

Building neHouse

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Message from the Director



Over the next
five years, we
hope to empower
dozens of Indian
families to build
their own straw
bale homes.

As we look back on almost ten years of working with American Indian communities, we can all take great pride in our effort to improve the living conditions on reservations. Our first years of operation were a part-time experiment. We had no strategic plan, no clear direction, and little funding. Our goal was to affect those that we could, while trying to get a grip on the incredibly complicated business of working within the reservation context. Mistakes were mandatory, but they meant that we were stepping outside ourselves and entering uncharted waters.

During those early years, the undying support given to us by thousands of concerned individuals, foundations and corporations helped us build new homes and community buildings. Our renovation of older homes has brought water and electricity to families living without these basic amenities, and our wheelchair “Ramp-a-thons” have given a new lease on life to many tribal elders and the disabled. This support has also prepared us to take the next unprecedented step of providing Indian nations with the necessary tools and education to take charge of their own housing situation.

Since 1999, Red Feather, together with our university and tribal partners, have focused our efforts on finding long-term solutions to the overwhelming need for proper housing for the tens of thousands of tribal members who have no place to call home. Our goal in this effort is to identify tribal resources and engage reservation communities in the process of determining what they deem to be their most urgent housing needs. The millions of tribal acres that are annually devoted to wheat production have given us a community-based answer to this difficult issue.

Straw bale construction methods offer a feasible approach for housing development and reflect the needs and resources of the reservation communities with whom we work. Today, we are cooperating with several Indian nations to establish affordable, environmentally-sustainable straw bale housing programs. Over the next five years, we hope to work alongside dozens of Indian families in the construction of their own straw bale homes. Within ten years, our program will hopefully be visible on at least six reservations—benefiting hundreds of tribal members. Mistakes will still be made. The key to our success will be to limit the number of times that we repeat these mistakes.

Your continued support and assistance makes what we do possible. I look forward to what we will accomplish with your continued generosity and involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in orange ink that reads "Robert Young".

Robert Young
Founder and Executive Director

Summer 2004 Project Update

Red Feather and Turtle Mountain Community College will be going forward with the design and construction of an Environmental Research Center on the Turtle Mountain Community College Campus thanks to the generous support from a major U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant and the enthusiastic involvement of the people of Turtle Mountain. This innovative project means a great deal to the Chippewa community, as well as to Red Feather. The Environmental Research Center (ERC) represents an exciting project with a new tribal college partner. 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 homes have

Red Feather is currently working on the design and pre-construction planning of a straw bale Environmental Research Center on the Turtle Mountain Community College campus—a build scheduled for July of 2004. This project promises to be rich in both community involvement and educational opportunities.

For the ERC project Red Feather and a growing educational coalition are planning educational seminars that will precede the build to maximize the technology-transfer experience. As they did during last summer's home build, straw bale pioneers Matts Myhrman and Judy Knox will be working alongside Red Feather volunteers and community members in addition to providing on-site educational talks. Work is currently underway to provide a range of other project-related educational offerings that will benefit volunteers and community members alike. Turtle Mountain community members will be involved in sharing their knowledge of the local landscape's rich flora and fauna. For example, tribal elder Marvin Bald Eagle Youngman will lead walking seminars to impart his knowledge of native plants, their traditional uses, and their reintroduction near the building site.

A small group of permaculturists from the Tucson area have expressed their interest in helping Community Design Director Nathaniel Corum with the site grading and planting adjacent to the center in order to take full advantage of site water resources and opportunities for the inclusion of native plantings. The Montana-based nonprofit Native Waters (see related article) will also be at the build to lead water resource related educational seminars that will greatly benefit the project's greater educational objectives.

In concert with Turtle Mountain Community College faculty offerings involving ecology, agriculture, and the building trades, this build represents the richest educational experience to date on a Red Feather project. In addition to learning the straw bale construction process, participants will have access to a continuum of related topics: water systems, ecology, native plants, agriculture, environmental landscape design, straw bale construction, architectural design, and Anishanabe tribal culture.

In addition to these wide educational opportunities during the summer build schedule, the ERC building itself is shaping up to be an educational environment—demonstrating the use of many naturally and locally derived materials along with environmentally and economically innovative building components. The building will feature environmentally sustainable materials such as: Structural Insulated Panel systems (SIPs), Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified lumber, compressed straw blocks, agriculturally-derived particle boards, sunflower seed hull pressboard, non-toxic natural stains, locally-grown millwork, and of course straw bales. Building systems will include a concrete-saving, insulated foundation system, an evaporative cooling system, thermal mass reservoirs, a rainwater collection system, a low-volume flush toilet, energy efficient lighting, a day-lighting / passive solar driven design, operable windows for ventilation, and possibly photo-voltaic solar panels. From its straw bale envelope to its agricultural pressboard signage (in both Anishanabe and English) the ERC will be a virtual text which inhabitants may read as examples of sustainable construction materials and techniques.



A few of the several hundred condemned housing units on the Turtle Mountain Reservation—straw bale construction and innovative foundations systems represent a way to replace this lost housing.

been recently condemned on the Turtle Mountain Reservation due to black mold infestation, and more homes still will be needed to fully house the existing community. A new straw bale structure on the Community College campus will serve as a model for replacing some of the condemned homes, and will provide crucial, hands-on, straw bale building experience to Turtle Mountain tribal members.

As the first step in an ongoing relationship with the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa,



The future site of the TMCC Environmental Research Center within the beautiful Anishanabe Wellness Center.

Project coordination for Turtle Mountain Community College is in the capable hands of Stacie Laducer—who is also the Director of the project USDA Equity Grant. Stacie has been working closely with Red Feather and her community to ensure that the project is well supported in terms of community involvement and funding (see related local newspaper articles). Ms. Laducer recently was able to allocate funding to create build-related summer jobs to enable four TMCC building-trades students to work full-time on this project. She is now arranging for community teachers and elders to provide cultural and educational opportunities to compliment the build experience.

Community Design Director, Nathaniel Corum, spent a week at Turtle Mountain in November (see related Turtle Mountain Times article) working on project logistics with Ms. Laducer, meeting with the educators and students who will use the building, and surveying the building site in preparation for design development in accordance with the tribal college community's wishes and needs. Some hopes for the building are quite pragmatic—the need for an 'airlock' room to isolate the main teaching space from the elements—while other directives are more atmospheric in nature. One of the educators who will teach in the Center wrote the following:

"When addressing the future uses and value of the [Environmental Research Center] straw build, I am basically relating a vision. That vision is of

a center for classes in a setting that is visually and tangibly accessible. It is of a day-lighted space where an instructor may make an expansive gesture and have it sweep a natural background. It will incorporate locally and personally created art and have an inherent sense of security.

The value of this structure will be in the fact that it will be a real example of resource conservation, an example of the wise use of locally available resources, and a method of construction fit for the climate. These virtues are of obvious value to classes in and associated with environmental science.

An added value to this build will be the involvement of the building trades programs. Having this work experience and reference to future classes will put the student on the leading edge of emerging building techniques.

The center will encourage the College to proceed with an energy technician/technology program. The project classroom will present the student with an opportunity to observe, first hand, features that conserve energy through materials, design and orientation. It will be a local comparison base for studies in energy conservation.

In all, it is good, it is timely, and it is needed."

Gale Harms
Environmental Science Educator
Turtle Mountain Community College

The building site is within the Anishanabe Wellness Center—a beautiful and symbolically powerful site poised between a lake, a set of thriving gardens, a greenhouse used for ecology course offerings, and the small aspen and birch-studded hills that texture the Turtle Mountain landscape. The ERC will provide classroom space that

is adjacent to myriad outdoor learning sites that will make the Environmental Research Center a place to collect conversations, observations and data from the nearby lakes, gardens and woods.

Like a growing number of people these days, folks at Turtle Mountain have realized that straw bale housing is a community-friendly and environmentally-responsible way to build. Stacie Laducer and Nathaniel Corum also visited with Turtle Mountain Tribal Housing staff to encourage their participation and to understand their hopes and concerns.

The housing staff understands that the low-lying, lake-filled region has a high water table that becomes problematic when crawlspace foundations are built—as they often have been at Turtle Mountain. Additionally, the recently-built housing stock has typically not been super-insulated—an important strategy in a climate with such severe temperature extremes. Tribal housing staff were

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Community Design Director, Nathaniel Corum, presenting a straw bale construction seminar at Turtle Mountain Community College.

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very interested in learning more about alternative foundation systems including low-cost / high-efficiency options such as the 'frost-protected shallow foundation' (which do not feature a mold-inviting crawlspace) as well as discussing the advantages of super-insulated straw bale construction that they will be able to observe first hand during the course of the ERC project.

The College President and Board are in support of the straw bale project. TMCC President Monette, recognizes the advantages of straw bale and sees the material as a vehicle for both housing production and economic development in his community.

"In addition to providing sturdy shelter [straw bale construction] can reduce heating costs—which is a big plus. It also has the potential to promote economic development. I just returned from a meeting where one of the tribal council members said that if the reservation were to have ready 1000 houses today, the need for houses would not be met. There are many families who are homeless and who are forced to live with relatives. Straw bale buildings could help to alleviate the housing shortage. Also, because the buildings have a high R-value the cost for heating and cooling could be reduced. The housing shortage also has a negative effect on job recruitment and retention and that in turn slows economic development."

Dr. Gerald 'Carty' Monette
President
Turtle Mountain Community College

We at Red Feather are enthusiastic about having such a dynamic tribal partner, and look to the Environmental Research Center as a means of modeling straw bale as a housing-replacement approach while furthering Red Feather's commitment to both environmental and cultural sustainability. The ERC will be an educational work-in-progress this summer and, as a unique tribal college facility, it will foster ecologically-focused curriculum for years to come. **RF**

Building with Straw Bale: Construction Presentation Held at TMCC

By Susan Boucher

{*Turtle Mountain Times*, Belcourt, North Dakota, December 8th 2003, excerpted by permission}

BELCOURT- Stacie Laducer has been getting some teasing in regard to the project she worked on last summer, building the Red Feather Community Study Hall Project on the Crow Reservation. The "three little pigs" jokes are a small price to pay for what the benefits will be to Turtle Mountain because of Laducer's efforts. Laducer is the director of the USDA Education Equity Grant at Turtle Mountain Community College. Building with straw is not a new idea. It has been around for centuries.

What is new is the support of the Red Feather Development Group. Red Feather and the Crow Reservation received media attention last summer with the construction of the Crow Nation Study Hall. Four middle school girls from the Crow Nation in Montana won a science fair project competition with their information regarding straw bale construction. With the money that they won, \$25,000.00 from the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation Grant, plus a donation from Oprah Winfrey of \$25,000.00 and \$20,000 worth of Stanley Tools, Red Feather and the Crow Community built the Community Study Hall. Laducer was a part of the project.

Nathaniel Corum, Community Design Director for Red Feather gave a presentation at the Turtle Mountain Community College recently in preparation for the upcoming construction that will be happening at the college's Anishinabe Wellness Center. It is planned to be placed where the current basketball court is now, next to the garden. Corum has worked in Africa two years prior to working in California. Corum stated that working for Red Feather allows him to

"be an architect and feel good about it ethically." . . . He added, "I build houses with people not for people."

