



Cheyenne River
Youth Project®

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Cheyenne River Youth Project
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**THE CHEYENNE RIVER YOUTH PROJECT® ANNOUNCES \$25,000
BUSH FOUNDATION CHALLENGE GRANT FOR EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUND**

In Wake of Disastrous Ice Storm, Youth Project Also Launches Generator Fund Drive

EAGLE BUTTE, SD (February 15, 2010) – In late January, the Cheyenne River reservation on north-central South Dakota’s high prairie was struck by a major ice storm. The storm brought down thousands of power poles, leaving the 2.8-million-acre reservation — and area the size of Connecticut — without electricity.

That meant no heat in subzero temperatures, and it meant no drinking water. The tribe’s \$175,000 emergency fund quickly ran out. Food supplies dwindled, and emergency shelters found themselves coping with shortages of literally everything - from diapers and formula to blankets, medical supplies and even toilet paper. Dialysis patients were evacuated to Rapid City and the Pine Ridge reservation.

The Cheyenne River Youth Project® has done its part to help, supplying blankets to residents and the Indian Health Service hospital; hygiene packets, disposable diapers and baby food to area residents; and diabetic supplies and Band-Aids for the command center to distribute to shelters.

“While electricity has now been restored to much of Cheyenne River, service remains suspended in some areas,” said Julie Garreau, CRYP’s executive director. “Many families are still suffering, so I’m delighted to report that the Bush Foundation is giving \$25,000 to the South Dakota Community Foundation so that it can manage a Cheyenne River Emergency Support Fund.”

This is a challenge grant, which means that for each dollar donated to the fund, the Bush Foundation will donate a dollar. This fundraising effort has the potential to raise \$50,000 to assist the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe as it recovers from the ice storm’s disastrous aftermath.

Running Strong for American Indian Youth®, CRYP’s sister organization and a fellow affiliate of Christian Relief Services Charities, has just announced that it will provide \$12,500 to help meet the Bush Foundation’s \$25,000 challenge grant goal.

The Cheyenne River Emergency Support Fund information is now on the foundation’s home page. To learn more and to make a donation, visit www.bushfoundation.org.

In addition, CRYP is launching a Generator Fund Drive in the wake of January’s storm and subsequent reservation-wide disaster.

“Our goal is to raise enough money to purchase generators that will power the Cokata Wiconi Teen Center and the Main Youth Center in the event of another crisis,” Garreau explained. “Not only will generator power guard

against burst pipes and protect the thousands of dollars' worth of donated food for our children's daily hot meals and snacks, the generators will allow us to offer our facilities as emergency shelters for our community."

To make a contribution to the CRYP Generator Fund, please send a check to the Cheyenne River Youth Project at P.O. Box 410, East Lincoln Street, Eagle Butte, SD 57625, or visit www.lakotayouth.org, click "Help CRYP" and select "Monetary Donations."

"We want to thank all of our friends around the country — and the world — for their steadfast support during this difficult time on our reservation," Garreau said. "Through their contributions, assistance in getting the word out and concerned letters, emails, Facebook posts and phone calls, they boosted our spirits more than they could possibly know. And we're deeply grateful."

To learn more about the Cheyenne River Youth Project® and its programs, and for information about making donations and volunteering, call (605) 964-8200 or visit CRYP's recently redesigned Web site at www.lakotayouth.org. And, to stay up to date on the latest CRYP news and events, visit the youth project's new [Facebook group page](#). All group members will receive regular updates through Facebook.

The Cheyenne River Youth Project, founded in 1988, is a grassroots, not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing the youth of the Cheyenne River reservation with access to a vibrant and secure future through a wide variety of culturally sensitive and enduring programs, projects and facilities that ensure strong, self-sufficient families and communities.