



Storyteller



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FUTURES[®]
FOR CHILDREN
NEWSLETTER
Summer 2010



President's Message

Renewal is the theme of the ceremony that is central to the life of my people, the Cheyenne. Renewal of our world, our community, and individual life is a

theme found in the ceremonial life of many American Indian nations. Over our 42 years Futures for Children has evolved, grown, and renewed itself many times over, as must be done by any dynamic organization.

Over the past five years, a significant harbinger of renewal for Futures for Children has been the exciting and explosive growth of our Youth Leadership Program. In those five years the number of young people participating in the program through their elementary school, middle school, or high school has risen from approximately 200 to 1,300. The three curricula for this program facilitate experiential learning and have been well received by the students involved. These young people are sending a clear message that this program is a dynamic part of their development as leaders and an important contribution to their educational success!

In response to this message from the young people we serve, Futures for Children is engaged in restructuring our Friendship and Youth Leadership Programs in an effort to enhance the strength of both programs. We are committed to improving the quality of our Youth Leadership Program, and enhance its continued growth. We are dedicated to improving the quality of the Friendship relationships, that

have defined Futures, rather than the number of those relationships. At the same time we are committed to the growth of our newest program, Families in Action.

We want individual supporters to be as excited about supporting a student in our leadership development program as they would be about mentoring a student. We also hope that the relationship between education and leadership in all its forms becomes inextricably tied to the identity of Futures for Children. I believe there are, indeed, as many ways for young people to be leaders in their educational experience as there are young people in our program. Conversely, strong leadership is informed leadership, for whom education is an ongoing process. These values become tangible when they are expressed in the excitement of a young person searching for the expression of his or her personal strength through both the Youth Leadership Program and the bond of a long term friendship with a mentor.

The Board of Directors and the staff of Futures for Children are excited by this renewal process and its impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of our support of American Indian students in their educational journey. Our fervent wish is to do even more to enhance their education and develop their potential to become the leaders of tomorrow. We appreciate your continued support for our work with these inspiring young people.

Jim Kast

A Special Thank You Levels of Support

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Tewa Holiday Project

It all began over fifteen years ago when Randy and Milton Crewse relocated to Sedona, AZ. Shortly after they arrived, they were drawn to the rich culture of the Hopi American Indians and began putting together baskets for the Hopi Tewa Indians in need.

Serendipitously, they met longtime Futures for Children supporters, Peter and Janet Fagan, learned of Futures for Children, and became mentors. They have since mentored three children through the Friendship Program. The Crewse's current mentored student, Brandon Gaseoma, actively contributed to the Tewa Holiday Project in 2009 as well as his sister, Jeanine and their family.

Years later, Randy and Milton were at dinner with Peter and Janet; Janet suggested that they expand their effort to reach more people...and the Tewa Holiday Project was born.

In December of 2006, the Crewses spearheaded the expanded project and raised \$2,200, allowing them to put together and deliver twenty holiday baskets to those in need on the Hopi reservation's First Mesa in Arizona, home of the Tewa Indians.

And the project grew...

In 2007, the Tewa Holiday Project officially adopted the Tewa elders at First Mesa as the recipients of the holiday baskets, which were now much more than baskets. Through many dedicated efforts, \$5,300 was raised, more than doubling the previous year's donations. They were able to put together fifty holiday baskets, for the elders, filled with supplies, food, and essentials, as well as gently used winter clothing. The Tewa Holiday Project experienced rapid and successful growth!

Volunteers for the project, Mac and Sue McGuinness, became involved with the project in 2007. Their passion was so sparked for Native Americans and the Tewa Indians that they became involved with Futures for Children. Mac and



L-R: Pam Klauser, Darrel James, Maudene James, Randy Crewse, Edwin Quotskuyva, Bill Klauser, & Dick Dawe

Sue began to mentor Jeanine Gaseoma, Brandon's sister. Not only did Mac and Sue begin mentoring, they also got their whole family involved in volunteering for the Tewa Holiday Project and their grandchildren have fostered a friendship with Jeanine.

