



GREETINGS FROM MIKE

Fall 2015

There is something special about Herb Bearchum and I couldn't wait to write this article for you. I had the most rewarding moment with him. Father Emmett often wrote to you about Herb, a Kit Fox Warrior Society Leader and resident of the Heritage Living Center. I have written to you about Herb's life and how he came to the Center. He has many stories to tell, more than could ever be shared.

This summer, I wrote a letter about Herb and a visit he made to his homestead land not far from town. Herb took the short trip to his land and was found in the grass near a highway cattle guard. We aren't sure if he fell or just went down from the heat. Our administrator, Jerry Thex, found him and took him back to the Center where he recovered. Herb loves returning to his land - even though the Ash Creek fires of 2012 burned down his house and most of the trees. Now, there is only

a long shed made of poles and scrap lumber, where he likes to visit and putter around with little projects.

Lately, Herb has been struggling. He tells me he is getting old and then says with a grin, "But, I'm in good health!" Some days are good and some, well, not so good. We continue to give him the assisted living care that your donations make possible. One day Herb was feeling down and I asked him, "Herb, let's

go out to your land. Do you want to do that?" His eyes lit up. Maria and John, with his camera in hand, joined us. As we drove through the dusty town, Herb pointed to the post office and the bank. He said to me, "Father Emmett started that bank for us Cheyennes." After a few more miles, we pulled off of Highway 212 at Herb's piece of ground.

I helped him out and set his walker in front of him. Instantaneously Herb, who was feeling down a few minutes earlier, was grinning as he grabbed that lightweight aluminum walker and looked across his land. John asked if he could take some photos and Herb was happy to oblige. It was hot and dusty, but he was on his place where he had raised a family and horses. Today he could see horses in the field across the way. He couldn't have been happier as you can see in the photo at the top of this newsletter.



Herb Bearchum sharing stories of his life with Mike Skaggs.

Herb moved to a big upholstered chair next to the shed under one of the surviving trees. The earth-toned southwest-style chair was one of the few things that didn't burn up with his home, and it still looks nice enough to appear misplaced – sitting outside in the elements. He pushed his walker away and eased into the chair. I pulled up an old wooden chair and the story-telling began. Herb told me about building his home. He called it the bunkhouse. He told me how he measured where it would be built and how he positioned it to withstand the high winds and have a nice view.

He told me about going to school

in Montana and also at Oklahoma University. I had never heard him talk about OU before. I asked him when he was there. "In the early 50's, just two years." Tears welled up in my eyes. I said, "Herb, my dad went to OU at the same time. I wonder if you and he ever crossed paths there!" He leaned his head back and smiled. I could tell he was back in Oklahoma, a young man strolling through campus. It was a special time. One I won't forget and one I had to share with you.

We continued to visit - with me mostly listening. He reminisced about his working days and how he helped build roads and worked on

projects for his people. He talked about his children and grandchildren and how he encouraged them to all get a good education. After an hour of good old-fashioned reminiscing, we decided it was lunch time and returned to the Center.

Thank you for making it possible for us to care for these wonderful elders. Your donations cover the costs for food, heat, lights and staff who give the care each resident needs to be as independent as possible.

August 31 was the 13th anniversary of Heritage Living Center. We reflected on the years that have gone by and the friends who have come and gone since the doors first opened. We honored Edna Seminole who has made HLC her home for most of those 13 years. You'll read more about Edna in this newsletter.

You are a blessing to us. I know you care as you share your donations with us. I would be remiss if I didn't ask you to send a gift. There is a tear out envelope in the middle of this newsletter for you to use.

I thank God for you and ask Him to richly bless you for the kindness you show us.

With a grateful heart,

Mike Skaggs
Mike Skaggs



Mike listens as Herb tells stories from his comfortable chair, one of the few possessions that survived a devastating fire.

DELPHA'S AMAZING BEADWORK



Resident Delpha Harris is a gifted beader who produces unique, one-of-a-kind pieces of beautiful art. Her beaded crosses are a signature work, and Soaring Eagle featured one in an Easter letter a few years back. She threads her beadwork with trained fingers in the light of her second-story room overlooking the red bluffs of the Tongue River Valley,



where the morning sunrise streams through east-facing windows. As a young woman Delpha learned the traditional Cheyenne patterns and colors, and incorporates these historical and meaningful graphics into her moccasins, earrings and headbands. Her work is sought after throughout the country and doesn't last long when it is finished. Delpha's energy is contagious and her still-curious personality and infectious laugh are a daily reminder to all at HLC that life is good - seize the day!

