



What a winter we have seen in Montana. Not so much from a snow and cold standpoint, but rather from the challenges we've faced when unexpected problems pop up. It seems the short days of winter, colder temperatures, and snow and ice magnify the consequences of the smallest glitch.

We "enjoyed" an early blast of winter in October and November. Then December and January felt mild in comparison. It was so cold on Veteran's Day that we had to move our ceremony indoors. A few hearty elders and staff braved the icy cold to honor our veterans as a new US flag was raised above Heritage Living Center. Then, we rushed inside the lobby to fold the old flag and present it to one of our veterans and thank each vet for their service to our country.

Soon after Veteran's Day, the residents and staff began planning

Veterans and volunteers carefully fold the flag that flew above the Heritage Living Center after replacing it with a new one.

and preparing for Thanksgiving Day. With donated funds, we were able to prepare enough food for the elders to invite their family members to join them for a traditional dinner of turkey and ham and all the trimmings. We had a wonderful day of good food and good company. We didn't forget our neighbors in need. Before Thanksgiving and Christmas,

elders and staff traveled around the Northern Cheyenne Reservation to deliver boxes of food to shut-ins and families we knew needed some help with nutritious food.

Christmas was a quiet day as elders gathered around the tree in the lobby to exchange small presents of gloves, socks, blankets and special treats. Santa stopped by after visiting





Veteran and resident Ron Carter is greeted by Delpha Harris after he was presented with the flag that flew for a year above the HLC.

all the children's homes during the night and then headed back home to the North Pole.

We faced our share of troubles. I'm sure you read about our loss of hot water in one of my recent letters. It took several days to learn what happened to our propane fired hot water heaters and why we couldn't relight them. Parts for repair took several days to arrive – nothing is easy in our remote location – and six days later the elders were enjoying hot showers again. I was amazed at how resilient most of the residents were when facing this challenge. Many heated bowls of water and wet washcloths in small microwave ovens to wash and refresh themselves. We laughed about the "good old days" when running water and hot showers were a luxury.

Inside this newsletter, you will find some encouraging stories

about the late fall and early winter activities and events at the Center. On February 1, we remembered Father Emmett Hoffmann's passing with a service in our small chapel and out by Father Emmett's gravesite. The elders reflected on all the things Father had made possible for them and their families and each one spoke with a thankful heart for the home Father had built for them and the gifts our donors send each day to keep the doors open. Inside you will find an article about Father Emmett's work among the Cheyenne and especially his later years establishing Soaring Eagle and the Heritage Living Center. I asked John Warner, a longtime friend and photojournalist, to write the article and share his thoughts on Father's ministry among the Northern Cheyenne.

Many donors have written asking about Jerry Thex, our administrator,

who lost his home in a mid-December fire. Jerry is doing well and inside you will find a note from him and some photos of that night when he was away on a supply run for the Center. Thank you for your concern and prayers for Jerry and the work he carries out each day directing the work and care for the elders.

You may notice that our newsletter has a different look. We found it necessary to make some changes in the way the newsletter is presented and assembled to keep our costs as low as possible. I hope you like what we have done to be careful with every dollar you send our way.

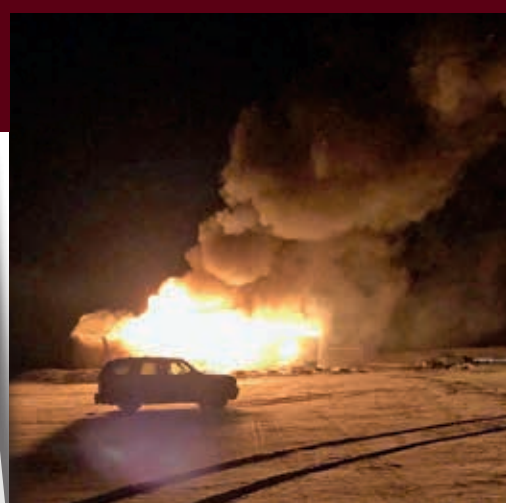
I can't tell you how thankful I am for the donations sent to us this past year. Your generosity allowed us to prepare over 44,000 meals, provide warm living quarters and care for 40 elders. At the same time, we took on some major projects like the parking lot, security cameras, updating to a more dependable TV system, and much more. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you have blessed us with.

