



Thank you for our new Van!



Last week we eagerly awaited the arrival of our new passenger van and it did not disappoint! Last summer we asked for your help to purchase two new passenger vans, hoping to replace our aging bus. That lumbering beast had traveled far and wide through all seasons on rough Montana roads, since the opening of the Heritage Living Center over 20 years ago! It had served us well but became unreliable. We have to keep the elders safe.

The specs are; a nine-passenger Ford Transit AWD 350HD, with a handicap lift (Lifts are a very expensive addition.) It is a "high-top"

that allows everyone to stand while moving to and from their seats. We also added an 18-inch upright floor-mounted oxygen tank holder so that residents can sink their oxygen tanks

into the sturdy mount and ride hands free. It's an ingenious device that makes a trip hassle-free.

I don't know who was more excited; me, the staff or the residents.



Some remarked it has been a long long time since they had smelled that new-car smell. We are actively looking at options for a second van.

I can't tell you how giddy and happy we were when the van arrived! We all went for a joy ride on the paved roads around the rez on that sunny day, checking out the bells and whistles on this amazing new van. It was marvelous.

Kay Medicine Bull

Kay Medicine Bull



GREETINGS FROM KAY!

As Executive Director, I am blessed to have celebrated my first Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's with our elders. Over the past year, I have built friendships with many of our residents, and I am deeply grateful to be close to home—especially because it allows me to bring my granddaughter with me.



In our traditional Cheyenne ways, those who become close to us are welcomed as family. Now, I can truly say that my granddaughter has many grandmas and grandpas. I feel so fortunate that they have claimed her as their own, taking the time to share their love, wisdom, and presence with her. It is a beautiful reminder of the strength of our community and the deep connections that make the Heritage Living Center feel like home.

As we move into the new year, I reflect not only on the warmth of the holiday season but also on the challenges our world is facing.

From political unrest to devastating wildfires and unprecedented plane crashes, it seems the world is shifting in ways we never expected. Inflation continues to rise, and many are struggling with job security, making it harder to afford even basic necessities.

Through it all, my greatest hope is that, despite these hardships, our elders will continue to receive the care and support they deserve. The rising costs of food, transportation, and heating fuel weigh heavily on my heart. My greatest fear is having to displace elders because the resources we depend on become too scarce.

With Easter's passing, I am reminded of the blessings of this past year. I have come to know our elders'

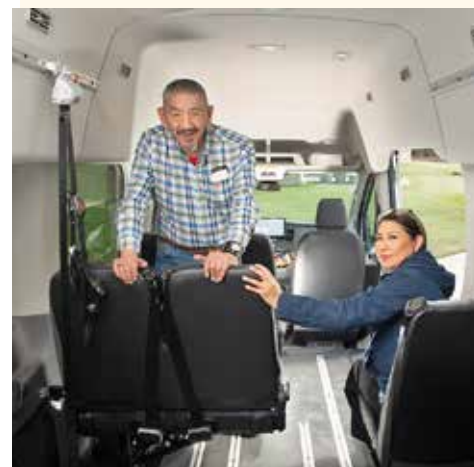
stories, their favorite seats, and who never misses a home basketball game. More than anything, I find peace in knowing that they are safe, warm, and have a place to call home.

I treasure my visits with each of them and always look forward to hearing their updates. With that, I hope you enjoy this Winter/Spring edition of Signals. You bought a new van for us, we have a real author in our midst's, and there is some Cheyenne History to see and read about. Please keep our elders in your thoughts and remember them in your generous giving. Your prayers and support mean the world to us.

