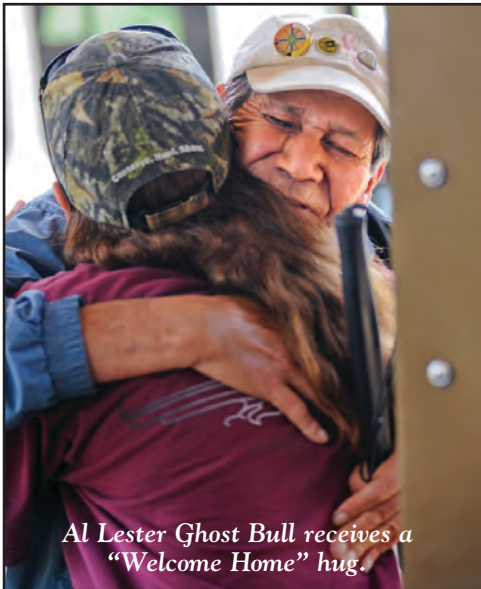




A Note From Father Emmett

More than half of the country suffered this summer with hot, dry temperatures, reminiscent of my childhood in Wisconsin during the Great Depression. My parents owned a dairy farm and we never went without food during the "Dirty Thirties." But one Saturday,



Al Lester Ghost Bull receives a "Welcome Home" hug.

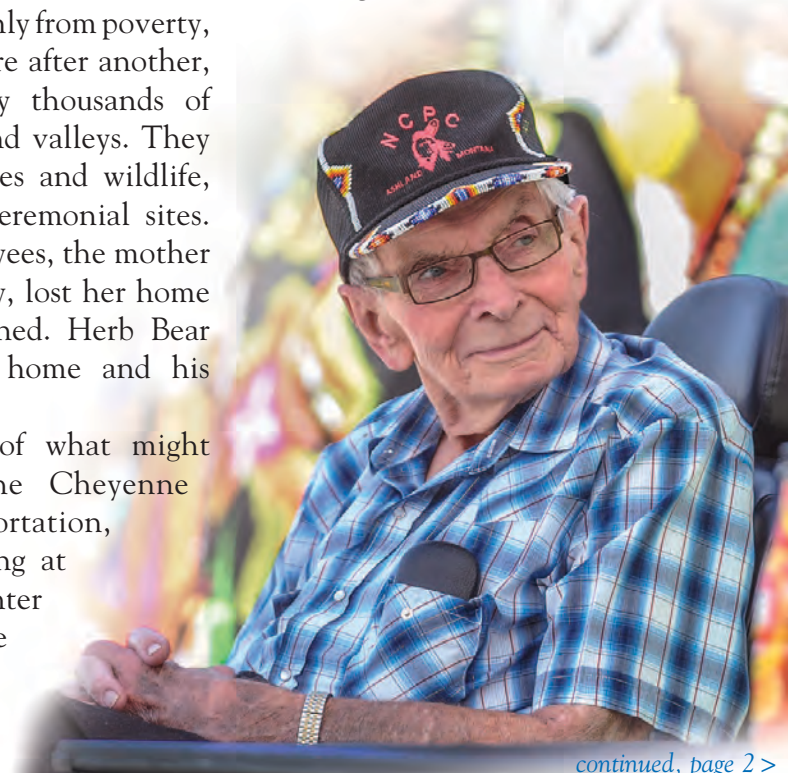
mother wasn't feeling well in her last pregnancy and didn't bake that day. So I was sent to Webber's Store in town to buy a loaf of 8 cent bread. When I got to the counter, the clerk frowned, folded his arms and loudly told me, "Bread has gone up to nine cents and if

you want bread, you can pay the extra cent mighty quick!" I didn't have one cent so I left the store. That humbling experience taught me a valuable lesson. I realized that poor people are ashamed of their poverty, just as I had been. In the years to come, I kept in mind that each person, no matter how poor, should be treated with dignity and respect.

This past summer, the Northern Cheyenne suffered not only from poverty, but also from one wildfire after another, which devastated many thousands of acres of forested hills and valleys. They lost homes, cattle, horses and wildlife, not to mention their ceremonial sites. Bobbi, one of our employees, the mother of 5 girls and a little boy, lost her home and everything she owned. Herb Bear Chum lost his family home and his adjoining workshop.

