt within the home despite the extreme outdoor conditions of the high desert, rendering the home more comfortable to live in overall. The high mass straw bale wall itself maintains the home’s ability to breathe—in effect filtering the air inside the home.

Single mother Kerri Shebola has taken a temporary leave of absence from her ten-year employment with the Hopi Tribe so that she can tend to Matthew’s needs and alleviate the stress of working full-time while raising two children. However, this leaves the Shebola family unable to afford a home that will meet Matthew’s health needs.

The Stanley Challenge: Red Feather’s Official Hand Tool Supplier—Stanley Tools—has generously donated \$30,000 toward the material costs of the Shebola home. In addition, Stanley will match dollar-for-dollar every donation made to the Shebola family home up to \$15,000—a total which will bring Red Feather very close to covering the costs of materials for this home. Today, Red Feather challenges you to make a donation to the Shebola Home and join us in bringing Matthew, Danielle and Kerri back to Hopiland.

Hotevilla-Bacavi Hopi Reservation Profile

Having worked directly with the Hopi village of Hotevilla, it is apparent that poverty and unemployment far exceed the US Census Bureau data. It is common for up to ten individuals to live in one 600 square foot, 2-room home without running water or electricity. Individuals must drive to the Peabody Coal Mine twice a month for the coal that heats their homes—an inefficient and unhealthy heat source. The statistics presented below, as with the Busby profile, cannot characterize the Hopi people. What statistics can do is shed light on the difficulties currently affecting a multitude of Hopi families.



- Population 767 (96% American Indian);
- Per capita income: \$5,975—3.6 times less than the US average of \$21,587;
- 58.9% families live below the poverty line—6.4 times higher than the 9.2% US average.¹
- Hopi unemployment rate: 62%—12.4 times higher than the US at 5.2%.²
- Half of the 2043 families living on the Hopi reservation live in substandard conditions;
- 700 live in severely over-crowded conditions.³
- Nearest grocery store: 47 miles

¹ 2000: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing, (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)
² Testimony for the Record; Wayne Taylor, Jr. Chairman, The Hopi Tribe, to the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, Committee on Financial Services, United States House of Representatives: May 3, 2004.
³ The Hopi Tribal Housing Authority Indian Housing Plan 2004.

FOND FAREWELL

In Memory of Dan Kokes

Dan and Jeannie Kokes have been supporters of Red Feather Development Group for the past three years. Jeannie is currently active as a member of Red Feather's Board of Advisors, and Dan had supported Red Feather with Jeannie in several ways, most recently by his spirited and helpful participation in the Hopi Straw Bale Home Project of April 2005.



Nonprofit work—both financial and hands-on—had become a major part of Dan's life after retiring from his position as Chief Financial Officer for a family-owned company. In recent years he brought his hard work and considerable financial and accounting expertise to several nonprofit organizations. Dan and Jeannie first got involved with Naperville Cares, a nonprofit organization working to house the homeless and provide transitional housing in Naperville, Illinois. Next the couple began working with PAVA (Programa des Ayuda a los Vecinos del Altiplano), a US/Guatemalan program to aid the Mayan people of highland Guatemala. Dan acted as treasurer for both Naperville Cares and PAVA and also traveled to Guatemala on many bridge and school building projects where he was known for his work, both as a financial advisor and an active hand on various construction projects where he specialized as the operator of PAVA's big yellow concrete mixer. Dan's construction skills and familiarity with nonprofit work translated directly to his work with Red Feather, where he jumped right in to become both a valuable construction asset and a wonderful member of the build community.

Dan died unexpectedly at his home just a week before the completion of the Hopi project. We all miss and admire Dan for his life of service and his financial and physical assistance on so many worthy projects located in his home community, on American Indian reservations, and in Central America. Dan truly brought his professional and personal qualities to the service of many people in need. He also brought, for those lucky enough to know and work with him, his easy-going manner, good humor and deeply caring way of being. Dan is survived by his wife Jeannie, three children and four grandchildren.

In Memory of Eleanor Mathis

Eleanor Mathis learned of Red Feather in 1998 when she was looking through Robert Redford's Sundance Catalog and happened to read Mr. Redford's heartfelt appeal to his customers about the state of housing on America's reservations. Ellie was part Apache and was very proud of her heritage. She knew well the poverty that has plagued native communities for generations and was overjoyed that Mr. Redford had taken the time and effort to highlight this problem and Red Feather's program.



She was a talented painter and drew inspiration from the many artists displayed in the Sundance catalog. Ellie had a love of the wilderness and great outdoors, and after the death of her husband Bud, she moved to Jackson Hole, Wyoming, to be next to the Grand Tetons that she so dearly loved.

Ellie had a passion for life and for the well-being of others. In 2004 she relocated to Bozeman, Montana, to teach sign language to the hearing impaired.

According to her dear friend Joyce Prentice, Ellie's death in November 2004 was sudden and without pain. She leaves behind countless friends who all shared the honor of her companionship, laughter and occasional tears.

Ellie left all of her worldly possessions to Red Feather Development Group. Ellie's generosity and her spirit will live on through the homes we construct.

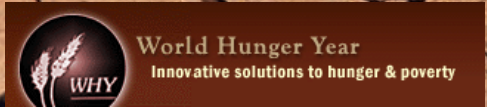
What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

Crow Foot - Blackfeet



The Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Awards and WHY

Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com



With the generous support of the Harry Chapin Foundation, the Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Awards program acknowledges outstanding grassroots organizations that create change in communities across the United States. World Hunger Year—WHY—attacks the root causes of hunger and poverty by promoting effective and innovative community-based solutions that create self-reliance, economic justice and food security and connects like-minded organizations. This year, Red Feather was honored with a generous award and the multiple benefits of WHY’s efforts to create systemic change through collaboration.

Folksinger and political activist for hunger and poverty relief, Harry Chapin founded WHY with co-founder Bill Ayers in 1975. Chapin was the Chairman of the Presidential Commission on Hunger and Poverty under the Carter Administration. He gave thousands of benefit concerts, donating all the money to establishing social and policy change to end hunger. He was tragically killed in a car accident on Long Island in 1981. Since then his family and fans have carried forth his vision and work, now centered at WHY in New York City, including his daughter, citizen-artist Jen Chapin, now WHY’s Chairperson.

The Food Justice Forum: The New School, New York City, NY

Red Feather was one of nine organizations selected from 300 nominees across the nation to receive the Harry Chapin Self-

Reliance Award along with notable organizations including the Amada Community Food Bank (Amado, AZ), CSA Learning Center (Caledonia, IL) and the People’s Grocery (Oakland, CA). After receiving the Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Award in October, Red Feather staff attended WHY’s Food Justice Forum at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Many distinguished media and self-reliance award winners composed the Food Justice panel, including author and senior writer from the *New York Times* **Jason DeParle**, who wrote *American Dream*. DeParle chronicled the effects of welfare policy upheaval as seen in intimate portraits of three women in one extended family. Also present was migrant farm worker turned social activist **Esteban Echerria** who addressed the human effects of fast food corporations purchasing cheap vegetables, especially as fast food culture spreads across the globe. **Joseph Kahn** and **Jim Yardley** of the *Times* spoke about their series “The Great Divide” that tracks China’s collision between the urban race to 21st Century modernity and the loss of farmland by nearly 40 million rural Chinese farmers. **Tom Spaulding**, executive director and co-founder of the Community Supported Agriculture Learning Center, spoke of the need to create sustainable communities of soils, plants, animals and people through educational, creative and experiential programs. And certainly not least important, **Tony Bruno** explained how he transformed the Amada Community Food Bank through his Edible Landscape

Project that now provides fresh vegetables and educates the public on the benefits of growing and eating fresh food even in an arid desert environment.