The Turtle Mountain Community College research facility will be the 40th project for Red Feather. In addition to the uniqueness of the material used, the construction is also done in a unique way. It's community constructed. This summer's building will be done by people from around the country that will be volunteering their time to put the building together. Corum stated, *"We like to get the community involved, especially with the housing issues at Turtle Mountain. Hopefully, the housing that has been lost can be made up."* The straw bale research facility that is to be built this summer is being partially funded through the USDA and the American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative. Corum describes the upcoming project at Turtle Mountain as *"a mini-outdoor campus."*

Using straw bales in construction makes the building 2-3 times more energy efficient. The use of volunteers for labor keeps the costs of construction down to about half of what it would normally cost. . . . There has been significant testing done. The homes are insurable. Corum stated that the homes would be *"really safe; no toxins and low stress without the high financing to worry about."*

The first house that Corum built [with Red Feather] was USDA financed. Corum stated that lenders such as Fannie Mae are accepting loans for homes built with straw bales. He stated, *"Some of the hoops are getting lined up regarding financing and insurance."*

Corum stated the project *"is about teaching people about building houses, I hope this is a continuing relationship with Turtle Mountain."* He continued, *"It feels good to be here. I feel welcomed here. This is a community where this could really take off."*

Corum stated that the building is not only fast but also a lot more fun. He spoke of cultural and spiritual rewards of building together as a community. He stated that elders have said to him, *"This is the way we used to do it."*

Native Waters: Combining Scientific and Cultural Ways of Knowing about Water

by Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer
Director, Native Waters

Standing beside a wide, flowing stream, a tribal elder says a prayer for the work that the high school students standing beside him will do. Then, fifteen young people participating in the Native Waters Young Leader summer camp scoop water from the stream into plastic tubes. With help from the elder, who is also a water resource specialist, and from Native Waters staff, the young people measure the amount of sediment in the water and study a chart to rate their findings. When they finish, they respectfully pour the water back into the stream, which miles away flows into the Missouri River. The water is returned because it is understood that all things, including water, rocks, trees and leaves are alive and have a spirit. Everything needs to be returned to its home.

The Native Waters program at Montana State University focuses on raising awareness of the value of water and building capacity for watershed education in Native American communities throughout the Missouri River Basin. Through youth leadership camps,

community leadership institutes, educator workshops, and a traveling exhibit and film, Native Waters is working collaboratively with tribal community members to weave Native American and Western approaches to ecology into environmental education activities.

Water science represents an ideal area to bring the two philosophies together. For Native Americans, and the philosophy of Native Science, water is the heart of all being—and since all beings are composed of water, we are part of all waters on the planet. Water is part of everyday life: drinking water, nourishment for plants and trees, religious ceremonies, healing, beverages. It has a spiritual element and deserves our respect. The study of water needs includes the relationship of the individual, to his or her environment. It nurtures us; we nurture it. In contrast, in Western culture water is more often than not studied as a chemical component, made up of molecules. It is often seen as a “resource;” something to be used, directed, controlled.



Program Coordinator, Scott Frazier, Director Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer, and Assistant Director, Teresa Cohn (left to right) brought the Native Waters exhibit to Turtle Mountain Community College in December of 2003.

In his book **Native Science**, author Gregory Cajete explains the different approaches to understanding this way: “The difference between Native and non-Native use of the land and its resources is that Native cultures have traditionally aspired to live in accordance with an ideal of reciprocity and with the landscape, guided by cultural values, ethics and spiritual practice To understand the foundations of Native science one must become open to the roles of sensation, perception, imagination, emotion, symbols, and spirit as well as that of concept, logic, and rational empiricism.” *continued on page 6*

Straw Houses are a Lot More than Huff and Puff

By Susanne Nadeau

{*Turtle Mountain Star*, Rolla, North Dakota, December 15th 2003, *excerpted by permission*}

Forget the story about the three little pigs. Homes made of straw are not only durable, they are affordable and well insulated. They are also a lot of fun to make, according to Stacie Laducer, director of USDA Equity Grant at the Turtle Mountain Community College (TMCC). By the end of next summer, people on and near the Turtle Mountain reservation can find out exactly how much fun is involved in the construction of a building made of straw. The design phase of Straw Bale Environmental Research Center, an extension of TMCC, is well underway.

Laducer had the opportunity to assist in

the construction of a straw bale building and since this experience, she has enthusiastically searched for a way to bring straw bale buildings to the Turtle Mountain Reservation. She turned to the non-profit organization, Red Feather Development Group, where she gained her first experience with straw bale construction and has utilized straw bales to build homes for the last eight years.

“I liked the long term efficiency of the homes built with straw bales,” she stated. “I also liked that these buildings are good for the environment. I especially liked that it’s a community build. Friends and family can come together to build a good home.”

The mission of Red Feather Development Group is to assist Native Americans in finding a solution for the many housing difficulties experienced on reservations. Straw bale buildings have been an answer to this dilemma.

“When families participate in the construction of their own home, there is a strong

sense of ownership of the home,” stated Nathaniel Corum . . . of the Red Feather Development Group. Last week Corum presented information about the group and about straw bale homes to various community members. The presentation was held on the TMCC campus. . . . Questions from the audience were readily answered and many of the students also dropped in to listen and contribute to the discussion on the design of the planned facility.

“One of the reasons we are starting with a community facility is so that people can become comfortable with the style of the build. They can also be involved with the build, and classes will be taught in the completed building” stated Laducer. *“I am really looking forward to the community involvement—even if they just stop by to watch. But really, it’s hard to just sit and watch while the building is going up. You want to keep getting up and asking if there is anything you can do to help.”*

Summer 2004 Project Update



Native Water's program Sharing the Source, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, the Bush Foundation, and the US Bureau of Reclamation is traveling to tribal communities throughout the Missouri River Basin in 2003-2004.

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The Native Waters program embraces the idea that both empirical and cultural ways of knowing represent important aspects of water ecology. Both play a role in ensuring the future of water resources in the Missouri River Basin, which covers more than 530,000 square miles and is more than 2,300 miles long. By blending Native science and traditions with secular science techniques, the Native Waters project provides opportunities for children and adults to reconnect with the natural world through hands-on experiences and an exploration of both scientific and cultural understandings about the environment.

At a typical young leader camp, the day starts with a tribal elder or spiritual leader offering a prayer. Sessions introduce cultural ways of knowing about water, and also teach basic water science topics such as the storage and management of water, the concept of a watershed, the role of wetlands, water chemistry, riparian dynamics and hydrology. Incorporating cultural history enriches the knowledge—and underscores the cultural and scientific interrelationships of water, land, plants, animals, earth and sky.

More than 400 Blackfeet, Northern Arapaho, Eastern Shoshone, Mandan,

Hidatsa, Arikara, Northern Cheyenne, Crow, Chippewa, Cree, Gros Ventre, and Assiniboine youths have participated in Native Waters Young Leader camps. All camps take place in reservation communities.

The involvement of tribal elders is a key element in the Native Waters project; their traditional knowledge is vital. At the heart of the Native Waters program is the hope that by valuing traditional knowledge and Western science equally, young people will better understand the relationship and value of the cultural experiences that have guided their communities for millennia, while also sparking their desire to learn new skills to serve the present community and increasing future leaders' understanding of tribal water issues.

Twenty-eight Indian tribes control more than 15 million acres in the Missouri River Basin. Between its headwaters in Montana and its mouth near St. Louis, Missouri, the Basin includes parts of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. The tribes have an immense stake in the use and health of the Basin's resources, but their interests have often been overlooked or ignored as

decisions are made about water allocation, management, use and jurisdiction.

The **Native Waters** project aspires to address a critical issue in America today: the ability of current and future generations to manage a limited supply of water shared by diverse cultures with sometimes conflicting needs. Education about water resources and tribal resource management for Native people and their neighbors must be respectful and culturally sensitive. Working cooperatively, we can all reclaim our inherent responsibilities as stewards of the natural world. Native Waters is looking forward to working with Red Feather Development Group this summer on collaborative environmental education programs during the Environmental Research Center Build at Turtle Mountain Community College.

Through hands-on interactives, art, symbols, messages from elders, and film, the exhibit interprets both scientific and cultural ways of knowing water. The exhibition schedule and 20-page educators guide for the exhibit can be found on-line at www.nativewaters.org. For more information about the project, please call (406) 994-3911 or email: nativewaters@montana.edu.

Straw Bale Construction Project Volunteer Opportunity

Project Name: TMCC Environmental Research Center

Project Location: Turtle Mountain Community College
Turtle Mountain Reservation
North Dakota

Project Date: July 3 – 24, 2004

Deadline: April 30, 2004

Red Feather members attending this project must volunteer for a minimum of one week, up to a maximum of three weeks. The following is the weekly project arrival and departure schedule:

Week One: Arrive July 3rd
Depart July 10th

Week Two: Arrive July 10th
Depart July 17th

Week Three: Arrive July 17th
Depart July 24th

Interested in participating in this project? Please follow these steps.

If you have already joined Red Feather's membership drive for 2004 and have completed our volunteer application, please e-mail us at info@redfeather.org, or call us at (406) 585-7188 and let us know:

- you would like to attend the TMCC project,
- your first choice of week(s) that works with your schedule,
- an alternative week (or second choice),
- any updates to your contact information, and
- your phone number, as well as your e-mail address (if you have one).

If you are not a Red Feather member and would like to participate in this project, please visit our web site at www.redfeather.org, or call 406-585-7188, and join our membership. After you join, complete our online volunteer application and then proceed to the steps above.

Deadline for volunteer applicants: April 30, 2004. Red Feather will notify all applicants for the Turtle Mountain project no later than May 31, 2004.

If you are invited to attend, further project information will follow.

Red Feather members have the opportunity to attend projects; however, volunteer space is limited. Our goal is to educate tribal members on straw bale construction techniques, and the community's involvement is our first priority. We thank our member volunteers for their patience and understanding.





New York's Times Square reader board featuring Red Feather's Executive Director Robert Young during the 2003 Volvo for Life Award ceremony.



2003 Volvo for Life Awards

When Robert Young was named the Volvo for life Grand Award Winner last April, it marked almost a decade of his extraordinary contributions in Safety, Quality of Life and Environment on behalf of American Indians.

It all started ten years ago, when Young sat down at a hotel breakfast table and picked up a newspaper that changed his life. *"The only paper at the table was Indian Country Today,"* he recalled. *"I'd never heard of it."* What he read that morning was a story about bone-crushing poverty, about how elderly Indians were freezing to death on reservations. Poor conditions of tribal housing—or the sheer lack of it—left them to die.

Young found himself deeply disturbed by what he read. Soon after, he found himself researching Indian poverty issues . . . and ultimately gave up his successful clothing business to found and run the Red Feather Development Group, a non-profit dedicated to building safe, inexpensive and environmentally-friendly homes from straw bales for American Indians.

The \$50,000 charitable contribution that Young received from the Volvo for life Awards went straight to Red Feather, and was *"one of the biggest donations we've ever received,"* he said. In addition, he will receive a new Volvo every three years for the rest of his life.

