



A Blessed Lakota Christmas

Thank you all for your tremendous support in helping families in need on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The collection of coats, toys and food exceeded our wildest expectations. One week prior to our departure we barely had received 2 bags of clothes and toys. Then the flood gates of generosity opened.

We completely filled a 14' moving van to the point where caution was required opening the door. For a moment we thought wearing avalanche beacons would be needed to locate the one who bravely volunteered to open the door. Everyone involved in the packing and unloading did return safely.

We hope this letter of thanks will be able to carry the energy of gratitude and smiles that we received in delivering the donations. After 10 years of going to Pine Ridge real relationships have been established. The openness of the people there expressing tears of joy and sadness are real. One of the families we visit there couldn't pay their bills so their phone was shut off. We couldn't reach them to say we were coming. The matriarch of the house said she waited all day looking out the window before we came, hoping we would come. After a day of watching and waiting she got sad and said we weren't coming. When she heard our truck the next day she said she knew it was us. There were tears of joy. One woman, actually amazing woman raising a grandchild and barely enough food to survive, no coat, boots, gloves openly shared how hard her life is. What was clear was there was not a hint of "why me" in telling her life story. There was a profound grace and acceptance in the sharing of her story. Her smile of gratitude still radiates in my heart as well as the sadness. It deepens my desire to help even more.

So I hope that this thank you truly carries all that love and gratitude from the lives you have touched and that you receive it. Thanks for your individual donations or through your reaching out to family, friends and co-workers. And to everyone that volunteered picking up donations, sorting and packing, a big Wopila!

And of course none of this would have been possible without our brother Ed. His physical presence and guidance was certainly missed. The flow wasn't the same as we readjust to a new way without him. His spirit was certainly there not only as a memory or through the stories, laughter and tears. We felt the spirit of Mitakuye Oyasin, the way Ed walked and encouraged us to live.

Thanks so much to Ximena for taking the reins of leadership. Your support and caring is a tremendous gift to us all. We hope you will remember the Lakota people throughout the year and a beautiful way of living.

Many thanks and blessings,

Mitakuye Oyasin,

Tom Voitas



Lakota Circle

Nagi Ooyuspa · Helping The Spirit Of Those That Are Suffering



Thank You!