The elders meet each day for prayer, and they ask God to bless you for sharing your gifts with us.

With a grateful heart,

THANK YOU – FROM JERRY THEX

Paveešeeva - It's a Good Day!
I just wanted to thank everyone for their blessings + prayers. Things are going well for me and my son. God is definitely restoring everything back to normal and with God's help we should be back in a new home by June or July. Again, thank you for everything. God Bless You and Your Families.
Respectfully, *Jerry Thex*



Above: HLC administrator Jerry Thex rushed home only to see it completely engulfed by fire.

Below: In the aftermath Jerry walks around the foundation of his home surveying the contents of what were once he and his son's belongings.



AN EXTRAORDINARY LIFE AND LEGACY

FATHER EMMETT HOFFMANN REMEMBERED

BY JOHN WARNER, PHOTOGRAPHER



Father Emmett Hoffmann
1926-2013

Left: This portrait of Father Emmett and faithful Fergie by John Warner is on display in HLC's main lobby.

focus was fixed on much bigger things. The new priest fresh out of seminary was not going to accept the world in front of him. It was a world so impoverished that he knew right then and there that this was his calling. It was the summer of 1954 in eastern Montana.

He had the genius and the resolve to attack injustice. He had no patience for government bureaucracy and the delayed, wrong solutions coming out of Washington, DC. He began his mission with an uncommon gift of problem solving.

Father Emmett had hands as big as catcher's mitts and he could put pen to paper in a way few can write. He obtained lists of names, some highly selected and some random, to send his handwritten mimeographed letters. The first-person experiences of what he was witnessing while traveling across dirt roads to minister to the people he came to serve needed no exaggeration. You couldn't make up the plight of the poor Cheyenne. He conveyed the appalling conditions in visual real-time to the reader. From all over the country people had heard his plea and responded with a priority to help. His letters asked for money to make things better now,

A long time ago a tall strong man stepped out from his car and cuffed his hand over his brow to survey the landscape to his left, then through the powdered dirt still airborne tracing his final yards, he panned across to his right. Father Emmett Hoffmann gazed at a landscape unlike anything he had ever seen. He was unlike anyone the Northern Cheyenne would ever know.

His first thoughts were to find his room and meet whomever may have been expecting the 28-year-old Capuchin priest sent from Wisconsin. He was exhausted beyond description from the journey he had made by train and car. Within a month his

not later. He pleaded for the money, and signed his letters,

Your beggar friend,

Father Emmett Hoffmann

Father Emmett Hoffmann

In 1954, there were no jobs on the reservation. Jobs simply did not exist. When you read one of Father's letters you were compelled to become a friend of the Cheyenne community. The results were fast. Classroom buildings went up. More buildings followed including a plastics factory and a sawmill! Real jobs by the dozens were created. Now hundreds of Cheyennes had jobs and paychecks. Scores of teachers were hired, buses were purchased, a dorm was built for students who lived so far away that buses couldn't reach them in a day. A cafeteria and cooks turned out hundreds of meals daily. The Indian School with under 70 students grew to an enrollment of over 700 students and is a model for education among underserved youth. In less than two decades one man changed the lives of nearly every family on the reservation. It's a true story.

A spectacular piece of architecture crowned the 1970s. A massive stone tipi structure began rising above the mission campus towards the skies. Slabs of "Montana Marble," rocks the size of cars, were cut and stacked upon each other. Jutting out of the top of the tipi church was a metal sculpture, squared and welded into an unmistakable crucifix. It leaned at an angle as if being dragged on the back of a man. The leaning cross tipi church symbolized the historic heroism and terrible hardships the Northern Cheyenne endured before finally being granted the homeland they'd fought to return to. Today it leans just the same, as if in a

struggle to right itself. Everyone knows it won't fall. That is the symbolic promise Father made, a message to the Cheyenne people – "Do not fall, stay strong and have faith."

Father Emmett retired from the St. Labre Indian School in the mid-1990s. Retirement and his active mind didn't mix well and so he "un-retired." Decades earlier, Father paid for tape recordings of old Cheyenne Chiefs meetings to preserve their history. During his few months of retirement, Father heard a translation of a lost tape recording where the chiefs discussed the problem of their elders having no place to go when they needed assistance. He heard the chiefs from beyond their graves. He said the hair stood up on the back of his neck and he knew he would devote the rest of his life to caring for elders.