Reprinted from the Seattle Post Intelligence's April 15, 2003 and the Seattle Times' April 17, 2003 news publication.



Baseball legend Hank Aaron (Volvo for Life judge) delivering the 2003 Volvo for Life award to Robert Young.



Robert and Anita Young during Volvo's luncheon at Times Square's W Hotel with Caroline Kennedy (Volvo for Life judge).



Robert Young and prominent architect Maya Lin (Volvo for Life judge) during Volvo for Life award ceremony.

Photos: Jan Murean at FBI Productions



Developing Tribal Partnerships

Northern Cheyenne Nation-Eastern

Montana: Red Feather enjoys a building relationship with the Northern Cheyenne Community. Since 2001 Red Feather Development Group has participated in four straw bale construction projects with the Northern Cheyenne—two homes, the Muddy Creek Village Community Center, and the Northern Cheyenne Literacy Center. In meetings this spring Red Feather is laying the groundwork for an ongoing sustainable housing program in cooperation with Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council, community members, and reservation-based nonprofit groups.

This January, Robert Young and Nathaniel Corum held meetings with Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Leadership—John Walks Along, Executive Director and Herman Bear Comes Out, Fiscal Officer. While in Lame Deer, Young and Corum also met with Mark Roundstone, a Tse-Vesta-Hase (People Helping People) Board Member and Busby Township District Chairman (Busby is one of the five Northern Cheyenne townships), about his group's interest in collaborating with Red Feather and Tribal Housing on future construction programs. We have begun tackling the problems of financing and allocating enough land base to pursue a multi-home development initiative with the Northern Cheyenne.

There is much hope and promise on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and many Northern Cheyenne tribal members now have the sense that Red Feather is engaging them in a lasting, strong relationship that is flexible enough to weather the years and respond to the community's changing housing needs. As District Chairman Roundstone wrote recently:

"The Cheyenne People have a great need for what you are doing. I just wanted to thank you for the tremendous work you do for Native peoples. May our Creator bless you and those you care for. Keep up the good work."

Mark Roundstone
Busby District Chairman
Tse-Vesta-Hase (People Helping People) Board Member

Later this spring, with the support of Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing and Tse-Vesta-Hase, Red Feather will present a phased-housing strategy to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council based on community-generated housing objectives and the Community Needs Assessment recently prepared by the Community Development Corporation Study Group in cooperation with Chief Dull Knife Memorial College and First Interstate BancSystem Inc. Such a team, made up of tribal government, tribal housing, and a tribally-formed nonprofit, represents the

best efforts of Red Feather Development Group to establish a long-term sustainable straw bale community that will grow and be shaped by community work, planning, and desire.

Navajo and Hopi Nations-Northern

Arizona: In addition to planning a housing program with the Northern Cheyenne, Red Feather is also expanding its operations to Indian Nations in the Southwest, where housing scarcity and intense poverty contribute heavily to the decline of Native America. This spring, Robert Young and Nathaniel Corum will hold meetings with community members, tribal housing personnel, regional USDA representatives, and reservation-based nonprofits on several Southwestern Reservations, including the Hopi and Navajo Nations. Several feasible projects have already been identified within communities on the Hopi and Navajo Reservations. Prospective site visits to meet community members and housing officials will determine how Red Feather makes its first steps in the Southwest. Future builds with such communities promise to broaden Red Feather's scope, lengthen our building season, and enlarge and intensify our construction and educational efforts. **RF**

Nathaniel Corum is the Community Design Director for Red Feather Development Group. His concern is to find ways of creating cultural and environmental sustainability in indigenous communities. Previously a Fulbright Scholar in North Africa, his work at Red Feather is funded by a Rose Architectural Fellowship. He studied design at Stanford University and has a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Texas at Austin.



Together we
will be able to
provide the hsg
home designs,
construction
information and
project estimates
crucial to getting
housing built in
the reservation
context.

Red Feather and Nathaniel Corum receive a

In June 2003, Red Feather and Nathaniel Corum received a three-year Frederick P. Rose Architectural Fellowship through the Enterprise Foundation. The Rose Fellowship allows some of the top architectural talent in the country to make immediate, lasting contributions to low-income communities. As a result, five nonprofits, including Red Feather, will have full-time design support to better focus upon community design issues and the lack of decent, affordable shelter.

The Rose Fellows were selected from applicants nationwide based on their academic records, relationships with their partner organizations, and feasibility of their proposals. Each has one or more master's degrees and illustrated a passionate commitment to improving the quality of life in low-income areas. The 2003-2006 Rose Fellowship recipients and their affiliated nonprofit groups are: Victoria Ballard-Bell, Design Corps, Marion, Alabama; Nathaniel Corum of Red Feather Development Group, Bozeman, Montana; Michael Gatto of Foundation Communities, Austin, Texas; Fernando Marti of Mission Housing, San Francisco, California; and Jessica Wendover of Urban Ecology, Oakland, California.

The Rose Fellowships are awarded in honor of the late Frederick P. Rose, a prominent New York developer and philanthropist who believed strongly in the value of good design and the spirit of public service. Fellowship judges included Jonathan Rose, president of Jonathan Rose Companies LLC (a network of planning and development firms with practices in New York and Colorado); Ron Shiffman, co-founder of New York City's Pratt Institute Center for Community and Environmental Development; Jim Stockard, urban planner and professor at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design; and Harvey Gantt, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects and former chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission.

The Enterprise Foundation recently celebrated 20 years of rebuilding America's low-income communities by helping provide affordable housing, safer streets and access to jobs and child care. Launched by James and Patty Rouse in 1982, The Enterprise Foundation works with partners and a network of more

than 2,400 community-based organizations in 860 U.S. locations. By leveraging investments and donations from nonprofit private sector and government partners, The Enterprise Foundation has committed more than \$4.4 billion in equity, loans and grants to build or renovate more than 144,000 homes. The Enterprise Foundation launched a \$125 million campaign in 2002 to build affordable housing across the nation.

As a result of the Rose Fellowship, Red Feather now has funding for a full-time Community Design Director through 2006. Nathaniel Corum—who studied architecture at Stanford University and at the University of Texas at Austin—has joined Red Feather after a Fulbright Grant year researching traditional North African construction technologies, assisting tribal communities in the High Atlas mountains, and addressing their needs for housing and village expansion. In North Africa, Nathaniel's research involved the preservation of ancient cities and developing approaches to reconciling the demands of poverty in historic urban districts. His work there was inspired from social, economic and historic interests as much as from his architectural background. He feels that, in order to construct a good home for someone, cultural, historical and linguistic traditions must be taken into account and reflected in design and construction.

In August 2003, Nathaniel spent his first days as Red Feather's Community Design Director on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation building a home with Red Feather staff, volunteers and community members. Since that time, Nathaniel has authored *Building One House: A Handbook for Straw Bale Construction* and worked on the design development of building prototypes and future projects—such as this summer's Environmental Research Center build in North Dakota. Through his work at Red Feather, Nathaniel hopes to not only enrich the people and communities directly affected, but to further the acceptance of straw bale construction as a viable, and in many cases preferable alternative—as well as to bring poverty and housing issues on Indian reservations into the public eye.

To advocate for cultural and environmental

Rose Architectural Fellowship

sustainability, Nathaniel has given talks on straw bale construction and the Red Feather program at gatherings, such as The Bioneers Conference, Bozeman, Montana; the Center for Maximum Potential Building Systems, Austin, Texas; and the Turtle Mountain Community College, Belcourt, North Dakota. In April, Nathaniel will speak at the AIA Billings Architectural Association 21st Annual Meeting in the Mountains in Red Lodge, Montana, which takes 'Architecture and Humanity' as its theme.

I first heard about the Rose Fellowship in 2000 through a colleague at the University of Texas at Austin Masters Program in Architecture. After graduation, as I prepared for a Fulbright research year involving current housing issues in the historic city centers of Morocco, I took a long, slow drive through the American West because of my interest in housing vis-à-vis heritage concerns in developing regions. On these travels I saw extreme poverty and inadequate living conditions on many reservations firsthand. I visited the oldest continuously inhabited sites in the United States—the Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico

to prepare a Rose Fellowship proposal that would allow me to design and build houses for Native American communities, thus connecting my interests and my research.

To begin, I made two research trips to New Mexico so I could meet with housing directors and personnel from the Pueblo of Zuni Office of Planning and Development, the Pueblo of Acoma Housing Authority, the Northern Pueblos Housing Authority, and Taos Pueblo Housing. With these communities' housing directors—Edward Sanchez, Raymond Concho Jr., Terry Hudson and Bella Lujan—I discussed the prospect of collaborative work on phased community expansion, traditional housing rehabilitation, specific educational and medical buildings, recreation and medical facilities, as well as child and elder care facilities and community center. Each of these communities has a need for new housing, and each housing director was interested in partnering a Rose Fellowship. Each community also desired to build according to long-held Native American precepts: environmental sustainability, local materials selection, heritage-appropriate design, and a strong measure of self-reliance in the construction and provision of new buildings.

Red Feather Development Group emerged early on as a capable, stable and innovative non-profit that worked on projects with several of the reservations in most urgent need of housing. When I called Robert Young in Seattle, he suggested that we join forces under the guidance of Red Feather's American Indian Sustainable Housing and Community Development Initiative. After a visit to his Seattle office in January, 2003, Robert and I decided to team up to pursue projects with tribal communities with whom Red Feather is presently working, leaving open the possibility of initiating some of the projects I'd identified in the Southwest later in the partnership. Given Red Feather's record of successful work with tribal communities and the full-time architectural support which would be afforded by the Fellowship, we considered that Red Feather could treat housing shortages on a larger scale—that of community planning. With consistent design and development assistance, Red Feather will be able to strengthen its already impressive record of building and be in a position

continued on page 20



The only previous Rose Fellowship construction in Indian Country is Jamie Blosser's recently completed Tsigo Bugeh Village—a development of 40 multi-family homes on a 6.5 acre site at historic San Juan Pueblo.

In addition, as Community Design Director, Nathaniel has traveled with Red Feather Executive Director Robert Young to meetings with several tribal housing authorities, tribal councils and community group gatherings, as well as engaging in participatory design conferences with the prospective tribal members with whom Red Feather builds straw bale homes.

Nathaniel offers the following account of how he and Red Feather came together to partner for a Rose Architectural Fellowship:

and the Old Oraibi village in Arizona. On the Navaho Reservation I visited with friends working in the hospital in Chinle, Arizona, before driving on to the Tuba City/Moenkopi area where the need for housing improvement is painfully clear. On the Hopi reservation I visited the historic Three Mesas where the precarious housing of current inhabitants is manifest beside the erosion of crucial links to Hopi history.

The Rose Fellowship application came with me to Morocco where I was reminded of the problems ancient communities face whether in Africa or in the Americas—and the potential of such conditions to erode community integrity, traditional knowledge, and a culture's architectural heritage. I arrived home and began



Soft cover
192 pages
133 photos and illustrations
Size 6" x 8.25"
\$24.95

Red Feather Kicks off 2004 with Publication of **BUILDING ONE HOUSE:** A Handbook for Straw Bale Construction

Red Feather Development Group has recently published a handbook describing a straightforward, step-by-step straw bale construction process.