The cumulative effects of each of these stories—especially Tony Bruno’s inspiration—has prompted change within Red Feather. As a direct result of WHY’s influence, Red Feather is initiating an edible landscaping program to complement the *American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative*.

Food Justice

Food justice starts from the conviction that access to healthy food is a human rights issue.

This April, while building Mary Tenakhongva’s straw bale home, Hopi volunteer builder Ernie McCartney responded to a question about the barren Hopi mesa that had once been covered in blooming apricot trees. Ernie gestured as if he were pulling open a can. He said two words, “fruit cocktail.” Traditionally, native diets were high in protein and low in fat. For centuries berries, roots, vegetables, wild game and teas comprised a healthy, balanced diet.

Following placement on reservations and the loss of their ability to live off the land, American Indians were given food rations by the US government. Even today, many American Indians, especially those living in rural, isolated places, survive mainly on commodities that include cheese, canned goods, processed food, lard and

powdered milk—a starchy diet high in fat that contributes to the high incidence of diabetes within tribal populations. On average, diabetes affects 2.2 times more Native Americans than non-Hispanic whites of similar age. Those in isolated areas—like the Northern Cheyenne and Hopi—have few choices for fresh, nutritional food and often pay high prices for starchy, processed groceries.

Yet natives are known for their farming ingenuity. The Hopi—high atop the desert mesas of arid north central Arizona—still produce crops every year from floodwaters. Nearly 60% of the food eaten all over the world today derives from plants domesticated by Native Americans¹. Following the lead of many American Indians interested in returning to traditional natural foods in order to combat health problems affordably, Red Feather is introducing edible landscaping into its sustainable housing program. We have the Harry Chapin Foundation, World Hunger Year, the Amado Community Food Bank and the examples of generations of indigenous farmers to thank for our inspiration.

¹ Thomas, David Hurst. “The World As It Was,” in *The Native Americans: An Illustrated History*. Turner Publishing, Inc: Atlanta, 1993.

Robert Young accepts a Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Award from Jen Chapin at the World Hunger Year Awards brunch, October 2005.



Community members landscape the Amado Community Food Bank, Amada, AZ, as part of the Edible Landscape Program.



Ten Actions for Just Food and a Just World

brought to you by **WHY** and the **Small Planet Institute**:

- 1 Enjoy food fresh from the farm.** Buy directly from family farmers, look for family-farm products and encourage your local grocery stores and restaurants to do the same. To find local foods near you, visit localharvest.org and sustainabletable.org.
- 2 Vote your values with your dollar (and fork!).** All of our consumption, savings and charity choices make a huge impact. Find out where your bank, university, or pension invests and talk with them about choices that promote the health of workers and the planet. Learn more at socialinvest.org and get inspired by successful campaigns at ran.org.
- 3 Eat a sustainable and whole-foods diet.** Support farmers raising produce and animals sustainably and in the process eschew the factory-farming that contributes to air and water pollution as well as global warming. Learn more about organic foods at organicconsumers.org. Find meat raised sustainably at eatwellguide.org.
- 4 Support fair trade products and worker rights.** Fair trade ensures farmers get fair prices. We can now buy fair trade coffee, tea, fruit, and more and bring fair trade into our local cafes and restaurants, hospitals, and schools. Find out more at transfairusa.org and get involved at globalexchange.org and tradematters.org.
- 5 Transform the buying power of your community.** We are all part of institutions—churches, hospitals, workplaces, schools, city councils—that we can encourage to make purchases based on shared values. For instance, to find out more about bringing fresh, local and organic foods into your school or other institution, visit foodsecurity.org.
- 6 Create “brand free” zones.** Advertisers spend billions every year to tell us what to eat, wear, and believe in—ads that bombard us in the classroom, doctor’s office, even public bathrooms. We can create “brand-free” zones in our kitchens, schools, medicine cabinets, and more. Visit commercialfree.org and be inspired at adbusters.org.
- 7 Get a diverse media diet.** Although six corporations control most of the major media, we can tap a vast, independent network for diverse information. See indymedia.org, gnn.tv, and freepress.net to get involved in bringing media democracy to life.
- 8 Get involved with the issues that matter to you.** We can make our voices heard by joining advocacy groups, writing our elected officials, and getting involved with groups in our communities. Learn more about the issues that you care about, and find out how people are organizing to make a difference. To learn more about food, farming, and trade policy, visit: foodfirst.org, publiccitizen.org, maketradeafair.com and iatp.org.
- 9 Host a teach-in, study group, or gathering.** See moveon.org for creative ideas about gatherings, events, and local organizing around causes that matter to you and visit eatgrub.org for ideas about creating community-building parties.
- 10 Vote!** Clear and simple. Join indyvoter.org or other groups getting out the vote and building democracy—locally and nationally.



Employee Highlight

Since Red Feather began in 1994, our newsletters have provided our members with a profile of selected staff members and volunteers. I hope that this feature has given you an understanding of what drives us here at Red Feather and the diversity of our outstanding staff, as well as volunteers. We have truly been blessed with a special group of people.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a very special staff member, **Anita Young**. Anita has been involved in every step of our development and was a founding member of the organization. Her guidance and involvement has played an enormous role in the success of our program and the management of our organization. She has attended every project conducted by Red Feather, including several weeks on the Crow Reservation when she was five months pregnant.

Starting Red Feather was a leap of faith. There was little funding and no clear road map as to where we were going and how we were going to get there. Anita had never been on an American Indian reservation, let alone met a native person. Both Anita and I understood little of the regulations and bureaucracy of working within the federal government system, but our concern for those less fortunate gave us the strength and commitment to plow through the many obstacles we were confronted with along the way.

It is clear to me that without Anita’s involvement and support, none of this could have been accomplished. I have been exceedingly fortunate to travel this path in life with my partner, and I look forward to what the future has to offer in our endeavor, as long as Anita continues to walk this path alongside me and Red Feather.

Robert O. Young
Robert O. Young

VOLUNTEER LETTER

May 3, 2005

Dear Red Feather Family,

Now that I have returned to the crazy life I live here in New York City (well ‘crazy,’ comparatively speaking!), I want to be sure and thank **each** and **everyone** of you for the experience you provided me with, and the one you give to so many other people in turn.

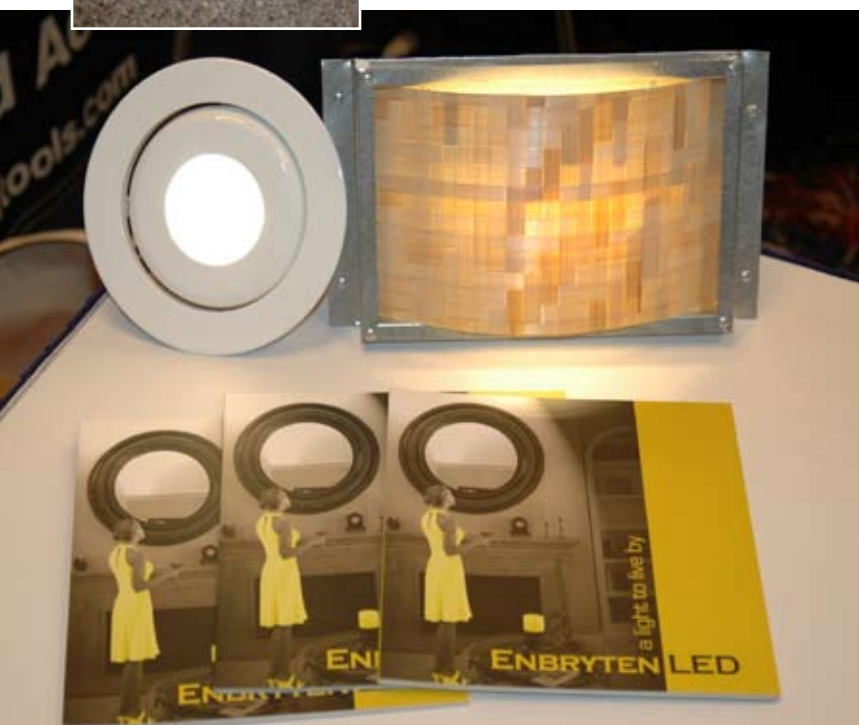
I had many different ideas of what a “Red Feather build” would entail, none of which adequately captured the spirit I found to be present upon my arrival. Certainly, for many months now I have been hearing of your incredible efforts and achievements in the area of housing development from my brother, John (Sullivan). But seeing each of you ‘in-action’ was truly impressive. I appreciated the warmth and team-effort that was displayed not only between the Red Feather staff, but amongst the very unique and caring individuals I was fortunate enough to have met and befriended during my all too brief visit to Hotevilla, AZ. “Mary’s House” should actually be re-named “Mary & Her Friend’s House”—as that home represents so much more than just a house. It represents the many hours of planning, purchasing, designing, strategizing, building, molding, sweating, hoeing, (rowing—from what I hear about the monsoon-like rains!), digging, draining, scoring, shearing, love and caring! It was a privilege and honor to be in the company of such extraordinary people—and I can only hope, pray and believe that these ‘initial’ community builds will inspire more individuals, both the local people and the volunteers, to come together and continue this amazing initiative.

