

*Bishop's Thanksgiving 2011 Offering
Native American Ministries
of the
Dakotas Annual Conference*



“We have some outstanding Native American Ministries throughout the Dakotas Conference. These ministries serve many but the need is so vast. During this season of Thanksgiving, prayfully consider your gift for the people that have so little.” Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey, Dakotas Conference

Across the Dakotas there are an estimated 90,000 Native Americans. Fifty percent of these citizens live below the poverty level with an average household income of \$15,000. The unemployment rate is 20% and only 60% of the Native Americans of North and South Dakota graduate from high school. This population is the poorest in our country.

The HOPE Center Rapid City, SD is a relationship-based project of First United Methodist Church in partnership with the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, the South Dakota Community Foundation and the City of Rapid City. The HOPE Center will offer basic day services to the homeless and those without hope in our community. The primary services offered will include a telephone/message center, a mailing center and a small space for individual storage. Contact Doug Diehl at dougdeumc@rushmore.com.

Tree of Life Ministry Mission, SD began in 1985 to establish a Christian presence on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. Services include a food pantry, clothing distribution, meal site, emergency home repairs, crisis center support, suicide prevention, and much more. The food pantry alone serves over 190 families each day of operation or an estimated 760 bags of groceries each week. Contact Russell Masartis at treeoflife@gwtc.net.

Southeast Community Center and United Methodist Church Pierre, SD serves people in need throughout Pierre, SD and the surrounding area.

The ministry includes weekly worship, fellowship and Sunday school. In addition, Southeast holds Busy Bees—a Wednesday evening kids program, and the Community Banquet—a free meal served to over 300 people each week. New and exciting ministries at the church include the formation of a new youth group and men's prayer breakfast. Contact Karl Kroger at karlkroger@gmail.com

Spirit Lake Ministry Center, ND is dedicated to serving the people of the Spirit Lake Nation in north central North Dakota. The Ministry provides a food and clothing pantry, conducts home improvement and maintenance, children's ministry and activities, and Shoebox Christmas. 600 people are served each month in the food pantry. Shoebox Christmas provides gifts to over 4,000 children across five reservations in South Dakota and North Dakota. Contact Mike and Libby Flowers at Childharvest@msn.com

Sioux Falls Community of Shalom: Wesley United Methodist Church, provides a food pantry, weekly meals and worship to children and families, and in partnership with Hillcrest Church a middle school tutorial program in northeast Sioux Falls, SD. The Sioux Falls neighborhood is home to 75% of the Native American children and 83% of the children in poverty in the community. Contact Laura Borman at lborman@att.net.

Four Winds Ministry Fargo, ND is an outreach ministry of Fargo First United Methodist Church. Worship opportunities as well as a food and clothing mission are all provided at the Wesley Center which is next door to Fargo First UMC. Contact Rich Zeck at pastorrwzeck@firstumcfargo.org.

Crow Creek, SD clothing, food and connection are part of the ministry provided on the Crow Creek reservation. Art lessons and supplies for students living in the dorm are also part of this ministry. Contact Pat Croley at patriciacroley@aol.com.

