

# Hope for the First Nations Newsletter

## Executive Directions By Lynn Wilson

HFTFN continues to grow by the grace of God. Our first year had nine team members and eighteen children at VBS. Fifteen years later, we have grown to over 100 team members and at least 350 children participating in Hope Day Camp. Lives, ours and theirs, have been changed because we have been allowed to be a part of this beautiful reservation and its precious people. We have learned so much and are filled with joy every trip we take.

With growth, change must come. Through much prayer, God has moved the hearts of three committed members of our team to take more leadership. My daughter, Lindy Wilson, has recently moved to Minnesota. Her change of location puts her in an ideal position to help HFTFN accomplish its goals. Our very precious teammate from North Dakota, Robyn Gerrells, has agreed to help Lindy with this work. Lindy and Robyn are now the HFTFN co-directors of Minnesota. With so much that is needed to be done, these are the women God has called to do it.

As for the home front, here in Illinois, help is needed and God has brought the right young woman for the job. In our last newsletter, we had pictures from Sara and Jacob Henschen's wedding on the reservation this past summer. That same Sara has stepped up to become the HFTFN director of Illinois. She will be shadowing me till the end of June, and then she will assume the responsibilities of the operations here in Springfield, IL.

As for me, I will remain the Executive Director. I have no intention of leaving HFTFN. However, God has made it clear to me that I need to slow down. My husband and I look forward to spending time together on the open road with our new RV. Also, Creator has given me an assignment that requires quiet time with Him. More to come on that later!

I have complete confidence in these young people that God has brought forth. We all need your prayers as we step into these new roles. Please pray that our Creator will speak clearly and that our hearts and ears will be open to listen as we continue to follow the Waymaker.



The 15 foot Christmas tree at Pine Point.



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### Mission Statement

Partnering with the people of the White Earth Reservation,

Hope for the First Nations is building unity through relationships with Individuals in the community

And sharing the love of Christ in culturally relevant ways.

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The trip begins... DAY ONE... it's Wednesday morning... 5a.m. ... murmurs are heard amongst the team members... "can we REALLY fit ONE MORE BAG into this trailer?"... "where do WE fit??" ... "It's packed!"... "Just make room everyone, we will get to know each other real quick on this trip!" ... "Don't be shy, squeeze in!!" ...

# 2010 Christmas Trip

... Fifteen hours later ... the murmurs have become explicit joy and celebration ... "We are HERE!" ... "We are on the Reservation, White Earth Reservation!!" ... sighs of relief ... and wonderful anticipation ...



Beautiful quilts unpacked and ready to give away.

... DAY TWO... time to get to work ... back into the van ... off to Pine Point ... unpacking ... hours of unpacking ... unpacking the trailer ... organizing the boxes into various locations ... unpacking the boxes .. sorting the gifts from the boxes ... packing pillows into pillow cases... re-packing the empty boxes back into the trailer ... off to the Christmas Party in Nay Tah Waush at the Charter School... "uh oh, who baked the cookies for the party?" ... Party time ... Whew, cookies baked... Clean up time ... head back to camp...not yet...this community needs help in filling over 500 candy bags for their Christmas party ... after dark ... long day ... camp ...cooking ... dinner ... fellowship ...



G'ma and Brynn help to get the Nay Tah Waush party started by singing and dancing to some fun Christmas songs.



Over 200 home-made pillow cases were wrapped around fluffy new pillows.



Marissa and others diligently filled candy bags!!



Everyone got involved at the Nay Tau Waush Charter School !

Mmmm! Beautiful, delicious creativity.



And if you work hard, you must play hard! A few moments were taken for each team member to test the quality of the pillows!



Keeping warm with good friends on a cold winter's night.



We sorted toys for tots gifts by age group.



...DAY THREE ... into the van again ... off to the town of White Earth to load our trailer with the Toys for Tots... travel back to Pine Point ... unpack toys from the trailer... more sorting... create 300 candy bags on behalf of the community... pack a candy bag and toy for every child into the family bags... make another 300 candy bags from HFTFN... bake more cookies... half the team leaves for the party at Elbow Lake community... half the team keep packing up the family bags and drive all over the Pine Point community to judge for the Christmas light contest... off to dinner with local friends and family at Ice Cracking for the infamous "thunder-burgers" .... Back to camp... fellowship... sleep...

... DAY FOUR... Head into Pine Point to cook for about 350 people... PARTY! ... Celebration... good food,...fun times...say good-bye... clean up time...load up ...back to camp...a little rest and relaxation and snow time... pack up camp... ready for the fifteen hours back to Illinois...



Nic and some of the children from the Elbow Lake community looked like they were having fun at their Christmas party. Emma LaRoque, head of the Boys and Girls Club in this community (pictured above with G'ma), appeared to be having fun also!



Spreading Christmas cheer with Elvis!



Strong man Ian dragged the tree out of the building after the festivities!