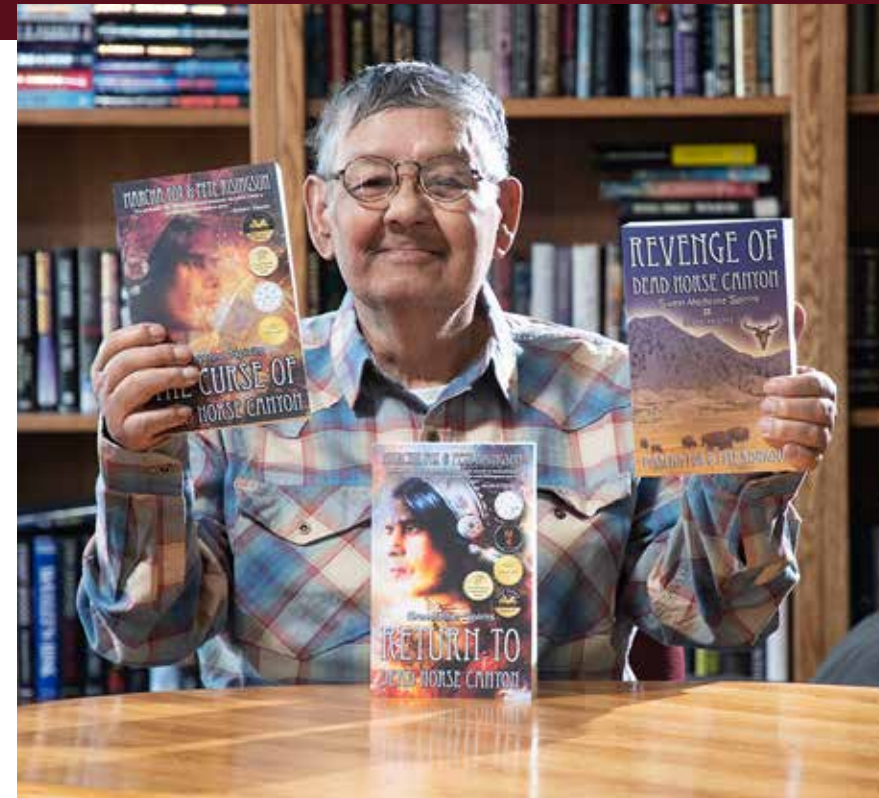
Nea'ese—thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

Warmly,
Kay Medicine Bull

Kay Medicine Bull
Executive Director



HLC'S PETE RISINGSUN CO-AUTHORS A TRILOGY OF MULTI-AWARD-WINNING BOOKS.



Pete Risingsun is proud of the book-trilogy he co-authored.

It started over four years ago when an author was looking for a wise Cheyenne, and expert consultant, to review two books she had written about a young Cheyenne man and his friendship with a non-native young man. Marcha Fox needed to know if she had the Cheyenne culture and overall viewpoints correctly portrayed. A donor to Soaring Eagle, she saw a photograph of Pete Risingsun giving his grandson a lesson about Sweet Grass. She contacted Pete and their correspondence began.

Pete needed to read the books, and afterwards went into the sweat lodge to ask The Grandfather Spirits what to do. He emerged with a conviction to work with Marcha, but was told in his prayers not to do it for money. Pete said, "She was going to do good for all the Cheyenne people. The story will be read by many people from all lands. They will learn about our spiritual way of



The last volume was just published in January 2025.

life and our ceremonies." But, he was told, "You will fail if you do this for money." Marcha had offered to pay Pete well, but in the end Pete only asked for a gift of some kind.

Pete continued, "I called Marcha and said we will do this the Cheyenne Way."

Marcha says, "It's kind of a miracle it happened. Pete is a natural storyteller and drives the Cheyenne characters. They



This photo of Pete giving his grandson a lesson in Sweet Grass started it all.



The Curse of Dead Horse Canyon – Government corruption ignites a 19th Century Cheyenne curse.

Praise for Book 1: "Exceptional. The intricate plot and dramatic storyline create a breathtaking and intense story." –Readers' Favorite. Praise for Book 2: "The depth of ethnology packed into both novels is meticulously researched and beautifully detailed. Fox and Risingsun are a dream team with this saga."

dead-horse-canyon.com

are all Pete's brainchild. He is so creative! He's the star of the books. It was 100% crucial that the Native Storyline is pure. I couldn't have written the books without him. Pete would rewrite a scene verbatim, he instinctively knew how to think and speak authentically."