I cringe to think of what might have happened to the Cheyenne elders without transportation, had they not been living at the Heritage Living Center when the horrific fire destroyed homes and forests. Those who are disabled, blind

or in wheelchairs might not have had time to escape the flames. Luckily, the resident Cheyenne elders at the Center were well cared for by our staff. In another section of this issue of Signals, you will find a column written by our CEO Mike Skaggs and his Fire Log describing the evacuation of HLC in a terrifying fire emergency that none of us will soon forget. Hats off to Mike and HLC



continued, page 2 >



Father Emmett is greeted by well-wishers during a summer pow wow at the Heritage Center celebrating his birthday.

Administrator Jamie Olson and his efficient staff, who did a terrific job of protecting the elders during this crisis.

You may wonder where I was during the fire? Well, I wasn't on vacation! I was flat on my back in a Billings hospital fighting off pneumonia. You can imagine how I felt, not being able to get out of bed during the fire disaster, let alone rush down to Ashland to see the situation for myself. For the first time in 58 years, I had to lighten my grip on the reins and allow others to do what

needed to be done. Although Mike kept me updated on the safety of the elders every two hours, I was still stunned when he called me late on the night of June 26th to tell me they were evacuating the elders from the Heritage Living Center. At that moment my heart sank because I knew how frightened the elders must be.

All through the evacuation and the struggle to find safe shelter for them, I knew that God was in charge. During my prayers, I felt like He was saying to me, "Don't worry Emmett, I'm in control. Your friends will help you." To me that meant that our loving donors would see us through any emergency. I was then able to relax, let go and let God.

After all danger had passed and the Cheyenne came home to HLC, I must admit it was emotional for me. I had to hold in tears when I saw them being helped out of vehicles. I had such a proud feeling of relief and renewal when



HLC staff serve a meal during the pow wow.

I noticed how joyous they were to be back. One of the elders hugged me and said, "Father, we were staying in a nice place but it's so good to be home again." At that moment I felt so grateful to you, our donor friends, for the help you gave us throughout the ordeal. I never forget for a moment that without you, we wouldn't have the Center and we wouldn't be there to comfort these Cheyenne who suffered so much during their lifetimes.

In July, the elders, neighbors and tribal friends helped me to celebrate my 86th Birthday. Coming so close after the fire, it was good to get together for a meal and to watch the dancers out on the lawn. It was hard to believe that God had allowed me this much time to do His

bidding. I'm just thankful I can still get around as well as I do.

On August 31st, we all enjoyed our Tenth Anniversary Celebration at the Center. My little dog Fergie and I greeted a donor who came all the way from Denmark and other kind friends from all over the United States. What a treat to see each and every one of them. In a special event, donors were invited to join in a Cheyenne prayer cloth ceremony and to share a traditional meal prepared by the elders themselves. Afterwards, some stayed to attend the Annual Ashland Labor Day Pow Wow.

Many people came up to say hello. I get a little embarrassed and tongue tied when I meet people, but on the other hand, I love to see everyone having a good time. After so much heartache over the summer, it was a time to relax and give thanks that the Heritage Living Center escaped the fire and that our Cheyenne residents came through the experience unharmed. We are extremely proud of our first ten years in our "Miracle on the Hill," providing assisted living care for resident Cheyenne elders and we look forward to the next ten years ahead.

I hope when you look through our Fall Newsletter with all the colorful photographs showing the range of experiences we had this summer, that you will remember us. You are always in our daily prayers.

Your beggar friend,

Father Emmett Hoffmann

Father Emmett Hoffmann



(Above) Dancers in traditional regalia move to the drumbeat during Father Emmett's birthday.

(Right) Edna Seminole's smile tells the story as she and HLC residents return home following the evacuation during the Ash Creek Fire this summer.



Mike's Ash Creek Fire Log!

