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Running in Support of CR Youth Project!



Runners took to the streets on Sunday, April 19, 2009 on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Lotta Schneidemesser, a former long term volunteer, ran the North Blackforest Marathon as a fundraiser for the Cheyenne River Youth Project® in Egenhausen, Germany. The youth of Cheyenne River also ran that day; the Okiciyapi Run was organized by Wiyaka Chasing Hawk, Wellness Coordinator, in support of Lotta's fundraising efforts, her time on Cheyenne River, and all past, present and future volunteers who come to the Cheyenne River Youth Project®.

The four-mile Okiciyapi Run reflected three of the seven sacred Lakota values; Waokiya (wah-o-kee-ya) — to help others when needed. This value was exhibited by former volunteer Lotta through her service to our community and her marathon fundraising efforts in Germany. Waehakekta (wah-ee-ha-keektah) — to never leave anyone behind, was exhibited by all who ran the Okiciyapi Run in Eagle Butte because each runner waited for and encouraged one another, running as a group. Waouhiha (wah-o-heena) — to honor and respect, was a part of the Okiciyapi event when a moment of

silence was taken for the passing of one of our most respected elders, Lyonne Jewett Garreau, the mother of CRYP's Executive Director Julie Garreau.

Twenty four runners, age 4 to 45, participated in the Eagle Butte run — each pinned with the number 36 to their shirt in support of Lotta, as it was her marathon number. CRYP staff and volunteers provided all runners with a hearty meal of soup, fry bread and wojapi after the event.

The Okiciyapi Run was supported by several programs including the Youth Diabetes Program, Dana Dupris and the Wisdom Keepers KLND radio show, the Four Bands Healing Center, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement and Aaron Widow of the Veteran's Industries. We are very grateful for their support.

Not only did Lotta run in support of the Cheyenne River Youth Project,® she earned a second-place cup in the half-marathon with her finish time! She was able to run that day knowing that the exact same time the youth of Cheyenne River were also running in support of her!



Roots and Wings



"There are two lasting bequests we can give our children: one is roots. The other is wings."

-Hodding Carter Jr.

At CRYP, we believe the gardening program provides our children both roots and wings, connecting them to the traditional foods and growing methods of their ancestors, and providing them with knowledge and

a sense of responsibility for a brighter tomorrow. Roots took hold in the Winyan Toka Win Garden in late May. Children of the Main and teen center all participated in a "Planting Day" this year in which all the beds of the garden were prepared and planted. Each year, CRYP volunteers, children and community participants work hard in the 2.5-acre, naturally grown garden to provide nutritious foods to the community while they also learn to respect the land, the water and the plants. Harvested produce is incorporated into meals at the Cheyenne River Elderly Nutrition Center and The Main. The produce is also processed and sold fresh at our weekly farmers market.

The youth center began its seasonal Garden Club in June. Children each made their own Garden Journal and a presentation board was created by children and volunteers at the Main to showcase the work of Garden Club as the summer progresses. The children go into the garden every Tuesday and Thursday. This year, children are responsible for different sections of the garden, each of them working diligently by weeding and watering so that their crop will flourish. Garden Club will continue until the end of harvest season in late September at which time a Harvest Party will be planned to celebrate the hard work of all of those involved.

Teens Participate in Conference

On May 7 and 8, the Cheyenne River Youth Project® sent four youth to Ft. Yates, South Dakota to participate in native youth panel at the Wowicala "Belief" Youth Wellness Conference at the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's Prairie Knights Pavilion. The panel consisted of representatives from Rosebud, Standing Rock and Cheyenne River. CRYP youth R.J. Lawrence, Shane Bad Warrior, Nicole Norman, and Jenna White Feather were selected to participate based on their character and regular attendance of Teen Center events and were accompanied by Alexandra Meador, Youth Programs Director and Wiyaka Chasing Hawk, Wellness Coordinator.

The conference included local area schools of the Standing Rock Reservation. The panelists had the opportunity to listen to several guest speakers addressing topics such as higher education, culture, teen suicide and self-esteem.

When it was time for presentations, our youth began with a DVD presentation about the Cheyenne River Youth Project® and the reservation, and then each panelist spoke on different issues including fundraising, volunteering, challenges the youth face on Cheyenne River, lifestyle choices of parents and how that affects children, activities and events of the Teen Center, Lakota culture and future opportunities, such as business and entrepreneurship possibilities for teens. The panelists represented the Cheyenne River Youth Project® and the teenage community of Cheyenne River well!