Ignites a 19th Century Cheyenne Curse. The works are fiction, but Marcha is pleased to say she is 100 percent certain the language, the movements, the actions, and the culture is portrayed with attention to detail not found in many native fiction works.

Pete had a considerable role in rewriting the first two books and was the driving force in the third volume. The result is a trilogy with over 1500 pages titled The Curse of Dead Horse Canyon, Government Corruption

The books are available on Amazon and at Barnes & Nobel. You can also read very detailed descriptions of Pete and Marcha, reviews of the books, and much more at <https://dead-horse-canyon.com/>



A deeply spiritual man, Pete is often seen in the Chapel.



Marcha Fox

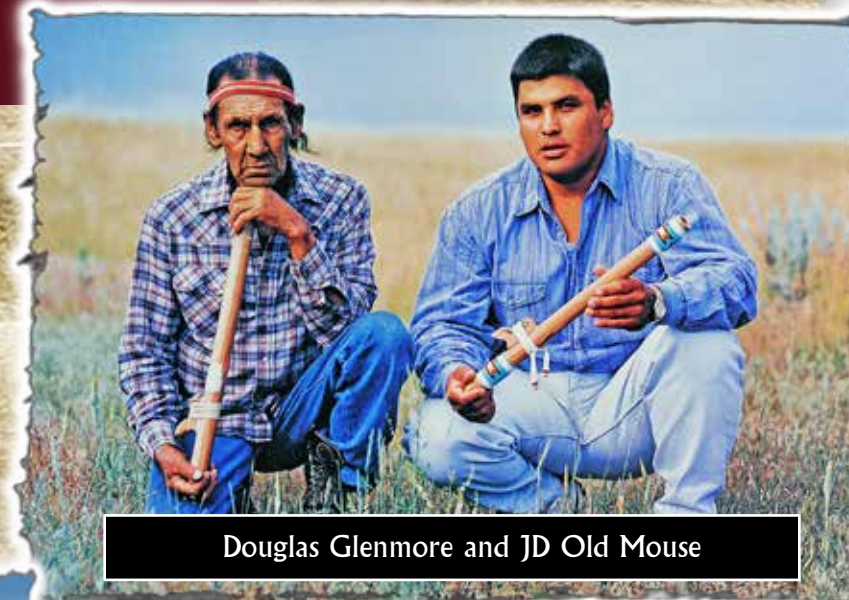
The first of the three books contains a plot with a man stumbling upon government corruption, the second involves the severe consequences of the discovery, and the third details the retribution that came from it. "It's a long story with a happy ending," Pete says.

"I am proud of the story. Who would ever think of telling their life story of long ago," Pete added, hinting that some of his own life is intertwined in the narrations. Pete also wrote a note he asked to go in this article.

"Thank you to each one you for the wonderful home I have at HLC. Yes my Cheyenne people are poor people. Without the HLC us elders would be homeless." - Love and Peace, Pete Risingsun.

REMEMBERING ELDERS PAST

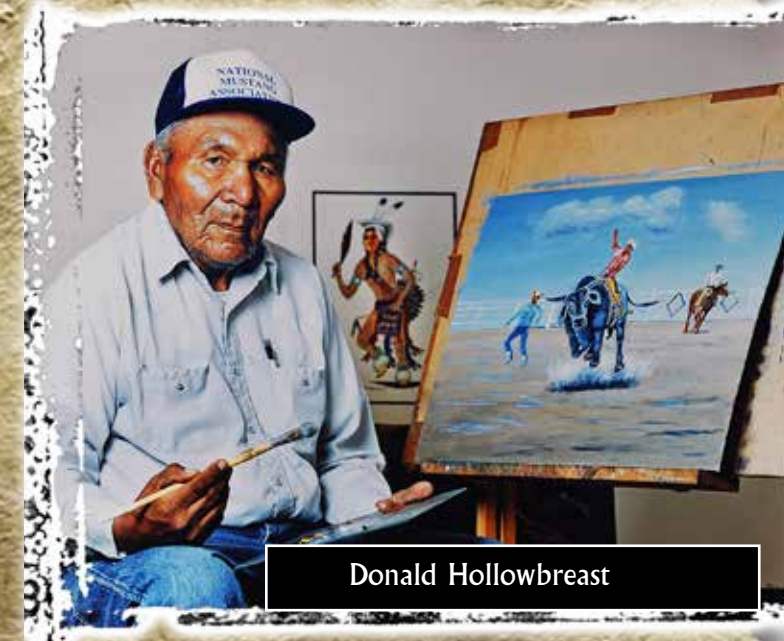
In the 1990s our communication director John Warner traversed the reservation and was granted permission by many elders to take their portraits. Though all have crossed over to the other camp, their striking images and the lives they led live on.