What can one person do on their own? Apparently quite a great deal, if each of you is an example of that belief and mindset. And when organized as a ‘Team,’ the limits are, well... There are no limits to what I believe you can and will continue to do.

In my own small way, I again **THANK YOU** for the opportunity to participate in a powerful project in the company of unique people. I send you all my wishes for your (collective) strength, energy, determination and respect for the people to whom you serve. In the end, aren’t we really all the same people here to serve one another?

Warm regards,

Bridget Sullivan



PERMIGHT

Behold the Power of Light

As Red Feather works to build sustainable, healthy, quality homes, we work just as hard to make each home affordable. An affordable mortgage is the first step, but if a family can't afford to pay the utilities once the house is built, what have we accomplished? One way we lower the cost of each home is through the generous donation of sustainable household products from sponsoring companies like Permlight.

As **Red Feather's Official Lighting Supplier**, Permlight will furnish each Red Feather home with all of the lighting fixtures needed. Permlight does not make ordinary lighting products; all of their lights are LED (light emitting diode) fixtures. Although LEDs are commonly used in traffic signals, automobile taillights, airplanes, flashlights, headlamps and even our cell phones, LEDs are new to the residential home market. LEDs last from seven to ten years longer than incandescent or fluorescent lights. No more getting up and down to change light bulbs. An LED consumes from 30% to 50% less energy than alternative light sources, thus lowering the operating costs for the homeowner. This savings will truly help keep the lights on.

Permlight's initial involvement with Red Feather began in August 2005 when they furnished the lighting fixtures for the TMCC project. Both beautiful and functional, these LEDs can be installed conventionally. Many of Permlight's LEDs can be fixed to a standard box, making it easy to change existing lights to energy-efficient LEDs.

Red Feather is thankful for companies like Permlight that support the *American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative*. To learn more about our partnership with Permlight and their products, or other corporate sponsors, please visit www.redfeather.org.



Special thanks go to . . .

Red Feather's corporate sponsors

including Bosch, Stanley Tools, Volvo Cars of North America, Enterprise, PepsiCo, Costco, Moen Faucets, Therma Tru Doors, MasterBrand Cabinets, Bayliss Architects, Centennial Timber Frames, Permlight, Insulation Solutions, Enterprise, Rose Architectural Fellowship, ExOfficio, Red Feather Snowshoes, Ptarmigan Press, Savage Color, and Bozeman Ford. Their generosity supports Red Feather's *American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative*, allows staff and volunteers to experience some of the finest products available, and lowers the total materials cost for each Red Feather straw bale homeowner. Together with our members, our corporate sponsors make Red Feather's work possible.

Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com



Red Feather Volunteers at the TMCC ERC, August 2005

This newsletter would not be possible without the generous support and help of Savage Color (888) 889-0889, and Matt Spangler at Alespa Design (206) 937-2776.

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Going,
Going,
Sold!



Sam English
Them and Those Lights
Limited Edition Signed Giclee Print \$250

An enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa Indians from North Dakota, Sam English makes his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has his studio/gallery in Old Town Albuquerque. The artistry of Sam English is bright, bold, and captivating. He is an Indian who paints Indians in his own colorful, unique way. Sam’s palette commonly includes the stars, the night sky, the wind, the bright sun and, ever-presently, Indian people glowing in culture and community.



Kevin Red Star
Cold Wind
Limited Edition Signed Giclee Print \$250

Kevin was born on the Crow Indian Reservation in Lodge Grass, Montana—the third oldest in a family of nine. He emerged as the premier Northern Plains fine artist. Notable recent developments include an exciting use of color and refined graphic design style. As an art collector recently commented: *Kevin Red Star is among the Masters and will, during his life, enjoy his status as such.*



Tom Gilleon
Red Feather Lodge
Limited Edition Signed Giclee Print \$250

Tom Gilleon is one of the most sought after artists in Montana. He has managed both a commercial art and a fine art career, juggling the passion of one with the financial benefit of the other. His love remains landscape painting in oil and watercolor. He is best known for his creative approach to a subject and his ability to push color and design “beyond the limits.”



Elmer Yazzie
Flight with Purpose
Limited Edition Signed Giclee Print \$150

Born in Shiprock, New Mexico, Elmer Yazzie is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. Over the last 27 years, Elmer has captured the attention of art appreciators and students worldwide. His unique use of the yucca plant for his watercolor brushes has brought many opportunities for presentations, lectures, exhibits, and seminars. Elmer is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. His finesse as both artist and educator enables the learner to understand his Navajo culture as it relates to art along with instruction in artistic expression.



DG House
Sacred Hoop
Limited Edition Signed Giclee Print \$150

Intensely bold colors, graphic style, mystical eyes and signature “parfleche” borders make a DG House original easily recognizable. It is said by art critics and collectors, that the joy DG House feels in living is expressed in the faces of her subjects. Although she agrees, DG is intensely serious about what she sees as her responsibility to accurately represent her people. An enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation NE Alabama, DG paints native peoples who traditionally live throughout the United States, referring to her subjects as the “extended family.”

The morning of June 18, 2005 marked a day of commotion—arranging tables and chairs, creating and setting table centerpieces, displaying Red Feather information and photos, assembling art stands, and most importantly, exhibiting native art as Red Feather prepared for its annual fundraiser.

Artisans from all over the U.S. gathered for a silent art auction at the Emerson Cultural Center in Bozeman, Montana, to benefit Red Feather’s *American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative*. Compelling works of art

from renowned native artists such as Sam English, Kevin Red Star, and Tom Gilleon, as well as up-and-coming artists D.G. House and Elmer Yazzie, were displayed and auctioned throughout the evening. Signed, limited edition giclee prints were also available for purchase.

A giclee fine art print refers to a machine-made reproduction using the latest and most sophisticated ink-jet technology. The word giclee comes from the French (pronounced ghee-clay) and means “spray”.

In this printing method, the media (in our case the artist’s canvas) is carried by a spinning roller while infinitely small pixels of rich, vibrant archival inks are sprayed at a very high speed onto Crane 100% cotton fine art paper. This renders a remarkably smooth and consistent image true to the original painting. The giclee is quickly becoming the new standard in the art industry and is widely embraced for its astonishing quality by major museums, galleries, publishers and artists. A giclee

print is quite simply the closest replication of an original artwork that is currently possible.

These limited edition signed giclee prints of each artist’s auction piece are still for sale. All proceeds directly support our *American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative*. Visit our website www.redfeather.org for more information.

