



We escaped the summer without any major wildfires! What a blessing that has been for us to not worry about dry lightning igniting a dangerous fire. I know you were praying for us this year and we were protected.

Now, autumn is here, and we are ENJOYING it. Nice warm days and cool nights with an occasional cold rain to remind us that winter is just around the corner. In fact, it snowed on September 30! All the snow is gone now, but it was a cold wake-up call for what lies ahead.

The weather hasn't been as kind to our friends in the Carolinas. The elders and I watch the news each night and feel so very sorry for the victims who have lost loved ones and

property. We know what catastrophic weather events can do to families and communities. Although, Montana isn't at risk for hurricanes like Florence, we

understand based on our experiences with fires, floods, tornadoes and blizzards. The elders want the east coast families who were harmed to



Montana's harsh winters and summers have taken a toll on the Heritage Living Center's 16 year old driveway. Continue reading Mike's Greetings on the next page for more information regarding what's being done to repair it.

know that we are praying for you and a quick recovery from Florence's damage.

Since our last newsletter, the roofing contractor has been hired and we expect them to arrive any day now to begin work on all the sections that need repair. Once complete, we will be weather-tight and ready for whatever winter sends our way. God bless you for helping us with your generous donations for this project.

In this newsletter, I'd like to direct you to a couple of articles about very special people among the Northern Cheyenne. Anthony Chavez is a Cheyenne who lives in Las Vegas. He was attending the outdoor concert last October 1st when the tragic shootings occurred. Anthony was a hero that night helping people find cover and escape to safety. He was dubbed the "Hero in the Red Hat" and you can find his story on the internet. The Cheyenne like to say, it is their nature, in their DNA, to protect people. To honor Anthony, the Cheyenne invited him to Montana as a guest of honor at the July 4th Chief's Powwow.

I'd also like you to read about Jerry Thex the Administrator, at Heritage Living Center. Jerry is Cheyenne and loves his work. To him the care of the elders isn't just a job, it's a labor of love. I think you will be impressed with his commitment to the elders.

I Need Your Help

I need to ask for your help. I've struggled finding a way to ask, but



LaDonna Eagle (left) and Edna Deafy enjoy keeping up to date on local and world events.

in the end, it is for the elders' safety. I need about \$100,000 to purchase asphalt for our road up the hill and parking lot. It has been 16 years since that surface was laid down. Our harsh winters and summers play havoc on roadways. This is a project that we've put off for over five years. Father Emmett was still living, and we talked about how the parking lot and drive needed to be repaired. Even back then, cracks were forming large enough for an elder's cane or walker to get hung up. We've never had the money to make the repairs.

With your help, our road and parking area will be safe again. Any gift you can send to help us reach the goal will be immensely appreciated. Buying asphalt and pavement isn't exciting but it is necessary. I can't

let the elders continue to be at risk when they go outside to get in a car or van for a doctor visit.

Time is short. Montana's asphalt plants will shut down in mid-November. It starts to get too cold for the hot asphalt to be laid and bond to form a solid and resilient surface. As I write this note, I am praying we can still do this project or at least start it, before winter sets in. There is so much to do. If you can help us, please do so as soon as you possibly can. God bless you for helping take care of the elders in this way.

I want to tell the elders that very soon going out to catch a ride to

town for a doctor appointment will be as safe as it is inside the Heritage Living Center. What a joy it will be to give thanks this coming Thanksgiving holiday for the support you and our other friends will have shown to the elders in the coming weeks.

I'm happy to report that we have a new resident living with us. He is Kenneth Beartusk and he told me how glad he is to be able to move into the Center. He really likes it here. Please know Kenneth is very grateful for the home your gifts provide.

The next few weeks will be filled with memorable gatherings. November 11 will be Veteran's Day when we thank our veterans for their service and protecting our freedoms.

On that day, we will honor one of our veteran residents with the US flag that has flown over the Heritage Living Center during the past year. We will solemnly honor slain veterans and those living among us as a new flag is raised.

Thanksgiving will follow soon after Veteran's Day. We will ask the elders to invite their families to join us for a Thanksgiving Dinner. For some of our hungry guests, especially the children, it will be a wonderful meal shared with grandmothers and grandfathers. I need your help to serve this large gathering of friends and family.

Before we know it, Christmas will be here. It is the giving time of year and I look forward to opening your donations to help sustain us through the winter months. The Center will be decorated as well as we can. Father Emmett left behind his favorite decorations for our Christmas tree and nativity scenes that we will place around the elders' home. God bless you as you make plans to share gifts with your loved ones, friends and the charities important to you. I pray Soaring Eagle will be one of those you choose to bless.