I have lived here at the Heritage Living Center for four years now and certainly appreciate all the comforts I have here.

With all your generosity in supporting us, I am very grateful and appreciate what you do for us.

Delpha Harris

MINI-POW WOW HONORS FATHER EMMETT'S LIFE



Father Emmett's gravesite overlooks the Heritage Living Center

Father Emmett loved powwows, and his birthday in July is a good excuse to have one at the Heritage Living Center every summer. His joy and contentment was apparent as he watched the dancers, listened to the drummers, and visited with the chiefs and friends he had come to know well over the decades.



Father Emmett's Birthday Mini-Powwow was held at the Heritage Living Center in July. A gathering of HLC friends, family, residents and community members came to enjoy drum music, camaraderie and of course, a traditional meal. New to the event was a hand-drum competition, with a small prize awarded to the winner. Here is a collection of images from the event.



SOME NICKNAMES LAST A LIFETIME

It’s easy enough to lose your car keys, or purse, or misplace a wallet. But trying to lose that childhood nickname they slapped on you as kid in Indian Country?

That’s why it’s always a bit awkward for some of us when we hear someone introduce or call out to HLC resident Richard Tallbull... “Hey Dopey.”

Richard Tallbull, Jr., “Sun Road” has been an elder resident at Heritage Living Center for 12 years.

[continued below flap ▼](#)

learn leadership skills, respect for all people and the land.

When asked about his nickname, Richard responds, “Boy I...,” and trails off, shaking his head, eyes to the horizon, as a grin reveals his acceptance of the nickname.

The story goes when Richard was a boy he often wore a nightgown of some kind to sleep. He was on his way to bed one night when his uncles walked through the door. They had just seen Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at the movies.

didn’t say nothin’. ‘Dopeyyyy!’ He was a new guy and knew me from where I was from. Boy, that was it, then everybody started calling me that. Geeeee.”

Some of us have never called him by his nickname. It just doesn’t feel right to address a respected elder of his tribe in such a fashion. We could, Richard doesn’t care. He responds similarly to both.

Richard is in good company. An unscientific survey shows the vast majority of men’s nicknames around the reservation aren’t of the heroic, stoic warrior stature of yesteryear. Other people we know include Pork Chop, Lumpy, Bunny,

He is the great-great-grandson of Chief Tall Bull, the leader of the Cheyenne Dog Soldiers, an elite group of courageous fighters. The Dog Soldiers would tie a rope to one leg and a stake driven into the ground and fight from that position giving women, children and the elderly time to escape during a battle. Richard continues his proud heritage by leading Sweat Lodge ceremonies and every summer he coordinates a Youth Respect Camp, where children

“They took one look and pointed at me... Dopey!” Sixty plus years later, it’s still with him.

“I tried for years to lose...,” again he leaves the line unfinished. He remembers fondly when he did get a short reprieve. At one point in his life, Richard worked in a job far away from where he grew up. “Everybody called me Richard. No one knew me. One day I heard a guy keep calling my name. ‘Richard.’ But I was busy and didn’t answer. ‘Richard.’ I still

Butt Butt, Skinny, Fatso, Yo Yo, and - a favorite of ours - Two-Twelve (he walks along US Highway 212 through the reservation a lot). And if you asked us to tell you their actual names, we couldn’t, first or last.

Women rarely have a nickname. If they do it’s usually just a shortened version of their own name.

There is a middle ground. For as long as anyone can remember, Herb Bearchum, whom Mike wrote

Richard Tallbull explains the story behind the nickname he's had since childhood.

about in his greeting, has been Happy Herb. Your first guess is correct on how he came by it.

These nicknames really stick!

A Cheyenne
Word
to Learn
Neaeše (Knee-AH-ish)
means “Thank You”



DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

INCENTIVE STORE ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION AND SHE'S BEEN HERE THE LONGEST!