Douglas Glenmore and JD Old Mouse



Austin and Hilda Two Moons

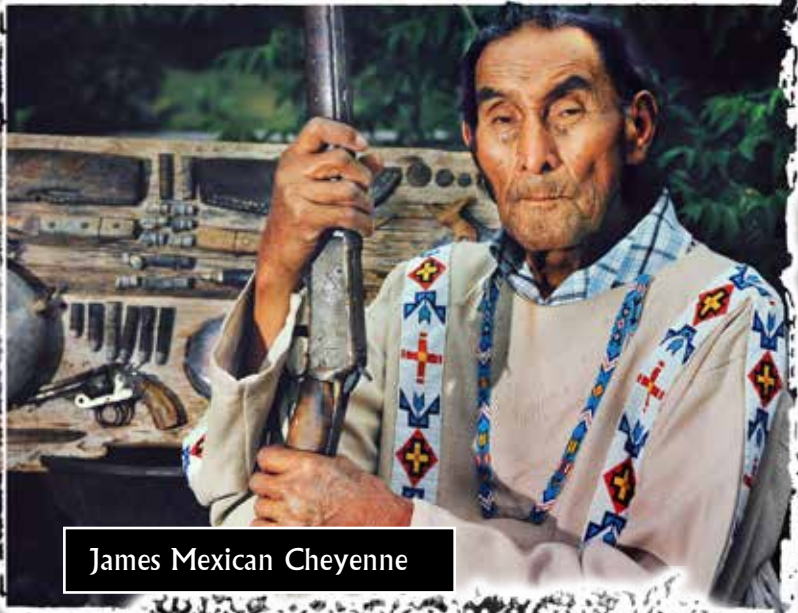


Donald Hollowbreast

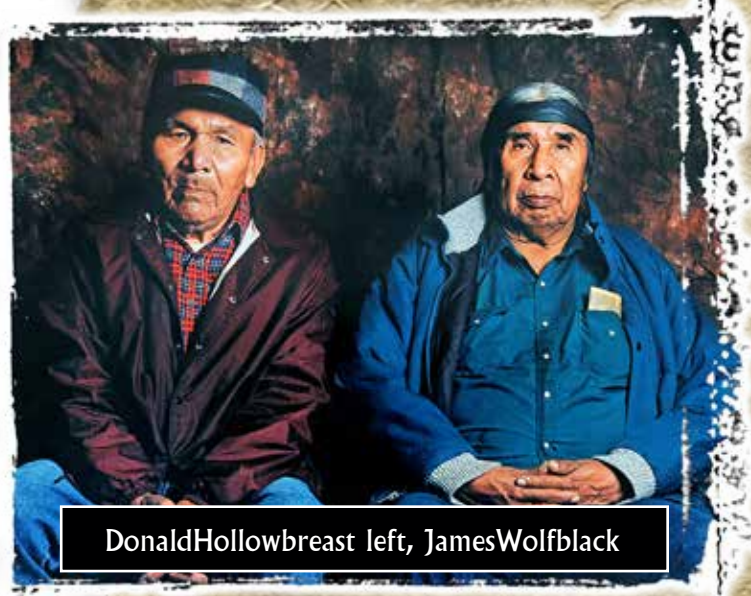
