



Jerri's Fight for a Home

By Trisha Burke at nativehope.com

Home by definition is a place one makes a permanent residence.

Jerri, like most people, wanted a home for her family — a place of stability, warmth and love. As a young, working mother, she devoted herself to making this happen. Unfortunately, an intruder would enter her home and take away her husband.

This intruder not only invaded Jerri's home, but also the homes of many in Indian Country.

Today, Jerri's work at Cheyenne River Indian Outreach deals with helping women and children who have experienced a similar loss.

The intruder

Even though Jerri's work at a youth treatment center was going well, her personal life was an ongoing battle.

At the age of 24, Jerri had three children, and her husband struggled with addiction. He didn't know how to be a father, and unfortunately, their "fresh start" in a new town would soon take a turn for the worse.

At a training for her job at the youth center, Jerri learned about methamphetamines [meth].

"We went to a meth training for work. We learned that it [meth] was coming into Indian Country, and that it would hit hard. They told us to warn our tribal councils," Jerri recounts while shaking her head. "We weren't even ready for it."

The prediction was accurate. Indian Country was flooded with methamphetamines from an unlikely



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— Jerri

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source: Mexican drug cartels. The cartels moved into the reservations and took them by siege.

The abduction

“Ironically, my husband was introduced to meth,” Jerri admits. “He had a lack of interaction with the children, and all of his goals and dreams were crumbling. He had no enthusiasm. He fell into a depression. I thought our relationship was coming to an end; I thought the responsibility [of a family] was too much for him.”

In 2006, Jerri returned to her reservation, Cheyenne River, to handle life on her own with her children.

Jerri’s husband returned, too, and told her they could stay with him and his grandmother until she was settled on her own, but that fell through. Jerri and her children were homeless.

In her desperation, Jerri turned to Cheyenne River Indian Outreach. “I heard they would refer me to the correct resources,” she says. “We stayed there for a month or two.”

Jerri suffered from issues of abandonment and mental abuse. She felt she had failed. “I didn’t have a job; all I had was packed in a car. I felt like I was unworthy of being my kids’ mom.”

It was at this point that she contemplated suicide.

However, through talking to the advocates and the other women at the shelter, Jerri learned about various social services: food stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) and medical assistance. Jerri admits, “The only thing that kept me going was participating in the women’s support groups at the shelter.”

The director of Cheyenne Indian Outreach recognized that Jerri, in spite of her own depression, was still able to have a positive influence on the other women in the shelter. Because of this, the director offered Jerri a job at the shelter.

That vote of confidence empowered Jerri to say, “I can do this.”

Her home

Since returning to Eagle Butte, Jerri has come to realize that her life needs balance. While her children are her priority, Jerri knows she can also make a difference in the lives of other women.

Jerri has found a home as the director of the Family Violence Services Program. She oversees the advocates, who work with women and children, and the first responders.

“When a victim comes to the shelter, she has no control over her situation,” explains Jerri. “She is in survival mode ... she probably doesn’t know how to give her children the care they need.”

Jerri says that meth is no longer just an “intruder” on the reservation, but rather a long-term “resident” in the lives of many seeking shelter. The meth epidemic on the reservation and in our country is a key factor in domestic violence and sexual assault.

Like Jerri, these victims are fighting for a place to find safety, to provide comfort and to call home. Jerri’s story serves as a reminder that it takes fortitude and vision to find a home.

We thank our friends and partners at Native Hope for use of this story. Learn how they are working to empower Native Americans to seek change and pursue a brighter future at nativehope.com.

Leaving a Legacy



Only 35% of adults in the United States have a will. Are you one of them? Without a will, your life-long investments, personal property and hard-earned money may end up going to federal and state governments ... not your family, loved ones or favorite charities, as you would want. The establishment of a will gives you the opportunity to share God’s blessings with those closest and most important to you.

Would you consider making a difference for Native American families when you make these important plans?

To learn more about various ways of giving through your will, request our FREE booklet, *Answers to Questions About Your Will* and our *Will Planning Worksheet*. You can contact our caring staff at 1-605-234-3244 or online at CRIOutreach.org/will.

Be assured you are under no obligation — we offer this only as a service to you.

Domestic Violence Awareness

Staff at Cheyenne River Indian Outreach are always working to educate community members, change attitudes and raise awareness about domestic and sexual violence. Thanks to caring friends — like you — the Family Violence Center served over 300 women and children victimized by domestic violence last year.



The number of women who will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

1 in 4



The number of men who will be victims of severe violence by an intimate partner in their lifetimes.

1 in 7

3

The number of women murdered every day by a current or former male partner in the U.S.



The number of women who have been killed by men in domestic violence disputes since 2003.

18,000

The number of women who have experienced physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes.

38,028,000

The number of days of paid work women lose every year because of the abuse perpetrated against them by current or former male partners. This loss is equivalent to over 32,000 full-time jobs.

