



**FUTURES**  
FOR CHILDREN

9600 Tennyson St NE  
Albuquerque NM 87122-2282  
FuturesforChildren.org  
800.545.6843

## WAITING FOR A MENTOR...



*Nizhoni Rain Littlepouch*

I'm 9 years old. I'm in the fourth grade. I enjoy reading and doing math. I love to swim and sing. I want a mentor that will write to me, and I will be writing back!

To mentor an American Indian child, please contact Janelle Sandoval at 800.545.6843 ext 121 or [SandovalJ@futuresforchildren.org](mailto:SandovalJ@futuresforchildren.org).

The printing of this newsletter is generously donated by an anonymous contributor.



# STORYTELLER

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## NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011



Photo © 2008 Kim Ashley

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**FUTURES**  
FOR CHILDREN

*Where Native Youth Become Tomorrow's Leaders*

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



I am often asked my opinion about how social justice might come to American Indian people, the original inhabitants of this land. I believe justice for American Indian tribal nations, communities, and individuals can and does take many forms.

In the past year social justice has come to the natives of this country through sweeping changes in US government policy. An international policy change that is symbolic, but very important, is the US government's recent signing of a United Nations declaration that recognized the rights of indigenous people throughout the world. The resolution was passed by the United Nations in 2007, but, conspicuously, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, all with significant indigenous populations, voted against the declaration. 143 other countries voted for its passage. In the past month the United States has changed its position and will be endorsing this important human rights statement. The symbolism of this action is not just important to the native people of this country. It is important to those who value the integrity of our own country in the same way that they notice and strive to correct human rights violations in other areas of the world.

In another national policy change, the US government has recognized a small degree of law enforcement authority by American Indian nations. For the first time since the Major Crimes Act in the early 19th Century, the sovereign right of tribes' authority over non-tribal members accused of crimes committed on tribal land has been broadened. It is a policy change with a practical impact.

Changes in US policy contribute to social justice for a large number of native peoples. However, just as important are the efforts of individuals who reach out to empower just one other person. When a Futures for Children Youth Leadership project coach is funded by a generous donor, that project coach is enabled to help keep a student in school and encourage that student to find his or her voice in our Youth Leadership Program. When this happens, that student is empowered. When students are challenged to evaluate their values and make healthy choices, their potential for success in school is improved. When these students work to improve life in their communities through service projects, they model success and a sense of self-esteem to make positive change in their lives and the life of their community. In the process, they lead others to follow on a path to a better future.

The ripple effect of caring individuals contributing time and resources is a powerful force for social justice within American Indian communities. The donor who supports a Youth Leadership project coach is supporting social justice through the empowerment of an American Indian student. If students seek a post-secondary education, the potential for their contributions to their tribal nation, to our country and to the global community grows dramatically.

Given the power of this model for social justice, I am pleased to announce that Futures for Children will be moving out of its traditional service area in 2011 to partner with Mescalero Apache Schools and create Youth Leadership and Families in Action programming for their elementary, middle and high schools. This high school experiences a 79% drop-out rate in its student population, but the leadership of the school district and the schools is determined to improve the success of its students. Futures for Children is just as determined to do our best to support this effort. So, for the first time, we will work to improve the success of Mescalero Apache youth along with the Navajo, Hopi and Pueblo youth we currently serve. We ask for your support and best wishes as we expand our program in this exciting new venture.

*Jim West*

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND SUPPORT OF FUTURES FOR CHILDREN.

Donations received August 2010 through December 2010

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Space limitations prevent us from listing many donors who generously support this organization. Gifts of \$100 or more are listed, excepting the Honorarium and Memoriam sections.



## ATTENTION COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS, THEIR MENTORS, AND FFC VOLUNTEERS

### OPPORTUNITY FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS GUIDANCE

Diane Soboski, Assistant Director of Admissions at the College of the Holy Cross, has generously offered her experience to help Futures for Children students in their pursuits of higher education.

She can offer guidance in the following areas:

#### *Beginning the college search:*

For students who are not sure where to begin or which college(s) they are interested in attending, she can offer general advice about factors they should consider and how they can learn more about those colleges.