REMEMBERING ELDERS PAST



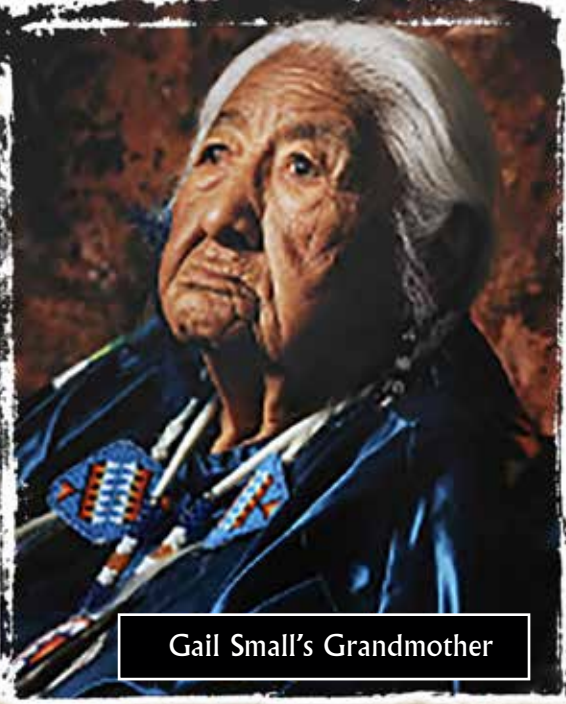
Eddy Foote



James Mexican Cheyenne



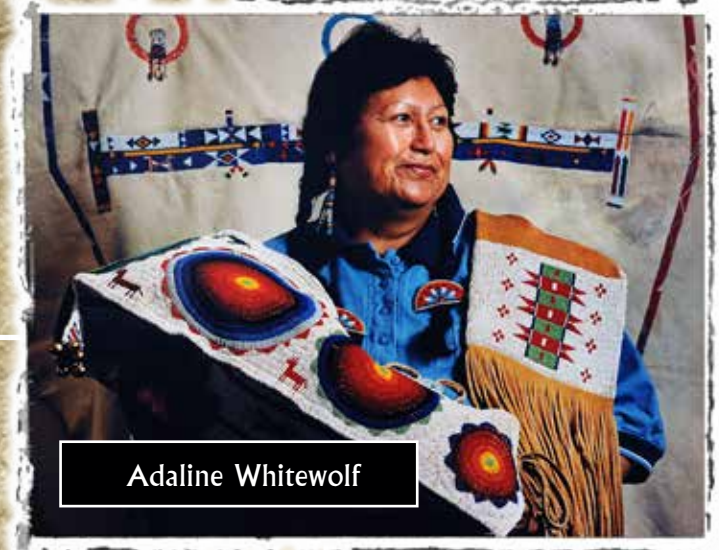
Donald Hollowbreast left, James Wolfblack