Over the past decade Red Feather has researched many construction methods and has arrived at a family of housing types and construction methods that effectively reflect the needs and resources of many of the American Indian communities with whom we work. Building One House gives the reader

information about building a straw bale home from initial site selection to finished product, while further refining the typical Red Feather house—a home that is inexpensive, environmentally sound and easily adapted to the various skills and needs of tribal members, owner/builders and contractors. The book also includes a preface by Dr. Jane Goodall, case studies of several Red Feather projects, and an overview of the housing challenges facing American Indian communities today.

Funding for the publication of Building One House came through an 'Ideas that Matter' Grant from Sappi Fine Paper and Studiovertex of Seattle. Written by Red Feather's Community Design Director, Nathaniel Corum, Building One House represents an important tool for sharing the straw bale construction process with American Indian communities. The book is currently available on Red Feather's web site, as well as at selected bookstores.

Building One House was developed as a tool to help Red Feather with education and construction programs, but it has the potential to reach a far larger audience. There is a high level of national concern about issues of housing, education and welfare of American Indians. In addition, straw bale construction has experienced an increasing level of interest and is situated to enter mainstream construction.

Building One House does not inundate the reader with confusing options or tangential alternatives. Instead the book

clearly describes a proven and simple construction process in a step-by-step manner and includes many illustrations—and photos—in addition to detailed procedure and materials lists. The design of the book itself, and the building system described within, is conceived to be attractive to the larger public. This is a book that will help to position straw bale construction in the mainstream.

Although written primarily for owners/builders—both on and off American Indian reservations—Building One House is also suited to many other readers. Building One House will be useful to anyone who is interested in learning about (and possibly building) a straw bale house—educators, sustainability studio leaders, housing authority personnel, contractors, and armchair architects, as well as owner/builders.

Straw bale construction is increasingly entering the mainstream—becoming more accepted by homeowners and code officials alike for the past decade. People in many areas of the country are curious to know more about straw bale construction: What is its history? Are bale buildings prone to insects or mold? How expensive is it compared to typical construction? What tools are required? How long will it take? What do these houses look like? How, exactly, do you build a straw bale house? All of these questions are answered in Building One House.

Red Feather values education as important a process as

homebuilding itself in the effort to work with tribal communities towards achieving housing self-sufficiency. Building One House serves as a tool for both of Red Feather's non-construction related missions. The handbook is designed not only to educate the public at large about the housing issues on reservations, but also to inform tribal members about sustainable building strategies that address their housing shortages. The handbook will work in cooperation with community meetings, straw bale demonstrations and on-site training to facilitate housing construction with American Indian communities.

The Turtle Mountain Community College Environmental Research Center will be the first straw bale construction project that will utilize Building One House for use as an educational and training tool. Community members and volunteers alike will be able to deepen their understanding of the straw bale construction process, safety guidelines, Red Feather's methods of work, as well as some of the history and technology relating to straw bale building. Prior to arrival, and during the build itself, project participants will have access to knowledge about the straw bale

construction process, which will result in a better-informed, safer and more productive work party.

Praise for Red Feather Development Group and Building One House

As a Chickasaw who has lived in New Mexico, Montana, South Dakota and Oklahoma, I've witnessed the generally distressed state of Indian homes and housing. Building One House: A Handbook for Straw Bale Construction describes Red Feather Development Group's proven construction process in step-by-step fashion, and will enable tribal housing personnel, American Indian families, and tribal community groups to address housing shortages on American Indian reservations. This handbook brings us a giant step closer to total Indian housing self-sufficiency and the pride of home ownership. Robert Young and Nathaniel Corum deserve our honor and support.

Charles Blackwell
Chickasaw Nation Ambassador to
the United States of America

Our work has its source in the belief that straw bale construction was bequeathed to us by Nebraska pioneers as a life-affirming promise to a world in great need. Thus we actively support Red Feather Development Group's vision and work because Red Feather demonstrates an

inspiring commitment to fulfill that promise. This book helps bring an essential quality—replicability—to our desire to make straw bale construction widely available to under-housed Native American families.

Matts Myhrman and Judy Knox
Out On Bale
Founders of The Last Straw Journal

That so many people living in the 21st century, in the richest country in the world, should be living in abject poverty, is a blot on American society. The Red Feather project is extremely important. It is culturally and environmentally sensitive; it has incredibly low overheads; it is truly making a difference.

Jane Goodall PhD, DBE
Founder, The Jane Goodall Institute
United Nations Messenger of Peace

Straw bale construction is at once an American invention and a sustainable answer to housing needs on and off the reservation. Nathaniel Corum of Red Feather Development Group has produced an accessible and informative resource that promises to improve the housing situation on many American Indian Nations.

Rick West
Director, Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of the American Indian



Red Feather Development Group Project Timeline & Description

As of February 1, 2004



- 1995** Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota: Construction of new 2-bedroom, 1-bath stick frame home for tribal elder Katherine Red Feather.
- 1996** Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota: Rehabilitated and replaced roofs on eight existing homes for tribal elders.
- 1997** Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota: Two complete home rehabilitation for tribal elders. Both of these projects required that the homes meet current South Dakota building code requirements, which facilitated the acquisition of water and electricity through Indian Health Services.
- 1997** Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota: Two home rehabilitations with new roofs for tribal elders. Red Feather volunteers also repaired and improved access/entry to several Pine Ridge homes.



- 1998 Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota:** Red Feather volunteers conduct first wheelchair ramp-a-thon, which resulted in the construction of 12 wheelchair ramps for tribal elderly and disabled.
- 1998 Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota:** Red Feather volunteers rehabilitated the home of tribal elder and replaced her wind-damaged leaky roof.
- 1998 Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations, Montana:** Initiated partnership planning to explore long-term solutions to housing problems including the development of tribal member-managed programs. The focus of this initiative is to educate communities on straw bale building methods enabling tribes to establish frameworks for reservation self-sufficiency and to incorporate the use of tribal resources. It also offers greater opportunities for tribal member collaboration and provides a model for rebuilding reservation communities and facilitating positive change.

- 1999 Crow Agency, Montana:** Red Feather volunteers and University of Washington architecture students construct the Crow Nation's first 2-bedroom, 1-bath straw bale home for a Crow tribal member.
- 1999 Muckleshoot Reservation, Washington (not shown):** Red Feather volunteers and Sundance retail employees construct four wheelchair ramps for tribal elders and the disabled.
- 2000 Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota:** Red Feather volunteers and University of Washington architecture students construct the Pine Ridge Reservation's first straw bale home for tribal elders.
- 2001 Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Montana:** At the request of Northern Cheyenne tribal representatives and members of the Northern Cheyenne tribal housing authority, Red Feather volunteers, together with our university partners, construct the reservation's first straw bale home for a tribal member and her family.
- 2002 Crow Agency, Montana:** Red Feather volunteers, together with the Crow Nation "Rez Protectors," construct a Straw Bale Study Hall for Crow elementary and middle school students thanks to a NSF grant and help from Oprah Winfrey.
- 2003 Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Montana:** Red Feather volunteers and Northern Cheyenne tribal members construct a 2-bedroom, 1-bath straw bale home for a tribal member
- 2004 Turtle Mountain Reservation, North Dakota:** Red Feather and Turtle Mountain Community College team up with the support of a USDA grant to design and build an Environmental Research Center.
- 2004 Northern Cheyenne Reservation, Montana:** Red Feather staff and representatives of Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing, the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council and tribal nonprofit groups discuss the possibility of forming the Nation's first reservation-based, sustainable housing program.
- 2004 Hopi Reservation, Arizona:** Hopi tribal representatives and Red Feather staff discuss the possibility of forming a coalition to address rehabilitation of several historic village homes in the Three Mesas area. In addition, a future straw bale build is considered to replace the home a tribal member recently lost in a fire.
- 2004 Navajo Reservation, Arizona:** Navaho tribal members, Solar Energy International representatives, and Red Feather staff discuss the prospect of providing solar photovoltaic power (to power a refrigerator and basic lighting) and winterizing the traditional hogan home of a tribal elder.



Photo © Michael Neugebauer

Dr. Jane Goodall with members of Roots & Shoots in Tanzania. (August 2002)

Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots

The Roots & Shoots program began in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 1991, with a gathering of 16 students on Dr. Jane's front porch. The students were fascinated by animal behavior and environmental concerns, but none of their classes covered these topics. The group met with Dr. Jane to determine how they could address these issues through out-of-school activities. Discussion ranged from how to help chimpanzees and other animals to how the students' actions might affect their local communities. Those 16 students went back to their schools with the task of forming clubs with other interested young people, and Roots & Shoots began. Since then, the program has spread rapidly. Today, more than 6,000 groups have registered in 87 countries around the world.

Last year at the Volvo for Life awards ceremony in New York's Times Square, Robert Young had the distinct honor of meeting one of his all-time heroes, Dr. Jane Goodall. Robert had the privilege to discuss with Dr. Goodall the possibility of a collaborative effort between Red Feather and Roots & Shoots. The Roots & Shoots' effort to empower indigenous youth throughout the world to be positive influences in their communities has led to enormous change within poor, rural areas. Dr. Goodall's commitment and dedication has inspired thousands, and we look forward to working with her to introduce Roots & Shoots to American Indian communities and the opportunities this unique program can offer Indian youth who become involved in Red Feather's straw bale construction projects. For more information on Roots & Shoots, please visit the Jane Goodall Institute's web site at www.janegoodall.org.

Only if we understand can we care. Only if we care will we help. Only if we help shall all be saved.

—Dr. Jane Goodall

Warm Hearts Bring Warm Winter Jackets to Northern Cheyenne

This winter Red Feather supporter Mike Barter from Seattle, Washington, worked with coat, glove and hat manufacturers to gain warm winter clothing for American Indian children who live on Montana's remote Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Winter temperatures in Montana are severe—all of us in Red Feather's Bozeman office can attest to this—and unfortunately, there are many children on the reservation that often go without a warm winter coat to protect them from the bitter winds.

Mike's care and concern for Indian children has raised hundreds of warm winter jackets, and our heartfelt thanks go out to him. The jackets and other related winter items were delivered to Joan Hantz, librarian at

Chief Dull Knife College, and together with Dull Knife students, Joan and Mike were able to facilitate the distribution of the items to children in the community. We sincerely thank Joan and the students for working with us on this worthy endeavor.

Unfortunately, there are many more kids in need of warm jackets. If you are interested in donating new or like-new winter jackets to Northern Cheyenne children, please send your donation to the address below:

Chief Dull Knife College
Attention: Joan Hantz
1 College Drive
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Velinda Fox (left), Jennifer Fox (center), and Cheryl Bearchum (right) from the Northern Cheyenne tribe enjoy the gift of warmth to protect them from the harsh winters.



Photography by Joan Hantz

Raising Minipokaiax

The Piegan Institute and teacher, Darrell Kipp, help students become children of plenty.

By Pete From, Reprinted from the **Big Sky Journal**, Fall Issue 2003.

