



Fall 2014

## A Note from the Chairman

Dear Friend,

Father Emmett was my best friend and colleague for nearly fifty years. Although he passed away on February 1, 2013, his legacy and his spirit live on. Recently, I found a letter he wrote to our Heritage Living Center donors:

*My heart is filled with gratitude for your kindness and your concern for these Northern Cheyenne elders who have often suffered without the basic necessities of life. When I say "God bless you," I am assuring you of my prayers each day. May our Creator bless you with health and happiness and the joy of knowing you have helped the poorest and most forgotten people.*

When Father's health began to fail, I promised



Brothers: Conrad Sump and his best friend, Father Emmett.

him that if something should happen, I would do everything humanly possible to keep the Heritage Living Center open. At Father's funeral, I looked down at my dear brother and once again promised him with all my heart: "Don't worry! I'm not going to let these old people suffer. I won't stand by and watch them packed off to nursing homes or out into the street to search for their next meal."

After Father passed on, I was given the honor of taking Father's place as Soaring Eagle Chairman of the Board. I take this position very seriously, not only because of my love for Fr. Emmett, but also because of my deep respect for our Cheyenne residents, the descendants of warriors

*continued, page 2 >*





Conrad visits with residents, Mark Small and Lazona Harris.

who died watching their women and children slaughtered and their land taken away.

I know how those warriors must have felt because right now we're in a fight to keep the Heritage Living Center open for Native elders who would be homeless and destitute without our help and yours. We have wonderful donors who are helping me keep my promise to Fr. Emmett. But over the years, some of our generous donors have passed away and others have lost contact with us. I am now worried that some of you may not realize how the rising costs have caused us to drastically cut back, which has made it very difficult to purchase even our most basic necessities.

We have never more urgently

needed your help than at this critical time! You were always there to help Father Emmett and I ask you to continue to keep the Cheyenne elders safe, well fed and warm to preserve their health during the coming winter months.

We must stay alert because their needs are immediate. For example, we heard about a lady who had nearly frozen to death when she ran out of heating fuel. As soon as possible, we moved her into the Heritage Living Center. With love and encouragement, our Cheyenne Resident Attendants watched over her to make sure she ate well and exercised. She won't have to go to a nursing home after all. Your donations made that possible!

Another time, we found an elderly,

emaciated man sleeping on a couch in a nursing home lobby, waiting for an opening. He was weak, but he didn't yet need that level of care. The Cheyenne just needed a walker, a clean place to stay and nutritious food. After he moved to HLC, we found out he had a distinguished service record in World War II. He'd fought to protect our country, yet in his old age, people had looked the other way.

We have elders coming to us who are blind, sleeping in cars or who are in crisis because they need a wheelchair and oxygen. Their own families cannot provide enough care due to financial problems or lack of living space (12 – 15 or more people living in a small trailer). HLC is often the last chance for elders to lead independent lives. They must have immediate help!

Please join me in keeping my promise to Father Emmett. Many of our Cheyenne residents have lived here for nearly a decade. We just can't let the Heritage Living Center close, shoving 40 elders out of their warm, safe home just as cold weather arrives. Please don't forget them!

God bless you, the elders and God Bless Father Emmett,

*Conrad R. Sump*

P.S. I have a special reason for my respect and love for the Cheyenne. I'm blessed to have a Cheyenne son-in-law and my two grandchildren are Northern Cheyenne. I'm so proud of them.

## Thank You, Board of Directors!

In this issue of Signals we want to honor and thank the fine people who serve on our Soaring Eagle Board of Directors. A couple of them have been with us since the Heritage Living Center first opened in 2002. Of course, our Founder, Father Emmett Hoffmann, was Chairman of the Board for over 10 years until he passed away

in 2013. We were blessed to have had his vibrant and dynamic leadership.

This month, our board members met at HLC for their quarterly meeting. They are the policy-making team in charge of governing the organization, setting future directions and overseeing Soaring Eagle finances.