Gail Small's Grandmother



Florence Whiteman

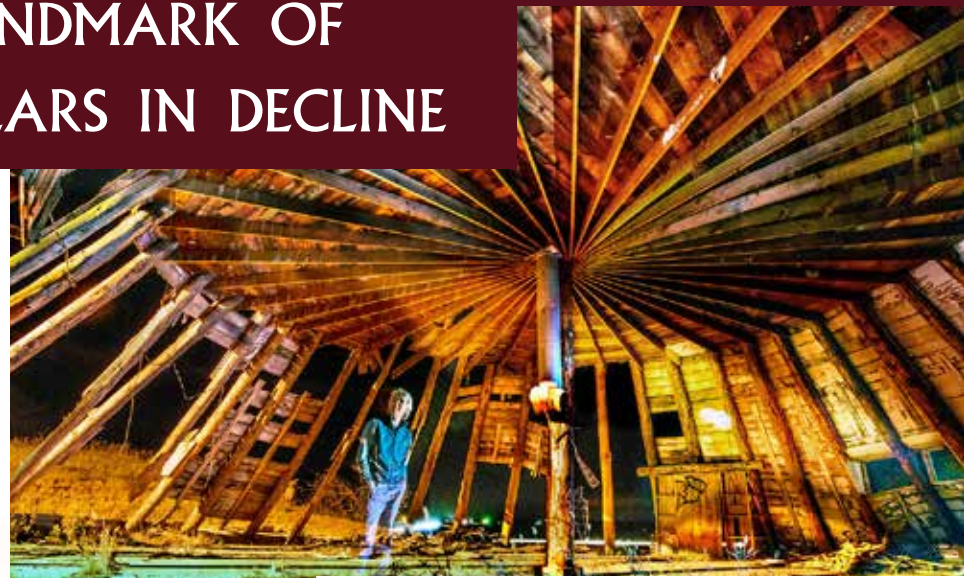


Adaline Whitewolf

DETACH, MOISTEN GLUE STRIP AND SEAL

HISTORICAL LANDMARK OF NEARLY 100 YEARS IN DECLINE

The Moncure Tipi stands along Montana Highway 212 on the edge of the small town of Busby. It was constructed by Walker Peyton Moncure (1877-1964), a rancher, petroleum investor, and owner of a general store in Busby, on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in southeastern Montana. Moncure became a friend of Two Moon, the Cheyenne chief who participated in the Battle of Little Bighorn. Two Moon died in 1917 and Moncure had him reburied at Busby, erecting a monument for him. In 1931, Moncure built what became known as the “Moncure Tipi,” a structure that became a site of tribal give-away ceremonies and dances. In addition, it housed Civilian Conservation Corps work crews during the 1930s construction of the Busby School. The structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. In 1941, the building was sold to the Northern Cheyenne. It was later used as a restaurant and furniture store before passing out of use, but it has remained a local landmark for the Northern Cheyenne people during everyone’s lifetime. It may not be here for long.



Busby tipi 2025; Today the structure has lost most of its shingles, leaving the wood exposed.

Busby tipi 1995; Thirty years ago the Moncure tipi was still in good shape.

Below; If only its conical beams could talk..



WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO WRITE MY WILL?

Many thoughtful donors have reflected on the impact of the world affairs in recent years on their lives and the lives of their loved ones and began writing their final plans for their property when they no longer need it. Such a final plan is usually accomplished with a well-written will or trust.

Wills and trust are tools used in crafting an estate plan. Some plans can be quite simple and others very complex. Just a little time spent with an attorney might be all it takes to write a plan that can put your mind at ease about what happens to your property at a future date. For some people with complicated financial matters and family situations, it may take a team of planners including a lawyer, accountant, and financial advisor to accomplish what you need.

Many people avoid writing a will because of uncertainty about the future. The opposite is true. Having a will helps “map out” a plan for later years and provides more certainty about the future and your peace of mind today.

What if I Already Have a Will?

If you have a will that is great. Much of the work is done. All that may be needed is an update

to make sure your plans reflect the way your life is today. But what if a good amount of time has passed since your will was written? Many of life’s events can change what our future plans need to reflect. Have you had any of the following occur in your life or the lives of loved ones?

- Death of a spouse
- Marriage or divorce – yourself or your children
- Second marriage
- Birth of children or grandchildren
- Death of children or grandchildren
- Death, physical relocation or losing touch with those you had previously designated as Personal Representative, Guardian, or Health Care or Durable Power of Attorney
- Adoption of children or grandchildren
- Graduation from college by children or grandchildren
- Retirement or starting a second career
- Buying or selling real estate
- Changes in investments or assets
- Selling a business, adding a business partner, ending a business partnership
- A significant change in health or loved one’s health
- Long term health care plans and changes
- Changes in long-time friendships
- Changes in charitable interests

If some of the above events have occurred since you wrote your will, now may be a good time to consider how your plans might be affected by some of life’s events. While having a will is key to accomplishing many of life’s goals, keeping your plans up to date is equally important.

Where Do I Start?

Like most projects, the will-writing process is difficult to start. Try beginning with four blank sheets of paper and at the top of one piece write **People**, on another write **Property**, then **Plans**, and on the fourth sheet write **Planners**. On each sheet write down names, assets, what you want to happen with your property and the people you know who can help you carry out your plans. You don’t need to create a long or complete list. It

is okay to have some gaps or not know exactly what you want to happen. The planners you listed can help you with that. Make an appointment with a qualified estate planning attorney. You and your spouse, family member or a close friend might want to go together.