#### *Essays:*

Diane is willing to read any and all essays that students have written for the college admissions process. She will edit and provide feedback on strengthening essays.

#### *Interview Tips:*

For students applying to schools that offer or require interviews, she can provide a sheet of interview tips that will help them prepare.

#### *General Questions:*

If students or mentors have any general questions about the college application process, Diane will be happy to help in any way she can.

**Please don't pass up this opportunity to succeed.**

#### Contact Information

Phone: 508-793-2443  
E-mail: dsoboski@holycross.edu  
Address: College of the Holy Cross  
Office of Admission  
1 College Street  
Worcester, MA 01610

## E-NEWSLETTER: SIGN UP TODAY!

Futures for Children is happy to bring you our e-newsletter, *Native Echoes!* Go to [www.futuresforchildren.com](http://www.futuresforchildren.com), click the contact button, and enter your e-mail address to receive news, information about American Indian culture, stories, and upcoming events.

And look for our Annual Report 2010  
at [futuresforchildren.org](http://futuresforchildren.org)!

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Visit our Webstore at [FFCAIS.com](http://FFCAIS.com)

## NEW MENTORSHIPS

Mentorships begun in months August 2010 through December 2010

Mentee	Mentor
Leilani Arquero	Mary Bahnsen
Jaquela Ashley	Corie Delashaw
Dominic Bailon	Andrew Crain
Quinten Barney	Joseph Lombardi
Nicole Barney	Ida Cummings
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Derrick Hudson	Joel Spiegelman
Albertina Joe	Jamie Johnson
Reba Joe	Marlene EchoHawk
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Natalie Morgan	Susanna Lester*
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Tyren Yazzie	Ed and Gail Wojciechowski

\*Supported by David and Barbara Stone

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 1-3, 2011:** Elementary school Youth Leadership Summit

**April 14-17, 2011:** Middle school Youth Leadership Summit

**June 6-10, 2011:** High school Youth Leadership Summit

Through Youth Leadership Summit retreats, we offer Youth Leadership students an intensive leadership, communication, teamwork, and community service training. Students are able to meet and work with other children who are from different communities and to foster inter-tribal friendships.

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A REGIONAL COORDINATOR:

MADONNA ANALLA OF LAGUNA PUEBLO



MaDonna Analla is a Regional Coordinator at Futures for Children. Her job is to stay connected to our volunteers, students, and families in American Indian communities and to help deliver our Youth Leadership, Friendship, and Families in Action programs to them. She provides training to our volunteers, helps them implement the Youth Leadership and Families in Action curricula, completes administrative tasks, makes deliveries to students, and acts as a liaison between mentors, volunteers, and students.

See what a day of travel might be like for MaDonna as she travels to Program Sites in Arizona!

#### 7:00 am

*Just woke up! It's time to get ready for my first stop in Holbrook, AZ. I will travel to at least three cities in Arizona on this trip.*

#### 7:15 am

*I'm making sure that I have packed everything, and will soon start driving to Futures for Children*

#### 8:30 am

*Arriving at Futures for Children headquarters in Albuquerque, NM.*

#### 8:40 am

*I am at my desk and checking my e-mail to make sure there are no meeting cancellations from our volunteers.*

#### 8:45 am

*Making sure to pack my luggage, information for volunteers, student packages, and my laptop into my car.*

*I'm also doing a last-minute check to see if all the bicycles I'm delivering will fit! (See "Gallagher & Gallagher Gives" in this issue.)*

#### 9:00 am

*Leaving Futures for Children—I have about 4 hours and over 200 miles to drive before I get to Holbrook, AZ!*

#### 10:00 am

*I've been on the road for an hour now. The Albuquerque radio stations cut out when I'm driving, so I tune in to local tribal stations.*

#### 11:00 am

*Stopping in Gallup, NM for a pizza for my lunch and dinner. I like to put the pizza in the passenger's seat of my car so that I can reach over and grab a slice when I'm on the go!*