Ashland is a small town with a 25-mph speed limit on one of the most dangerous stretches of highway in Montana. Six or seven locally

owned businesses occupy very old buildings, next to several shuttered shops. But, above the town looking up from Highway 212, is a wonderful home for elders. The Heritage Living Center with forty safe apartments makes no sense in the tiny town of Ashland! He always dreamed big. He accomplished long-term building plans with a vision for the people it would serve in the years ahead.

Father Emmett died seven years ago, and we thought for those who are new to Soaring Eagle, and for those friends who reconnected with Father when he built Heritage Living Center, we should remind you of how it all started and how it continues today. We are here because of one man. He had help, of course. Connie Sump was his best friend and co-planner, who did the accounting and managed the funds over the decades. Tom Fenske joined Father and Connie in founding Soaring Eagle, a Public Charity. Father Emmett was the genius



Friends Connie Sump and Father Emmett teamed together for decades.

behind the successes, the "Renegade Priest," who let people who knew what they were doing do it. He was always learning from them. Here is an example of Father's learning from the old Cheyenne people.

"Bessie Twin was a good teacher. I learned about the Cheyenne way of life as we visited and talked. But most of all I learned the Cheyenne way by watching her. She suffered silently, never complaining or blaming others for her misfortunes. She lived each day with pride and dignity. She belonged to the people." - Fr. Emmett circa 1960.

As he got older and had heart attacks that kept him away from us in hospitals and after-care facilities, I never once heard him complain; perhaps he remembered Bessie. When he recovered, he was full of energy, driving his scooter too fast in the Heritage Living Center hallways, always in a hurry. Back in the day, Father Emmett famously accumulated



Above: The famous tipi church is serenaded with a spring rainbow.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS DELIVER GOOD CHEER!

Each year during the week before Christmas HLC staffers fill boxes with a variety of healthy foods and then criss-cross the reservation in the HLC bus, stopping at dozens of humble homes to surprise unsuspecting and grateful elders and shut-ins. *(Please refer under the flap below for descriptions.)*



Above: Irene Bullcoming greets Myra Fisher, Aaron Haugan and LaDonna Eagle from HLC delivering a Christmas food box.

Above Right: Irene waves good-bye to her visitors.

Left: Heritage Living Center staffers load boxes full of food to deliver to shut-ins and elderly on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Right: LaDonna Eagle and Tione Carlson share Christmas cheer and a box of good food with Delano Harris (center).



TERRIBLE CONDITIONS



Father Emmett often wrote about the Third World poverty and suffering he saw when he first came to the reservation in the 1950s. Things weren't any better in the 1960s. Motivated by a report that the federal government's promise to provide adequate housing for Indians had been completed, Father Emmett grabbed his camera to set the record straight. He shot pictures of nearly every house on the reservation. Most of the pictures looked like this one of Mae Medicine Bird, bedridden and alone.

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

VARIOUS ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT LIFE AT HLC



Left: Clinton Bird Hat during a prayer on Veteran's Day.

Below: HLC Resident Kenneth Beartusk couldn't resist a little puppy love when a box of puppies stopped by the Center for a visit.

Bottom: The HLC Christmas tree reaches for the sky every December.



GIVING FROM ANOTHER PURSE – GIFTS OF APPRECIATED STOCK

Below: Mike Skaggs visits with resident Bertha Hogan in the quiet of the chapel at HLC.

This article may not be for everyone. If you own stocks and given thought to what happens if you were to sell some of your securities when they are at an all-time high value in today's stock market, then you may want to read on.

Many of our donors give in different ways. Most friends write checks as it is easy and comes from the cash they have on hand

each month. Many donors budget a specific amount for their charitable gifts, and we are grateful to receive those gifts. We look forward to opening the mail each day to see what our kind-hearted donors send for us to purchase food and pay the heat bills.

Some friends own assets in addition to cash in their checkbooks. They find they have another purse

from which to give to their favorite charities. Most often that purse holds stocks in U.S. companies and as the stock market reaches record levels, investors are looking at the stocks they own and considering what to do with, in some cases, their tremendous gains. Stock owners may have purchased shares in great companies many years ago with a "buy and hold" strategy. Through the



ups and downs of the markets, that strategy has served those investors well. But, now with values at highs not seen before, some charitably inclined donors are rethinking their strategies and considering what to do with some of their stock.