Good attorneys have helped many people in this process, so they know how to guide you. Remember to be efficient and thorough during your time with your lawyer.

Including Charity in Your Plans

If you are charitably minded, giving to your favorite charity can add a satisfying dimension to your estate plan. How you choose to make a charitable bequest depends on several factors, including family relationships, property values, how disposable or non-liquid your assets are and your charitable interests. You will want to select charities that will be around for a long time. Some charities are short-lived by design. Be careful about leaving bequests to charities that might not exist in future years. Give consideration to the following ways to make a charitable bequest.

Specific Amount – Naming a specific amount gives certainty to your bequest. For example, you can plan that Soaring Eagle will receive a specific amount through your will. This is probably the most common form of a charitable bequest. It will look something like: “To Soaring Eagle I give the amount of \$XX,XXX.” You will want to be careful to do all you can to make sure funds are available for the bequests you make. A person who makes charitable bequests in this manner may want to update his or her will more frequently or when asset values change.

Specific Property – Giving a specific piece of property can be a wise form of making a bequest. This is especially true if the property can be used by the charity, like land for a conservation group or artwork for a museum. Oftentimes, a donor can give specific property to a local charity and preserve cash for family and causes like Soaring Eagle.

Percentage – Stating a percentage of your assets or value of your estate can preserve a charitable bequest if your estate value varies or if a specific property must be disposed of in later years. By using percentages, your bequests remain intact although the values may fluctuate with the value of what you own.

Give the Residue – Many donors will take care of family first with specific bequests, amounts or percentages. After specific bequests to family and friends are satisfied, then a charitable gift may be made with what is left, otherwise known as the “rest, residue and remainder.” By planning with this form of bequest, you can rest easy knowing that family and loved ones will receive their bequests before charitable gifts are made.

Contingent Bequests – Although you might complete a thorough estate plan, something might occur that makes it impossible to complete a gift to an heir. Possibly a loved one predeceases you or a relationship changes due to circumstances you didn’t anticipate. A contingent

bequest to Soaring Eagle can be made if a named recipient is not available or able to accept a bequest.

A charitable gift in your will must be purposefully planned. Without a will, state intestate succession laws take over and seldom can an estate without a will make a gift to charity. There’s no time like now to consider the events and life changes you have witnessed and write or update your will. We will be pleased to discuss with you or your advisors the ways in which Soaring Eagle can help you meet your charitable goals. For more information contact us at 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.

New Higher 2025 Annuity Rates

One-Life Annuity beginning July 1, 2024

| Age | % Rate | Age | % Rate |
|-----|--------|-----|--------|
| 65 | 5.7 | 78 | 7.6 |
| 66 | 5.8 | 79 | 7.8 |
| 67 | 5.9 | 80 | 8.1 |
| 68 | 6.1 | 81 | 8.3 |
| 69 | 6.2 | 82 | 8.5 |
| 70 | 6.3 | 83 | 8.7 |
| 71 | 6.4 | 84 | 8.9 |
| 72 | 6.6 | 85 | 9.1 |
| 73 | 6.7 | 86 | 9.3 |
| 74 | 6.8 | 87 | 9.5 |
| 75 | 7.0 | 88 | 9.7 |
| 76 | 7.2 | 89 | 9.9 |
| 77 | 7.4 | 90+ | 10.1 |

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

To learn more about the benefits of a Soaring Eagle gift annuity, please use the coupon in this newsletter or give us a call 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:

- 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.

“I learned that I could receive a good return with a gift annuity. It was even better than what my bank could offer me. I asked Soaring Eagle to send me information illustrating the benefits of a gift annuity. It was free and there was no obligation.

I was pleased to learn that a gift annuity was part gift and part investment. A future gift to help the Northern Cheyenne seniors and an investment to pay me a fixed income for the rest of my life.

