



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2016

## **Red Feather Renovates Northern Cheyenne Elder's Home**

*Description: Red Feather Development Group is partnering with Northern Cheyenne's Housing Improvement Program and Tribal Housing Authority to renovate Bilford Curley's home in Lame Deer, MT. Bilford Curley is a veteran and elder of the Northern Cheyenne Nation. He is raising 4 grandchildren in a house that is in critical need of renovation. A new roof, new windows, exterior doors, siding, roll-in shower and appliances are planned for the renovation starting in July. You can donate at [www.gofundme.com/bilfordcurley](http://www.gofundme.com/bilfordcurley) and if you'd like to volunteer, please call (406) 585-7188.*

**Lame Deer, MT, June 23, 2016** – Bilford Curley is a disabled veteran who has been raising 4 grandchildren by himself in a home that is barely inhabitable. His winter heating bills exceed \$500 a month. Red Feather Development Group of Bozeman, MT first became aware of his situation last year when a home assessment for energy efficiency and indoor air quality was done. The Northern Cheyenne Low Income Energy Assistance Program requested the assessment to see what improvements could be made to assist the Curley family in reducing their heating bills. John Marian, Red Feather's Director of Northern Cheyenne programming was onsite for the assessment. "The building audit revealed improper ventilation in the attic and crawl spaces and substantial deficiencies in both the air and insulation barriers. The outrageous heating bills started to make sense and we knew we had to do something to help."

Red Feather Development Group, a 20-year-old non-profit that partners with the Northern Cheyenne, Hopi and Navajo nations on their housing needs is initiating a home renovation the second week of July and is in need of volunteers and funding for the

project. Red Feather is attempting to raise \$30,000 to combine with the \$60,000 federal grant the Curley family is receiving to replace the roof, windows, and siding, remodel the kitchen and make the bathroom ADA accessible. We would like to invite anyone who can donate his or her time or materials to this project to please give Red Feather a call. “The more support we receive, the more we can do for this family,” noted Mark Hall, Executive Director of Red Feather. A crowd funding campaign has been launched on GoFundMe.com: [www.gofundme.com/bilfordcurley](http://www.gofundme.com/bilfordcurley)

Red Feather will have volunteers and a professional contractor working onsite from July 11<sup>th</sup> to August 5<sup>th</sup> in Lame Deer. Red Feather will be coordinating a crew of paid local professionals working alongside volunteers, managing materials orders and donations, making sure everyone is safe, that work is of high quality, and completed according to schedule.

“I don’t know how I will ever be able to say thank you enough to everyone who is helping on this project,” said Mr. Curley. “When I think about getting this place fixed up and the reduced heating bills, I just get a big smile on my face,” he added.” Bilford Curley is a Vietnam-era veteran who is a stroke survivor and lives on a fixed income.

Red Feather is in need of donations for the following items to complete the project: appliances (washer/dryer, microwave/hood combo and refrigerator), flooring, lighting and plumbing fixtures but especially volunteers. To volunteer, please call our Bozeman office at 406-585-7188 and speak to John Marian.

Red Feather would like to thank the following for their contributions: Home Depot, Milgard Windows, Simkins-Hallin, United States Stove Company, BARIndustries, Inc., St. Labre Indian School, Catholice Heart Work Camp and Group Work Camp.

For more information on how to contribute:

1. Go to GoFundMe.com <https://www.gofundme.com/bilfordcurley> and make a donation of any size.
2. Go to the Red Feather website at [www.redfeather.org](http://www.redfeather.org) and mark your donation for the “Curley Renovation Project”.
3. Call the Red Feather office in Bozeman, MT at 406-585-7188 and tell us how you can help with your time or in-kind donation of construction materials.

**Contact Information:**

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*Editor's Note: We are able to provide interviews with the Bilford Curley and John Marian, Project Lead for Red Feather or with any of the professionals or volunteers who are working on the Project. Please call John Marian at 406-585-7188 for further information.*

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*(Photo Courtesy: Red Feather Development Group)  
Red Feather Development Group is renovating a house  
for Bilford Curley of the Northern Cheyenne nation  
who is raising 4 grandchildren by himself.*



*(Photo Courtesy: Red Feather Development Group)*  
*The Curley renovation project will fix this significant air leak and repair the drywall.*



*(Photo Courtesy: Red Feather Development Group)*  
*Bilford Curley, a veteran and elder of the Northern Cheyenne Nation points to significant siding damage which will be repaired by Red Feather in July.*



*(Photo Courtesy: Red Feather Development Group)*

*Elder of the Northern Cheyenne Nation Bilford Curley identifies significant roof and siding damage that will be repaired during the Red Feather renovation project.*