Special thanks go to volunteers Matt Blue, Sally Anne Epstein, Anne Johnson, Reni

Kessinger, Moira Misunas, Kevin Peterson, Dana Reinhart and Janet Smith for providing their time and effort in making the American Indian Fine Arts Silent Auction fundraiser a huge success. Among the entertainment was Grammy Award flautist Joseph Fire Crow of Northern Cheyenne.

This event would not have been possible without the support of the following exceptional Red Feather partners:

- Alespa Design
- Big Sky RV
- Indian Uprising Gallery
- Noteriet Press
- Old Main Gallery & Framing
- Plonk
- Ptarmigan Press
- Sierra Nevada Brewing Company
- Sweet Pea Café & Bakery
- US Bank
- Wine Gallery
- Wingate Inn Bozeman



Eric “Juan” Wandmacher

Design Build Associate

Eric Wandmacher joins us having studied diverse architecture across the globe from Kuala Lumpur to Lima; Amsterdam to Singapore; and yet he brings with him his Indiana, country-style humility and warmth. With Bachelor’s degrees in both Architecture and Environmental Design from Ball State University, Eric has steadily built up four years experience in the design and construction of conventional residential homes—acting as both architect and builder. Eric concentrated on residential construction with Yanko Construction, Inc., commercial design with MSKTD & Associates, Inc., and most recently, spent time as a graduate architect with Dubbe~Moulder Architects, PC, doing CAD documentation and residential design. After donating his valuable and much appreciated time to Red Feather through the Turtle Mountain Community College Environmental Research Center this summer, Red Feather hired Eric as its full-time Design/Build Associate.

Eric is first to say he’s “just a kid.” It is that very humility that we recognize and cherish here at Red Feather while also gratefully acknowledging Eric’s skill in design, his professionalism, his work ethic, his sense of humor and his engagement with our tribal community partners. Eric’s move to Red Feather signifies a shift in perspectives for him from “client as pay dirt” to working towards a larger philanthropic goal with tribal members. That metamorphosis is welcomed by both Eric and Red Feather. He brings a fresh, open-minded perspective to our community meetings and offers quiet observation from behind the scenes. Not least important, he is hard at work designing a minimalized, simplistic Hopi home for single adults/young families as well as a potential office space for Red Feather in Bozeman.

Perhaps most welcome is Eric’s positive attitude and real-world experience. Eric defies the traditional architect-builder adversity commonly encountered in the world of development. His architectural training is complemented with seven seasons of hands-on construction experience.

World 2000:
*An architectural field study
around the world*

Toronto	Xian
Montreal	Aswan
Ottawa	Edfu
Quebec City	Kuala Lumpur
Amsterdam	Malacca
Paris	Singapore
Florence	Hong Kong
Venice	Beijing
Athens	Suzhou
Alexandria	Lima
Cairo	Iquitos
Luxor	



Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

A dedicated volunteer and 30-year member of the Seattle-based Mountaineers, Mark helped restore and preserve the Kitsap Cabin and Historical District on the Mountaineer’s Rhododendron Preserve outside of Bremerton, Washington. The Mountaineers Foundation is dedicated to passing the best possible environmental legacy to ensuing generations. The Foundation serves those who are committed to the responsible stewardship and active enjoyment of the beauty and diversity of the natural resources of the Pacific Northwest. The Foundation promotes the long view of stewardship by building and maintaining strong relationships with both donors and grantees based on mutual trust and openness.

Mark Jensen

Construction Program Associate

We are proud to welcome Mark Jensen to Red Feather as our new and vital Construction Program Associate. Mark plays an integral role in strengthening our construction program as we prepare for multiple home construction projects in 2006.

Mark has been a long-time Red Feather volunteer and has participated and lead volunteer crews on two Northern Cheyenne straw bale homes, the Crow straw bale study hall, and the recent Hopi straw bale home. His involvement and participation allowed us the opportunity to witness Mark’s exceptional construction and leadership skills first-hand. He is skilled with a hammer and level, patient, and able to maintain everyone’s Zen-calm while dry-walling.

Mark’s involvement has been highlighted in Red Feather’s annual publication on several occasions, which first began when Mark frequently donated his time and talent as a print press operator with Princeton Press, a Seattle-based, high quality printing company, and again with Savage Color, another premium quality printing company also in Seattle. Mark is the reason Red Feather has been able to provide Red Feather members with superior printed materials, such as our brochures and our Building One House annual reports, which keep you informed with the progress of our initiative.

Mark relocated to Bozeman, Montana, in July and began his first project with Red Feather in his new role as Construction Program Associate the following month, leading the second phase and successful conclusion of the Turtle Mountain Straw Bale Environmental Research Center on the Chippewa Reservation in North Dakota. This facility was by far Red Feather’s most technically challenging project to date, and Mark shined as he skillfully led Red Feather volunteers and Turtle Mountain tribal members to the completion of this building that will give the local tribal college a powerful tool in their effort to train students in straw bale home construction.

“I have personally known Mark for over 15 years, and I consider it an honor and privilege to work with a person of Mark’s integrity and caliber. I look forward to working with Mark on Red Feather’s endeavor, and I’m confident that our program will flourish with his involvement and leadership.”
—Robert Young



Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

Marilyn Cochran

Project Leader

Long time Red Feather volunteer and straw bale construction advocate, Marilyn Cochran, has honored the Red Feather team by joining our construction staff as a project leader during our reservation-based building projects. Marilyn has loaned her vast construction skills to our housing effort for several years, and we have appreciated her time and expertise in our effort to introduce straw bale building methods to the communities we assist.

Marilyn has been working in the construction industry for 25 years and is the owner of STRAW HEAD Construction in Missoula, Montana. Straw Head Construction has been focused on alternative, environmentally-friendly building methods for over 13 years with a strong emphasis on straw bale construction techniques. Teaching and working with women and children—those who have often been left out of the building process—about all phases of building your own home is Marilyn’s passion. “It is very empowering for them to realize they can do it” she says, “I feel it’s also important to create safe, healthy homes on reservations, as it is so badly needed.”

Marilyn’s involvement strengthens our capacity greatly and is an integral part of our effort to conduct multiple home projects within the communities we serve. We are honored to have Marilyn as a part of our team and are confident her leadership will play a important role in our mission to improve reservation housing conditions.



Photo by J. Corum

Holly finds herself at home —sort of— in Hopiland

Kenneth Quapietewa playfully quips that Hotevilla attracts strange people from all over the world—“new-agers mostly.” I suppose I am one of those strangers, although not too new agey, attracted to the spirit concealed in Hotevilla’s whorls of red mesa dirt. That spirit is in the dark brown eyes of the young Hopi girls who speak volumes without a word. It is in the fingertips of young men carving rough snow maidens and playfully whipping one another with weeds as they mimic the secrets of the kiva. It is in the pungent waft of burning coal on the wind. It is in the furrows of each child’s so’o—Hopi for **grandma**—and in the centuries old stone at the mesa’s edge. My first day in Hotevilla quickly became my own private independence

day. The days that followed morphed my concepts both of “sustainability” in the glass-strewn dunes and of “authenticity” in the quietly confrontational Hopi language. “Community” became audible in the visceral shouts of children that played late into the night, hollering, laughing, chasing one another, mingling English and Hopi, the word “Pahaana”—Hopi for **Anglo**—drifting through the walls of my tent. Dirt roads, water from the spring, a make-shift fence, mutton and hominy stew: the fusion of these elements occupied my consciousness at every moment. My beliefs shifted; my definitions stirred. The book of T.S. Eliot poems I brought along as a tent companion remained unopened. I worked hard, slept well, ate among dear friends, and made new ones.