Most days at HLC the residents will see sign-up sheets for various activities during the upcoming days. To encourage residents to get out or try something new, participation in the activities comes with a reward: Cash. Scratch. The greenbacks can then be taken down to the new Incentive Store and redeemed for supplies, including new clothing, snacks, batteries, soaps - any number of things. The currency is good only at the store - a not-so-close inspection reveals it to be Monopoly money. The goods were donated by an outside agency to provide quality of life essentials to Native Americans in remote or impoverished areas. Pictured is Mark Small, who's earned a pile of accumulated wealth, turning over some money to store 'clerk' Maria Sisolak.



During the 13th anniversary of the opening of the Heritage Living Center, Edna Seminole was presented with a plaque acknowledging her as our longest-residing resident, and for the "Wisdom-Grace-Dignity" she shows us. Edna moved in December 6, 2002, and was the third person through the doors as the center began to fill.



Drummers sing and gourd dancers keep rhythm during the mini-powwow this summer.

CARING AND SHARING AT YEAR END

Summer is over and we are now in harvest season. In Montana, grains have been cut and stored or sold. Gardens are still producing until the first hard freeze. Friends are gifting tomatoes and cucumbers from their gardens. Many are sharing their bounty with the people they know and love.

Year end is a good time to think about and plan for sharing financial gifts with those you care about. Many people start planning for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and sharing with the charities important to them.

Each year, millions of Americans give to worthy causes and prepare their donations in ways that help them give more to charity and reduce

their taxes. U.S. tax law encourages people to make charitable gifts for the simple reason that the more charities can do to help people in need, the less the government and taxpayers will be called on to do.

With that in mind, this article presents some thoughts to help you with your year-end giving to charities. Please remember Soaring Eagle in your plans.

Gifts of Cash

Gifts of cash are by far the most popular way to give. Cash can be given by writing a check or using a credit card.

If you complete your gift by December 31, then it is deductible on your 2015 tax return. If you use

a credit card, be sure to make your gift before December 31 and ask the charity to process the transaction in 2015. Soaring Eagle posts gifts on the day they are received.

By giving cash, you can reduce or eliminate income tax on up to 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. If you make a large cash gift that exceeds the 50 percent limit, you can deduct any excess amount during the next five years.

Soaring Eagle donor, Matt is in a 33% tax bracket and wants to give \$1,000 before year end. By making his gift, Matt will save \$330 that would otherwise be due. The higher the tax bracket, the greater the savings. Matt lives in a state with income tax, so his savings will be even greater.

Non-cash Gifts

Donations of stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have increased in value and owned for more than one year can provide charitably-minded individuals with greater tax savings than gifts of cash. By transferring ownership of stocks and other non-cash assets, you can deduct the full market value.

Our tax laws provide for the regular tax savings, plus you do not pay capital gains tax that would be due if the asset were sold. It is a

double benefit – deduct the full fair market value of the asset and avoid capital gains tax. Many find this extra benefit a good way to make their gifts to a favorite charity.

Donations of noncash assets can eliminate tax on up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income. As with cash gifts, any excess amount can be carried forward to reduce your taxes for up to five additional years.

Donors, Richard and Stella are considering making a charitable gift to Soaring Eagle. They have cash available to give and stock that have significantly increased in value. If they sell the stock, Richard and Stella would have to pay capital gains on the increased value. Instead, they decide to make their gift by transferring the stock. They avoid the capital gains tax and are able to deduct the value of the stock at the time of their gift. Their gift was made at a lower cost and they still have the cash available for other purposes.

For stock which has declined in value, it may be best to sell the stock, and donate the proceeds from the sale. There are limits on deductions, and once in a while this strategy could create a potential tax-deductible loss. It is advisable to review your plans with your tax advisor.

Stocks can be transferred electronically or physically. Transfers can take some time to complete, so

don't wait to the last minute to give a noncash asset. The asset must be in Soaring Eagle's account by December 31 to be deductible on your 2015 income taxes. Please contact our office for instructions on how to accomplish a transfer.

**The IRA Charitable Rollover –
Waiting to Become Law**

For many years, donors have been able to transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRA accounts to charity and not recognize the income as a taxable event. This has assisted donors in giving more to their favorite charities. Soaring Eagle has benefited from many IRA charitable rollover gifts.