#### 12:00 pm

*I'm crossing the Arizona/New Mexico border—this area is so beautiful with red desert rocks and looks amazing at sunset.*

#### 12:45 pm

*I'm on the last stretch from Sanders to Holbrook, AZ. I usually sing along with the radio or listen to really good music to help me stay alert.*

#### 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Now that I've made it to Holbrook, I will meet with volunteers at our Futures for Children Program Sites, many of which are at schools.*

#### 6:00 pm

*I'm now driving to my last two Program Site visits of the day.*

#### 6:15 pm

*I am lost! On reservations, there are rarely street signs or street addresses to follow, so I'll have to ask for directions.*

#### 6:25 pm

*I found my way and am back on track. One of the volunteers tells me about a problem he is having with his Youth Leadership group. I will visit this site again to support him. I will observe how he uses the Youth Leadership Program curriculum with the class and will also demonstrate how to facilitate activities.*

#### 7:30 pm

*After a day of visiting students and volunteers, I am checking into an inn in Tuba City, AZ.*

*For the next two days, I will be very busy. I will meet with volunteers for our Youth Leadership, Friendship, and Families in Action programs, observe a Youth Leadership group and help the volunteer conduct activities with the students.*

*I will deliver ten bicycles to a Youth Leadership group and attend a PTO meeting at a school.*

*Including today's visits, I scheduled twenty-six individual volunteer meetings on this trip!*

*Through your support, MaDonna and our other Regional Coordinators are able to visit Futures for Children volunteers in American Indian communities and give them the training and support they need to help our students become future leaders.*

*For a more in-depth look at MaDonna's day, please read the upcoming issue of our e-newsletter "Native Echoes."*



# AHÉ HEE'

Thank You (Navajo)

Peter and Janet Fagan (a.k.a. the celebrity couple of Sedona) kicked off the New Year with a successful cultivation event and two film screenings in Sedona, Arizona on January 10 and 11, 2011. They graciously hosted a cocktail reception at the Barking Frog Restaurant for thirty guests including current mentors Bill Cammock, Randy and Milton Crewse, Mac and Sue McGuinness and Harry and Lelia Schoenberg. We welcome our new mentors - Judy and Tim Maloney and Patrick Schweiss, and we still have a few more mentorships in the works! We extend our deepest gratitude to guests Robert and Nackey Scagliotti for their tremendous generosity!

One of our newest mentors, Patrick Schweiss, Executive Director of the Sedona International Film Festival, featured Glenna's Story at two film screenings at the Harkins Theater for



Janet and Peter Fagan

approximately 500 attendees. Through Peter and Janet's donation, Futures for Children was the title sponsor for the screenings, which gave Futures for Children much-desired press coverage (print and online). We thank Randy, Milton, Mac, Sue and Jeanette Sasmor for volunteering their time at the theater.

We can't thank Peter and Janet enough, but most of all, we thank Peter for being our illustrious Chairman for the past two years for the second time in his tenure. We congratulate Peter on his new post as Chairman Emeritus.



Sue and Mac McGuinness



Randy Crewse



Milton Crewse, Jeanette Sasmor, Elaine West

## GLENNA'S STORY:

DISCOVER A STORY OF HOPE

In our new video, Glenna, a Futures for Children American Indian student, welcomes us onto her reservation. See what life is like for her while she helps her brother tend their sheep, attends school, and tells how the Youth Leadership Program helped her succeed. Glenna's Story was recently featured at the film screenings at the Harkins Theater in Sedona, AZ.



Watch "Glenna's Story" on [facebook.com](http://facebook.com), [youtube.com](http://youtube.com), or [futuresforchildren.org](http://futuresforchildren.org). For a complimentary copy of this DVD, please contact Futures for Children.



## GALLAGHER & GALLAGHER GIVES

*Futures for Children is very grateful to have received a donation from Gallagher & Gallagher, a marketing, advertising, and public relations firm in Washington, DC, of thirty beautiful brand new bicycles and helmets to be distributed to American Indian students.*



Our regional coordinators delivered bicycles and helmets to Youth Leadership groups in different communities: Santa Ana Pueblo, NM, Bacavi, AZ, and Farmington, NM. Our volunteer project coaches for these groups were asked to select student bicycle recipients.

