

Welcome

To The One Spirit Family



Thank you for taking the first step to support One Spirit make the dreams of the Lakota people a reality.

Your support helps to eliminate the third-world conditions on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Your generosity will help the Lakota prevent hunger and diet-related disease, strengthen families and empower youth to create brighter futures.

One Spirit is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. EIN 26-3592983



About Us



About One Spirit

One Spirit is a Native American service organization that works in partnership with the Lakota people. One Spirit people are from all over the United States and many parts of Europe and Australia.

Our programs support Lakota initiatives that provide for the basic needs of their people, promote self-

sufficiency and give the youth a vision of a better today and brighter future. We are delighted that you have chosen to join our One Spirit family and get to know the Lakota people, and so many other caring people from around the world!

All monetary donations to One Spirit are tax deductible. Since we are volunteer-operated, over 90% of all donations directly support Lakota programs. One Spirit is recognized by GuideStar, the primary resource for information about non-profits.

Our Mission

Our mission is to work in partnership with the Lakota people, providing resources and establishing programs that:

- End hunger and malnutrition
- Support culturally meaningful education
- Eliminate suicide among youth
- Create realistic alternatives to drugs and violence

Pine Ridge

History

The Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is part of a larger territory established for the Lakota in 1868 by the United States government and later parceled out to non-Native homesteaders and broken up into smaller tribal reservations.

Today In Pine Ridge

The US Census Bureau has identified it as one of the poorest areas in the United States. It is the second largest reservation in the U.S., spanning about 11,000 square miles. The population is about 40,000 and 35% are under the age of 16.

- Unemployment rate is around 90%
- Average life expectancy is 50 years
- 33% of homes are without electricity or running water
- The average house has at least 17 people living under one roof
- High school dropout rate at 70%
- Teen suicide rate is 150% above national average
- 50% of adults over 40 have diabetes

There is more to the Lakota people than these statistics. Despite the hardships and adversity they have maintained their cultural knowledge and traditions. About 1/3 of the population still speaks the Lakota language. They are a sharing society - if one eats, they all eat, or they all do without. The Lakota strive to find ways to become self-sufficient while maintaining harmony with the natural world.



Our Programs



Sponsorship

The One Spirit Sponsorship Program brings assistance directly to families and elders. Sponsors can help with basic needs like clothing, shoes or blankets or monthly food boxes through the Food Program.

It is the friendships that often form between sponsors and the Lakota that have the greatest impact. Both the Lakota families and their sponsors tell us how much it means to them.

Currently there are about 1000 children and elders waiting for a sponsor.

Youth

The One Spirit Youth Program supports cultural and sporting events in an effort to give Lakota youth alternatives to drugs, alcohol and gangs. Starting with the Allen district, we are building youth centers through out the reservation where kids can have a safe, welcoming place to go for mentorship, study, counseling and recreation.

Okini

The One Spirit Okini Program brings together Lakota with urgent material needs with the people who can help. It is a list detailing the items that are currently needed by individuals or families. You can access the list through our web site and select the things that you can help with. Even a small, inexpensive item can make a big difference for someone who is in desperate need.



Food Program

The One Spirit Food Program provides fresh meat and produce every month to over 3000 people. The food is delivered directly to the homes where it is most needed. Our delivery area is the entire reservation (about the size of the state of Connecticut), including the remote outlying areas.

For about \$65.00, you can provide an elder with two weeks of nutritious meals, or feed the average family for a week.

Wood Program

The One Spirit Wood Program provides wood and propane for heat to families and elders. It gives employment to Lakota men and women who collect, cut and deliver wood to reservation homes. They also repair and winterize houses to help conserve heat.

A donation of \$150 can provide enough wood to keep a family or elder warm for about three weeks.