Photographs by Lynn Donaldson

Born in Browning fifty-eight years ago, Darrell Kipp is a self-described child of plenty—in his own language, Blackfoot, a minipoka. “I was raised in a rural, ranching community, where the language was still strong, where the extended families still functioned as extended families, where we were always presented with the positive aspects of being Indian people.”

The concept of the child of plenty, or of praise, he is quick to explain, has nothing to do with being spoiled. “It is more the child who has everything, therefore wants nothing. This child knows he can do anything. He doesn’t whine, or pout. Not spoiled, but taken care of. They get things they use, rather than just what they want, and will always be the first to give presents to others. When a minipoka sees a truck he might want, he doesn’t say, ‘Gimme that truck,’ he thinks, ‘There’s a way for me to get that truck,’ and if he needs it, he goes about figuring out what he has to do to earn it.”

As he struggles to explain, in English, the meaning of a single Blackfoot word, the complexity and subtlety of his language, even of a way of thinking, becomes clear. “Really, minipokaiax are the perfect children to raise.”

And that’s something Darrell, along with the others working with him at the Piegan Institute and its collection of three Blackfoot language schools, have been striving toward for the last decade or so.

But, before that, Darrell journeyed away from home, starting with a four year stint at Eastern Montana College in Billings, where he earned a degree in English. “I had never seen many non-Indians until then. But, despite being part of a tiny minority, I never felt singled-out. The logger kid from Libby, the rancher kid from Roundup—we all had more in common with each other than what separated us. Wow, we were in the big city, you know? We could finally go to a dance and not have to dance with our cousins. This was big stuff.”

After being drafted, a two year army stint in the mid-sixties, Darrell traveled

a lot, bouncing around, trying to find something he wanted to do. Eventually in 1975, he wound up at Harvard. “I was very interested in how societies worked. Finally realized I was from one, you know, and I wanted to learn about it.”

After earning a masters of education in social policy and institutional change, Darrell worked for many tribes along the East coast and all over the country, trying to design schools to match the communities. “A lot of tribes didn’t have high schools back then. And they didn’t want them. ‘All are young people will leave.’” Darrell shakes his head. “So if the community was in a fishing area, we tried to make the high school match that, ranching, logging, whatever.”

Finally, in 1982, Darrell returned to Browning to be with his aging parents. There he met Dorothy Still Smoking, who was also home after a long absence, to care for her grandmother. “During a conversation, we became curious how we had both left and finished college, when so many young Indian people don’t manage to. And, eventually, we decided that it was our backgrounds, our parents, that had made it possible. They were able to praise us, teach us how great we were. We were given credit for who we were, what we could do, and because of that, we were not afraid of challenges.”

Darrell explains some history. “The philosophy of the day was ‘kill the Indian, save the man.’ The mission schools forbade the speaking of our language. For decades the Indian people were taught that their language, art, music, everything, was so worthless it had to be abandoned. They did not try to educate the Indian child, they tried to change him.”

This, of course, had a reverse impact. “It made the Indian ashamed of who they were. He became intimidated in the world. When someone asked him about his tribe, he couldn’t tell a thing. He didn’t know his own history. You take any child and tell them every day that they’re worthless, they’ll believe it, to some extent, forever.”

As he does often, Darrell laughs. “I had to go to college before I was able to study Indians.”

Dorothy and Darrell also realized that they didn’t know their own language well. And neither did most anyone else. A study in the mid 80’s showed that no one



Darrell Kipp (Apiniokio Peta) speaks with kindergarten through sixth-grade students outside the Cuts Wood School (Itakakiakio).

under fifty-five years old was still fluent in Blackfoot, and only about forty percent of those over fifty-five were. They decided to study their language as a means of self-discovery. In 1987, along with Ed Little Plume, they co-founded the Piegan Institute, a private, non-profit group which Darrell points out has never taken any government money. Their mission statement; to research, promote, and preserve the Native American language.

Opening file drawer after file drawer, Darrell says, “For seven years we gathered materials, dictionaries, archives, taught ourselves the language. We were a couple of academics. We thought we might write a paper about it someday.”

Instead they wrote a book, *Study of the Blackfoot Language, 1934 to 1958*, which is still the consummate guide to studying the language. And in 1992, they made a film, *Transitions: Death of a Mother Tongue*, chronicling the Blackfeet people in mission schools, where they were first forbidden to use their language. It went on to become one of the first Native American films shown at Sundance.

Giving seminars, studying why they lost their language to such a drastic extent, they began studying language teaching techniques as well, where they came across the total physical response methodology. Things began to shift more dramatically

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NATURAL HOME

Earth Mover

Natural Home salutes Robert Young, who builds safe, sustainable housing for Native Americans.

ROBERT O. YOUNG

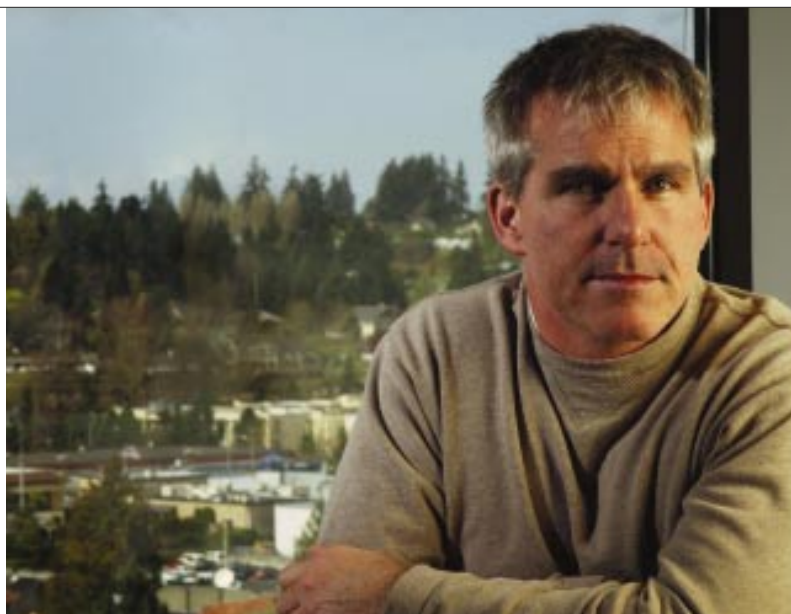


Photo courtesy Volvo for Life



What does the world need, another t-shirt or a decent home? That was the question Seattle clothing manufacturer Robert Young asked himself a decade ago. On a sales trip, he read a newspaper report about the number of elderly tribal members who freeze to death each winter—either because they're homeless or they live in uninsulated reservation dwellings. Appalled, Young founded Red Feather Development Group, a nonprofit organization that helps Native Americans learn how to build energy efficient straw bale homes.

Headquartered in Bozeman, Montana, Red Feather collaborates with the Crow, Northern Cheyenne, and Chippewa nations—and other tribes nationwide—to assist reservations with planning and building sustainable communities. "Before I spent time on reservations, I didn't realize the bone-crunching, Third World poverty that faces these people," Young admits. Of the 2 million tribal members who live on U.S. reservations, more than 300,000 are homeless or live in substandard conditions. Those lucky enough to have a roof over their heads often share a dilapidated shack or trailer with a dozen or more family members.

Straw bale housing is a good solution, but it's not easy. "The bureaucracy is mind-numbing," Young laments. "To build a home we have to deal with at least six government agencies.

Jumping through all these hoops and hurdles paralyzes community members, who feel they're already set up for failure."

With every building project, however, more people gain hope. One resounding success is the Crow Nation Community Study Hall, a straw bale structure where kids can do homework and use computers. The project was spearheaded by four middle-school girls who call themselves The Rez Protectors. For a school science project, they conducted experiments on a Red Feather-built house to prove that straw structures are water-proof, fire resistant, and insulated to withstand the northern Plains' temperature extremes. The girls' project won the Bayer/National Science Foundation competition, and they used the \$25,000 to fund the straw bale community building. That project's money more than doubled when Red Feather received the Oprah Winfrey "Use Your Life" award. A \$50,000 prize from Volvo for Life last year also supports the building projects.

Alternative construction wasn't an immediate hit with tribe members, who were suspicious that straw houses were just another form of substandard housing. "Once the stucco covers the bales and people walk through a cool house on a 120-degree day, most start asking, 'How do I build one?'" says Young.

In winter, Red Feather teaches straw bale seminars on reservations so tribes become self-sufficient in their building skills. In sum-

mer, tribal members work alongside Red Feather volunteers to erect the homes and community centers they've helped plan. "Straw building is simple and not intimidating," says Young. "It unites people and helps communities heal."

Working on remote reservations is a far cry from the chic garment industry, but Young has never looked back. "What I'm doing now helps break the cycle of homelessness," he says. "This project reminds us the world can change for the better."

To donate to or volunteer for Red Feather's American Indian Sustainable Housing Initiative Program, call (406) 585-7188 or check RedFeather.org.

—Laurel Kallenbach

In every issue we will honor Earth Movers, people who are making grass roots efforts to change their neighborhoods and communities for the better. To nominate someone, send information to earth-movers@naturalhomemag.com or *Natural Home Earth Mover*, 201 East Fourth St., Loveland, CO 80537. Each winner receives an engraved stone from *Natural Home* and a handmade Peruvian pottery bowl, courtesy of Ten Thousand Villages, (717) 859-8100, TenThousandVillages.com.



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from their original idea of maybe writing a paper someday.

In 1994 the Institute built their first total immersion Blackfoot language school, the preschool through kindergarten Moccasin Flat school. Two years later, they built a first through sixth grade school, Cuts Wood, and four years after that, the Lost Children School for seventh and eighth graders.

In the classrooms little kids crawl around chairs, under tables, they stand in a circle, jump around, the whole time speaking Blackfoot. "Associating a movement with specific words internalizes the language. They don't have to translate back into English." The Total Physical Response method. No English is allowed during the school day—total immersion.

But, Darrell explains, "the school is not nationalistic, or retro, we're not trying to exclude anyone or to stay in the past. Rather we're trying to move into the future successfully on the strength of the past. The language is the basis of our formal belief system, a cosmology of history and genesis, everything that is important to us as Indian people."

He smiles. "Same reason you don't burn down your libraries is why we keep our language. Our language is our library."

He goes on. "And Blackfeet is totally unlike English, so it gives the child another thinking blueprint. For example, in Blackfeet, there is no gender, so the world can be suddenly seen in a different fashion. Or, there is nothing dead in Blackfeet, only the animate and the inanimate, so everything is alive. The child sees the world as alive around them."

Still, the school is small, but, depending on donations, it's as large as they're able to make it. "No high school yet," Darrell says. "Too expensive."

Charging a 'symbolic tuition' of \$100 a month, which many of the parents cannot afford, takes the school away from being a give-away program. "Even if they can only pay one dollar, they always pay something. It gives dignity and a sense of stewardship in the school." And the school asks for a larger commitment. "We ask that the child comes here for all eight years."

Graduating six to ten students a year, the waiting list is enormous. "That's our problem now. Parents bring applications to us when their kids are three, two, hoping that by kindergarten they'll get in."

Walking the school grounds, past the



vegetable garden, the native herb garden, Darrell says, "For a long time, I always felt like I was on a journey away from home, but when I started studying my language I began to feel as if I might be starting the journey back. I think I'm still on that journey."