The Santa Ana community group included a bicycle surprise during their Christmas meeting—Santa Claus arrived in costume and rode one of the bikes into the room with the others following close behind!

The Bacavi community's project coach helped choose four students, who had consistent attendance, to receive the bikes. They planned to give away the remaining six to other students in Bacavi based on a random draw.

The Farmington community, whose Youth Leadership group was from Navajo Preparatory School, made the bike distribution one of their service projects. (Youth Leadership groups are encouraged to use their leadership skills and work together to develop community projects.) These high school students traveled to schools to give the bikes to deserving students whom teachers had nominated. The students at an elementary school gathered together for the presentation of the

bikes. Our Youth Leadership students, practicing their public speaking skills, introduced themselves in English and in Navajo to the audience. They encouraged the younger children to work hard and act as leaders: "We do these kind of projects to help us build our leadership skills... we hope you... will be a leader in your own school, in your own classroom, in your own community." Their project coach, Denise Joe, told them that "School is very important, and this is just a token of our appreciation to say, 'Thank you for doing a good job.'" The winners were brought in front of the audience to be recognized and to receive their new bikes.

*The bicycles and helmets were rewards to younger students for their accomplishments and also gave our older high school students the opportunity to develop a spirit of service and generosity.*

*Thank you, Gallagher & Gallagher, for your wonderful contribution to Futures for Children!*



*"I am grateful to receive a bike. My old bike was run over and broken a long time ago. I like to ride bikes, and now I can do it again. Thank you!"*  
--Bicycle Recipient

## A LEGACY LIVES ON:

ABBOTT SEKAQUAPTEWA LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Bruce Larsen received the Futures for Children Abbott Sekaquaptewa Leadership Award on September 25, 2010. This award was created in memory of Abbott Sekaquaptewa (Hopi), a past chairman of our board who was dedicated to improving the lives of American Indian children. He helped initiate the Youth Leadership Program and develop our self-help method. The award is presented to someone who preserves Abbot's legacy of service to American Indian people and of leadership.

That legacy has now been passed on to Bruce Larsen. He and his wife, Mary Anne, have mentored more than eight students, and Bruce served on

our board for six years before accepting the role of chairman. He has supported Futures for Children for over nineteen years and has set a wonderful example of philanthropy and leadership.

Jim West presented Mr. Larsen with the eagle-shaped award, which represents Mr. Sekaquaptewa's Hopi Eagle Clan. Indian tribal peoples recognize the eagle as a symbol of the connection between humankind and a higher purpose. Futures for Children was honored to give Mr. Larsen this award as a symbol of our gratitude for his support and our efforts to work together for the higher purpose of educational enrichment for American Indian youth.



Bruce Larsen, Jim West, and past award recipients Al Baldwin and Peter Fagan at the 2010 Abbot Sekaquaptewa Leadership Celebration. Dan Namingha (not pictured) is also a past Abbott Sekaquaptewa Leadership Award recipient.



## A NEW ADDITION: INKY KIM, VICE PRESIDENT OF DEVELOPMENT

"I am blessed to have joined the Futures for Children Family on December 6th. I have big shoes to fill as my predecessor is our current board member Veronica Gonzalez, but I will do my best. The development team consists of Jim West (President/CEO), Sandy Massey (Sr. Development Officer), Susanna Lester (Development Coordinator) and myself, VP of Development. On behalf of the development team, thank you for your continuing support and kindness you have shown over the many years.

The intangible value you allow Futures for Children to bring to American Indian children, their families, and communities is truly priceless.

Inkyung (Inky) Kim has over 16 years experience in fundraising and communications. She has worked for various nonprofits mainly in New York City. Prior, she was a teacher for 7 years. Inky is a graduate of New York University (B.S. in Education) and Polytechnic University (M.S. in Management). She is a happy newbie in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