In the spring of 2008, the Tewa Holiday Project established a partnership with Sedona based nonprofit, Cornucopia Community Advocates, lead by Julie and Harvey Grady. As a result of this partnership and growing popularity and passion, the Tewa Holiday Project raised over \$11,500, allowing them to provide seventy-five holiday baskets, and have enough money left over for a \$2,500 scholarship for a graduating Tewa high school senior.

"Our hosts had tears in their eyes as they thanked us for what we did for their people... a very emotional & heartwarming moment for all of us."

-Volunteers, Rich & Judy Skovlin

In the past year, despite the economic climate, the group raised \$10,420, once again allowing them to provide seventy-five baskets to the elders. In December forty-five volunteers travelled in twenty-three vehicles to First Mesa to graciously deliver the baskets. After the distribution the volunteers were spirited off to Tewa homes for lunch and hospitality. For many of the volunteers it was their first experience with Native American culture.

The Tewa Holiday Project has allowed many passionate volunteers to give back while experiencing a rich culture. The small beginning and the major growth of the Tewa Holiday Project really shows that giving back is truly contagious and it makes a true difference in so many lives.



Tewa Holiday Project Volunteers

Submitted by Randy Crewse
TewaHolidayProject.org

Thank you... for sharing for giving for making all of this possible

Donations received November 1, 2009-February 28, 2010

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Adam & Rachel Albright
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A Butterfly Dance

Kyle Sumatzkuku



This is the story of Kyle, a Hopi Youth Leadership student from Moenkopi, AZ. He attended our Youth Leadership Summit in Abiquiu, NM for our middle school aged Youth Leadership students. Kyle arrived at the summit and was very intimidated and overwhelmed by being so far away from home and by the many students from other tribes, communities, and schools that he did not know. At the summit's opening dinner where groups gave presentations and students were introduced to their summit teammates, Kyle sat at his table with his head in his hands. He was so shy, so nervous that he could not bring himself to even lift his head from his hands.

The next day, the teams headed out to the high ropes challenge course, yet again Kyle found himself not just nervous, but petrified. The high ropes course is a challenge for even the bravest adult, much less a terrified middle school student. Kyle had to contend with climbing a two-story pole, then, at the top, wearing only a harness for safety, cross over a slatted walkway, without handrails to grab for balance, for the length of fifty feet. After Kyle made it to the top of the pole, a feat in and of itself, Kyle was fighting with himself to just let go and turn towards the walkway, after a number of minutes Kyle still hesitated. The ropes course focuses on challenging participants to face their personal limits and face their unique fears. At this point, it seemed that Kyle had faced his personal fear and defeated it

by climbing the pole; the instructor and his teammates began to cheer for him and commend his accomplishment. Kyle was not ready to come down though, he knew he had not yet faced his fear, challenged it, and defeated it. For another tense five minutes, Kyle held on, let go, faced the walkway, turned back, held on, let go, faced the walkway, and turned back. Finally, at one turn, Kyle began to step out timidly, yet bravely, and one-by-one with each footstep Kyle crossed the walkway and made it to the other side, fifty feet away. Kyle's accomplishment was met with exuberant cheers and excitement.

That day, Kyle did not just cross a walkway, he faced his fear, two stories high. He faced his anxiety, and most of all, he faced himself. He faced his fear in a new way, at his own pace, bravely and completely. He reached for and achieved a new level of confidence and accomplishment.

That evening, in a creative writing workshop, Kyle wrote *A Butterfly Dance* poem expressing his experience on the ropes course and how it transformed him. Throughout the remainder of the summit, Kyle opened up and interacted with his teammates and other participants. In a twenty-four hour period, Kyle's limits had been challenged and his confidence boosted by letting go and moving forward step-by-step.