The cumulative effects crystallized for me one moment within the village plaza. I was suddenly and silently aware with pleasant envy that the Hopi have a spirit and freedom absent in my own culture of manicured lawns and striped highways. Yes, Red Feather works with communities to teach sustainable and affordable home development—a wonderful, timely and relevant mission. But at Hopi, I was the one getting educated. When I returned “home” to Bozeman, America, the lights in my living room shone too brightly. The water streamed too quickly from the tap. I recognized how so many of my own quotidian conveniences were actually not so sustainable when compared to the dim light of a lone and dangling Hopi kitchen bulb.

I get that I am nostalgic, perhaps even sentimental about the Hopi way of life, but I welcome those feelings with humility knowing that although Red Feather is teaching one thing, we are all learning something else that is, perhaps, far greater than the knowledge of how to build a house. With each community visit, each return to Mary’s strong straw bale home, each interaction with Hopi artisans and children, elders and rez dogs, I find myself a little bit closer to that unnamed spirit that can truly lead the world in an exquisite direction.

Holly Zadra

“Heart & Hand” by Myers Park United Methodist Church

Myers Park United Methodist Church of Charlotte, North Carolina (MPUMC), became involved in efforts to help the Native American community in the early 1990s. Rev. Dr. Ron Robinson, then Youth Minister at Myers Park, was searching for sites within the United States for youth service trips. Through the friend of a congregation member, Ron was put in touch with a Lakota family on the Cheyenne River Reservation. Out of this contact, the relationship with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and Myers Park United Methodist Church began in 1993.

In the summer of 1993, youth leaders from MPUMC took their first service trip to the Reservation, and in 1996 there were both youth and adult members traveling to the reservation to assist in the renovation of a local day care and to assist the local Habitat for Humanity in home construction for tribal families.

In 2004, an issue of *Guideposts Magazine* was given to Myers Park’s World Outreach member Janice Brady. The magazine featured the article, “A House for Katherine Red Feather” featuring Robert Young. The article tugged at her heartstrings, and she started to investigate ways in which the MPUMC Native American program could assist Red Feather’s effort.

After several e-mails and multiple phone conversations, MPUMC began to see that Red Feather’s intentions were very similar to its own: to help those in need with *no strings attached* . . . Discussions continued about establishing a long-term relationship between MPUMC and Red Feather. MPUMC assured Red Feather that its church volunteers would not come with a hammer in one hand and a Bible in the other. MPUMC’s philosophy of education is to equip people with the tools they need to sustain themselves, with no preconceived conditions.

Chair of the Native American Committee for the World Outreach Committee Russ Smith, assisted by Janice Brady and Robert Young, began plans to introduce the Red Feather’s Housing Initiative to the MPUMC congregation. Robert assisted in MPUMC’s six-week fundraiser campaign “Buy A Bale” to help build Mary’s house on the Hopi Reservation. Then, in April of 2005, five members of MPUMC traveled from North Carolina to Arizona to participate in their first Red Feather straw bale building project.

A year has passed since the initial contact between Myers Park United Methodist Church and the Red Feather. MPUMC volunteers are currently making plans to participate in the upcoming Northern Cheyenne build in June, 2006. Another fundraiser campaign began in late January, 2006, with Robert Young’s return visit to Myers Park – and the start of the second of many years of our “Heart & Hand” relationship.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

Red Feather is pleased to announce that our recently re-edited film, *Building One House*, was a featured Public Service Announcement at the **South Yuba River Citizens League’s (SYRCL) 4th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival** in Nevada City, California. Red Feather’s Executive Director Robert Young spoke on behalf of Red Feather’s

environmental activists, VIP parties, and of course an array of fabulous award-winning films highlighted the 2006 festival. A selection of international films and some fascinating guests include activist and celebrity Julia Butterfly Hill, adventure kayaker Jon Bowermaster, filmmaker John de Graaf and speed climber Hans

Patagonia, the outdoor clothing and retail company based in Ventura was the film festival’s title sponsor. SYRCL’s advocacy on behalf of the Yuba has long been supported by Patagonia’s expansive, visionary, and uncompromising environmental grants program. For 2006 and beyond, Patagonia will present the Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival, signifying the outdoor clothing and retail company’s increased commitment to support SYRCL’s innovative organizing and educating on behalf of watershed protection and restoration. Furthermore, Patagonia has generously agreed to take this campaign on the road through SYRCL’s film festival “On Tour.” The organization expects to visit at least 10 locations in 2006 to help environmental groups in other locales to raise awareness and funding to address issues in their communities.



American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative, sustainable construction methods and the housing crisis facing many American Indian nations.

Like the first three, the *4th annual Wild and Scenic Environmental Film Festival* was the talk of Nevada City. Celebrities, filmmakers,

Florine. The weekend featured discussions about the protection of the Sierra Nevada, restoration of Yosemite’s Hetch “Hetchy” Valley, climate change, and ocean protection issues.

With this fourth annual festival, SYRCL announced a new sponsor for the event.

Above & Beyond

Volunteer Highlights



Matt Blue

Matt “U-turn” Blue, former fiancé of former Volunteer Coordinator Stacie Laducer and now happily married to Miss Stacie Blue, now of Fargo, North Dakota, was indispensable in constructing Mary Tenakhongva’s straw bale home in April, 2005 in Hotevilla. As strong as two men put together, Matt is forever in our hearts. Indispensable, kind-hearted, easy-going Matt, thank you very much.



Damien Farwell (left)

In the words of Mark Jensen, mild-mannered Damien Farwell “really wears his S under his shirt.” Damien lent his hands-on carpentry skills and quietly lead inexperienced volunteers through the first two weeks of Mary’s straw bale home build this April. Our hats are off to you, Damien, for your intrinsic motivation, competence and untiring effort.

Tyson Domer (right)

Carpenter Tyson Domer demonstrated his professional experience patiently guiding neophyte laborers even throughout the often stressful dry wall process. Tyson was truly vital to the project’s timeliness those first two weeks, and everyone at Red Feather is eager to see you again soon. A crucial addition to our small set of skilled volunteers, we thank you, Tyson, for every bit of energy you poured into Mary’s home.

Here’s hoping each of you will return to another Red Feather build soon. Thank You!



Ernie McCartney

Hopi tribal member and carpenter Ernie McCartney volunteered his skills to Mary’s project on day one. He offered insight into life at Hotevilla and worked side-by-side both learning and sharing skills with Construction Program Director Mike Kelly and professional mason / Red Feather volunteer Joel Roberts. Thank you, Ernie.



Joel Roberts

This spirited conversationalist and team motivator tirelessly volunteered his precious time while also planning his wedding to lovely Susan Martin. For nearly the entire month of April, Joel steadfastly assisted Construction Program Director Mike Kelly throughout every step of the home-building process from setting up camp, laying rebar and foundation, to stacking and stuccoing bales and finishing the roof assembly. Joel kept each of us laughing—even when we weren’t supposed to—and assisted each of the pahaanas with their Hopi lexicon. Thank you, Joel, perpetually.



Hopi Kids

Mia, Leandra, Vance, Wilfred, Darien, Anthony and the many other Hotevilla kids that helped build Mary’s home in April, 2005 lent their shining spirits, their pranks, their laughter and their friendships to this project. We hope to see each of you again in September.



Susan Yamada

Ginger toothpaste, paba-free sun block, joint juice, lotion from the gods: whether it was the weather or the work, Susan had the remedy. Susan’s packed little blue car was the de facto portable apothecary for an entire crew of Red Feather volunteers while also serving as transportation to the showering facilities. In addition to her precious three weeks of volunteer labor on nearly every aspect of construction, Susan enmeshed herself with the locals, the volunteers and each person she encountered. Susan, we thank you for joining us and hope you’ll come back for more!