Passing the young trees he hopes will become a native forest, Darrell asks, "Can we, even with the small number of kids coming through this school, give them the same sense of inner strength to succeed in college the way we did? We teach the language and everything else here to create a healthy child, to give them choices, to give them parity in society."

So far, it seems to be working. Of their first eight graduates, every one is now an honor student in their high schools. They hold leadership positions.

They have become minipokaiax.

Tool Time: Bosch Equips Red Feather's Housing Initiative

Red Feather Development Group would like to welcome Bosch Power Tools and Accessories, a division of the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation, as a major supporter of the American Indian Sustainable Housing and Community Development Initiative. For the past nine years Red Feather has struggled with an old and sometimes antique supply of tools on our projects. That was until Bill Friedman, a supporter

of Red Feather and owner of Friedman Hardware, called on Bosch Power Tools and Accessories for a product donation. The Bosch team immediately responded with over \$5,000 worth of tools and accessories. The Bosch products played a significant role in this summer's project and certainly stood up to the Red Feather pounding.

"Bosch Power Tools and Accessories is honored to support Red Feather's Housing Initiative," says

Andrew Reed, Vice President at Bosch.

"The opportunity to give back to our community is one the entire Bosch family cherishes greatly."

Bosch is truly making a difference by directly supporting our program, and Red Feather looks forward to an ongoing relationship. To learn more about Bosch, please visit their web site at www.boschtools.com and be sure to look for Bosch products when shopping for tools.





Straw Bale Home Project, Northern Cheyenne Reservation

Two years ago, a Northern Cheyenne tribal member approached the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Program for a low-income home mortgage. She did not have a home at the time and had found refuge in several temporary locations on the reservation. Before Red Feather offered her assistance, she was living in a small tent on her land.

The USDA came through with a home mortgage, and in July of 2003, thirty Red Feather volunteers arrived to help her build a 2-bedroom, 1-bath straw bale home. Over a two week period, this tribal member and her family worked alongside Red Feather volunteers, and when the project neared completion, she worked with community members and USDA representatives to complete the home. This project represents Red Feather's ongoing collaboration with the Northern Cheyenne community and played a major role in the refinement of the prototype home featured in Red Feather's publication, **Building One House - A Handbook for Straw Bale Construction**.

Many thanks to Nikki Stahley and Jim Raznoff of Montana's USDA Rural Development office for all their hard work, patience and commitment to making this project a reality. We would also like to thank Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing, Indian Health Services, and the related agencies that assisted in this project.

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to better identify, document and improve their already successful design and construction strategies.

Together we will be able to provide the construction documents, home designs, construction information and project estimates crucial to getting housing built in the reservation context.

My partnership with Red Feather Development Group rests on a shared philosophy as to how development work on reservations should be carried out. Top priority is placed on community involvement. We believe this is a key component in the goal to achieve substantial and lasting change on American Indian reservations. To this effect, a commitment must be made to tribal empowerment. Typically, local member input as to how buildings are designed and placed has not been taken into consideration for the majority of building projects on reservation lands. Red

Feather and I wish to empower tribal members to assume the lead role in the betterment of their communities. We believe that tribal members know what is best for their communities, and that they need to be involved in all aspects of development work. Our partnership will assist them in carrying out the housing objectives they deem important, rather than imposing what we think is best for their communities. Working side-by-side in the construction of buildings promotes trust in the project partnership as well as greater understanding of each other's cultures. The partnership's pragmatic goal is to show Native American communities how to build affordable, environmentally-sustainable and culturally-appropriate housing for people who need it. By achieving this end, the true goal of the partnership will be served: the acquisition by tribal members of the skills needed to take on housing shortfalls within their own communities.

In the Native American context specifically, I hope that one project outcome will be that tribes have a positive experience with an architect. The more that tribes appreciate and utilize an architect as a team member, and the more that experience is documented, the more these communities will benefit. A further outcome will be the personal enrichment I will derive from combining service with learning. With a notable partner organization and the support of the Rose Architectural Fellowship, I will be in a position to gain the community development experience that will allow me to work in developing areas as an architect and community development specialist. I expect to acquire much pragmatic building and community planning knowledge through an auspicious affiliation with a non-profit partner, with architecture schools, with the Enterprise Foundation and with several Native American communities. I expect to learn how to share design, construction, maintenance, management,

New Computers Welcomed at Chief Dull Knife College

The computer problems at Northern Cheyenne's Chief Dull Knife College was becoming difficult, to say the least. Only three out of five worked, and for many of the students who needed to work on a computer daily, it was very frustrating. Red Feather put the word out to our supporters that Chief Dull Knife College needed new computers, and the response was very heartwarming.

Red Feather supporter Peggy Baron from Highlands Ranch, Colorado, took action and approached her fellow parishioners at St. Mark Catholic Church. Peggy and the generous folks at St. Mark contributed \$500, which put us half way to Red Feather's goal of two new computers.

Then Red Feather supporter Chris Muldoon took the initiative and was able to raise \$400 by approaching friends, family and other community members in his hometown of South Euclid, Ohio.

Today, thanks to Peggy, Chris and other Red Feather supporters, Northern Cheyenne students at Chief Dull Knife College have two new computers to help them accomplish their educational goals. According to the college librarian, Joan Hantz, "They couldn't have arrived at a better time. It's the start of a new quarter, and we weren't sure what we were going to do."



cultural preservation and creative financing skills with others. I look forward to facilitating the hard work of architecture students, building contractors and community members who volunteer on Red Feather projects. And I will be proud to serve tribal members learning to build for their own needs, as well as students whom I one day hope to teach as a professor of architecture and community planning.

Nathaniel is not the only Rose Fellow to work with a nonprofit in Indian Country. Another Rose Fellow—Ms. Jamie Blosser—has just completed her Fellowship during which time she made a major contribution to affordable housing on the San Juan Pueblo in New Mexico. Blosser, working in collaboration with her nonprofit partner, the Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority, provided project management and design coordination for a development

team involving architects Antonio Parés and Laura Van Amburgh of Coop + Architecture, as well as project engineers, development consultants, accountants and lawyers. Jamie learned and persevered through an intense period of writing grants, reports, financial proformas and contracts while navigating the project through HUD procurement, environmental processes and tribal approvals. At the end of her three-year Fellowship, a wonderful community resulted. The Tsigo Bugeh Village—a development of 40 multi-family homes on a 6.5 acre site at historic San Juan Pueblo (near Espanola, NM)—opened its doors recently and represents a culturally-appropriate and artfully-conceived housing development that grew from within the Pueblo community with Jamie's help and dedication (see image on page 11).

Among the resources that the Enterprise Foundation offers their Rose Fellows is the guidance of a Community Development Mentor (CDM) and the Rose Fellowship Director. Both Jamie and Nathaniel are fortunate to have Deborah Webster, Director of the Enterprise Foundation's Native American Program, as Community Development Mentor and Stephen Goldsmith as Rose Architectural Fellowship Director. Ms. Webster has served as CDM for Ms. Blosser's successful project, and both she and Mr. Goldsmith possess a wealth of information related to financing options, community relations and work with American Indian communities. Red Feather looks forward to the design and construction support that the Rose Fellowship and Nathaniel will make possible. **RF**



Above and Beyond Volunteer Highlights

Mike Kelly

Mike, carpenter and owner of *Wood Wright Renovations* of Bozeman, Montana, has been a Red Feather volunteer since 2000 and has volunteered his time as a team leader on several of our straw bale home and community building projects. Mike has also lent his time and skills to our Bozeman office by constructing many of our desks, work areas, and book shelves. Mike's generosity and support has helped our transition to Bozeman enormously, and his years of experience in construction have proven invaluable to our organization. We greatly appreciate Mike's involvement in our program and his genuine concern for the reservation communities we serve. For more information on *Wood Wright Renovations*, please contact Mike Kelly at (406) 580-7367, or e-mail him at woodwrightrenovations@earthlink.net.



Anne Johnson

Anne, also from Bozeman and a Red Feather volunteer since 2000, is a big reason our organization was able to open an office in Bozeman. We have always been eager to relocate our headquarters to an area more central to the reservations we assist, but the move of an entire program is an extremely difficult proposition. Anne has been extremely generous with her time and has helped with many of the logistical issues concerning our move. Anne and her daughter Beth also were volunteers on our 2003 home project. They were a big help during the build, and we are fortunate to have them as members of the Herd.



Mark Jensen

Mark is one of the big reasons we can provide all our members with updated Red Feather program information, such as this publication. Mark is the Production Manager for *Savage Color*, a high quality, Seattle-based printing company, and generously donates his time and expertise to produce all our printed items. Over the years, Mark has saved our organization thousands of dollars, which has helped us enormously by allowing more of our limited funding to be focused on our housing programs. Mark is also a skilled carpenter and has volunteered his time and construction knowledge on several of our building projects. We are fortunate to have Mark as a member, and we look forward to his continued involvement and friendship. For more information on the services offered by *Savage Color*, please contact Mark Jensen at (206) 632-2866, or e-mail him at mjensen@savagecolor.com.



Art Fust

Art is the owner of *Energy A.D.*, a Billings, Montana, mechanical systems analysis and design firm, specializing in radiant floor heating design and installation and other alternative heating systems. Art, with over 30 years of engineering experience, has generously lent his skills to Red Feather and our university partners on various reservation projects. Art's hands-on involvement has played an enormous role in our effort to provide future homeowners with some of the most efficient heating systems possible. Art has also offered his time and expertise as Red Feather expands its program to reservations in the Southwest. Our thanks and admiration goes out to Art and *Energy A.D.* for all their help and support. For more information on *Energy A.D.*, please contact Art Fust at (406) 656-1606, or e-mail him at eadfust@juno.com.

Moira Misunas

Moira is originally from Northern California and learned about Red Feather and the housing problems facing native communities through the Oprah Winfrey Show. She was shocked by the state of reservation housing—as many of us are—and was deeply moved by Oprah's follow-up on the Red Feather program. Instead of feeling powerless, Moira decided to become part of the solution by contacting our office and then traveling to Bozeman in September, 2003 to meet with our staff and discuss her possible involvement with our organization. We were very impressed with Moira's high-energy, can-do attitude, but we were not in a position to bring on another employee. To our surprise and delight, Moira suggested that she volunteer her time in our Bozeman office. She has already become an important member of the Red Feather team and has already begun with many administrative duties that overwhelm our staff. We welcome Moira to Bozeman and offer thanks for her selfless involvement in Red Feather's important work.



Bozeman Gallery Walk



Historic Downtown Bozeman hosted the First Annual Red Feather Gallery Walk on December 12, 2003. Local galleries teamed up with some of Bozeman's

finest restaurants to staging an evening of fun, food and art benefiting Red Feather's American Indian Sustainable Housing and Community Development Initiative. The event introduced a large audience to the Red Feather endeavor and represented Red Feather's formal introduction to the Bozeman community.

