

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Become an annual member.

Levels of membership include:

- Meadowlark: \$25
- Owl: \$50
- White Crane: \$75
- Crow: \$100
- Hawk: \$200
- Eagle: \$500
- Thunderbird: \$1,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

*(Checks can be made payable to  
Lakota Kidz)*

### Become a volunteer.

We'd love you to get involved. We can use help with fundraising, planning events, collecting donations, community outreach, and much more. Give us a call at 781-925-9395 or email us at [info@lakotakidz.org](mailto:info@lakotakidz.org).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact us at:

Lakota Kidz  
P.O. Box 696  
Hull, MA 02045  
[info@lakotakidz.org](mailto:info@lakotakidz.org)  
781-925-9395



Visit our web site at: [www.lakotakidz.org](http://www.lakotakidz.org)

### *For the Future of Our Past...*

*We can never change the past for  
Native Americans,  
but with your help,  
we can change the future.*

**Lakota Kidz**, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 2004, staffed entirely by volunteers, and funded solely by private donations and grants – is dedicated to making brutal winters a little warmer, and to supporting Head Start programs, for the Lakota Sioux living in Wanblee, South Dakota, the poorest town in the poorest county in the nation



# LAKOTA KIDZ





## **WHO WE ARE**

### **About John Paul Sullivan and the Founding of Lakota Kidz**

Beginning in 1991, humanitarian

John Paul Sullivan made the holidays a little brighter, and the brutal winters a little warmer, for the 500 families of Wanblee, South Dakota. A telephone lineman, he would load up donations of blankets, warm clothes and other donated items, and haul them out to Wanblee, a small town on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Reservation. He continued this effort for years, and was recognized with a number of awards, including citations from *People* magazine and the Boston Celtics.

As one example of the staggering depths of poverty there, when John Paul once gave a blanket to a 70-year-old man, the man broke down and cried. He had never before owned a blanket, and had slept on and under his clothes all his life.

In 2004, Mr. Sullivan's friends founded Lakota Kidz, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, to help him in his efforts. In our first year, we provided 72 Wanblee families with food and winter clothing.

But with the rising fuel costs, and cost of delivering the donated items, we realized that a much more direct way and better use of funds, would be to help take the bite out of winter heating costs with a Fuel Assistance Program, to support the local Head Start program, and to run an annual Holiday Gift Giving Program

for kids 17 and under.

In 2005, we heated 15 homes for the winter, and in 2006, we heated 19, and in 2007, 25. Our ultimate goal is to reach out to the entire town. But to do that, we need your help.

### **LAKOTA KIDZ PROGRAMS**

Lakota Kidz provides assistance in three areas, Fuel Assistance Program, Head Start and Holiday Gift Giving. 100% of all funds raised by our organization go directly into these programs. We have no salaries and no overhead.

#### **FUEL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Two of our members live on the reservation and help us identify and prioritize the families in need, based on factors such as family size, income, number of children/elderly and heating systems (wood stove, propane, electricity). Many of these homes are not insulated, have bare floors and no electricity. We have set up an account with a local propane vendor and each year open a non-transferable account for each of the approved families. Each family is allotted a certain amount of fuel per month. We receive and monitor monthly statements from the fuel company to ensure that fuel is distributed equitably and according to our specifications.

#### **HEAD START PROGRAM**

Head Start, a national program administered

through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, serves the child development needs of preschool children, birth through age five, and their low-income families. Federal funding for the program, however, has been reduced dramatically over recent years. Lakota Kidz helped shore up the struggling Wanblee Head Start School by purchasing office supplies, arts and crafts supplies, and 16 bicycles for graduation presents. We also helped pay for the unfunded school lunch program.

In 2006, Oglala Lakota College took over the administration of Head Start from the Tribal Council. We are told that conditions have improved considerably, due to the college's superior resources. Lakota Kidz is currently working with the college to determine areas in which we can be of help.

#### **HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING PROGRAM**

Each year Lakota Kidz holds a Holiday Gift Giving program for the children of Wanblee. The program focuses on providing kids and teens both the necessities, like warm winter clothing, as well as gifts that will bring joy and pleasure to their holidays. Our early program worked by collecting toys randomly and shipping them to the reservation, but we found the cost and specificity of an online Wish List at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) much more efficient and well received. Thanks to your generosity, each year more than 100 children receive gifts they wouldn't otherwise receive.