Kyle Sumatzkuku in Abiquiu, NM

A Butterfly Dance
At the lower Moenkopi Village
the high ropes course
near big blue mountains. Exciting.
A lot of people cheering
people scared along the ropes
playing, intense, the first time here in Abiquiu.
An adventure together
two stories high. Hands clamping. Frozen.
I saw a pretty stream
Balancing the high ropes-
I felt like I made my family happy
so they could watch their
son, brother, grandson dance.
~A butterfly dancing at my village.

Futures for Children American Indian Store



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800.545.6843 ext 138



Graduation Gift

We are offering our 40th anniversary Pendleton® blanket, designed by Dan Namingha, to our mentors who have a student graduating from high school. The blanket is a wonderful gift for your graduating senior! We are offering the blanket at \$200 (+\$30 shipping), regularly priced at \$350. Contact Sandy Massey at 800.545.6843 ext 129 or MasseyS@FuturesforChildren.org for more information.



Update

In our last Storyteller, we featured a story about a very daring rescue by mentored student, Danielle Aguilar. She rescued four people from a sinking car on the Kewa Pueblo in New Mexico. In addition to being recognized by the Yakima Fire Department, Danielle was honored with the *Fire Safety Hero Award* by the American Red Cross, Yakima Valley Chapter. Congratulations Danielle! We admire your bravery!

Welcome

Futures for Children welcomes a new member of the Futures' family, Vaughn Flannigan as a Regional Coordinator. Vaughn comes to Futures from Phoenix, AZ where he worked closely with American Indians in the Gila River Indian Community. Vaughn has experience in educational planning and development, college preparatory assistance, and management. He holds Bachelor of Science degrees in criminal justice and social work from Roberts Wesleyan College.

Please join us in welcoming Vaughn to Futures for Children!

Congratulations!

In February, Steven Mora, winner of the Bayard LeRoy King Scholars Fund, visited Futures for Children and was presented with a certificate of recognition as well as the funds he was awarded to help him prepare for college. Congratulations Steven, we are so proud of you!



Photo: Melinda, Steven, & Benjamin Mora

For the Record

The New Mentorships list, published in the Winter Storyteller, contained typographical errors resulting in inaccuracy. Sally Hori mentors Alfonso Mahkewa Jr of Polacca, AZ and the mentorship of Tyanna White is graciously supported by Al and Deeann Baldwin. Robert Bird and Antionette Cannon are from Cochiti Pueblo.

The corrected spelling of Thank You in Navajo is *Abébee'*.

A typographical error in the donor list disclaimer is correctly stated, "Only gifts of \$100 and above are listed with the exception of the Honorarium/Memorial sections."

Mentorships

Friendships

November
2009

December
2009

January
2010

February
2010

STUDENT	LOCATION	MENTOR
Amber Archie	Pinon, AZ	Julien Johnson
Quintessa Bahe	Gallup, NM	Raymond & Deborah Denison
Eric Bahnimptewa	Second Mesa, AZ	Alice LaMoree & Peter Johnson *Supported by Harry & Joan Karsten
Brandon Barton	Pinon, AZ	Karen Schweiger
RaeAnna Begay	Round Rock, AZ	Walter & Daphne Barber
Chanelle Blie	Pinon, AZ	Katherine Devine
MaKayla Candelaria	Kewa Pueblo, NM	Bernard & Barbara Ruekgauer
Natalia Chavez	Cochiti Pueblo, NM	Barbara Haines
Zachariah Chee	Chinle, AZ	Lisa & Tim Wallender
Leandrew Dailey	Pinon, AZ	William Rank *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Tia Dalton	Tsaile, AZ	Jina Ethelbah *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Kiarra Dosedo	Zuni, NM	David & Joann Carlson
Shanell Etcitty	Round Rock, AZ	Grazian Conrad & Barbla Conrad-Roner
Malvina Etsitty	Gallup, NM	Sharon Taylor
Davina Francis	Ramah, NM	Jeannine Cody
Natasha Frank	Sanders, AZ	Pat Mann *Supported by Carolyn Reyer
Jalen Gachupin	Jemez Pueblo, NM	Susan Cary
Keona Gachupin	Zia Pueblo, NM	Nancy Ward
Jamal Gishal-Yazzie	Winslow, AZ	Michael Slota
Talena Hess	Sanders, AZ	Art Szabo
Kelsey Homer	Zuni, NM	Ina Garcia
Juan Huma	Polacca, AZ	Gloria Singer
Sunbeam Huma	Polacca, AZ	Angela Gordon *Supported by La Crescenta Presbyterian Church
Elizondo Joe	Pinon, AZ	Ronald & Carole Williams
Dawntaye Johnson	Tsaile, AZ	Gail Mercado *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Hector Koyawena	Second Mesa, AZ	Eugen & Doris Reinartz
Trey Koyawena	Second Mesa, AZ	Eugen & Doris Reinartz
Cordell Lasiloo	Sanders, AZ	Gustavo Gonzales
Anthony Leekity	Gallup, NM	Ines Straeter
Karen Lewis	Winslow, AZ	Cathleen Zick