Artist and Red Feather board member Tom Gilleon was present at Montana Trails Gallery signing "Yellow Crow Lodge," a limited edition print to benefit Red Feather. The print is the cover art for this issue of Building One House and continues to be available through the Red Feather web site at www.redfeather.org. All proceeds directly support our American Indian Sustainable Housing and Community Development Initiative. We look forward to another exciting gallery walk this summer!

The Winter Gallery Walk would not have been possible without the support of these exceptional partners:

Alespa Design

Artifacts

Boodles

Cakebread Vineyards

Chaparral

Grey Fox

John Bozeman's Bistro

Locati Architects

Montana Trails

Old Main

Poindexters

Rocky Mountain Roasting Co.

Ptarmigan Press

Savory Olive

Sierra Nevada Brewing Co.

US Bank

Underriner Motors

Visions West



Red Feather welcomes Mike Long

In May 2003, Red Feather welcomed Mike Long to the staff as Development Director. Mike has worked in the nonprofit sector for over ten years and was also part of a start-up strategic marketing firm out of Boulder, Colorado, before finding his way to Red Feather. Mike's long-time involvement in environmental issues and Alaskan native concerns lies behind his passion for finding environmentally-sustainable solutions to the housing crisis facing native communities.

Protecting some of the world's last wild places has been a big part of Mike's career, and much of his time has been spent in and around Southeast Alaska working with regional, grass-roots organizations on conservation initiatives and Alaskan native interests, including the highly publicized "road-less campaign." Mike continued his efforts on a global scale as Development Director of an international conservation campaign, which was involved in the first conservation patrol vessel to work with the Ecuadorian government in the Galapagos Islands. He also assisted in an effort to protect the marine wildlife in and around San Ignacio Lagoon in Baja.

Obtaining the funds necessary to support the goals of Red Feather is the first step in achieving proper housing for native communities. Mike's effort to engage individuals, foundations and corporations will play an important role in Red Feather's effort to bring hope to the tens of thousands of tribal members who have no home of their own. We are pleased to have Mike on our staff as we expand our program and further our reservation partners' capacity to find long-term solutions to urgent problems.

How I Spent My Summer Vacation

By Beverly Faxon

Mid-July found my kitchen table and counters piled high with checklists and recipes; baggies full of nuts, granola, and pre-mixed cookie dough; boxes of Mori-Nu tofu and peppermint tea; bottles of tamari, red wine vinegar and maple syrup; my battered copy of Joy of Cooking; and a meat thermometer. Co-

workers at the Deli Next Door, aware of my vegetarian diet, were startled by my sudden interest in all things meat: How do you cook hamburger for spaghetti sauce? Are hot dogs precooked? How much chicken do you need for 35 people?

For the fourth summer, my husband had volunteered to build straw bale buildings with the Red Feather Development Group. My son and daughter, who had each put in time during previous summers, had signed up as well. They packed their hammers, tape

measures, and safety glasses. I am not handy. Nails I hammer invariably go awry, and I must find artistic ways to bend them into position. But I love to cook, especially good, basic food for big groups of people, so I volunteered to head up the outdoor kitchen for six days.

Robert Young established Red Feather Development Group in 1995 with the mission of working with American Indian nations to “find long-term, environmentally sustainable solutions to the acute lack of proper housing on many of their reservations.” As pointed out on the Red Feather website, of the over 2 million tribal members living on reservations, over 300,000 are homeless or live in substandard, often dangerous, conditions. As an independent non-profit, Red Feather is committed to helping find housing solutions within the context of a respectful partnership with tribal members. Red Feather volunteers and tribal members work side by side on private homes and community buildings. The resulting community involvement and the opportunities for volunteers to increase their understanding of reservation life and tribal culture are central to Red Feather’s mission. Red Feather works primarily with straw bale construction, which is environmentally sustainable and can take advantage of the plentiful wheat straw produced on the reservations. The insulation provided by straw bale homes proves valuable for the temperature extremes found on reservations throughout the northern plains. Straw bale construction is also user-friendly: lots of people, including families and neighbors, can easily join in. For more on Red Feather, see www.redfeather.org.

The weeks leading up to our trip left me anxious. I studied two thick notebooks, borrowed from





my friend Geraldine, who has cooked extensively at large retreats. Red Feather sent us menus and told us to feel free to tweak them as we wished. I e-mailed back: Is there an oven? A refrigerator? A grocery store? Water? They assured me that plenty of food, both purchased and donated, was waiting for us at the building site on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Montana, but I had high self-expectations. I baked big pans of peppermint chocolate cake. My husband gathered ingredients for his own contributions: Tuscan lamb stew and Thai chicken curry. My daughter watched the growing mound of recipes and food and remarked, *"It looks like we want to be everybody's favorite family."* Yes, and everybody's favorite cook. There was a little ego involved.

Once we got there, the work didn't let up. I got up at 5:30 each morning to ready breakfast by 7:00, and I finished the last clean-up of the day around 8:00 in the evening. With the help of other volunteers, I cooked three meals and provided two snacks daily for 35 to 40 people in an outdoor kitchen set up under tarps. I hauled water, figured out the vagaries of the coffee percolator, learned how long it takes to grill Italian sausages for forty and how long it takes to simmer 15 cups of rice. I fell into my sleeping bag each night with my hands smelling of bleach and was asleep before the evening light faded. Then I woke at 3 a.m. from dreams about the next day's menus and shopping lists. When I got up to walk to the outhouse, I could see Mars overhead.

Cooking under the big Montana sky,

watching the straw bale walls go up, made me happy. The heat, the dry wind, even the yellow jackets, who gathered whenever you took the lid off a jar of jam or cracked open a watermelon, just added to the sensual satisfaction that comes with living outside. In

the 95° afternoons, I would dig into the freezer, turning over loaves of cinnamon bread and hauling out chicken breasts to defrost for the next day. Hot even in the shade, I watched volunteers hammering and hauling bales under the baking sun, their bodies speckled with flying straw and red clay. The parching air drew water right out of the skin. Gator-Aide flowed like water.

People loved the food—it's hard to miss when you're camp cook. Crisply sautéed tofu started out as a novelty side dish and won converts. Some folks got their first taste of hummus. The peppermint cake was eaten, but not with as much gusto as the iced brownies from a boxed mix. Geraldine's citrus coleslaw was a bright, colorful hit. Cookies similar to the raspberry tortes we sold in the Deli were well received at breakfast, lunch and dinner. The homemade granola had a small but fiercely loyal following. Rice pilaf with toasted cashews went over big, as did the Tuscan stew and the Thai curry. And on the night we served hot dogs, two men from Maryland, who had been game and gracious through each menu, heaved a big sigh of relief and said, *"Ahh, camp food! I could have eaten like this all week!"*

It was the most fun I've had in years. The drive home from eastern Montana is a long one; I had time to think about what it was I loved so much. It wasn't a typical vacation—defrosting, cleaning, hauling tubs of water, measuring, chopping, stirring and frying. Yet when the work is hard, requires your full attention, and is directed at something larger than yourself,

there can also be an ease, no need to justify or rationalize or question, *"Should I be doing something else?"*

And there were no radios, no phones, no e-mail. I never saw a headline, never heard a Mariner's score. For a week we lived and worked in community—our tents rubbed elbows; we sat together in camp chairs, under the cook tent tarp, balancing our plates on our laps. And we were keenly aware of being in the midst of the larger Cheyenne community. I felt sad as we drove off the reservation land. We live a daily dichotomy: constantly collecting information about the world, and yet we having so little to do with the world. At the end of the day, our heads full of global news and odd, disquieting headlines (Man murders family in New Jersey suburb), we come home and hole up in our houses. Overwhelmed by all that we know, we end up withdrawing from our own communities. For a little while it was a relief to live all in one place, with a clear purpose: my companions were building a house, and I was feeding them.

Reprinted with permission: The Skagit Valley Food Co-op Natural Enquirer.



Statement of Financial Position *December 31, 2003*

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$	75,804	
Prepaid expenses		3,107	
Total current assets			\$ 78,911
Equipment, net of depreciation			82,477
Total assets			\$ 161,388

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Current liabilities			
Payables		\$	31,958
Net assets			129,400
Total liabilities and net assets			\$ 161,358

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES: For the year ended December 31, 2003

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total	% of Revenue	% of Expenses
Support and revenues						
Individual & corporate donations	\$ 172,472	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 172,472		
Foundation grants	58,965	-	-	58,965		
In-Kind support	108,410	-	-	108,410		
Investment income	60	-	250	310		
Total support	339,907	-	250	340,157	100.0%	
Expenses						
Program services						
Building & rehab housing expenses	7,203	-	-	7,203		
Donated materials	11,000			11,000		
Volunteer labor	50,000		-	50,000		
Project equipment maintenance & transportation	8,940			8,940		
Other program expenses	32,118		-	32,118		
Volunteer support costs	5,616	-	-	5,616		
Educational expenses	60,309		-	60,309		
Payroll expenses	121,685		-	121,685		
Total program services	296,871	-	-	296,871	87.3%	76.4%
Supporting services						
Administrative costs	16,634		-	16,634		
Payroll expense	52,364		-	52,364		
Depreciation expense	3,409	-	-	3,409		
Professional fees	1,150		-	1,150		
Promotional materials and fees	6,529		-	6,529		
Rent	11,820		-	11,820		
Total supporting services costs	91,906	-	-	91,906	27.0%	23.6%
Total expenses	388,777	-	-	388,777	114.3%	100.0%
Changes in net assets	(48,870)	-	250	(48,620)	-14.3%	
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	104,385	53,579	20,056	178,020		
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 55,515	\$ 53,579	\$ 20,306	\$ 129,400		

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS: For the year ended December 13, 2003

Cash Flow from Operating Activities

Increase in Net Assets	
Cash received from contributors, unrestricted	\$ 278,777
Investment income	310
Cash paid to employees and suppliers	(265,207)
NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES	13,880

Cash Flow from Investing Activities

Purchase of equipment	(8,000)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(8,000)

NET INCREASE IN CASH 5,880

CASH, Beginning 69,924

CASH, Ending \$ 75,804

2003 Annual Giving



Eagle
\$5,000 or
greater



Sundance
\$4,999-1,000



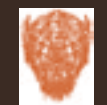
Wisdom
\$999-500



Brave
\$499-250



Tribe
\$249-100



**Buffalo
Herd**
\$99 or less



**2003
Volunteers**

Elizabeth Adkins, Sarah Adkins, Leon Antolin, Christiana Arvetis, Wayne Bastrup, Rick Bausone, George Bearch, Bob Bergquist, Dennis Boyle, Scott Cameron, Reid Carolin, Susanne Chambers, Tami Chen, Michele Chrabot, Mike Clifford, Marilyn Cochran, Norma Crampton, Ken DeLong, Art Fust, Bebe Gordon, Robert and Brandon Gregg, Jim and Julie Houston, Dean Isham, Carol Iwaasa, Mark Jensen, Anne Johnson, Beth Johnson, Mike Kelly, Dawn Lusher, John Meaney, Diane Meitzler, Doug Mills and Bev Faxon, Jessie Mills, Susannah Mills, Frances Morrow, Marie Morzenti, Matts Myhrman and Judy Knox, Brian Palidar, Erin Riley, Barbara and Lauren Russell, Dave and Heidi Schaub, Scott Smidt, Kevin Smith, Kristin Spohnholtz, Liz Swallow, John and Penny Vik, Suzanne Wannemuehler, Jan and Devin Waters, Henry Williams, Terry Wynkoop, Sara Zagurski