As it stands today, the law that allowed the charitable rollover expired on January 1, 2015.

There is good news though. As of this writing, the *America Gives More Act of 2015* (H.R. 644) passed in the House of Representatives on February 12, 2015 and awaits Senate action. The Senate Committee on Finance advanced to the Senate on July 21, a two year extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover. It is not known if the Senate will take up the legislation for debate and a vote. It is also not known if the President will sign such legislation into law.

For donors who are interested in making gifts utilizing the IRA Charitable Rollover, the best advice is to watch for news and check with your financial advisors. Soaring Eagle

will be monitoring the legislation and if passed will let donors know the Rollover is available in 2015. If you would like to be included in our notification, please write or call. If you have an email address, then that will be the quickest way to let you know if this gift opportunity becomes available again.

If you want to learn how your year-end gift can help us care for the Heritage Living Center elders, 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 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

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.*

"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 a 7.2% annuity. Now, I can count on my payments for the rest of my life and help care for Cheyenne elders at the Heritage Living Center. I received a tax deduction when I set up my annuity. Best of all, most of each payment is tax-free."

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.



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



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.

As a nation, we have celebrated Thanksgiving Day as a National holiday to recall how Native Americans provided food to the pilgrims in their time of need. Now the tables had turned and the Cheyenne families were suffering from malnutrition, even starvation, tuberculosis and other fatal diseases in this “land of plenty.”

It seems like only yesterday that I visited reservation homes on Thanksgiving Day, including some of the homes of the elders who now live at the Heritage Living Center. It was heartbreaking to discover that instead of a turkey dinner, most families had little or nothing to eat.

On one of these visits to a cabin with a packed dirt floor and many little children without food, I made up my mind that hunger on Thanksgiving Day was never going to happen again. I resolved to ask our benefactors to make an extra donation so that I could not only continue feeding and caring for the children at the Mission school, but also to give each family a turkey for their Thanksgiving dinner. I knew they didn’t have stoves with ovens to roast their



Reminisce with Father Emmett 8 Years Ago...

turkeys, but they would be able to enjoy a hearty turkey stew boiled outside in a big black pot that would last a few days.

The weeks before Thanksgiving Day are always the most difficult time of the year for me personally as I watch unpaid bills pile up. During the summer vacation months our donations dwindle and I can’t help but worry about the safety of the Cheyenne elders. Will I run out of funds to serve them healthy meals, keep them warm and well cared for? These are always my first concerns. With your love and concern for the Cheyenne elders, I’m almost certain this will not happen. I will be most grateful once we have

paid off our food debt, which is a major part of our monthly budget.

Now as the days are getting shorter, winter is taking over and the cold temperatures are calling for more heat to keep the elders warm. The snow-packed, icy roads with blowing snow and blizzard conditions are cause for worry as ailing elders are taken to the doctor or to emergency rooms, a 250 mile round trip to the hospital. With the Resident Attendants and staff, I breathe a sigh of relief and thank God for each safe trip.

At times like these, I realize that Soaring Eagle is fulfilling the vision of the “old chiefs” and perhaps even more so the hopes of the elders when they moved into their new home at the Heritage Living Center. They no longer have to worry about having a safe place to live, carrying heavy loads of firewood to keep warm or searching for their next meal. Our home for the elders is truly the “miracle on the hill” and you continue to make that “miracle” happen.

Your beggar friend,
Father Emmett



THANKS
FOR
USING
YOUR
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1234567890

SOARING EAGLE ANNUITY

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

Name _____

Address _____

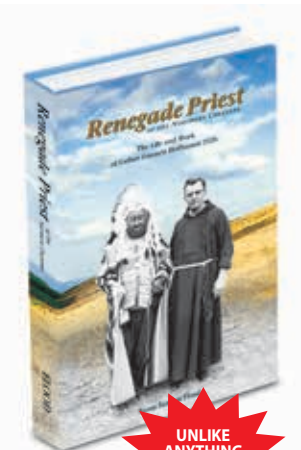
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birth date(s) of annuitant _____ E-mail _____

(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.



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