



From Executive Director Mark Hall

"The best way to not feel hopeless is to get up and do something. Don't wait for good things to happen to you. If you go out and make some good things happen, you will fill the world with hope, you will fill yourself with hope."

President Barack Obama



I like this quote because it says so much about volunteering. When we help others, not only does the person receiving the help gain a benefit, but so do we - the ones giving the help. And, one aspect of giving that is often overlooked is the hope that is given to others who see the act of kindness. Think about how you feel when you see someone unselfishly helping another. For me, when I see it, it makes me want to help someone too. It's like yawning. Its contagious.

The fact that you are receiving and reading the Red Feather newsletter, tells me already that you care. Like many other Red Feather supporters, you may have worked on a straw bale home build, a traditional home plastering project, or a wheelchair ramp build. If you did, you probably have a much deeper connection to Native Americans and their needs than ever before.

We recognize this and want to give you the opportunity to be directly involved in our work. [Our new website](#) has an area where if you are interested in volunteering you can express your interests and tell us what you are good at and like to do. Right now, we have a couple opportunities to share, but hope to have more over the course of the summer. We'll be talking to our tribal partners and other organizations doing similar work in Indian Country and will pass along any opportunities that they have as well.

[Red Feather is in need of 6 skilled volunteers for our Montana home repair projects in July.](#)

Learn more about these opportunities. If you have already informed us of your interest to volunteer we will keep you posted on upcoming opportunities. If you haven't yet and are interested, you can do so [here](#). Thank you for your interest in volunteering. I hope to see

you out on a project.

APS Partners with Red Feather for Weatherizing Homes on the Hopi Nation

Arizona Public Service (APS) has partnered with Red Feather to weatherize homes on the Hopi Reservation. Work began on several homes two weeks ago with dramatic results and will continue through the summer months. "I'm excited to get this project going for the village," smiled Sandy Whitehair, Community Service Administrator of Shungopavi Village on the Hopi Reservation.

The head of the family home was all smiles with the anticipation of having her modest trailer weatherized through the APS Energy Wise Low Income Weatherization program. The 7-foot rip in the siding of the family's 2-bedroom mobile home happened over a year ago, but money and the ability to repair it was a struggle for this family. "The family pays upwards of \$500 a month to heat their trailer during winter months which is both because of the high cost of propane and numerous air leaks present," said Joe Seidenberg, Red Feather Program Director.



Installing insulation on the
Hopi Reservation

APS partnered with Red Feather to work with homeowners on the Hopi Reservation because of our unique ability to connect with Native American homeowners and quickly resolve incidental to large weatherization challenges. While reducing home energy bills is a priority, the reduction in burning coal and wood to heat homes is a critical priority due to the potential long-term health effects for residents. While the APS partnership provides for basic interventions such as sealing air leaks, replacing insulation and installing weather stripping, Red Feather doesn't stop there. Many homes are in need of much more substantial work like roof repair, broken window replacement and mold remediation. Through our new [Native Home Repair Network](#) program, we are making assessments for that work and helping the homeowners find the funding and resources to make these critical health and safety repairs. This partnership with APS and the village of Shungopavi takes the Red Feather

weatherization program to a new level and we couldn't be more pleased to make this immediate impact for families in need.

Asthma on the Reservation

Today there are over 1 million tribal members residing on US reservation lands. Many live in overcrowded or substandard conditions - conditions that can exacerbate or even cause chronic health conditions, such as asthma. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that tribal communities have almost double the national average asthma rates. An improperly maintained home can lead to building associated illnesses. The housing environment is a major influence on a family's ability to go to work, attend school regularly, and stay healthy. For over a decade, federal and state governments have made a sustained effort to improve the housing conditions in rural America, but with little success in Indian Country. Red Feather offers a ready solution when other remedies have faltered.



- Low-income families typically spend about 14% -16% of their annual income on energy, compared to 3.5% for other households, and Arizona residents pay some of the highest energy costs in the nation. Low-income families often have to cut back on other necessities in order to pay their energy bills
- In Indian Country, 4 percent of housing suffers from severe health and safety problems versus, 1.6 percent for all housing, with 14% of overcrowded homes compared to 5% of homes in the U.S. average.

Snap-shot of the economic disparity on Arizona reservations vs. U.S. overall			
	Hopi Nation	Navajo Nation	US overall
Median Household Income	\$34,016	\$26,314	\$53,498
Income Below Poverty Level	31.9%	37.8%	11.5%
Unemployment	49.9%	22.3%	5.8%

Curley Project in Montana slated to Kick Off

At Red Feather, we believe everyone deserves a warm and healthy home. Bilford Curly, a 69-year old tribal elder of the Northern Cheyenne nation, is a spiritual leader and disabled veteran who struggles every winter to pay monthly heating bills. He is currently raising his four grandchildren and having a healthy environment for this elder and these youngsters is a high priority. Home energy is a crippling financial burden for low-income Montana households, especially on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. On average, households with incomes below the Federal Poverty Level pay 27% of their annual income simply for home energy bills.



Red Feather starts repairs in July for 4 weeks

Red Feather was introduced to Mr. Curley's housing situation last year when the tribal energy assistance office (LIHEAP) referred him for a health and energy audit due to the chronic assistance he receives every year. The building audit revealed improper ventilation in the attic and crawl spaces and substantial deficiencies in both the air and insulation barriers. Deficiencies that likely contribute significantly to his \$500 a month heating bills which many would consider excessive for a 1500 square foot 5 bedroom, 2-bath home.

Red Feather is coordinating a renovation project this summer with the help of the Northern Cheyenne Housing Improvement Program (HIP), Richard Hamilton owner of Talon Construction (a local professional contractor), USDA Rural Development, Home Depot, Owens Corning, St. Labre Indian School, Catholic Heart Work Camp, and Group Work Camp, Red Feather will also be facilitating a crowd funding campaign to help purchase energy-star appliances and other materials. [Consider volunteering with us this summer!](#)

What's New at Red Feather?



Our New Red Feather Website

Please visit www.redfeather.org as soon as you can and learn more about the good work we are doing on the Hopi, Navajo and Northern Cheyenne Reservations. You can find details about each of the nations we are partnered with and volunteer for our new projects in July in Montana. We have upgraded our donation platform that allows you to make monthly donations in a fast and easy way. Give us a look and tell us what you think.

Just in time for summer heat: June Weatherization Workshop slated

On June 18 and 19, Red Feather will host a workshop on [Weatherization in Tuba City, AZ](#). The two-day Do-It-Yourself home weatherization workshop is free to homeowners. Two members of the class will have their homes weatherized by the class. Every attendee receives a home weatherization kit valued at over \$150. Workshops are sponsored by Arizona Public Service (APS). "We anticipate a full workshop as the summer heat encourages people to take measures to keep the cool air in their homes during this time of year" noted John Marian, Red Feather's Director of Education.

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