



Special Issue

***"Committed to sharing God's gifts among all peoples of the world"***

Native America 2019

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*"Help to carry one  
another's burdens  
and in this way  
you will obey the  
law of Christ."  
~ Galatians 6:2*

***From the Team Leader***

Dear Friends,

This was my fifth trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. Each time I have visited I have left part of my heart with the people there. For the first time, I was the team leader and found that despite my trepidation it was a very smooth trip.

We were a team of seven. Even though some were strangers to one another, we bonded instantly and were able to work together wonderfully. We were warmly welcomed by Julie Garreau, Jerica Widow, Meghan Tompkins, and all the staff at the Cheyenne River Youth Project (CRYP). Each day Jerica and Megan met with us and addressed any concerns or questions we might have and gave us a list of things that we might be able to help with. It really made everything run very smoothly.

My husband Ken, along with Kenny and Josh, were able to do quite a bit of maintenance work around the Cheyenne River Youth Project, such as repairing a handicap bathroom, fixing lights and staking up saplings that had been blown over during the winter. The ladies jumped right in and organized a library, filed paperwork in the office, and cleaned and cooked for the children. They also planned and carried out a number of games and arts and craft activities for the 40-45 children who attended the afternoon classes. They spent one afternoon teaching dance to the girls who especially loved the costumes that were donated by a very generous dance teacher in Pennsylvania. We brought along with us some blankets, over 200 pairs of socks, 250 pairs of underwear, and 180 sets of gloves and hats which would be handed out at the "back to school" give away being held in August at Takini School.

We found the children were very open to us and we were able to bond with them very quickly. When you looked into their eyes you could see a brightness, eagerness to learn and a desire to find acceptance and love. All of which we found so easy to give. When the time came for us to leave the Cheyenne River Youth Organization there were tears in all our eyes, as the children said, "Why do you have to go?" "We are going to miss you!" That was the exact same thing we were thinking!!

One evening we were invited to attend the 110 Year Anniversary Celebration of the town of Timber Lake, South Dakota. We toured the local museum and saw some amazing fossils, and memorabilia of the town. We also attended a concert held under a rodeo tent and

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**Karen dressed as a turtle inviting the children to a workshop.**

## (CONTINUED) FROM THE TEAM LEADER - *Karen Moore*

heard some toe tapping country music by local singers as well as Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band!

On our last day on the Cheyenne River Reservation we traveled to Takini School. This school is about an hour and a half out into the prairie. The roads are rough and the children at this school often must live there during the four-day school week. They only go home on the weekends as some live as far as 50 to 100 miles away on the prairie. This is quite a strain on the teachers who must serve as house parents as well as teachers. We brought school supplies, blankets, hats, gloves, scarves, underwear, socks, rocket building kits and race car kits for the teachers. Our service projects there were to set up a computer lab, (as the ones they had were destroyed in 2017 by a fire caused by arson), do several maintenance projects and paint a wall in front of the school. Takini School has a very special place in our hearts and we are always so happy to visit and meet with Kit Viet, the superintendent, who is always so welcoming and helpful. We were asked several times if it would be possible for us to bring a vision clinic next year as many of the children need glasses. That is our hope for next year.

One other need we became aware of was the lack of supplies for the Veterans' Food Bank in Eagle Butte. We were happy to donate some food when we saw the shelves were empty! We are seeking financial donations so we can purchase needed items in Rapid City on our next visit and hopefully stock the shelves for the well-deserving veterans.

And YES! We are already planning our next trip out to see our friends and those we consider our family in South Dakota!!



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## THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN - *Izzy Moore*

After a three-day journey across country we finally arrived at the Cheyenne River Reservation. It was amazing to see how desolate the land was with a sparse scattering of broken-down trailers. Packs of semi-domesticated dogs roamed the land; friendly to humans but vicious to each other. They were looking for affection and affirmation. This spirit was perfectly mirrored by the youth we encountered. Every day they came in like a whirlwind, descending on the Cheyenne River Youth Project. They were starving for affection. After a day or two in our presence and seeing our unconditional love for them, the children opened, and some even unburdened themselves about devastating home situations. We were there to love the children and not to judge. I believe the children were deeply impacted to know that from the other side of the county there were people who do care about them and that they are not forgotten.



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## WORK AND FUN - *Kenny Moore*

This was my first mission trip. I was able to travel with my grandfather and my sister across country and see things I had never seen before. When we arrived at the Cheyenne River Reservation it looked very desolate. But the people there were nice and friendly. I was able to work with my grandfather and use equipment that I had never used before to clear grass and debris from the Cheyenne River Youth Organization grounds. We also staked up young trees that had blown over during the winter, fixed a bathroom, and helped organize a library and moved furniture. I also got to play basketball with the kids every day and helped make race cars and rockets with the kids. It was an experience I will not forget.