Father Kenan shares a laugh with HLC elder, Richard Foote



### OUR SOARING EAGLE BOARD MEMBERS TODAY:

**Board Chairman and Treasurer**  
Conrad R. Sump CPA, New York

**Vice-Chairman**  
Terry Beartusk AA, BA,  
Northern Cheyenne, Montana

**Secretary**  
Conrad E. Sump, Maryland

**Member**  
Father Kenan Siegel OFM, Cap.,  
Wisconsin

**Member**  
Anna Dinkins, Colorado

**Member**  
John Robinson, former Northern  
Cheyenne Tribal Chairman, Montana

Father always relied on and trusted the advice of his business-minded, compassionate advocates on the board. Behind the scenes, their role is critically important in guiding our organization into the future.



# Crow Elder Remembers the Bighorn Battle

By Renee Sansom Flood

“We had no ceiling. When I was a child during the Depression years, I’d wake up on winter mornings and I could see frost on the nails coming through the rafters of our house,” recalls Evelyn Bear Ground, a member of the Crow Nation and the great granddaughter of Goes Ahead, one of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer’s Crow Scouts.

Evelyn is a quiet, dignified resident at the Heritage Living Center, where the talented artist carries on the traditional art of making Crow Indian dolls, using elk teeth, horse hair, leather and beads. Evelyn’s mother, Mary Ann Reed Hogan, taught her daughter to make dolls when she was a little girl. She’s collected and made dolls ever since.

Evelyn was fortunate to have had her beloved great grandmother, the well known Crow medicine woman, Pretty Shield, by her side for the first 11 years of her life. At home, Pretty Shield did not use a chair and always ate by herself, sitting on a piece of canvas. At night the elderly woman slept on her favorite buffalo robe on the floor. Pretty Shield taught her family ancient Crow ways and they listened carefully, especially when she spoke of her much loved and respected husband, Goes Ahead, once a Crow Scout.

For years after the Bighorn Battle, Pretty Shield and Goes Ahead discussed the fight and what led up to it. Within her own family, Pretty Shield described Lt. Col. George A. Custer’s conduct when he rode up to the Crow scouts on June 25, 1876. “He was arrogant. Nobody could tell him anything.” The Crow Scouts had already spotted the largest Cheyenne and Sioux villages they had ever seen. The scouts told Custer, “There are more Lakota . . . than there are bullets in the soldier’s belts.”

Goes Ahead made a point to tell Custer the Cheyenne and Lakota were “. . . brave, fierce warriors. They go into battle with fighting spirit and quick tactics. Custer got angry.” Evelyn recalls what Goes Ahead told his family: “Custer rode up to me and brushed his hand against my shoulder. With



*Custer's Crow Scout, Goes Ahead and his wife Pretty Shield*

contempt, he asked me, ‘Where are your stars?’” This insult, made in front of the other Crow Scouts stung Goes Ahead. Custer had insinuated he (Goes Ahead) wasn’t high enough in rank to know what he was talking about. The General didn’t listen to his scouts at all. Goes Ahead told

his wife Pretty Shield how he would always remember the last thing he said to Custer before the battle. He turned his horse to face the General and said, “If you fight them, you will die today!” As it turned out, Goes Ahead and the other scouts were ignored and dismissed from the field. But they had been right.

Evelyn Bear Ground is proud of her heritage. Her great Grandpa, scout John H. Goes Ahead, died in 1919, a gentle, honest and well respected Chief. He was a devout Christian but in his Indian way, he looked to the coyote for his personal medicine.” His wife, Pretty Shield, devoted her life to her husband until he passed to the other side camp. She was well known as a medicine woman who “cured people of illnesses until her last day!”

Our HLC resident, Evelyn Bear Ground, was 11 years old when Pretty Shield died. After the Great Depression, Evelyn’s father, George Hogan Jr., worked as a government carpenter and with his earnings, provided his family with a

bigger, two story home with modern amenities. He went into the stock business and he had such good credit, he was able to take out a loan to expand. Evelyn’s mother, Mary Ann, “was always cooking,” Evelyn remembers. “My mother was strict, kind-hearted and loved her church.”