The illustration they sent was straightforward and simple to complete, so I sent my gift for an annuity. Now, I can count on regular

lifetime payments and help care for the elders at Heritage Living Center. Plus, I received a tax deduction when I set up my annuity. Best of all, most of each payment is tax-free.”

Richard, Bainbridge Island, WA



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

One day at dinner, I asked Al, one of our newest residents, if he wanted a second helping of dessert. "Oh, yes," he exclaimed. "I've been having seconds of everything! I'm afraid I'll wake up and find out I'm dreaming." Al Ghost Bull, has been legally blind since 1975 due to glaucoma. He served in the U.S. Navy aboard the flagship USS Bennington as an aviation electrician. When he first arrived at the Center, Al was malnourished and in poor physical condition. During his first week at the Center he gained seven pounds. The Heritage Living Center is caring for the most needy and forgotten.

It was the dream of the old chiefs, sending a message as they lamented the fate of Cheyenne elders. They told pitiful stories of loneliness and death, when their elders ended up in nursing homes far from family and friends. Depressed, the old folks stopped eating and died alone because their families couldn't afford the transportation to visit them - a terrible, wretched "ay to die. By the time we discovered the lost recording, all of the old chiefs had moved onto the next camp. But their heartfelt plea was so powerful that it must never be forgotten.

The Heritage Living Center is the fulfillment of the chief's dream, it stands today as the "Miracle on the Hill above Ashland." It was a daring dream of desperate men of wisdom asking for help, you listened and helped to accomplish their dream and continue to keep it alive today. On August 31, 2003, we celebrated the first anniversary of the dedication of the Heritage Living Center. Donors



Reminisce with Father Emmett 22 Years Ago . . .

from all parts of the country met for the first time and the bonding that took place between them added joy to the festivities.

For me personally, the Grand Opening was a special event because with your help I had kept my promise to the "old chiefs," who had hoped that someday the elders would be cared for with dignity in their old age. I felt their presence in spirit as Holy Men of the Northern Cheyenne tribe asked "Maheo" our Creator God, to bless the building and all the elders who would live there in the future.

Looking back on the opening of the Heritage Living Center, it seems only proper that a Cheyenne Chief, Clarence "Bisco" Spotted Wolf, was the first elder resident. Bisco is the grandson of Chief Spotted Wolf, a Kit Fox warrior who led four of his sons, White Shield, Yellow Nose, White Elk and Spotted Hawk, against Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25,

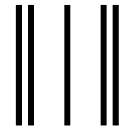
1876. A hereditary chief, Bisco

was the "guiding light" throughout the construction of the Heritage Living Center. He watched every detail as the building took shape and now it is his home.

I see the dreams of the old chiefs fulfilled in the faces of all the residents, like Al, who receives only a small Social Security Disability payment. His care, like that of most of the Native American elders at the Heritage Living Center, is supported by your gifts to Soaring Eagle. The Center, where elders can tell stories and teach language in the Montessori School and Child Day Care, is a life giving "miracle" for elders like Al Ghost Bull and many others, who without your help would die lonely deaths, poor and forgotten. Now they are cared for by Cheyenne staff members who speak their language, in a home where we welcome even the poorest of the poor. We must never forget the teachings of Jesus, who responded to the poor with acts of great mercy and gentleness.

The elders who now live at the Heritage Living Center grew up during the darkest years of reservation life. They lived in huts or canvas tents with as many as 10 people in a one room cabin with a dirt floor and no ventilation. Their contaminated wells, damp earthen floors and unscreened doors resulted in deaths from cholera, diphtheria and tuberculosis. Cheyenne men found few jobs on area ranches, not enough to feed their children, whom they sent to boarding schools to keep them from starving during the cold winter months.

Your beggar friend,
Father Emmett



THANKS FOR USING YOUR STAMP

SOARING EAGLE
PO BOX 879
BILLINGS MT 59103-0879



FATHER EMMETT HOFFMANN, 1926-2013

SOARING EAGLE GIFT INFORMATION REQUEST

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

How your Soaring Eagle donations are used

84% Caring for the Elders

Fundraising

Management & General