

Project Lakota
St. Louis Friends Meeting
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Dear Friends,

December 26, 2006

Recently Pinky Clifford, the director of Self-Help Enterprises, wrote us an email saying, "We are so grateful for the grant you facilitated. I believe that you will be pleased to know that we are not just depending on you. We have received \$2,400.00 in grants from individuals to help with the Casey house to match your \$1,200.00. Now we are very close to completing Casey's. The plumbers are in there this week so I'll need to raise the money to cover that portion. We did have a water heater on hand as well as some other materials for the plumbers to use so we'll save about \$500.00 there.

I'm selling all our excess materials because we really have no place to store them and that money is also being given to Lyle to purchase anything he needs for the unit.

I appreciate what you've done and hope that perhaps before the end of the year there will be Friends who will remember the Partnership, our struggles and the wonderful work we're involved in."



A Self-Help House



View of Beautiful Lakota Nation

Her email illustrates the continuing need for financial help. As we previously said, federal money has been decreasing for projects on Pine Ridge and other reservations around the country due to the rising costs of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now these organizations, like Self-Help and Habitat for Humanity, are relying heavily on groups like Project Lakota. Also they have encountered rising prices in the construction industry and supplies over the recent years, so projects are ending up to be costing more than originally planned.

Over the last year, we have been busy as you probably read in our other letters and emails. We financially helped Self-Help Enterprises with finishing the current group of seven homes; including the foundation work and moving the Casey family house. We paid for siding, flooring, doors, and windows for Richard Broken Nose & Linda Bull Bear's family mobile home that suffered damage from several storms over the last year to make it livable and helped with the physical labor too.

(over →)



Before



After

Siding repairs

Broken Nose Family Home

For the next year, we want to fundraise \$14,000 for the foundation for Richard Broken Nose and Linda Bull Bear house. We would love to be able to have \$60,000 by next summer to build a house for them, but realistically it will take us a couple years. We hope to build the house in parts that they will be able to see that progress is being made. This is a top priority because of their current situation with a damaged mobile home.



Double-wide trailer where the family was going to live before storms hit this past summer
All Photos courtesy of Bobbi Trist and Ellen Baranowski



Chante, granddaughter of Linda & Richard, hammering

This log cabin is part of a larger vision of Gerald One Feather, a highly respected elder and a former AFSC staff member. He envisions building 16 houses for members of his tiospaye (family group), made up of traditional Lakota families who tried to practice fully their culture. In 2002-2003 we were able to build a log cabin for Gerald and his family. Project Lakota has tried to help with this vision.

We, Candy Boyd and Greg Woods, started Project Lakota in the fall of 2000 after visiting the Oglala Lakota Nation (Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota). Since then we have spoken across the nation to different types of groups and wrote articles about our experiences and the extreme housing need on the Oglala Lakota Nation. Each summer we have went back to the Lakota Nation to help. Over the last six years we have raised over \$100,000 and helped over thirty-five Lakota families. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions about this project.

Sincerely,

Candy Boyd & Greg Woods