Evelyn graduated from Eastern Montana College (now MSU) and taught school for 30 years. Her husband, Archie Bear Ground, passed away in 2005. Then, Evelyn lost her only son, Curtis, in a car accident in 2010. Her oldest daughter is Patricia Lynn Eastman. Her younger daughters, Jolene Eastman Spang



*Talented Crow Artist, Evelyn Bear Ground*

and Mary Helen Foote, are both married to Cheyenne husbands. Today, she has 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Evelyn Bear Ground has a mother’s view of the Bighorn Battle. “We must remember how many hundreds of wives, mothers, fathers, siblings and grandparents of the dead suffered when they found out the news of the battle, including the families of the Crow, Lakota and Cheyenne. Hearts were broken. Yet, I respect the courageous warriors for defending their people and their land.”

In 2007, the talented doll maker had successful open heart surgery. Evelyn recuperated and continues to make and sell Crow Dolls. With each doll, she teaches her cultural values. She credits Father Emmett for her happy life today. “Father Emmett was my spiritual mentor since 1963,” she remembers. “He cared about the old people and worked hard to build the Heritage Living Center. Coming here to live was the best decision I ever made in my life.”



# A Note & Prayer from a Friend



(Saturday) September 6, 2014

May the tireless Spirit and Love of Father  
Emmett Hoffman live on in the hearts, souls and  
minds of the Spring Eagle Heritage Living Center

Dear Mike and Staff;  
When I lost my parents, brother and sister 2005, 2006 and 2011; I  
struggled as the oldest of all to keep them comforted and fed.  
I admire the commitment you and the staff of the Center are doing to  
carry on Fr. Hoffman's work. I will never forget you.

Sincerely in Honor of God & the People  
Love, Dee  
(Massachusetts)

## Activities at Heritage Living Center



Above: Kirk participating in a bean bag toss game.

Left: "Chauffeur" Mike assisting elders to load their groceries during a shopping trip to Billings, Montana.



DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL



# Greetings from Mike

Once a month, the Native elders enjoy a shopping trip to Billings, where they stock up on medications and personal necessities. Most of them no longer drive and it's a 3-4 hour round trip drive, depending on the weather, from our remote location.

One day, I got a call from our Northern Cheyenne HLC Administrator, Jerry Thex, telling me that the van had broken down and the trip would have to be cancelled. I knew it would be a hardship for the residents so I decided not to disappoint them. It's no joke when you run out of life-saving medications.

I found a friend who let me use his van so we could make the trip after all. The elders didn't know I was going to drive them, so I dressed up like a chauffeur, with black pants,

a white shirt and black tie. But I couldn't find a chauffeur's hat. I pulled up in front of HLC and they got a kick out of me escorting them into the van.



On the way to Billings, I had a nice conversation with Zhona Tang, the Resident Attendant who accompanied us. She told me she



Edna Seminole visiting her son Verlin.

is half Cheyenne and half Chinese. When we arrived in the big city of Billings, (population 120,000 people) we went shopping at various stores, had lunch and we were about ready to leave when I decided to ask, "Is there anyplace else you'd like to go?"

Edna Seminole, one of our oldest residents, quietly spoke up: "My son is in the hospital with a serious illness. I'd like to visit him." I felt a strong tug on my heart and I suddenly

realized how difficult it must be for her to travel that far to see him. It wasn't long before we pulled up at St. Vincent's and Edna was able to

spend some loving, motherly time with her boy, Verlin.

I must admit, I was tired when I got home that night but it had been worth it. We enjoyed our shopping trip to Billings and our van is now fixed. I guess I'd better keep looking for a Chauffeur hat, just in case.

With a grateful heart,

*Mike Skaggs*  
Mike Skaggs

# Giving Before December 31st

As the end of the year approaches, many Soaring Eagle friends and donors will pause, reflect on the past year, and plan for the future. Carefully considering your giving priorities between now and year end can help maximize benefits for you and the charities you support. Taking time now to consider what to give and when to give it, can help meet your goals and assist worthwhile causes at year's end.

## Gifts of Cash

A donation of cash by check is the most common way to give. We can put your generous donation to work right away caring for elders at the Heritage Living Center. Keep in mind that your check must be dated and placed in a mailbox by midnight December 31. It is preferable to have the envelope postmarked no later than December 31, 2014.

