



WINTER FUEL PROGRAM UPDATE

Delivering Warmth to Homes and Hearts

The winters on Pine Ridge are harsh and frigid. The Elders there suffer many long, cold nights when the temperatures drop to subzero and the wind blows the snow across the open plains with nothing to stop it. Houses with holes in the walls and cracks in the windows, bare cement floors, and blankets hung in doorways to keep at least one room warm are all too common on Pine Ridge. That's where the Sioux Nation Relief Fund comes in.



Mrs. Janis knows her winter emergency box was a godsend.

Many residents on the Pine Ridge Reservation heat their homes by burning wood, however wood is hard to come by, and those without transportation are forced to pay the exorbitant prices charged by wood vendors. As a result, many Elders are faced with an impossible choice. Do they go hungry or go without heat during the icy cold Northern Plains winters? In order to ensure these Elders do not have to face such a wrenching decision, the SNRF Wood Program has stepped in to deliver wood to the Elders in several communities on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The residents of this

reservation subsist on little or no income and struggle to meet their daily needs. Those most vulnerable to the effects of poverty are often the Elders who are frail, in ill health, have little income, and often lack transportation.

Because of the generosity of SNRF Donors last summer, SNRF was able to deliver 70 cords of wood to the Elders on Pine Ridge alone. One such deserving resident was Stella Janis, a 79 year old widow, who has had to burn old clothes before

just to keep the wood stove running. In the past when she's run out of wood, she's had to choose between spending what little money she has on either more wood or electricity to keep her oven on for hours at a time. SNRF donations also provided her and the other Elders with winter emergency boxes that consisted of blankets, socks, gloves, winter hats, candles, flashlights and batteries. Last winter was a better season than what Stella Janis was expecting. 🏠



LIVING THE CULTURE

*Respect for
Elders drives
Andre Mills*



Andre sets out in his truck for a day of wood deliveries.

“He’ll tell you how good it feels when he delivers and unloads wood across the reservation, one Elder at a time. ”

Andre Mills is the wood cutter for the SNRF Winter Fuel Program. He lives in Kyle, South Dakota, near the communities where the wood is delivered. Andre is an Oglala Sioux who loves to help his community and serve his Elders. He’ll tell you how good it feels when he delivers and unloads wood across the reservation, one Elder at a time.

Andre has been cutting wood for five years. He learned his trade when he was just 18 years old and although it’s hard work, Andre appreciates working with the Winter Fuel Program. Andre’s wife, Zaniwi is the organization behind this team effort. She makes the calls to all the recipients to set up wood deliveries and get directions. With five children either at home, in school or in Head Start, planning the wood deliveries is no small chore for Zaniwi. She also helps Andre track deliveries of the emergency winter boxes that he delivers. Both Zaniwi and Andre say they work together to get the job done. 🏞️



Zaniwi Mills



Chopping wood into a manageable size for Elders.



Making a delivery to a remote home on Pine Ridge.

**THERE ARE 90 DAYS OF WINTER.
YOU HAVE 56 PIECES OF WOOD.**



This is a real dilemma that many Native Americans will face this winter. When you live in a part of the country with one of the longest winter seasons around and temperatures that often dip well below zero, budgeting for heating expenses takes on a whole new meaning. The Sioux Nation Relief Fund believes that no one, especially our Elders, should be faced with fears like this. Your support of SNRF can help make a winter day that much warmer.



Toll-free: (866) 551-7673
www.snrfprograms.org

HERE WE GROW AGAIN

SNRF Grow a Big Hit in 2007

One of our most successful services in the spring is tilling community gardens for Boys and Girls Clubs, youth centers, shelters, and any other eligible organization. Besides the provision of fresh, nutritious food, community gardens encourage much needed exercise for our youth, interject a positive activity into reservation life, continue a piece of Native American culture that is slowly dying, and help promote a sense of pride. This creative service brings both the youth and Elder population together where seniors have the time and availability with the youth to pass on their heritage and wisdom. This past spring, community gardens were tilled for Crow Creek Project Safe, Cheyenne River Red Scaffold Youth Group, Cheyenne River Sioux YMCA and Pine Ridge Oyate Teca Project. Plans are underway as we speak to begin outlining our 2008 program! 



GREAT SPIRIT, GOD, CREATOR OF ALL

Great Spirit, God, Creator of All
I welcome You into my
heart, mind, body and soul
There is always room for You here.
Grant me the wisdom to heed my inner voice
And the strength to stay grounded while I sing
my sacred song.
Guide me down my chosen path and give me the
courage to pursue what is available to me.
I am thankful for the lessons and
grateful for my struggles;
I have not forgotten what has brought me to
where I am today.
Open my heart to the healing
wholeness of nature;
We are all related, and through
this I will find serenity.
Great Spirit, God, Creator of All
Cleanse my spirit and wash my soul.
There is always room for You here.

-Laurel Singing Water Cat

THANKSGIVING



Thanks to your generosity last fall, SNRF was able to provide almost 6,800 Thanksgiving meals to fellow Americans in need.

Reservation	Meals
Standing Rock	165
Northern Cheyenne.....	250
Fort Berthold	300
Turtle Mountain.....	250
Santee.....	500
Winnebago.....	600
Crow Creek.....	150
Lake Traverse.....	500
Pine Ridge	935
Rosebud.....	1,500
Cheyenne River	946
Wind River.....	300
Total	6,796