



VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Stories from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation

"They shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

July 2012

Wings as Eagles Ministries Newsletter

On Eagles' Wings Visits the Dream Center

Wings As Eagles Ministries was honored to host On Eagles' Wings (OEW), a ministry of Ron Hutchcraft Ministries, at the Dream Center. OEW is a group of Native young adults who travel from reservation to reservation to share the truth and love of Christ. On Pine Ridge, the OEW group focused on Manderson and held their events there. There were 3-on-3 basketball tournaments, pizza, face painting, evangelical materials, and more, all while the focus was to have one-on-one conversations with the Natives. There were many changed hearts those nights. The team was blessed to have the Dream Center as their home base! Thank you God! Wings as Eagles Ministries is excited to continue to reach out to those who

were touched by On Eagles' Wings!

An OEW team member shares the love of Christ with a Lakota woman.



OEW plays basketball with the teens in Manderson.



Thank you to the band "Outside the Camp" for performing during the Lakota Family Days! Also, a thank you to those who continue to support us both financially and through prayer! God bless you!

Lakota Tiwahe (Family) Camping Days at the Dream Center!

From July 29 until August 1, the Dream Center hosted Lakota Tiwahe (Family) Camping Days at the Dream Center! It was a whirlwind of a week, but it was fun! Those who attended got three meals a day, access to showers, and welcome gift bags full of toiletries and goodies. There were Bible teaching sessions, games, and music. The game of limbo was a favorite among the children! The Oglala Sioux Tribe Emergency Shelter sent some teen girls over, and WAEM staff was blessed to be able to sit down with them and talk about life stories and God's love. (To have the tribe begin to recognize the efforts and trust the ministry is a huge accomplishment!) At the beginning of the talk, the girls just stared down and didn't make eye contact. Towards the end of camp they started looking up. Their life stories already at such a young age of 13-16 yrs. old was heartbreaking. They are anxious to come back now. Just showing these troubled girls that those at Wings As Eagles, including the team, care about them deeply with the love of Christ, was so

different for them. The girls said on the last day, "we feel special here". Thank you for continuing to help the ministry in this vital work to help save lives.



Bringing love and hope to the native youth of our forgotten lands

Christmas at the Dream Center!

The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is the poorest reservation in the United States. The unemployment rate is 80-95% and about 90% of the population lives below poverty level. For many homes, it is nearly impossible for children to get gifts at Christmas.

Wings as Eagles wants to help! To counteract the struggle of poverty and bring joy to the children, every December WAEM has Christmas at the Dream Center. Last year, we had over 600 visit the Dream Center each night! We so enjoy the opportunity to see the kids' faces light up with smiles and joy as we hand them a gift wrapped in brightly colored paper, just for them.



But we need your help! Please visit <http://www.waeministries.com/ministries/christmas-on-the-rez/> for information and ideas for gifts!

Christmas at the Dream Center will be December 14th, 15th, and 16th, starting at 5 PM each night.

TEAMS— if your church would like to come and be involved this year, please contact us!

Swinging Into Action!

The Dream Center was blessed by a generous partner purchasing a swing set for the children! There are 8 swings and the children absolutely adore them. They crowd around the swing set, ready for it to be their turn to lift their feet off the ground and swing higher and higher, laughing their worries away. God bless our partners!



"Circle of Love" children's home vision given to Gary and Lori!

Native children on Pine Ridge and other reservations are suffering horrendously. Their little lives are something you could never imagine. Some living alone, many discarded, and grandparents with major illnesses and struggles of their own trying desperately to take care of some. One instance was recently when a 3 and 5 year old was left abandoned in the middle of the road. The tribe has no place for the growing amount of children abandoned with no choice but to warehouse them in the northern part of the state.

The Circle Of Love...

Homelessness is a major problem on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The Tribal Council estimated that there was a need for at least 4,000 new homes to combat the homelessness situation. There is an average of 23 people living in a home, often one that only has two bedrooms. Almost 59% of grandparents raise their own grandchildren. It was reported that in the month of June of this year, over 160 kids were removed from their home by Child Protective Services. Of those kids, 140 were told that they would not be able to go back home.

Because of the tremendous amount of children needing homes, native foster homes often do not have background checks and can be worse for the child than their original home.

There are so many children who are in need of a loving, safe environment. Wings as



Eagles Ministries recognizes this need and wants to take action. WAEM's goal is to build a children's home called "The Circle of Love". There will be several homes, each housing a certain amount of children, and the homes would be placed in a circular formation. Each home will have a missionary couple to look after the children, as well as a tutor, cook, and nurse. The tribe is supportive of our goal to build a children's home—in fact, they beg us to. We want to give these needy children a second chance at life. The Circle of Love Children's Home would give us that opportunity. Please consider giving Wings as Eagles a financial donation in order to help us move towards this goal. God is taking us to the next level!! Help us to start planting this vision to bring the children hope and life! It's a huge step of faith but look what God has already accomplished through all of us!

Get Connected!

WAEM
P.O. Box 207
Caputa, SD 57725
(605) 455-1131
www.waeministries.com



www.facebook.com/waeministries



www.twitter.com/waeministries



www.vimeo.com/waeministries