June 26- July 6 , 2012



Mike Skaggs kept a journal of amazing events at the historic Ash Creek Fire

June 26, 2012 - 8 p.m. Jamie Olson, HLC Administrator, calls with the terrible news that 70 mph winds have blown a small blaze near Lame Deer into a large and dangerous fire. Fire fighters can't get in front of it: "It's hotter than a lava flow." The fire is moving toward the Center in Ashland.



9 p.m. – Call from Jamie – Our worst fear - the Ash Creek Fire is definitely headed for Ashland. Jamie told me: "We have to get the elders out of the Center. We're evacuating them now!" Father is in the hospital in Billings with pneumonia and I had to call him late with news of the evacuation. He wants to be with the elders in this frightening crisis, but he can't. He knows they must be terrified, wondering what will happen to them if the Center burns.



Staff transports Cheyenne elders to Lame Deer (20 miles away) to shelter at Boys and Girls Club. Worried about the elders on oxygen inhaling thick smoke. They are fed and a few have cots to sleep on, but they couldn't get up from them. Most spent the night in wheelchairs and folding chairs. A sleepless night. Elder Peter John Wilson tells me later that he slept on the cement floor with his shoes for a pillow.



June 26 & 27, 2012 – Is HLC safe? No phones working. No power or lights for 65 miles, except for the beacon of hope that lights the Heritage Living Center on the hill. Thank God we have a generator that donors helped pay for years ago. What a blessing! I keep Father informed. He's praying. Thick smoke and falling ash burning eyes and throats in Ashland. Jamie brings up bull dozer to HLC in case he needs to make a fire line. Sprinkler system turned on to keep the lawn wet around the building.

Eleven Days of Fire, Evacuation, Seeking Shelter...

June 27, 2012 – Reserve staff cook for fire fighters and townspeople coming up to HLC for meals, showers and sofas where they can sleep. Jamie's wife, Kimmie Olson, is cooking up a storm. Firefighters exhausted. All roads are closed out of Ashland. No sleep. Ashland still surrounded by fire. 700 people stayed at the Boys and Girls Club last night. The gym is so hot. Every door is open. I have to do something! Elders tired and dazed. I made arrangements for motel rooms in Billings and we took the residents there, only to find that the skies are full of smoke. We made sure they had a good meal and we bought clothing for them. Grandma Susie quipped, "You told us to take our medications but you didn't tell us to take our underwear!"



June 28 -2012 - Cheyenne elder Delpha Harris, said she just stood in the shower and thanked God for the "Hot water, fluffy pillows and fluffy beds." Smoke from the fire is choking Billings residents and is making it hard for elders to breathe. Staff doing great job! David Trost from St. John's Lutheran Ministries called to ask: "Do you need any help?" Another blessing! He's offered a building called the "Willows" in Red Lodge, up in the foothills of the Beartooth Mountains. Elders still have a look of fright in their eyes.



June 29, 2012 - Moved elders to the Willows in Red Lodge. No smoke at all. David had everything ready when we arrived. He and his staff welcomed us and at one point, he wiped away tears. Elders are nervous in yet another new place. Cheyenne elder, Peter John Wilson, goes out for a hike. It's so hot, he jumps into a pond on the golf course next door! He finds 8 golf balls in the pond and comes back to the Willows, dripping wet. His antics make us laugh. Since ancient times, the Cheyenne have confronted fear, worry and terror with teasing and humor. Members of our staff are cooking and the elders are happy! I see smiles.



June 30, 2012 - Back in Ashland – scary news - the wind suddenly shifted and is now heading back towards Ashland, 30 mph, thick ash falling. Fire is 12 miles east of Ashland. HLC still helping community and firefighters with supplies; clothes, blankets, food. Winds shifting back and forth. Dangerous.



July 2, 2012 - Father Emmett pays a surprise visit to Red Lodge to see the elders at the Willows. He had lunch with them. Peter John Wilson provides more comic relief. He went up the hill for a walk and was chased all the way down by a moose and her calf. He looked scared but made a funny story out of his close call. He has more golf balls, which means he took another dip in the golf course pond.