With a grateful heart,



HLC's maintenance worker, Rich Miner, shows how the pavement is breaking up.



Above: Hugs go a long way at HLC!

Below: Soaring Eagle's Chairman, Terry Beartusk, shares memories during Father Emmett's Birthday Memorial.





Anthony being honored within the arbor, the powwow arena, during the 4th of July Chief's Powwow in Lame Deer, MT. He is flanked by two Cheyenne chiefs who escorted him in a procession around the arena.

A CHEYENNE HERO IN THE RED HAT

What happened on October 1, 2017 didn't stay in Vegas very long. Within minutes the news of a horrific shooting was broadcast around the world as millions watched in disbelief.

You are probably asking yourself, "Why in the world is Mike writing about Las Vegas?" You are not going to believe the connection you have with one of our elders, her grandson and the horrific shootings

that took place last October.

Heritage Living Center resident, Joyce Knows His Gun, bursts with pride for her grandson, Anthony Chavez. Anthony is known as the "Hero in the Red Hat." If you have a computer, just search on that phrase and you will find detailed news accounts about him and what happened that terrible night.

During the Route 91 Harvest

Music Festival, while country singer, Jason Aldean, performed the headline act, concert-goers heard sounds that were out of place. Were they hearing part of the song? Couldn't be. It didn't fit with the beat of the music. What was it? Then the horror of horrors struck as the deadliest shooting on American soil took place. I won't go into saddened details out of respect and honor for those slain and their families. I will tell you what Anthony told me about what he witnessed and what he did to help others.

Anthony saw a woman covered in blood. Everyone around him was laying down on the ground. He crouched so he could see above them and what was going on. He heard the sound of a bullet go by. It wasn't the whizzing sound like we hear on television. It was a distinct "clap". It hit nearby. Anthony told his girlfriend, "Let's go NOW!" and he pushed her over the concrete retaining wall at the concert stage and then he crawled over. He turned back and saw fellow concert fans he had gotten to know. Their eyes locked and he saw complete fear. "I knew I had to stay and help." Some were frozen with fear as he kept pulling people



Anthony hugs his grandmother, Joyce Knows His Gun after the Powwow.

over the barrier – one after another.

After the shooting stopped, Anthony gave people valuable advice which made sense to guide them through the chaos. He saw where the ambulances and paramedics were coming, so he stopped people who were dragging wounded victims and told them, “Stop here. This is the place you need to be. You’ll get help if you stay right here.” He encouraged them to stay put. Had he not been there, some would not have received medical help soon enough and might have become another fatality.

Anthony called his mother (Joyce’s daughter) to tell her what happened.

He assured her that he was okay. She told him to call his uncle, a technician at FOX News. The news connection began and local and national media began picking up the news from this inside source. Once that hit the air, everyone wanted to talk to him.

Fast forward to July in remote Lame Deer, Montana, far from the lights and flash of Las Vegas. During the annual 4th of July Chief’s Powwow, Anthony was invited to be an honored guest. Anthony’s grandmother and our resident, Joyce, organized a traditional Cheyenne Give-Away to honor her grandson and other first responders who put their lives at risk to help others.

Cheyenne Tribal President, Jase Killsback spoke and solemnly praised Anthony for helping people he didn’t know. Mr. Killsback noted that 59 souls went to the Creator that night. He told Anthony and the audience that it was in Anthony’s DNA to rescue and help strangers.

The Birney Singers drummed and sang an Honor Song for the Family who had come from all parts of the country to honor Anthony and participate in the Give-Away in the Cheyenne way. A Give-Away includes calling out special people – some by name, some by what they do and others by where they live – and give them gifts, most often useful household items, blankets and food in simple boxes and even

useful laundry baskets. Nothing goes to waste.

Anthony was escorted by two chiefs and colorful shawls were placed on the ground around the powwow arena, called an arbor. After Anthony and the chiefs stepped on the shawls, a family member would quickly remove the shawl from the ground as the other family members and dignitaries followed close behind in the honor procession. Men came out from the audience to shake hands with Anthony, “The Hero,” as he passed by. Heritage Living Center elders joined the procession



Young Cheyenne women, many wearing Princess crowns from current and former years, enter the arbor.

as it passed by where they were seated. Susie Tall Whiteman, Delpha Harris, Joanne Elliott, Susan Braine and others wrapped colorful shawls over their shoulders and honored the Cheyenne Hero.