If you are considering a charitable contribution, maybe one of significance, then it is in your best interest to seek out the most effective ways in which your money and assets can work for you and benefit others. Giving appreciated stock rather than cash may be an effective way to make that meaningful donation and enjoy significant tax savings.

Benefits of giving appreciated stock include:

1. Knowing your property is invested in a cause important and dear to you. Soaring Eagle would be honored for you to consider us as one of those causes.
2. Capital gains taxes on the stock are avoided.
3. You will be eligible to enjoy a charitable deduction on your federal, and in some cases, state income tax for the full fair-market value of the stock at the time of the gift if you itemize deductions.

Investors who sell appreciated stock held one year or longer owe taxes on the capital gains. If the investor donated the proceeds from

the sale he or she could receive a charitable donation, but the deduction might not offset the capital gain from the stock sale. The investor might be better served donating the appreciated stock, pay no taxes on the gain and receive the tax deduction for the full value of the shares.

Your gift of appreciated stock will be fully deductible up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Some high-income donors may be subject to a partial reduction of itemized deductions. Any excess of the 30% limit can be carried forward and deducted over the next five years.

There are other giving strategies that can be used with gifts of stock like:

- Giving a security while “keeping” it
- Balancing capital gain through gifts
- Giving securities that have gone down in value

In addition, a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity can be funded with a gift of appreciated stock. See our display on gift annuities in this newsletter for more information.

If you own stock that is highly appreciated and you’ve been thinking about how to handle the potential gain and taxes owed if you sold it, then giving some of your stock to Soaring Eagle might be a good solution. By doing so you could preserve your cash for other

important uses and reduce your potential tax liability on donated appreciated stock. We recommend you seek the advice of your financial and tax advisor before making a gift of appreciated stock. We would be happy to visit with you and your advisors as you plan a gift and provide information on how to make a gift of stock to Soaring Eagle.

For more information, please call or write for our free booklet “Giving Securities”. To learn more, please contact Mike Skaggs, CEO, Soaring Eagle, P.O. Box 879, Billings, Montana 59103, or call 406-256-8500.

The information in this newsletter is presented to Soaring Eagle’s donors and friends to provide general information and encourage charitable giving. Soaring Eagle is a public charity incorporated in the state of Montana and does not engage in rendering legal, tax, financial, or any other professional advice. Consult your own professional advisors as it pertains to your individual situation. Consult an attorney if your plans require the creation of or revision of a will, trust or other legal document. Tax deductions vary based on numerous factors including personal financial circumstances, tax codes, and applicable federal discount rates, which can change each month. Charitable gift annuities may not be available in all states.

2020 Annuity Rates

One-Life Annuity

Age	% Rate	Age	% Rate
65	4.7	78	6.4
66	4.7	79	6.6
67	4.8	80	6.9
68	4.9	81	7.2
69	5.0	82	7.4
70	5.1	83	7.6
71	5.2	84	7.8
72	5.4	85	8.0
73	5.5	86	8.2
74	5.6	87	8.4
75	5.8	88	8.6
76	6.0	89	8.8
77	6.2	90+	9.0

Lower two-life rates are available.
Please contact us for information.

"I learned that I could receive a good return with a gift annuity. I asked Soaring Eagle to send me information illustrating the benefits of a gift annuity. It was free and there was no obligation. It was straight forward and simple to complete, so I sent \$10,000 for an annuity. Now, I can count on my payments for the rest of my life and help care for elders at Heritage Living Center. I received a tax deduction when I set up my annuity. Best of all, most of each payment is tax-free."



I RECEIVE HIGH FIXED PAYMENTS FROM MY SOARING EAGLE GIFT ANNUITY!

To learn more about the benefits of a Soaring Eagle gift annuity, please use the coupon in this newsletter or call Mike Skaggs at (406) 256-8500, Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103.



YOUR WILL KEEPS ON GIVING

Please use one of the following sample forms of bequest when preparing your Will:

- Giving a Specific Amount – "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, the sum of \$_____."
- Giving a Specific Property - "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, (identify specific property, example: 500 shares of XYZ stock)."
- Giving a Percentage – "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana, _____% of my estate."
- Giving the Residue - "All the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate, I bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana."
- Giving a Contingent Bequest – "I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the laws of the State of Montana, located at Billings, Montana my bequest to (name of intended recipient) should he/she not be living or be able to accept my bequest."