EAGLE

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
The Bay Foundation
Roson Wolcott
The Overbrook Foundation
San Manuel Tribe
U.S. Bank
Pajwell Foundation
AMB Foundation
Thomas P. Waters Foundation
Paul L. Newman Foundation
Michael Graham
Enterprise Foundation
Volvo Cars of North America

SUNDANCE

(a.k.a. Whatever Publishing, Inc.)
Elaine Andrews and Harold Techel
Bill Underiner
Christopher Kohn
Citigroup Foundation
Jerry Locati Architects P.C.
Mary and Jim Dunnam
N. P. and Susan McWhirter
Newman's Own Organics
Susan Pimentel
The Schaub Foundation
Thomas Hansen
Victoria Clarke
Micaela Trumbull
Christine Barr
New Belgium Brewing Co.
Bobbi Strand
Michael Gross
Edward and Janet Keebler
Roger and Barbara Leman
Jeanette Anderson
PepsiCo
Frank Pattison
Lou Zumek
Strider Group LLC
Bellevue Rotary Club
Lawrence and Robin Sapanski
Barbara Anderson
Fortune Family Foundation
John W. Pope foundation
Carol Salisbury

WISDOM

Brian Palidar
Douglas Wilson
Nathaniel Corum
Jan Carter
John Meaney
Karen Molnar
Larry and Sharon Snyder
Marjorie Jackson
Robert Gruber
St. Mark Catholic Church
Sylvia Campbell
The Arnold & Jeanne Bernstein Fund
William and Nila Thompson
Christ the King Lutheran Church
Jeffrey and Patricia Pratt
Alice Vaughan
Peggy and Stephen Baron
John and Esther Rivera
Diane Meitzler
Terry and Karen Wynkoop
Dearborn Hills United
Methodist Church
Scott and Annie Scrivner
Sheri Marr
Bryan Syrdal
Timothy Casey

BRAVE

Audrey and Robert Whiting
Bryce Palo
Dean Isham
Paye Gleeson
George Bearch
Kathleen Murray
Laurie Ziel
Leon Antolin
Mary Bolton
Michele Van Allen
Mike Kielkopf
Rob Johnson
Seattle Savings Bank

Stellar Solutions Foundation
Susan Carstensen
William and Jane Bachman
Ramona and Joseph Womack
Tom Brown
B. Maureen Merritt
James and Cheryl English
Laura Akres
Fay, Sharpe, Fagan, Minnich & McKee, LLP
Sean Thompson
Shirley Bury
Thomas and Dianne Noon
Porus Olpadwala
Alice Meister
Carol Iwaasa
McMaster-Carr Supply Co.
James, Sara and Elizabeth Adkins
Andrew and Wendy Kukic
David and Heidi Lasher
Diane McMichael
Jan and Devin Waters
Jim and Julie Houston
Rachel Moore and Michael Bogner
Torrey Russell
Elizabeth Druzianich
Henry Williams
Kerry Hauck
Linda Collins
Scott Smidt

TRIBE

A. Lewis
Amber Brookman
Arthur Kennedy
Ashley Andrew
Barbara Dorr
Barbara Frick
Barbara Schneider
Barbara Wilhite
Basil and Suzanne Bigbie
Beth Ann Czapor
Bonnie Kem
Bonnie Sachatello-Sawyer
Brian and Mara Bohman
Carol Kutnyak
Carolyn and David Gossard
Charlene Spollen
Charles Amos
Charles Kaplan
Clyde and Kathryn Davis
Cynthia Thompson-Adhikari
David and Gerry Jones
David Morton
Debra Mennell
Dolores Pieper
Doris Olson
Douglas and Beaman and Chyrl Turner
Duke and Marcia Dixon
Dwayne Mahony
Dynamec Fireplaces, Inc.
Eileen Mary Devine
Elizabeth Huss
Elizabeth Wise
Floyd Taylor
Frank and Kathleen Blair
George and Margot Bixby
George Bradham
Guideposts
Henry and Karin Williams
Herb and Vicky Webb
Housing Resources of
Western Colorado/ Bryce Palo
James and Marianne Samples
Jane Ratchford
Jaynane Ridder
John Fujii
Jon and Diana Jo Burleson
Judi Erlandson
Judy and Kim Masnick
Judy Safran-Aasen
Julie Scena
Karen Czarnecki
Karen Godfrey
Kenneth and Betty Kelley
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Lawrence Howard
M. Howes
Mairi-Kathleen MacHott
Michael Bogner and Rachel Moore
Minnie Blochberger
Pat Jackson-Colando and Larry Colando
Paul Pierron
Raymond and Nancy Bolt
Raymond Okeefe
Rebecca Freedman
Rebecca Kersey
Reinhold and Kathy Mooney-Dillon
Rita Powell
Robert Tillotson
Roger and Ann Graham
Roswitha Weidlich
S. and Loene Trubkin
Samuel Hansen
Sandra Shimer Southern
Shirley and Robert Graber
Shirley Oldfield
Steven and Monique Elftman
Susan Davis
Timothy Fox
Wendy Farwell
William and Rachel Zerwekh
William Porter
Graham & Dunn
Alan Maclaren
Alva and Patricia Gerdes
Dr. G. and Susan Henderson
Nedra San Filippo
Wanza Spangler
Jan Ress and Sue Christopherson
Jonathan and Maria Massey
MONY Foundation
Alice and Ernest Weymuller
Anthony and Laurie Mestres
DWS Associates
Macon Howard
AT&T/Northern Trust Company
Andrea Loretz-Frey
Annie Hargraves
Becky Ward
CJ Stotts
Constance Purcell
Dane Meisenheimer
Elaine and Jacob Labe
J.T. and S.A. Sponzilli
Jacquie Maughan
John Odden
Lee Nusich
Liz Lundrigan
Lori Scinto
Lorna Rogers
Maile Lono
Paul and Debra Georghiou
Rebecca Mulligan
Robert and Cynthia Sheptack
Sue Ellen Haynes
Verizon Foundation
Sundance Catalog
Bonnie and Rick Scriba
Sallyanne Tackus
Anne and John Leder
Anne Johnson
Arlene Donald and Stephen Teuchert
Audrey Kunieda
Bo and Elsie Zagurski
Catherine Carolin
Reid Carolin
Chris Muldoon
David Hutkin
Dawn Lusher
Denise Sandoval
Donald and Dorothy Brown
Elizabeth (Bebe) Gordon
Frederick Dick
Gloria Fisher
Herbert Krill
Jacqueline Drake
John and Martha Jarboe
Judy Knox and Matts Myhrman
Ken DeLong
Kimberlee Tellez
Kristin Spohnholtz
Linda Coussens
Sue and Harry Jensen
Marie Morzenti
Marilynn Cochran
Marion Giles
Mark Jensen
Maureen Merritt
Michele Chrabot
Neil Hawkins
Raymond and Priscilla Lord
Richard Bausone
Rita Sample
Sara Zagurski
Scott Glubay
Suzanne A-Wannemuehler
Tami Chen
Thomas and Roxanne Leitzke
William and Kelley James
Frances Morrow

John and Penny Vik
Dennis Boyle
Kevin Smith
Scott and Alice Cameron
John Cali

BUFFALO HERD

Sanford Vance
Julie Barton
A. M. McGrath
Robert and Patricia Gaug
Ann Piccininni
Deborah Bristol Simon
Donna Miller
Ellen French
Erika Romer
Lois Ballew
Mary Keefer
Meredith Tupper
Susan La Mantia
Gail Russell
Ann Lee Grinstead
Carole Baker
Gerald and Lynda Jarsocrak
Janna Clark
Joanne Baker
John and Darlene Walsh
Terry and Jill Baird
Ann Hobbs
Calvin and Kathryn Kaya
Carl Hahn
Edith Casparian
Gaye Anderson
Gregory and Janice Govi
Jacqueline Corbet
Janell Keyser
John and Elizabeth O'Neill
John Edward Smith Ministries
Kanjira Phinyosophon
Linda Willenbrock
Lori Snyder
Margaret Johnston
Mary Halpin
Gaye Anderson
Patricia White
Alicia and John Madsen
Amy Loftus
Ann Hopkins
Anthony and Trudy Stross
Architects Consortium of Colorado
Arlene Donald
Attila and Loretta Czeglényi
Audrey Paisley
Aurelio Robles
Bobbi Azure
Brady Leigh McClintock
Brenda Vassau
Brian Hirsh
Brian Pulfrey and Kimberley Bernales
Brigitte Ulrich
Bryan and Marguerite Humphrey
Canda Everett
Carole Thatcher
Caryn Colombo
Catherine Martin
Charlene and Charles Collora
Christina Cosmanoff
Christina Williams
Christine Love
Christine May
Christopher Sweitzer and
Kathleen Dahill
Clay and Melissa Fleener
Clay Bowden
Clifford Gray
Colleen Cunningham
Cynthia Heinze
Daniel and Lucille Woods
Dean and Lisa Bernd
Deborah Dickinson
Deborah Molzer
Diana and Todd Givens
Diane Calvert
Dianne and Edmund Fox
Dolores Ringor
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Calling the Herd

Red Feather Development Group has long depended on individual supporters to play a major role in the funding and success of our American Indian Sustainable Housing and Community Development Initiative. Beginning this year, we now wish to acknowledge and communicate with our supporters through membership. Members will play a vital role in the future of this organization and our initiative. Red Feather members have the ability to work together with American Indian nations for the betterment of their communities and become part of a mission that has given a tremendous amount of hope to all involved. We have had a wonderful response to our Inaugural Membership Drive and look forward to this continued effort. We will send our membership appeal annually, making sure that we update all contact information at that time. Unfortunately, we have not received enough e-mail addresses to make e-news updates worthwhile so www.redfeather.org is still the best way to stay current with Red Feather news, project information, and special announcements.

We are very pleased to provide to our members Building One House, Red Feather's bi-annual publication. It will be a great line of communication between Red Feather and our supporters and will provide real insight into our programs and the communities we work with. Be sure to look for our Summer/Fall 2004 issue.

Volunteers will always be an integral part of the success of our program. Every winter, the Red Feather staff reads and processes over one thousand volunteer applications. It is important for everyone to understand that our program's number one goal is to educate the communities with whom we work. With limited projects, it is not feasible to give everyone who applies a chance to attend a building project. With increased member support, we will be able to initiate more builds and create more hands-on opportunities for enthusiastic volunteers. We encourage everyone to become a Red Feather member—membership is the first step to becoming a volunteer—and all members can complete our volunteer application on-line. Applicants will be notified of future projects and volunteer opportunities through our Building One House publication or through special announcements. One day, we look forward to working with all members who wish to give their time and energy to this unique endeavor. **RF**

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“The Red Feather project
is extremely important.
It is culturally and
environmentally sensitive;
it has incredibly low
overheads; it is truly
making a difference.”

Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE
*Founder of The Jane Goodall Institute
United Nations Messenger of Peace*