Without your help to provide a safe and secure home for Anthony Chavez’s grandmother, Joyce Knows His Gun,

this ceremony to honor the spirits of the victims and young Mr. Chavez would not have been possible. It is your gifts that allow Joyce to live near the Cheyenne reservation and be able to plan such important ceremonies like

the Give-Away for her grandson.

No grandmother could have been prouder than Joyce. You were part of her pride by supporting Soaring Eagle and the Heritage Living Center.

You are a hero, not in the way Anthony Chavez showed courage in the face of life-threatening danger, but a hero by providing safe shelter and a home to the Cheyenne elders.

God bless every one who puts themselves in harm's way and those who sacrifice and donate financial resources to provide for them.



Above: A giant feathered coup stick is swung skyward during Grand Entry.

Below Left: That's a big order of fries!

Below Right: Flags fly as dancers circle the arbor during Grand Entry.



Mike Skaggs, center, meeting Anthony and Anthony's grandmother, Joyce Knows His Gun.





COMMUNICATION

Seeing (and hearing) a need for HLC staff to improve their communication skills – primarily when answering phones – Administrator Jerry Thex emphasized the point during a staff meeting with an “old school” technique utilizing cups and strings to demonstrate how clear enunciation is key to good communication. Obviously, Jerry isn’t opposed to the staff having fun on the job either. He is featured in an article on Page 8.

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

JERRY THEX: CARING FOR OUR ELDERS



When you first talk to Jerry Thex, Administrator of Heritage Living Center, about overseeing the care of the elders, he references a Bible verse:

1 Timothy 5:1-2

“Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity.”

Jerry claims, “When I think of this passage, I see our elders in a unique way. I have more heart for them and I often feel their pains.” He says running the Center is a way for him to give back to the elders. “I feel good at night when I go home knowing they have safe shelter and nutritious food each day.”

Jerry is the kind of leader you

can be proud of and know that your donations are put to good work. He says, “This isn’t just a job for me. I am most at peace when I’m at the Center, at the elders’ home. It is a sanctuary for me just as it is a sanctuary for many of our residents.”

When you talk to a Cheyenne, you quickly find out they are related to everybody on the reservation. That stands to reason when you think about the small number of survivors of the Fort Robinson Massacre in 1879. Today’s Northern Cheyenne people came from that small band of survivors. “It is interesting to think about the elders I am directly related to living here at the Center,” Jerry reflects. “My relations include Gloria American Horse, Richard Foote, Francis Limpy, Dixie Elliott and Edwin Standing Elk. It’s special knowing my relatives live here and I get to be responsible for their care.”

Jerry started at Heritage Living Center as a maintenance worker and was soon promoted to Maintenance Supervisor. “I enjoyed patching holes, fixing leaks and heaters, and changing light bulbs. It meant more than just the task I was doing at the moment. I knew I was keeping the elders warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and their lights shining brighter.”

Jerry was again promoted to Administrator after demonstrating his leadership and care for the elders.

Since taking on this role, he has been recognized by others around Montana. He is the first Northern Cheyenne to lead an assisted-living home in the state. He serves on the Rosebud County Council on Aging and was recently re-elected to the Montana Health Care Association. In both organizations, he is the first Native American to serve in those capacities.

“I love my work. I love the elders. I enjoy learning from them. They have knowledge to pass down to us younger Cheyenne. We need to listen and learn,” Jerry concludes.

We are proud to have Jerry lead our team of care givers, cooks, housekeepers and maintenance workers.



YEAR-END GIVING IDEAS – OUR GIFT TO YOU



2018 is drawing to a close and we start thinking about giving to others. Our giving may be a special gift for a loved one, a plate of cookies for a shut-in neighbor, or a card and small gift for the mailman.

The last three months of the year is a time when most Americans think about giving to their favorite charities. We are the most generous people in the world. When we see people hurting or some aspect in our communities worth protecting, we step up and do something about it.

Please know the elders living at Heritage Living Center are grateful for the safe and warm home your

donations provide. Each year, we wonder how in the world we're going to make it and yet each year, our friends, donors and benefactors come through for us. Before the year comes to an end, let me say "Thank You" on behalf of the elders and our staff. Your gifts sustain us.