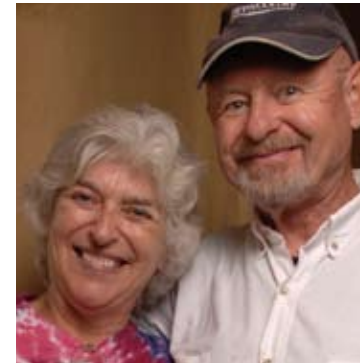
Dennis “Denny” Boyle

As sure as the sun rises and sets, you will find Denny raising and lowering his American flag. A valuable member of Red Feather’s heard since 2003, you can find Denny comfortably mixing stucco or mixing his lemon cake. We here at Red Feather hope to taste Denny’s lemon cake for years to come. Thanks, Denny!



Carol Iwaasa

You can count on Carol: if she says she’ll be there, she’ll be there. Although it might be the last few days of the build, the days with Carol will be an all out blitz. The quality and volume of sushi this woman can make in the most remote locations is nothing short of amazing. However, it can be a challenge to interpret her Canadian language and math. We keep reminding her there are no tape measures with the Canadian exchange rate included. Love and kisses to Carol. We’ll see you soon!



Roger & Anne Graham

We would like to send a special thanks to Roger and Anne Graham. Roger has been a diligent, hard worker on several of Red Feather’s reservation home projects, and when we were lucky, his better and more beautiful half, Anne, accompanied him to our project sites. Their willingness to get involved in all aspects of our projects, and their dedication to the native communities we serve are inspirations to us all. We all look forward to their continued involvement in our worthy effort.

Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com

Goodnews Bay Students visit Hopi Indians

reprinted with permission from the Delta Discovery
by Rocky Mountain High School Students



Rocky Mountain HS Students from left: Jeffrey Evans, Lester Galila, Selena Murphy, Karin Merritt, Roxanne Ayojiak, Danny Smith

On April 8th, 2005, eight people from Rocky Mountain High School in Goodnews Bay, Alaska, went to Hotevilla, Arizona – Hopiland. We are the six students who went down and are writing this article together. Our purpose in going to Hotevilla was for a cultural exchange with the Hopi and to help build a straw bale house for an elder, Mary Tenakhongva. We also met some Navajo people, visited the Grand Canyon, and road tripped through a new landscape—the desert—seeing for the first time things like saguaro cactus, horny toads, scorpions, and lemon trees.

“How did you get to go on this wonderful trip?” you ask. Well, one of our teachers who had an interest in natural building had always wanted to take a student group to participate on a build. Earlier this year, she found out about an organization called Red Feather Development Group based in Bozeman, Montana.

Red Feather is a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching sustainable, affordable housing techniques to Native Americans living on reservations. Robert Young, its founder, was inspired to help provide homes for Native Americans when he read an article about some Native elders freezing to death in their homes. The name “Red Feather” is the last name of the first elder who they helped to build a house.

The organization’s Development Director, Holly Zadra, learned about us through our teachers, Colleen Brennan and Tate Gooden, and wanted to help support us in coming down to Arizona. So, in addition to our own fundraising, Holly persuaded Red Feather to donate the remaining portion of the money we would need... and the rest is history.

A straw bale house is a house that is

built from the by-product of hay, which is straw. The straw can come from various grains including wheat, barley, rye and the best for building is rice. Animals do not eat straw because it will cut through their stomachs, so farmers usually throw it away. This makes straw an inexpensive building resource, and it has also proven to be incredibly strong and insulating. In a finished house, the straw is covered by stucco, making it even stronger and protecting the straw bales from moisture.

The students that went down were Lester Galila, Selena Murphy, Jeffrey Evan, Roxanne Ayojiak, Karin Merritt, and Danny Smith. When we weren’t building, we had the opportunity to share our Yup’ik culture with the Hopi community. One day we visited the Hopi Day School and performed an Eskimo dance, presented a slide show of our village and a documentary video that we produced for a fishery studies project. We also brought some dried salmon, trout, and caribou for the Hopi people to try and some story knives our elementary students had made. This was amazing for us because not only was it a new experience, but the Hopi people were friendly and interested in learning more about our culture. Even though they had never tried our native food, they like it! They said it reminded them of their deer jerky.

The evening before we left, we performed at the Bacavi/Hotevilla Community Center. A lot of people attended and we enjoyed ourselves once again. After both performances, we were given a microphone to answer questions from the crowd. Most of the questions were about living in Alaska, our culture, and participating on the build. Being asked questions in front of a large audience and using a microphone for the first time was exciting, and our teachers said they

Selena Murphy uses the “eliminator” to plumb up a wall.



Selena and a Hopi elder in a Yupik headdress.

couldn’t believe how comfortable and relaxed we looked.

Even though we had to wake up early, take a red-eye flight from Anchorage to Phoenix, and spend some long hours in airports, we all agree it was one of the best experiences in our lives so far



Roxanne Ayojiak, Jeffrey Evans and Lester Galila stucco Mary’s house.

and definitely the best school trip ever! We are thankful for the people at Red Feather, our principal, our teachers, the community of Goodnews Bay Mumtram Pikkai, the LKSD School Board, and the Hopi people for helping to make this trip possible.



Mary's Home



Despite hurricane force winds, torrential rains, frequent flooding, blinding snow storms and Saudi Arabia-like dust storms, Red Feather staff, volunteers and Hopi tribal members completed the first straw bale home project on the Hopi Reservation in northern Arizona for Hopi tribal elder Mary Tenakhongva.

This was perhaps our most logistically challenging project to date with few services or supplies available within a four-hour round-trip drive from the village of Hotevilla. The isolation of the Hopi Nation further demonstrated to our staff and volunteers the intense need among Hopi tribal members for proper housing and basic utilities, such as water and electricity.

The project was enthusiastically received by the Hotevilla and nearby Bacavi communities, and the involvement of numerous Hopi children in the construction process made this project very special. Mary and her family held an open house at the end of the project, which drew approximately 60 Hopi families that were very excited about the possibilities of straw bale construction and the benefits it could bring to the Hopi Nation.

Then Hopi Tribal Chairman Wayne Taylor visited Mary's house and was very impressed with the speed of construction and the beauty of the home. It was a very hot day during Mr. Taylor's visit, and he was very surprised at how cool the home remained without air-conditioning. He also expressed his desire to see more of this kind of project at Hopi, where the old traditions of working together to build homes takes place and rings in a new era of collaboration among the Hopi community.

Because of Mary's age and circumstance, she was able to qualify for a small USDA Rural Development loan towards the cost of materials, and she also met the requirements for Red Feather's Elder Housing Program, which allowed our members to donate directly towards the balance of funding needed to construct her home. On Mary's behalf, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all those that made this project possible. A very special thanks goes to John Sullivan and his associates who generously contributed time and resources to make this project a success.

As you can see from the 2006 Volunteer Announcement in this issue of Building One House, Red Feather is continuing to progress with our effort to implement a reservation-based housing program with the Hopi Nation. We invite your involvement and participation as we look to initiate our first multiple home project, which will take place in the Hopi community of Bacavi in September 2006.

Photo by J. Corum



★
**Turtle Mountain
Environmental
Research Center**

Completion of
**Turtle
Mountain
Environmental
Research Center**

Photo by Skip Baumhower | www.baumhower.com



Turtle Mountain Community College, Red Feather, and dedicated volunteers from the across the reservation and the United States completed the final phase of the Environmental Research Center (ERC) this August. A group of dedicated tribal trades students lent their invaluable work to the project and will continue to enjoy the benefits of the ERC as they attend classes on sustainable construction, resource efficiency and alternative energy from within these straw bale walls.

The TMCC build featured new and important approaches to community involvement. A USDA grant funded the full-time participation of several students from the TMCC construction trades department: Jeff Grant, Curtis Henry, Tim Houle, Jacob Laducer, Peter LaVallie, Dave LeDoux, and Mike Martin. These students brought considerable construction knowledge to the build and also served as ambassadors between the volunteer build community and the people of Turtle Mountain. The students were involved with the construction process during all phases and facilitated the involvement of other students and tribal members while adding sustainable construction methods to their repertoire.