July 1, 2012 - Drove to Red Lodge with a surprise for the elders. Set up a conference call with Fr. Emmett in Billings and Jamie at HLC. Elders can hear the call and speak to Father. It went smoothly and the elders were greatly comforted when Father Emmett prayed for them:

"Good morning! It's so good to hear you and know you are safe! Thank you for your patience. You have put up with these hardships, cooperating in every way you can." Father begins his prayer (condensed): "Maheo, Creator God, we thank you for our lives, and especially for our donors and the Center they built for us. Without the blessings of other people, we wouldn't be here. Maheo, we pray also that you continue to protect us from danger. Thank you for Mike making this possible. Maheo, we pray for the people who lost their homes, animals, horses. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen."



Jamie reports to elders: "The temp. is 106 degrees. The fire lines have been breached." Then, someone comes into Jamie's office: "It's coming right at us!" he yells. The fire has jumped the highway near town. Jamie says he has to go and hangs up the phone. This may have been the most frightening time in this whole ordeal. But hours later, we learn that the Center is okay.



and Then, Salvation!

July 3, 2012 – Back in Ashland, the reserve staff decide to stay at HLC despite the danger. Another emergency! The fire doubled back and is one mile away and headed toward the Center again. Dear God save the Center! The winds shift - the "Miracle on the Hill" is safe. Fire fighters now gaining on the fire.

July 6, 2012 - The elders arrive back at the Heritage Living Center! Fergie, Father Emmett and I welcome the residents home. Staff prepared a traditional Cheyenne meal.

The minute Cheyenne elder, Lorraine Robinson, is lifted to the ground in her wheelchair, she keeps saying, "I'm back to my beautiful, wonderful home." Al Ghost Bull (blind) reaches out to thank Jamie and the staff for keeping the Center safe. Everybody hugging. Not a dry eye. God is good.





Generations came from near and far to the HLC grounds this summer to socialize and celebrate Father Emmett's annual birthday pow wow and the 10th Anniversary of the Heritage Living Center.



Summer Celebrations

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL



Greetings From Big Sky Country



Mike Skaggs

tall again in their lifetimes.

But they will always have special memories of youth; riding horseback through the wooded valleys and camping under the cottonwoods along the river.

The words of William Shakespeare remind us of another truth: “One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.” For all of us at the Heritage Living Center, that “touch of nature” was fire and yes, it made us “kin” during one of the scariest evenings the Cheyenne elders have experienced, the night they were evacuated from the Center, on July 26, 2012.

For several days it was rough going, some nights with no sleep or trying to sleep under smoky conditions in hot temperatures. Things got a whole lot better, and I breathed a sigh of relief, when we reached the “Willows,” a 12-unit facility, provided to us by St. John’s Lutheran Ministries in

Red Lodge, Montana. That first afternoon at the Willows, Grandma Susie Cain, one of our residents, began busily making fry bread. Resident Attendants started cooking and one of them, Mario Spotted Elk, proved himself a real chef!

During the next 8 days, we all depended on one another, cooperated with each other and grew closer as friends and neighbors in a working spirit that I am proud to tell you about today. Everybody pitched in and made it work. Residents clearly saw how much the staff protected and cared for them.

The Fire Log in this issue of *Signals* will give you an overview of what transpired during the fire and the evacuation. But what can’t really be conveyed in the log, was the tremendous joy and happiness expressed by all the Cheyenne elders when they came home to the Heritage Living Center, the home you made possible. One of the elders said it all, “There’s nothing like your own bed!” Shakespeare was right. A touch of nature, even a disastrous one, really made us “kin.”

So long from Big Sky Country,

Mike Skaggs
Soaring Eagle CEO



Your Will Keeps on Giving

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

A. (Whatever is left after other bequests have been granted) “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.”

B. “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.”

C. “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 \$_____.”

D. “I give, devise, and bequeath to Soaring Eagle Public Charity, a corporation created under the Laws of the State of Montana, located at 745 Indian Trail, P.O. Drawer 879 in Billings, Montana, 59103, the sum of \$_____ for the Wall of Living Memories Fund, to care for Cheyenne elders, the principal of which shall remain in perpetuity.”