Cash Gifts

Gifts of cash are easy and convenient to give. Most donors send personal checks and many use credit card transactions. Online giving is becoming more popular and you can find us on the internet by going to our website, soaringeagle.org. If you are an itemizer on federal and

Donors, Steve and Maria Wolfe meet resident, Pauline Eaglefeathers, during a recent visit to Heritage Living Center.

state taxes, then you will want to be sure your donations are completed before December 31. Dropping a donation in the mail to receive a December 31 postmark usually suffices. That date falls on a Monday this year, so you don't need to worry about missing the postmark over the weekend. Be sure electronic transfers, like credit card gifts, occur before year's end.

Giving Through Your IRA

More and more Soaring Eagle donors are helping us by giving through their IRA's. Our tax laws allow donors who are age 70½ or older to directly transfer funds from their IRA to charity. Their donation counts toward the required minimum distribution, yet no tax is due on the money transferred.

Be sure you let your financial advisor know that you want to make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA directly to Soaring Eagle. Please don't have the funds sent to you and then you send it to Soaring Eagle. By doing so disqualifies the gift from the special tax-free transfer.

Check with your advisor on the best way to give through your IRA or give us a call for more information. Please remember to let us know that you have given instructions to your advisor to

transfer the gift from your IRA. We will be watching for it and be able to send a timely acknowledgement to you for tax purposes.

Giving Securities

This next tip may not be for everyone, but if you own securities, please give some consideration to a tax-wise way to give. The stock market has had a very good year and some portfolios are filled with highly appreciated assets. Selling those assets can trigger a sizable capital gains tax. From a tax standpoint, you may be better off donating stock rather than cash. When you give an appreciated security (owned for more than one year), you can receive a double tax benefit. You are allowed a charitable deduction for the current fair market value and the capital gain is not taxed. Soaring Eagle is a charity and not subject to capital gains tax, so the full value of your gift is used for the good work of caring for the Heritage Living Center elders.

Wills and Trusts

You may want to include a charitable provision to your will or trust to benefit Soaring Eagle in the future. Soaring Eagle would only benefit at life's end, thus preserving your savings to be available for whatever costs you face in later years. See the sample language on the next page and discuss with your attorney. You don't always need to rewrite your will. Sometimes a simple amendment or codicil to an

existing plan will suffice.

Beneficiary Designation

You can name Soaring Eagle as the beneficiary of a bank or retirement/investment account. It is usually a simple task and done by filling out a short form. You remain in control of all your money and assets. Only what is left after you pass away is transferred to charity.

Income Producing Gifts

Soaring Eagle has many friends who have donated cash or securities in exchange for a gift annuity. If you want to make a donation today to experience the joy of making a significant gift and retain a lifetime income, then a Soaring Eagle Charitable Gift Annuity may be right for you to accomplish that goal. To do so, you simply transfer cash or securities to us in exchange for our promise to make payments to you for the rest of your life. The rate is fixed based on your age at the time of your gift and it will never change. Please see the display on gift annuities on the next page to see the rates we can offer to you.

Another gifting technique that produces a variable or fixed income utilizes trust instruments. This isn't for everyone but if you are in a situation of having considerable assets and want to enjoy giving and the tax deductions available along with a retirement income for you or a loved one, then speak with your advisors. They can guide you

through the steps about setting up a charitable trust.

Deciding what to give, when to give, and how to give can be a challenging task. Ask for any of our helpful booklets to learn more about year-end giving and future giving plans:

Giving Securities

Giving Through Gift Annuities

Giving Through Your Will

Giving Through Retirement Plans

Your Guide to Effective Giving after Tax Reform

Request any of our titles and we will gladly send them to you. Write or call, Soaring Eagle, PO Box 879, Billings, MT 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.