STUDENT	LOCATION	MENTOR
Amber Lincoln	Gallup, NM	Daniel Chapman
Trevina Martinez	Tohatchi, NM	Diana Lahm
Kiana Morgan	Crownpoint, NM	Michelle Douglas
Tyvon Nahohai	Zuni, NM	Anita Analla *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Kimiko Numkena	Tuba City, AZ	Beverly Burns
Luis Petet	Winslow, AZ	Joe Gallagher
Quinten Ramirez	Keams Canyon, AZ	Kenneth Slining
Jamie Sagg	Rock Point, AZ	Anna Thomas *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Angilina Sanchez	Zuni, NM	Terria Lee *Supported by LaVonne & Donald Blackburn
Welana Sanchez	Kewa Pueblo, NM	Craig & Carol Levy
Mariah Sandoval	San Felipe Pueblo, NM	Helene Javot
Shere Sells	Kayenta, AZ	Charleen Daefield
William Silago	Redding, CA	Donald Brown *Supported by LaVonne & Donald Blackburn
Shevelle Six	Sanders, AZ	Diane Lotti
Mallory Smith	Winslow, AZ	Barbara Grupe
Corey Sorrell	Many Farms, AZ	Frank & Kathleen Jacobs
Eric Teller	Tuba City, AZ	Joan Flanagan
Cory Tenorio	Kewa Pueblo, NM	Alicia Marcell *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Carviso Thompson	Ganado, AZ	Kenneth Felts
Zedraielle Thompson	Tsaile, AZ	Marie McCallum
Carrie Tsosie	Pinon, AZ	Stefan Alig & Susanne Businger
Fabron Wauneka	Navajo, NM	Michael Conant *Supported by Terri & Bob Parsons
Deana Yazzie	Keams Canyon, AZ	Phyllis Sanfilippo *Supported by Harry & Joan Karsten
Sydnee Yazzie	Gallup, NM	Dennis Adler & Jeanne Cowen
Meredith Yepa	Jemez Pueblo, NM	James Kincaid & Nita Moots-Kincaid

Contact Janelle Sandoval, Mentor Assistant, about mentorship opportunities:
800.545.6843 ext 121 SandovalJ@FuturesforChildren.org

Native Echoes e-newsletter

We are moving ahead full force with our *Native Echoes* e-newsletter! It includes great stories, upcoming events, and information about the happenings at Futures for Children. If you would like to receive it, please go to our website, click the contact button, and send us your email address. We'll put you on the list!



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800.545.6843

I want a new mentor because
it fun to write to other people. It's
cool how you can meet someone and
become your friends.

I am waiting... for a mentor



My name is Derrick, I am in fifth grade and I am waiting for a mentor. My favorite subjects in school are math, science, reading, spelling, computers, p.e., and writing. I like to play sports, work on cars, do puzzles, play my piano, and learn about the sky and stars.

I am really excited to get a mentor so that I can share what I am doing in school and at home.

Will you be my mentor?

To mentor Derrick or another American Indian child, contact Janelle Sandoval at 800.545.6843 ext 121 or SandovalJ@FuturesforChildren.org.