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

It's Time to Think —about— Year End Giving

September is a good time to think about year-end giving. In many parts of the country it is still warm and thoughts of winter are still a long ways off. Here in Montana, especially in the high country, we’ve had cold nights with frost and thin ice forming on lakes and ponds. It won’t be long before the holidays and a New Year are upon us.

Many thoughtful donors start making plans to support their favorite charities early in the year. Soaring Eagle relies on year-end gifts to help get us through the long winter months when our expenses are higher.

Keep in mind the following information when you make your charitable gift plans. Thank you for including Soaring Eagle in your planning.

Our Tax Laws Encourage Charitable Gifts

The deduction allowed for charitable gifts allows donors to reduce the “cost” of giving to help others. If you make your gift by December 31 and itemize your deductions, you could enjoy tax savings. For example: If you make a charitable gift of \$10,000, or multiple gifts totaling that amount in 2012, and are in the 33% tax bracket, you can save \$3,300 in taxes. The higher your tax bracket, the more you can save on taxes by making charitable gifts.

Know The Limits

There is no limit to how much you can donate, but there is a limit on how much counts towards a deduction. For most donors, cash donations up to 50% of their Adjusted Gross Income can be deducted. Any amount over 50% can be carried forward for up to five future tax years. Non-cash gifts of stocks are limited to 30% of Adjusted Gross Income with the same five-year carry forward provision. Please check with your tax advisor for specific advice.

Be Sure to Get Receipts

Tax regulations require that you get receipts for charitable gifts before you file your taxes. Be sure you receive a receipt for your donations. You can use receipts for each gift to a charity or a receipt showing your cumulative gifts for the year. Soaring Eagle acknowledges each gift you make throughout the year and then sends a receipt showing your cumulative giving in early January.

Gifts of Cash

For donors with cash to give, there is no easier way to enjoy a charitable deduction for 2012 and support our work, than by simply writing a check. If your envelope is postmarked by December 31, then your gift will qualify for a charitable deduction even if we do not receive it until the first week of 2013.

Gifts of Stock

Year-end 2012 may be an excellent time to consider a gift of stock. Some stock values have recovered from declines in recent years. Giving long-term appreciated stock can give you a double tax savings. First, you avoid paying capital gains on the increased value of your stock. Second, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock up to the 30% limitation mentioned earlier.

To transfer stock held by your stock broker or financial institution, you can electronically transfer ownership of your stock to Soaring Eagle. Please contact us for specific information. IRS rules state that the value of your gift is based on the average of the high and low trading prices on the transfer date, multiplied by the number of shares given. It is important that transfers happen as quickly as possible. If there is a delay in the transfer, the stock could drop in value (or conversely, go up) and be different than what you had planned. Request that the donated shares be delivered on a free basis, since the purpose of the transfer is to complete a charitable gift.



To give stocks held in your possession requires a different transfer method. You will need a stock power for each certificate to be transferred. A stock power is a document that allows Soaring Eagle to sell the donated securities. Stock powers can be picked up at your stock broker, financial institution or office supply stores. Sign the stock powers, but do not sign the stock certificates. Mail or send via courier (FedEx, UPS, etc.) the signed stock powers and stock certificates in separate envelopes. This is important as the unsigned stock certificates are not negotiable without the stock powers. You can ensure their safety by sending them separately.

If giving non-stock types of securities such as bonds, notes, mortgages, or other financial instruments, specific advice from your financial or other professional advisor should be obtained. As with all important and planned gifts to charity, the advice of competent advisors and your attorney is recommended.

Non-Cash Gifts

If you give physical items such as personal property, real estate, and other non-liquid assets, you will need a qualified appraisal for gift purposes if the item is worth more than \$5,000. Having the appraisal done is the responsibility of the donor and the appraisal cost is a deductible expense. The advice of qualified advisors is highly recommended.

Non-cash gifts of property totaling \$500 or greater require filing Form 8283. If less than \$500, you can use Schedule A on Federal Form 1040.

Charitable Gift Annuity

Many Soaring Eagle donors make a charitable gift and receive a fixed income for the rest of their life through a gift annuity. The donor transfers cash or stock to Soaring Eagle in exchange for an annuity payment. Payments can be made annually, semi-annually, quarterly or monthly. A Soaring Eagle gift annuity pays a fixed rate of return based on the donor's age.