Some donors make their charitable gifts by credit card. If you mail credit card donation

instructions to us, please allow a few days before December 31 to process your gift. The transaction must be successfully charged before midnight on December 31. If you call with credit card instructions, please tell our staff that you wish to have your donation processed for 2014.

## Consider Tax Savings

Federal tax laws and many states allow you to reduce and even eliminate taxes on funds and assets

you give to charities. If you itemize deductions on your income taxes, then you can reduce your taxable income. Larger gifts can result in significant tax savings, especially for donors in higher income tax brackets. Gifts of cash are limited to 50% of your adjusted gross income. Gifts of securities are limited to 30%. Tax laws allow you to carry forward any excess deductions up to an additional five years. Check with your financial or tax advisor when



Administrator Jerry Thex visits with resident Susie Tall White Man Cain while passing in the hallway.



considering large gifts to maximize the tax benefits.

Giving Other Assets

Gifts of publicly traded stocks can make wonderful, tax-wise gifts if the stocks have experienced significant growth in value and have been owned for longer than a year. You can generally give appreciated securities and deduct their current value, including “paper profits,” to reduce your taxable income. Congress has encouraged donors to give securities. By doing so, not only do you enjoy the tax savings, you do not have to pay capital gains tax on the assets given to charity.

Gifts of appreciated stock can eliminate tax on up to 30% of your adjusted gross income. Assets that are best to give are stocks that have increased the most in value

resulting in the greatest gains tax if sold instead of donated. A strategy to consider is giving appreciated, but low income yielding stock, resulting in little impact on spendable income.

Investments that have decreased in value since you owned them may make a good gift. Consider selling them and giving the proceeds to charity. The sale will create a loss that you may be able to deduct from other taxable income. The deductible loss, combined with other charitable deductions, could amount to more than the current

value of the donated asset. Contact us for information on how to transfer gifts of stock.

IRA Charitable Rollover

For many years, donors have been able to make distributions directly to their favorite charities from their IRAs. By doing so, they make a gift and are not required to recognize the amount as income. The latest version of the law allowing such a gift expired on January 1, 2014. As of this writing, Congress has not passed an extending law to allow such gifts in 2014, however, there is much talk on Capitol Hill of doing so. Check with your financial advisor for the latest news on the IRA Charitable Rollover. If Congress acts soon, then this giving option could be a great benefit to the charitably-minded.

Leaving a Legacy

During the holidays, many people think about family and friends and also review their estate and financial plans. When you review your will or trust instruments to make sure they provide for family and close friends, consider adding a charitable dimension to your plans with a bequest to Soaring Eagle.

Year End Gift Annuities

Now might be a good time to consider a gift annuity to help Soaring Eagle continue its mission

and give yourself a gift of a lifetime, fixed income. A charitable gift annuity is a way for Soaring Eagle donors to make an important gift and enjoy income and tax benefits today and in the years ahead. After giving cash or stock, you or a loved one you select, receives fixed income payments for life. When the gift annuity is funded, the payment rate is fixed. The rate never changes and the payments continue as long as the recipient lives. It’s a reliable income that you can’t outlive.

To learn how a Soaring Eagle Gift Annuity can work for you, please call or write to us and request our free booklet, “Giving Through Gift Annuities” at: Mike Skaggs, CEO, Soaring Eagle, P.O. Box 879, Billings, Montana 59103, 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.*



Meet Soaring Eagle Gift Annuitants Ruth & Samuel Panella

Ruth Kennedy Panella of Delaware has been a longtime friend and supporter of Soaring Eagle. She began donating in 1998 soon after Soaring Eagle was established by Father Emmett. She and her husband, Samuel entered into a gift annuity agreement with Fr. Emmett in 2004. After many years of faithful support, they decided it was time to make another gift utilizing the gift annuity. Ruth says, “The tangible and intangible benefits of our two annuities are being felt as fully good, truly.” Mrs. Panella hopes other donors will consider donating through a gift annuity.