## LOOKING FORWARD - Ken Moore

This was my second trip to Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. I, along with my two grandchildren, made the 5,000-mile round trip by van, which was a great experience and time of bonding. Realizing the needs of the people on the reservation really touched my heart. There is very little maintenance and repair work that can be done due the expense of hiring someone to come from Rapid City which is two and a half hours away. It showed me, as an electrician and plumber, that it would be good for the young people to learn these trades which would help solve some of the problems incurred due to this issue and might help find employment for them.

I was personally able to help with some of the plumbing and electrical problems at the Cheyenne River Youth Organization. Along with my grandson and Josh, another member of the team, we were able to take care of some lawn care which was needed due to the unusually wet spring in South Dakota.

I had a great time working with the youth at the reservation, building the race cars and shooting off the rockets! I saw how much fun they had chasing the rockets as they came down. As we drove to Takini School this time we were able to see how



beautiful the Cheyenne River is! After arriving at the school, it was a pleasure to see how much Kit Viet had changed the atmosphere at the school. Some of the new teachers who have come alongside to help her were a part of this change and seemed ready to make this the best school year ever! At Takini my grandson and I were able to work on several maintenance projects that needed to

be done. We are already looking forward to another trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation to continue our partnership of working alongside them to bring brighter days for the youth.

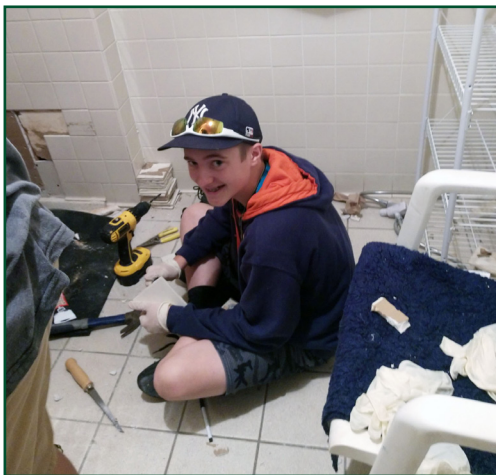
## I SAW GOD'S LOVE - Terry Stark



I felt we all connected well and worked as a team. This was my first trip to the reservation. We were asking God to give us wisdom and direction each day and he helped guide us through. I felt a calling to be used in whatever way seemed right, wanting to somehow make a difference if only to just one person. What a blessing to have this opportunity to work with these children. They were full of energy and somewhat wild at times! They kept us on our toes. We saw God's love in so many ways. He calmed the children and gave us compassion for their needs. I have personally learned to have a more grateful heart each day. We have so much, and they have so little. I believe I can do more. They showed us love and we will not forget them or our time there.

## MOTHER/SON DUO - Diana and Josh Hostetter by Karen Moore

Diana and Josh Hostetter were a very important part of our team! This was their first trip to South Dakota and the first time Joshua, who is 13, had ever flown. He did better than those of us who are veteran travelers, as he found his way through the airports and showed us where to go! Diana had a very special way of bonding with the children and I often saw her holding one child while offering a listening ear to another. Josh is an only child, and despite that, he was quick to jump in and work alongside Kenny, the other teenager on the trip, and together they became known as the "basketball boys". Every day the children would ask where they were and when they were arriving.



Diana came up with some great ideas for games with the children and had no problem getting them involved. No matter what changes came up she jumped right in and she and Josh helped make things come together quickly! We were all sad to say goodbye when the trip ended and hope that someday they can join the team and head out West again!



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**The 2019 Team**

***Thanks to Your Support We Were Able to Donate:***

- Boys Underwear: 179
- Girls Underwear: 145
- Boys Socks: 186
- Girls Socks: 158
- Hats and Gloves Sets: 180
- Blankets: 20
- 3 Boxes of Paper, Notebooks, Pads, Pencils, Pens
- 2 Boxes of Posters & Classroom Aids for Teachers
- Water Bottles for the Football Team at Takini School
- 5 Bean Bag Chairs for Takini Library
- 24 Estes Rocket Kits
- 36 Wooden Race Car Kits
- 24 Painting Mats and Paints
- Basket Weaving Kits
- 45 Dance Costumes
- 32 Hula Costumes
- 36 Sunglasses for Children
- 48 Slime Buckets for Prizes for the Children
- Light Sticks, Nail Polish, Hair Ties, and CANDY!

***Some Things the Team Accomplished:***

- Repaired and tiled a bathroom
- Repaired several electrical problems
- Helped unload school supplies
- Cleaned and arranged a library
- Alphabetized and filed in the office
- Made signs and went to the town with flyers  
about the week of activities
- Cleaned and organized the kitchen
- Cooked for 45 children
- Held a tea party for 47 children
- Mowed the grass at the Cheyenne River Youth Organization
- Weeded a large area
- Helped with bike day
- Staked out special fruit trees that had blown over in the winter
- Cleaned and made up beds in 6 rooms
- Organized the art room cabinet
- Took food to the veterans homeless food bank
- Painted a wall at Takini School
- Set up a computer lab at Takini School
- Cleaned and repaired the wood shop vacuum system and  
worked on electrical problems at the Takini School