Gift annuities provide a charitable tax deduction in the year of the gift, up to the limits allowed by federal income tax law. Excess charitable deductions can be carried forward for up to five years. Some states allow a charitable tax deduction. If the gift annuity is funded with appreciated securities, some of the capital gain income is spread over several years and a reduction in estate taxes may be possible.

Many Soaring Eagle donors have used gift annuities to augment their retirement income or provide an income for a loved one. Some donors have even deferred receiving the income until they need it during their retirement years.



See the Gift Annuity display in this newsletter for current rates, or send in the gift annuity information request form for a free, no obligation proposal.

Giving Through Your Will

Year-end is a time when many donors update their estate plans. A future gift to Soaring Eagle given only at the end of life will help the Cheyenne elders in the years ahead. Please consider a bequest by giving:

- A specific amount
- Specific property such as securities, real estate and other property
- A percentage of the value of your estate
- A remainder or residual gift (what is left after other gifts to beneficiaries are made)

Giving Through Your Retirement Plan

Similar to a remainder gift through your will, a gift through your retirement plan can benefit our work in the future. By naming Soaring Eagle as a beneficiary to your pension plan or retirement account, you still enjoy the income from your funds throughout your lifetime. You control

your retirement funds and use them as your needs change. Many people worry about running out of money during retirement and cut back on their giving. By giving through a retirement plan beneficiary designation, you make a future gift to us. At the end of life, the amount left in your account is transferred to Soaring Eagle. Additionally, giving through a retirement account can be a tax-wise way to give to charity and preserve other assets for family and friends with minimal tax consequences.

Uncertain 2012-2013 Tax Environment

Tax cuts enacted nearly 10 years ago are due to expire and new tax increases may be coming. It is not clear yet if a 3.8% Medicare surtax will be applied to charitable life income instruments for wage earners over \$250,000, so if you are above this income threshold, please talk to your tax advisor.

By planning your year-end gifts, you can have a dramatic impact on our worthwhile work of caring for Cheyenne elders at the Heritage Living Center. We would be pleased to work with you and your advisors. For more information contact Mike Skaggs, CEO, Soaring Eagle, P.O. Box 879, Billings, Montana 59103, or call us at 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 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.

SOARING EAGLE Annuity Rates

One Life Annuity Rates Effective 1-1-2012

Age	% Rate
65	4.7
66-67	4.8
68	4.9
69	5.0
70	5.1
71	5.3
72	5.4
73	5.5
74	5.7
75	5.8
76	6.0
77	6.2
78	6.4
79	6.6
80	6.8
81	7.0
82	7.2
83	7.4
84	7.6
85	7.8
86	8.0
87	8.2
88	8.4
89	8.7
90+	9.0

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

Consider for a moment how you can...

- ♦ Receive a fixed income for life.
- ♦ Save money on your taxes.
- ♦ Help Cheyenne elders at the Heritage Living Center.

Soaring Eagle offers gift annuities with income rates as high as 9.0%

To learn how a Soaring Eagle charitable gift annuity can benefit you, please request our free, no-obligation proposal.

Please return the gift annuity coupon in this newsletter or call Mike Skaggs at 406-256-8500.





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Northern Cheyenne ceremonial man and HLC resident Herbert Bearchum blesses a statue of Father Emmett and Fergie presented by friends during the 10th Anniversary of the Heritage Living Center.

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Father Emmett's Biography, Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

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

Name_____

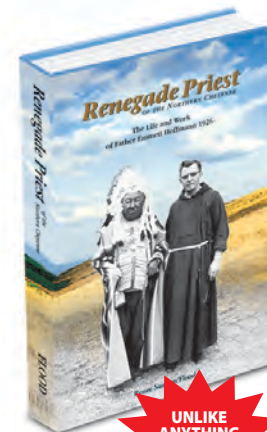
Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Birth date(s) of annuitant_____ E-mail_____

Annuity Amount \$ _____ Minimum annuity amount \$5000
(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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