8,000,000 days

Worldwide, men who were exposed to domestic violence as children are three to four times more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence as adults than men who did not experience violence as children.

3-4 times more likely

Thank you for sharing your blessings to help put an end to domestic violence everywhere!



Immediate Needs

New and gently used items are welcome and appreciated! Remember, anything you can use in your house, families in need can also use.

Urgent Needs

- bath towels
- socks/underwear (all sizes)
- housewares (kitchen)
- adult clothes (L, XL, XXL)
- teen clothes
- bedding
- shoes/sandals (all sizes)
- kids summer clothing (all sizes)

Special Summer Needs

- balls
- board games
- wii or ps3 games
- toddler yard toys (large and small)
- bicycles

Constant Needs

- kleenex
- shampoo
- hand soap
- body wash
- bath towels and wash cloths
- deodorant
- twin sized bedding
- disposable diapers and baby wipes
- pillows
- gift cards (Walmart, VISA, Family Dollar)
- first aid and medical supplies
- arts & craft supplies
- combs and brushes
- adult and children's clothing (all sizes)

REMEMBER!

Please include your name and address in each package so we can properly thank you.

Our shipping address:

Cheyenne River Indian Outreach
121 Landmark Ave
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Wellness Internship Teaches Wellness on Different Levels



Interns kept food journals, learned about making healthy choices and received health assessments.

Three students from the Cheyenne River Indian Outreach youth center participated in a wellness internship through the Cheyenne River Youth Project. The month-long program introduced students to a variety of topics, touching on wellness in every aspect of life – physical fitness, nutrition, Lakota (Sioux) values, and even finances. Students who completed 60 hours of program activities earned a stipend of \$500.

The program began by introducing students to nutrition. They kept food journals, learned about making healthy choices and received health assessments from a diabetes educator. As they gained an understanding on how different foods affect their bodies, they learned about physical fitness and how their muscles work.

In addition to working on their own wellness, the interns contributed time and effort to the wellness of their community. The group planned and implemented a color run, a cooking class and a community fitness challenge.

It wasn't just about eating right and exercising, though. The wellness interns had the opportunity to take classes and receive certifications in customer service, CPR, financial literacy and food handling.

"It was a great program," said Leah, Director of the Cheyenne River Indian Outreach Child Services Program. "The kids had a lot of fun and learned skills they will use the rest of their lives. It's wonderful to partner with other organizations and give our students opportunities for a brighter future."

NATIVE AMERICANS ARE 2 TO 3 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO DEVELOP TYPE II DIABETES. THIS IS DUE TO THE CHANGE IN DIETS FROM TRADITIONALLY AGRICULTURALLY DRIVEN DIETS TO HIGH CALORIE AND HIGH FAT FOODS CONSUMED.

Will you be their RISING SUN?

When you become a Rising Sun monthly donor, you join a special group of **kolas** — *friends* — committed to making a difference on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation.

Your monthly donation provides a reliable source of income and lowers our fundraising costs, which allows your gift to help even more Native American families.

As a Rising Sun monthly donor, you'll receive special benefits:

- A double dreamcatcher windchime for becoming a member of our **tiyospaye** — *extended family*
- A personal note of thanks from a Native American family
- Reports and success stories made possible by your monthly gift.

Your monthly gift can make a difference in the lives of Native American children and families – EVERY DAY!

- Just \$9 per month will help women at our Family Violence Center who have escaped dangerous situations.
- A pledge of \$15 per month will help support our Child Services Center for abused or neglected children.
- Or, a generous gift of \$20 per month will provide vital resources for the many outreach programs on the reservation!

Remember, they need us 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

Make the most of your gift to the Native American women and children!

How can you make your gift for the Native American women and children on the Cheyenne River Reservation go even further?

Add a corporate match! Many companies match their employees' charitable gifts. Does yours?

It's very simple — contact your company's Human Resources department to see if they offer this wonderful opportunity. Once Cheyenne River Indian Outreach receives your gift along with the matching gift form, we'll take it from there!

Wopila tanka — many thanks — for sharing your blessings with the Native American women and children and asking your company to do the same!

A few corporations we have worked with in the past include:

Abbott	General Electric	Progressive
AIG	General Mills	Prudential
Bank of America	GlaxoSmithKline	Raytheon
Boeing	IBM	Saint-Gobain
Chevron	JPMorgan Chase	Stanley
Colgate-Palmolive	Eli Lilly	Verizon
Dominion	MasterCard	Wells Fargo
Exxon Mobil	Merck	Xcel Energy
FM Global	Nike	
Gap	Pfizer	

Can they count on YOUR help?

Two easy ways to join:

1. Call 1-605-234-3244
2. Visit CRIOutreach.org/donate

Mission Statement

The Cheyenne River Indian Outreach (CRIO) mission is to eradicate violence and oppressive practices by supporting and empowering individuals, families and communities to promote justice, social change and non-violence.

Cheyenne River Indian Outreach (CRIO) is a tax-exempt 501(c)3 organization.