The above are sample forms only. Consult your attorney when preparing any legal document.

To learn more about giving to Soaring Eagle through your will, request our free booklet "Giving Through Your Will" by writing or calling: Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103 (406) 256-8500.



Above: Resident and ceremonial man Francis Limpy speaks during a memorial at Father Emmett's gravesite.

speeding tickets from the highway patrol during the 1970s when the 55mph speed limit, stemming from the oil crisis, was federally mandated. Father would hand a patrolman the money for a ticket and ask, "Is this good for all day?" He called the fines he paid "speeding permits." Another trooper stopped Father for speeding way too fast and asked to see his pilot's license. Father used to be a licensed pilot and proudly carried his expired license in his wallet. When he handed it to the trooper, he just shook his head and let Father off with a warning.

Father Emmett stayed active in the work of Soaring Eagle even to his final days. He worked on his last letter to donors four days before he passed on to the next camp.

Father Emmett did not pass away before handing over the immense challenge of running Soaring Eagle to the right people. The small board of directors continues the mission of caring for elders and looking for ways to further serve the Cheyenne senior community. Mike and his staff of two manage the fundraising from a tiny office in Billings. Mike makes frequent trips to Ashland connecting with elders and small events as if the 250-mile round trip was nothing

other than a walk across the street. I'm writing this because I've been a part of the Father Emmett legacy since 1989 and I have seen the amazing results.

Father Emmett, "Your beggar friend," would approve of the direction Soaring Eagle is headed and how your gifts are carefully used for the elders' care. I bet, he is watching and



John Warner,
photographer



Father Emmett and Mike Skaggs.

praying for us all to continue this remarkable and important mission.

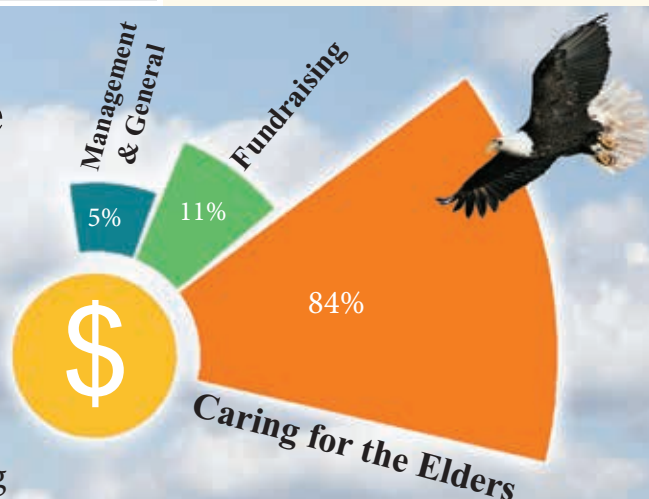
Editor's note: John Warner quit his job at the Indianapolis Star to go to work for Father Emmett. He is an award-winning and recognized photographer in the US. Though his job supported fundraising, Father Emmett saw the big picture and left John to his own exploratory devices to document the life and times of the Northern Cheyenne through photojournalism. When the Heritage Living Center was built, John returned to help Father Emmett with promoting the new charity through his photography and friendships in the community.



How your Soaring Eagle donations are used.

Based upon the total income for the year ending June 30, 2019.
The following percentages were spent for operations.

www.soaringeagle.org



fiscal yr 7-1-2018 to 6-30-2019



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YES, I'm interested in a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity. Please send me more information.

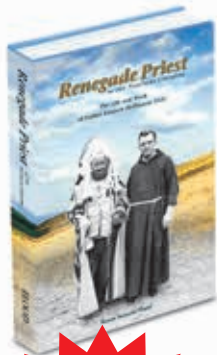
Birth date(s) of annuitant(s) _____

Annuity Amount \$ _____ *Minimum annuity amount \$5,000 (up to 2 names/birth dates allowed per annuity.)*

This is a non-binding proposal. Upon receipt of actual payment for an annuity, a formal contract will be mailed. For more information call (406) 256-8500.

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Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

The Life and Work of
Father Emmett Hoffmann
1926–2013

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