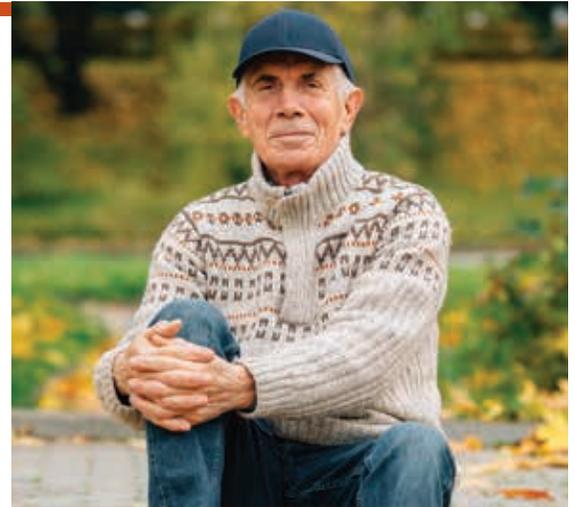
2018 Annuity Rates

One-Life Annuity
beginning July 1, 2018

Age	% Rate	Age	% Rate
65	5.1	78	6.8
66	5.2	79	7.1
67	5.3	80	7.3
68	5.3	81	7.5
69	5.4	82	7.7
70	5.6	83	7.9
71	5.7	84	8.1
72	5.8	85	8.3
73	5.9	86	8.5
74	6.1	87	8.7
75	6.2	88	8.9
76	6.4	89	9.2
77	6.6	90+	9.5

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."



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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.

You have become a “special friend” of the Northern Cheyenne elders, helping to care for them by providing the basic food they need each day, a warm home with private apartments and a caring, Cheyenne staff that looks after them 24 hours a day. Saying “thank you” is a sincere effort to let you know that your every gift is important; but these words don’t convey the deep feeling of gratitude from the Cheyenne elders.

Recently, the weather was miserable with heavy, low clouds of rain mixed with snow, which added to the eerie night. A number of Cheyenne ladies were enjoying the warm fireplace. As I walked past, I heard one of them say: “Am I glad to be living here tonight! We had a good dinner and now we can enjoy the warm fireplace.” Then she added, “Last year before I came here, I was sick, hungry and cold.”

This woman’s simple statement of appreciation is exactly what the Soaring Eagle Heritage Living Center is all about – bringing a whole new meaning to the lives of the Cheyenne elders. Her gratitude was expressed in the simple words, “...before I came here, I was sick, hungry and cold.” Cheyenne elders have for years suffered from cruel hardships but now the Center provides them with loving care and a comfort they have never known.



Reminisce with Father Emmett

Thanksgiving 2006 . . .

It has only been 5 years since we first started building the Heritage Living Center. I can remember clearly the cold winter day as I watched construction workers and realized for the first time that this was truly a “miracle on the hill.” By any odds, it should not have been happening, yet it was all due to a group of aging Cheyenne chiefs. These old mentors of mine voiced their concerns for their suffering Cheyenne elders. They saw too many elders sick, hungry and cold, often dying at home alone. Or worse, they watched helplessly as older Cheyenne were sent more than 100 miles away from family and friends to die alone in nursing homes where nobody spoke their language.

As I looked back on what

happened, I realized that the “miracle on the hill” began long before construction started. Twenty-five years earlier, someone had tape-recorded a meeting of the “old chiefs.” By the time I heard this tape, the “old chiefs” had all moved on to the next camp. Chills ran down my spine when I heard Chief Charlie Sittingman conclude the meeting with these words: “There is nothing we can do. Let’s ask Father Emmett. He will help us!”

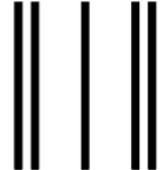
Charlie Sittingman and the other chiefs spoke to me from their graves. Their words echoed in my mind and jolted me out of retirement. I knew their words were true. In their old age, the elders deserved the care that had never been available to them.

Our Cheyenne elders count their blessings every day and they are grateful for the home you help make possible with every gift you send. Each day we offer prayers to ask “Maheo,” our Creator God to bless you. This Thanksgiving Day at our morning service, we’ll especially pray for those of you with health concerns and we will humbly ask God to protect you and your loved ones and grant you every blessing.

Your beggar friend,
Father Emmett Hoffmann



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Email *(Promise we will not share)* _____

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

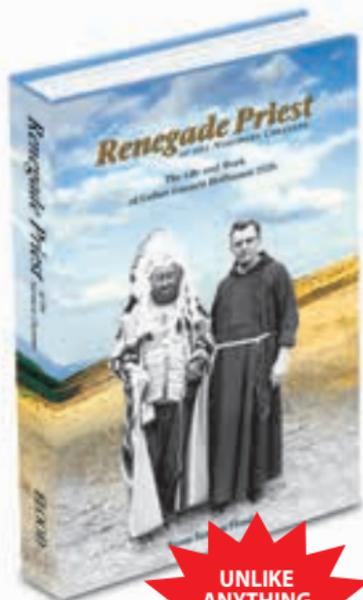
Birth date(s) of annuitant(s) _____

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.

Please send to me the following:

- Giving Securities
- Giving Through Retirement Plans
- Giving Through Your Will
- Guide to Effective Giving after Tax Reform



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