Amanda stirring kool-aid with a cookie sheet, the mother of innovation!



Shelbi and Brynn, ready and willing and able to serve



Nic was hard at work preparing corn!



And the rest of the crew... well, they were out ice skating!

...DAY FIVE... Sunday... some stayed in Minnesota... some traveled fifteen more hours in the van ...safely back to Springfield, IL...more than half the team traveling on to other locations... Missouri... Nebraska... hopeful to return again next year...



Lindy with the newest member of our team, Jesse. His hard work was greatly appreciated.



Our 2010 Christmas trip team members: Shelbi, Marissa, Sara, Bria, Brynn, Nic, Amanda, Robyn, Ian, Lindy, and Jesse (G'ma Lynn is taking the picture)

To share Christmas with our friends of White Earth gives us a deeper understanding of what the holiday season is really about. Creator has greatly blessed us, our lives are forever changed because of the love we all share together. Thank you for being a part of our journey.



During this week LCU students helped prepare and serve a meal to the elders of the Pine Point Community.

Hope for the First Nations is partnering for the second year with Lincoln Christian University and their Week of Evangelism. G'ma, Lindy and Robyn will be taking a team to the reservation March 4 - 11 and another team including Sara will go April 15 - 22. The students will be working in the Pine Point Grade School during the day as teacher's aides and on work projects. After school they will help with The Boys and Girls Club. One day they will cook lunch for for the elders. We are honored for the opportunity to share in the lives of the students from LCU. And we are always overjoyed to return to White Earth.

### Week of E Partners with HFTFN



We even participated in fun activities such as painting a huge wall size "Tree of Life" picture, washing the buses and washing down the gym walls.



### Our Newest Board Member: Her Story By Emily Dorsey

It's hard to believe that it's been nearly nine years since my first trip to the White Earth Indian Reservation with HFtFN! I started as a freshman in high school who, on a whim, signed up for a mission trip that changed my life forever. The trip forced me to step out of my comfort zone into a world vastly different from my own.

After years of returning to White Earth, I started to see the world from a different perspective. I learned the importance of understanding cultures different from my own and experienced the warming and exhilarating feeling of helping others. Over time, I have seen the children of White Earth grow into young adults.

I have watched, in awe, as HFtFN transformed from a Vacation Bible School held in a small chapel on the outskirts of the reservation, to a respected organization that partners with the White Earth community to build lasting and meaningful relationships.

In HFtFN, I found friends that have become family and a purpose for my life. I recently graduated from the University of Illinois - Springfield with a Bachelor's degree in social work, a degree inspired by HFtFN's work on White Earth. I'm excited for what my future holds. I know that wherever life takes me, I will always be connected to HFtFN and the White

Earth Indian Reservation. I am forever grateful for the blessing this trip has been to my life.

- Emily "Emma" Dorsey





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*"In His name the nations will put their hope." Matthew 12:21*



Hebrew Letters for the Name of God—YHWH

### Please, Join us this Summer:

Week One: June 4 — 11\*\*  
Week Two: June 11 — 18

**\*\* An excellent benefit in staying for both weeks is the White Earth Powwow that we attend on Saturday the 12th. Plus you get a little more time to enjoy the full facility campground where hiking, fishing, kayaking and many other adventures await you! Applications on our website...[www.hopefortheirstnations.org](http://www.hopefortheirstnations.org)**

### An Introduction to the HDC Curriculum for 2011

Stop. Think for a moment. Have you ever had a best friend, even an imaginary best friend. Someone you trusted with all your secrets. All your hopes, fears and dreams of the future. Think of the safest person you know. Is it Adonai, the Lord, your Creator? If not, why not? Are you confident in saying that you know Him fully, His character and His personality? Do you know His dreams for our future? Do you really know the things that He fears for us, or the hopes He has in us and for us, His people?

Admittedly, we as human beings are not quick to trust and accept others whom we are unfamiliar with. Most of us spend a sort of 'trial period' of getting to know another before letting them into our 'inner circle'. Why should we believe that our relationship with our Creator is any different? At HDC this year we look forward to helping children establish a foundation for getting to know the Creator. Beginning at the beginning, we will spend time getting to know the Great "I AM" of the Holy Scriptures, his personality and his character through the names given to His people within the Old and New Testaments. Please pray for us as we prepare in sharing these lessons and also that the hearts and ears of the children will be open to hear the messages!

### Necessities for the Next Journey

As we begin to think of the upcoming dates for the summer trip it also brings to mind the items we will need for this year's HDC and community donations. Please join HFTFN in collecting the following items:

- † Blankets
- † Towels
- † Sheets
- † Books
- † Stuffed Animals

Please remember these items are a symbol of God's provision for His people and "God doesn't make junk". New or like new items are most appreciated.

**We are *always* blessed by your partnership with HFTFN. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement and support of this ministry using the talents, gifts and grace bestowed upon you through the Lord Jesus Christ, Ye'Shua, our Messiah.**