*To learn about the benefits of a Soaring Eagle gift annuity, including a fixed income you can’t outlive, please use the coupon in this newsletter or call or write Mike Skaggs at 406-256-8500, Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 59103.*

Soaring Eagle Annuity Rates One-Life Annuity			
Age	% Rate	Age	% Rate
65	4.7	78	6.4
66	4.8	79	6.6
67	4.8	80	6.8
68	4.9	81	7.0
69	5.0	82	7.2
70	5.1	83	7.4
71	5.3	84	7.6
72	5.4	85	7.8
73	5.5	86	8.0
74	5.7	87	8.2
75	5.8	88	8.4
76	6.0	89	8.7
77	6.2	90+	9.0
Lower two-life rates are available. Please contact us for information.			



Your Will Keeps on Giving

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

- A. 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 \$\_\_\_\_\_.”
- B. 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).”
- C. 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.”
- D. 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.”
- E. 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.



# Reminisce with Father Emmett Seven Years Ago...

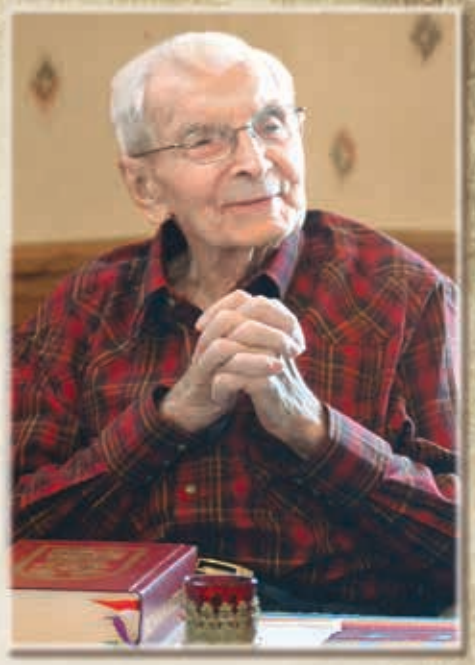
In late May seven years ago, Father Emmett took a hard fall in his apartment and had to make a quick trip to the Indian hospital for a bruised arm and “slightly bruised ego.” After a couple of weeks of rest and recuperation, on June 19, 2007 Fr. Emmett wrote:

*In the early 1950s, my Superior was Father Marion Roessler, a kind-hearted Capuchin pastor who taught me a great deal about Cheyenne history. I remember him telling me that the government really had it in for the Northern Cheyenne after the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. Father Marion interviewed the old warriors who took part in that infamous fight and they described*

*the cruel treatment they endured. I was also privileged to meet a few of the old survivors.*

*When I arrived on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 1954, “criminal neglect” was still evident. Many Cheyenne were suffering from TB and other infectious illnesses. They were drinking out of greasy, contaminated wells and all we could do in those days was provide clothes, food and a decent education for children suffering from malnutrition and disease.*

*You have no idea how hard it is for me to ask for your help. But we must remember that most of our elders at the Heritage Living Center are descendants of the Sand*

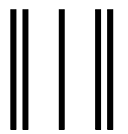


*Creek Massacre, the brutal Custer attack on the sleeping village on the Washita and the Fort Robinson Massacre. These were terrible events in our history of mistreatment of the Cheyenne people. That is why, on their behalf, I ask you to help me right the wrongs perpetrated against them.*

*With a heart filled with gratitude, I am confident when I ask for your help. As we gather for prayer each morning, the elders and I ask God to bless you always.*



*Battle of the Little Bighorn warrior and Cheyenne Chief, Charlie Sitting Man, Sr.*



THANKS  
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# SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY

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

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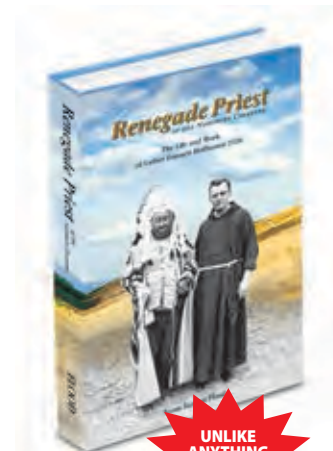
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date(s) of annuitant \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

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.*



## Renegade Priest of the Northern Cheyenne

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Father Emmett Hoffmann  
1926-2013

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