Just as community involvement was diverse and impressive, so was that of the Red Feather volunteers. Over 100 volunteers worked on the ERC. Red Feather hosted volunteers from far and wide in addition to inviting

tribal members from across the Northern Plains. There were volunteers from several countries, almost 20 U.S. states and at least 6 tribal nations including Spirit Lake (North Dakota), Standing Rock (North & South Dakota), Pine Ridge (South Dakota), the Cree (Canada & North Dakota), the Crow (Montana), Assiniboine/Gros Ventre (Montana), and of course Turtle Mountain (North Dakota).

The center will provide an important research/classroom space for the college as they grow to make use of the newly-acquired 100-acre Anishanaube Wellness Center land. We hope to see the ERC live on in the Turtle Mountain community as a visit-able example of straw bale construction.

The very purpose of the facility lends itself to Red Feather's educational objectives in terms of community building, sustainable construction and



straw bale construction in particular. Over 200 Indian homes have been recently condemned on the Turtle Mountain Reservation due to black mold infestation. The straw bale center will serve as a model for replacing some of those homes. Participation in the process added straw bale construction know-how to the already impressive skills of the tribal members who were a constant part of the ERC build team.



Special Thanks to:

The Turtle Mountain build was the end result of the hard work and dedication of many people and organizations. Red Feather would like to thank the following outstanding groups and individuals who made working in the Turtle Mountains possible:

- Stacie Laducer (*first and foremost*)
- Turtle Mountain Community College
- Turtle Mountain Tribal Council (*bison donation*)
- Turtle Mountain Manufacturing Plant
- Turtle Mountain Public Utilities
- Turtle Mountain Fire Department (*donation of extinguishers*)
- Robert and Forda Marcil
- Tony Davis
- Larry (*the crane operator*)
- Allard Equipment Sales
- Keith Azure
- Anishinaube facility maintenance
- Luke Baker, vocational instructor TMCC
- TMCC vocational students:
 - Jeff Grant, Curtis Henry, Tim Houle, Jacob Laducer
 - Peter LaVallie, Dave LeDoux, and Mike Martin
- The Enterprise Foundation's Rose Architectural Fellowship
- Tom Beaudette, Beaudette Consulting Engineers
- Kim Christianson, North Dakota Chamber of Commerce
- Marvin Bald Eagle Youngman
- Kenny Davis, Owner, LaDots
- Dr. Angela Erdrich
- Rock Bastian, Roofer
- Art Fust, Energy A.D.
- Carl Hanson and Bob Martell, Sun Electric, Inc.
- Brad Huempfner, President, Big Sky Insulation
- Rodney Kitsch, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
- Permlight LED Lighting
- Mike and Sandy Kones, Centennial Timber Frames
- The Laducer Family:
 - Jeanette, Bob, Jason, Justin, and Stacie
- Don McLaughlin and Beth Johns, PLACE Architecture
- Art Toumala, Toumala Plumbing and Heating
- Johnny Weiss, Solar Energy International
- USDA Rural Development, National Office

Building a Straw Bale House:

The Red Feather Construction Handbook

A new book describing Red Feather’s mission, history and process is now widely available through Princeton Architectural Press and Chronicle Books. *Building A Straw Bale House* provides information on Red Feather Development Group’s history and mission as well as the straw bale construction process—an inexpensive, environmentally-sound, easily-constructed, and downright beautiful form of building.

In addition to providing an easy-to-follow manual for straw bale builders, *Building a Straw Bale House* includes sections on safety, design, tools, and materials, as well as case studies picked from past Red Feather projects. Moreover, the book contains the story of Red Feather itself, as well as a history of straw bale construction, so as to introduce both the nonprofit and straw bale technology to a wider audience.

“This book is a timely and important tool for the empowerment of communities facing housing deficits. The Red Feather project is extremely important; it is truly making a difference.”

—Jane Goodall

“In Building a Straw Bale House, [Red Feather] . . . has created a lucid, rational volume that confers on straw construction a lifesaving gravitas. Using a step-by-step format that’s succinct yet comprehensive enough for field use . . . the rare how-to book that adds its voice to the dialogue on the global housing crisis . . . With the help of evocative color photographs, the communal exercise becomes the pan-cultural equivalent of a barn-raising.”

—Architecture Magazine, November 2005



About the Book

Paperback, 180 pages; Publisher: Princeton Architectural Press, 1st edition Distributor: Chronicle Books; ISBN: 1568985142

NeighborWorks Reinvestment Training

At Red Feather, we understand that a family’s home is their primary asset. Economic and community development depend upon the healthy foundation that homeownership provides. However, American Indians are at the bottom rung of the homeownership ladder, below both Latino and African American populations. That is why Red Feather focuses its efforts on low-income tribal members living on reservations who are pro-actively engaged in community building and economic growth for their families and their communities. This process begins not with building homes, but with the *goal* of homeownership.

In a recent address to a national audience of NeighborWorks Training Institute participants, including Red Feather Volunteer Coordinator Stacie Laducer and Development Director Holly Zadra, former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros noted that during his tenure as Mayor of San Antonio, he had failed to recognize the importance of homeownership as the primary asset of American families. To increase wealth in minority populations, he noted, homeownership must also increase. Credited with formulating policies for urban revitalization which, under his leadership, took the form of economic development, Mr. Cisneros now sees that homeownership is vital to creating healthy communities that flourish both economically and socially.

The housing problems encountered in Indian Country are often an uphill battle. Resale value on existing homes in reservation communities can be negligible for a number of reasons. Mutual Help homes cannot be sold for equity and many HUD units are deteriorated, abandoned, without utilities connections, and in some cases toxic (built with asbestos and EPA banned chemically treated wood, or infested with mold that is a result of poorly built foundations). Additionally, predatory lenders prey upon low-income people, further complicating credit histories and an individual’s ability to get out of debt. Because so many American Indians live in relatively low economic strata, the opportunity to own a home and the steps required to purchase a home on reservation lands (especially on tribal trust or individual allotted lands) can be intimidating and down-right impeding, especially for those who are mired in debt and bad credit.

Red Feather works to reverse this process through a series of interventions beginning with the goal of homeownership. To many tribal members, owning a home is a new concept that, until Mutual Help began dismantling, was all but unnecessary on tribal lands. Once an individual begins to visualize that goal—through meetings, discussion, and architectural renderings—and now, through homebuyer education, that goal can become a reality. Through the **Pathways Home: a Native Homeownership Guide**, a curriculum developed by Cielo I. Gibson of Training and Management Services who also lead the training course, Red Feather staff are now certified homebuyer educators specifically focused on bringing Native communities the resources they need to make homeownership a reality.

As thoughtfully described by Cielo I. Gibson:

. . . When homeownership training is presented in the context of one’s own culture, the material becomes relevant and connected to the economic vitality and sovereignty of the community. As community members go through the homeownership process, they feel pride in their accomplishments and more connected to the community that they call home.

This year, we hope all Red Feather staff can attend the training to more fully understand and to be better prepared for the complexities of homeownership on reservation lands.

Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2005

ASSETS

Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	276,534	
Receivable		608	
Total current assets	\$	277,142	
Equipment, net of depreciation		145,970	
Total assets	\$	423,112	

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current liabilities			
Payables	\$	17,341	
Payroll liabilities		249	
Net assets		405,522	
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	423,112	

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended December 31, 2005

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	% of Revenue	% of Expenses
Support and revenues						
Individual	\$ 196,400	\$ 1,625	\$ -	\$ 198,025		
Sale of merchandise	40,900	-	-	40,900		
Corporate donations	29,209	-	-	29,209		
Foundation grants	49,500	276,012	-	325,512		
Faith-based organizations	26,739	-	-	26,739		
In-Kind support	160,276	59,032	-	219,308		
Investment income	2,024	-	-	2,024		
Total support	505,048	336,669	-	841,717	100.0%	
Expenses						
Program services						
Direct program expenses	384,990	-	-	384,990		
Salaries from temporarily restricted funds	-	136,435	-	136,435		
Mary's House, Hopi projects	-	45,448	-	45,448		
Other temporarily restricted funds	-	18,000	-	18,000		
Total program services	384,990	199,883	-	584,873	69.5%	80.2%
Supporting services						
Management and general	65,515	31,945	-	97,460		
Fund-raising	46,753	-	-	46,753		
Total supporting services costs	112,268	31,945	-	144,213	17.1%	19.8%
Total expenses	497,258	231,828	-	729,086	86.6%	100.0%
Changes in net assets	7,790	104,841	-	112,631	13.4%	
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	126,828	144,728	21,335	292,891		
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 134,618	\$ 249,569	\$ 21,335	\$ 405,522		

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS


For the year ended December 31, 2005

Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Increase in Net Assets		\$ 342,879
Cash received from contributors, unrestricted		277,637
Investment income		2,024
Cash paid to employees and suppliers		(505,092)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		117,448
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Purchase of equipment		(48,942)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(48,942)
NET INCREASE IN CASH		68,506
CASH, Beginning		208,028
CASH, Ending		\$ 276,534

2005 Annual Giving



Eagle
\$5,000 or greater




Sundance
\$4,999-1,000



Wisdom
\$999-500



Brave
\$499-250



Tribe
\$249-100



Buffalo Herd
\$99 or less



2005 Volunteers

BUFFALO HERD	Dorothy Moore	Karen O'Connor	Patricia Cannella
	A. Janis Billups	Karen Smith	Patricia Kingsley
Adam Byrd	Douglas and Charlotte Thompson	Kari King	Patrick Newell
Adam Styblinski	Douglas and Laura Caldwell	Karl and Elizabeth Hanson	Paul and Dolorores Watson
Adriana Oliveira	Dwaine and April Brooks	Kathleen and Antony Deakin	Paul Thorpe
Alan Maclaren	Edna Newcomb	Kathleen and Leon Hoffacker	Peggy Baron
Alan Montero	Edward Jones	Kathleen Decker	Pennney Van Vleet
Alice Houchins	Eileen Devine	Kathleen Nelson	Penny Tetter
Alice Lewis	Elaine Dale	Kathleen Stockdale	Peter and Karen Jacobson
Amanda Hafner	Elaine Kinder	Kathleen Whitacre	Phil Armstrong
Andrew Jagenuau	Eleni Fredlund	Kathryn Mast	Phyllis Cunningham
Angelica Ponce	Elizabeth Alexander	Kathy Hansen	Porajitti Chumanee
Anita Brown	Elizabeth Hoenig	Keith and Katherine Jacob	Rachel Huwar
Ann Hopkins	Elizabeth Shelton	Kelly Williams	Rachel Rebert
Ann Lee	Elizabeth Stevenson	Kenneth and Mary Jo Moxey	Ralph Atkins
Anna Lindstrand	Emily Rusnak	Kenny Hynes	Randy Buell
Athena Coroneos	Emory and Emma Jo Smith	Kerstin Kapitzke	Randy Rose
Attila and Loretta Czeglényi	Erin Riley	Kim and Kenneth Girard	Raymond and Eileen Dib
Barbara Cook	Ernest and Barbara Daniel	Kim and Nancy Hiltibrand	Rebecca and Daniel Mulligan
Barbara Kaiser	Ernest and Doris Fritz	Kim Hoyer	Rebecca Flory
Barbara Russell	Evelyn Dunn	Kimberlee Tellez	Rebecca Mulligan
Bear McKay	Ewan United Methodist Church	KT Eaton	Renee Meschl
Becky Ward	Felicia Thompson	Larry and Debra Petrick	Richard and Barbara Krivanka
Ben Chilcutt	Florence Gaia	Laurel Woodson	Richard and Carol Scholl
Ben Yeomans	Frances Cervantes	Lea Hewitt	Richard and Pamela Kutka
Benjamin Ferencz and Julie Pazlock	Frances Powers	Leann Mercer	Richard and Velma Hawes
Bernard Stambazze	Francesca Howell	Leon and Barbara Barnes	Richard Baker
Bernie Shank	Gail and Roy Johnson	Leon and Starr Klube	Richard Chandler
Beth Kleene	Gary and Angelina Kula	Leon Yawitz	Richard Grant
Beth Skony	Gary Salman Trust	Lilly Stobie	Richard Greenberg
Bettie Francis	Gavin Dougherty	Linda Brumis	Richard Hedlund
Beverly Stewart	Gavin Johnston	Linda Clark	Richard Swiss
Bob and Cindy Henry	Gene and Barbara Crockett	Linda Peer	Robert and Barbara Lenthart
Brayton and Helen Perkins	Glenda Hottle	Linda Willenbrock	Robert and Marguerite Leitheiser
Brett Koenig	Glenn and Dianne Kelsey	Lindsay Bridenbaker	Robert Meyer
Brian and Erika Prael	Gloria Ciano	Lisa White and Family	Robert Skogen
Brian Hirsh	Gloria Fisher	Liz and Worth Smith	Roberta Tobin
Britt Long	Harlan Simantel	Louise Blake	Robin Reed
Bruce Smith	Harriet Shull	Lynn Saaby	Robyn and Michael Passig
Bryan and Dorene Kaspar	Harry and Patricia Wimble	M. and A. Dieleman	Roland and Dian Peck
Carl and Kathy Koser	Harry and Ruth Mayor	Marcia Hinds	Ronald and Catherine Ehlert
Carl Nelson	Heather Crawford	Margaret Smith	Ronald and Judy Thomas
Carla Palavecino	Helen and Lowell Gibson	Margie Sandvick	Rosalie Grimm
Carol Marotti	Henry "Thom" Pence	Maria Doerr	Rose Booth
Carol Steen	Henry and Bonnie Visser	Maria Fabrizio	Rosemary Maziarz
Carole Coffee	Hunt Utilities Group/Bob McLean	Marie-Anne Barnhart	Roy and Elaine Lechtreck
Carolyn Farnsworth	J. Alan and Barbara Brooker	Marilou Lynch	Sandra Dimartino
Cathy Scheid	Jacquelin and Robert Hoell	Marilyn Elam	Sandra Ruano
Charlene and Charles Collora	Jade Design/Build	Marilyn Muraski	Sandra Snyder
Charles Amos	James and Judy Brownfield	Mark Dale	Sarah Myers
Charles Kaplan	James and Kathi Parker	Marlene and Julian Renwyck	Sarah Schiros
Charlotte Harrison	James Kreider	Martha Kirsch	Sarah Tyler
Cherry Dudley	James Parker	Mary and Raymond Johnston	Scott and Gail Galloway
Cheryl DuWall	Jan Abell	Mary and Rich Kecskemeti	Scott Dahms
Cheyenne Valencia	Jan Pipkin	Mary Burgan	Scott Johnson and Carolyn Hine-Johnson
Cheyenne Tanbarger	Janet Clark	Mary Dau	Sean Aronson
Chip Howell	Janet Lacombe	Mary Kyte	Sharon Dooley
Christa Gay	Janice Brady	Mary Mahon	Sharon Rollins
Christina and Michael Cozmanoff	Jason Scott	Mary McGuire	Shelia Newman
Christina Esposito	Jean Estevez	Mary Rivera	Shirley Ashburn
Christina Love	Jean Karki	Mary Steffes	Shirley Tyre
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