

NOTICES

STCCF Helps Fund Habitat for Humanity House

by Marika Pullam

The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund awarded \$10,583 to Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln County in August. This money will go toward the foundation, plumbing, and electrical for its eighth house.

Partner families are required to put in 500 hours of "sweat equity." They can do this by helping to build their own house, building houses for others, or working in the Habitat office.

The average cost to build a Habitat house is \$60,000. Thanks to Lincoln County's Habitat for Humanity and tribal charitable fund, another family is able to build a house.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 in Americus, Georgia. Its goal is to eliminate poverty housing. Through donations of money, materials, and volunteer labor, it's able to build houses for families in need.

Currently, more than 200,000 houses have been built around the world with the assistance of the Habitat for Humanity organization. More than 2,100 active affiliates exist in 92 countries.

A committee chooses partner families by assessing the homeowners' level of need, their willingness to become partners in the program, and their ability to repay the loan.

Lincoln County's Habitat for Humanity has been part of the community for the past 11 years. Since 1995,



Left to right: Lee Furlong, Louise, and Gladys Hartsel from Habitat; Ashley Sheppard and Kelly Johnson (Kathy's son and daughter-in-law); Chris Kirkpatrick, homeowner; Kathy Johnson (Chris' significant other); Vance Johnson (Kathy's son); Kristina Ewing (tribal member, Vance's significant other, and Alisa's mother); Alisa Johnson (tribal member and daughter of Vance and Kristina); and Schatzi the dog.

Habitat for Humanity in Lincoln County has completed seven houses and it's starting its eighth house with

the money from the tribe. This house will be built in Lincoln City, as will the organization's next two houses.

For more details on how you can help Lincoln County's Habitat for Humanity, visit www.newportnet.com/habitat.

Reach The Rez Successfully Completes First Year

SEATTLE, Wash. – In an unprecedented nationwide campaign, the Reach The Rez Project recently made history by successfully completing its inaugural music and speaking tour through Indian Country.

Covering more than 54,000 miles to meet with 211 communities, Reach The Rez delivered messages of strength and empowerment to thousands of American Indians. While the effort is ultimately aimed at the betterment of all communities and the enrichment of all people, Reach The Rez programs are specifically designed to effectively reach American Indian people, particularly youth.

What once was termed "a highly ambitious idea," the tour has become a reality because of the vision of award-winning American Indian rap artist and actor, Litefoot, and title sponsors, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, and Daimler/Chrysler.

The 2006 tour began in February and culminated with the year's final show at Seattle's Indian Heritage High School in October. Litefoot has committed to touring North America's underserved reservations over a five-year period to help his consistent mes-

sages of hope and prosperity take root in Native communities.

"This movement is unlike any other journey our people have witnessed," said Litefoot. "Look back at any of the campaigns where Indian people have traversed across these lands, from the Trail of Tears to the flight of the Nez Perce. Too often, these campaigns forced our retreat or relocated us. This is the first large-scale effort that has had Natives traveling across the country for something positive and healthy.

"The tide is turning. We are no longer traveling such distances to flee or relocate – we are covering this ground to unite our people and make us stronger, so our young people will not merely survive but will live a life of purpose."

A member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Litefoot has invested his musical career in performing concerts for predominantly Native audiences while simultaneously delivering inspiring speeches that show his experiences as an artist, his understanding of American Indian history, and his positive vision for the future of Native people.

He developed the multi-faceted Reach The Rez Project with the goal of taking the program to every reservation in the United States and Canada. In addition to the tour, the Reach The

Rez Project includes a documentary film of the tour, a weekly Reach The Rez radio show, a Reach The Rez magazine, and the future launch of an interactive Internet community called Global Lodge™.

Realizing that few people travel to Indian reservations to learn about the country's first residents, Litefoot and company are proactively preparing a documentary film that will instead take the "rez" to the public.

Filmed on location throughout the tour, the Reach The Rez documentary has captured the faces and places of contemporary Indian Country and will be widely distributed to schools and other organizations in the United States and Canada upon completion.

With more than 760 hours of film recorded, the documentary will catalog the experiences, opinions, cultures, and viewpoints of modern-day Native people, with the mission of exposing mainstream society to the challenges of today's American Indians.

With his commitment to remain connected to the communities he visits, Litefoot continues to engage Native audiences with the unique Reach The Rez radio show. The show, which first aired in December 2005, is broadcast weekly through Native Voice One

(NV1) and American Indian Radio On Satellite (AIROS), and is available via Podcast and free download at www.reachtherezradio.com.

Even before the wheels of the tour bus rolled to a stop, plans were under way for the tour's 2007 leg.

"We've been blessed to have the support of so many along the way and we're fortunate to see Reach The Rez brought to fruition," said Litefoot, "and we're just gettin' started."

For additional information on future Reach The Rez events and tour stops, visit www.reachtherez.org.

The Reach The Rez Project is a program of the Association for American Indian Development, a 501 (c)(3), non-profit organization.

Litefoot has appeared in movies such as *The Indian in the Cupboard*, *Mortal Combat: Annihilation*, and *The Song of Hiawatha*, and TV spots on *CSI* and *Any Day Now*.

Named Native American Music Awards Artist of the Year for 2005, Litefoot has recorded 11 albums on his own label, Red Vinyl Records, and has created Litefoot Music Group, a new label featuring rising Native artists.

Litefoot and his wife, Carmen Davis, co-own several clothing lines, including Native Style™.