Don't forget to join our "Cause" on Facebook!

We are attempting to transition completely to e-newsletters, but before we do we want to make sure that everyone who receives our print newsletter has the opportunity to sign up!

So, if we do not have your e-mail address, please send it to tamara@lakotayouth.org in order to receive our monthly e-newsletter.

Midnight Basketball Season Kicks-Off Strong

Midnight Basketball kicked off the 2009 summer season on Friday, June 5, 2009. Midnight Basketball, founded more than 10 years ago by a former volunteer, is an alternative program that provides the teenage youth of Cheyenne River a safe and organized environment every Friday night throughout the summer months. The first Midnight Basketball drew over 20 children for the "Junior Midnight Basketball," which runs from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm, and 82 participants in the signature Midnight Basketball event. The teens had the opportunity to take part in a 3-on-3 tournament, 3-point shootout and dunk contest, all based on the NBA All Star Games. Lacy Leaf of Cheyenne River, Charlie Mitchell and Zander Gopfert, both volunteers from Waring



High School in Beverly, Massachusetts took home 1st place as "The Celtics" in the 3-on-3 tournament. The 3-point shootout contest saw Nate Widow win the title and Devero Yellow Earring started the summer off as the Dunk Contest 1st place winner. All winners were given t-shirts, donated by Chase Iron Eyes and designed by Tammy Granados, Youth Programs Assistant. The Indian Child Welfare Agency supported our kick-off event with grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. The Methamphetamine Awareness Prevention Project donated cases of water to the teenage participants. The first Midnight Basketball event was enjoyed by all who attended and we look forward to a fun and safe summer!

Upcoming Events

July

- Literacy and Garden Programs
- Midnight Basketball
- Annual Youth Center Carnival
- "A Rotterdam November" Concert
- Schwan's Truckload Fundraiser
- SD Community Foundation Non-Profit Community Training
- Service Groups Visit

August

- Literacy and Garden Programs
- Hand Drum Contest
- Movie Showings in Teen Center
- Art Therapy Sessions Begin in Youth Center
- Midnight Basketball and Finale 3-on-3 Tournament
- Back to School Parties

September

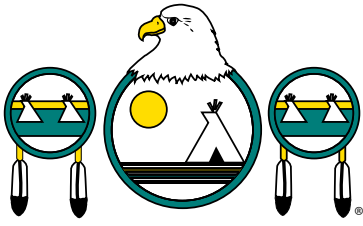
- Labor Day Parade Float
- 3-on-3 Fair Basketball Tournament
- Running Strong Donor Tour
- Main University Begins
- Garden Club
- Harvest Season Party
- Art Program in Teen Center

Summer Literacy Program



The Main children were offered a small prize incentive program this year, which to date has been wildly successful. The kids have to complete two book reports in order to choose a prize from the bin. To complete the book reports, children have to read a book in their age range and answer questions such as "What was your favorite part of the book" and "How did the book end."

Younger children below basic reading levels are assisted by the volunteers. This summer, junior volunteers from the teen center, such as the teenager shown in the picture, also assisted the younger children in completing reports. Children who work consistently throughout the summer will be rewarded by a summer's end camping trip as well. By the end of June, the program had 35 youth participants and 193 books read.



Cheyenne River Youth Project

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Christmas Toy Drive

Christmas is just around the corner and we need your help! Every year we bring Christmas gifts to over 1000 children on Cheyenne River. But we can't do it without your help.

How YOU can help:

- Donate online. Cash donations are fast, easy and 100% tax deductible. Just go to our website www.lakotayouth.org, and go to Help CRYP.
- Request a wish list and buy the presents yourself. Just e-mail tamara@lakotayouth.org.
- Get others involved! Coordinate a toy drive at your church or school that benefits CRYP!

The high cost of fuel puts our programs into jeopardy every winter. It is because of your generous support that we are able to offer much needed programming during the harsh winter months. Please consider making a cash donation to help us keep our doors open for children this winter!

Your Donation is Tax Deductible

Please remember that all cash donations are **100% tax-deductible**. Any donation, big or small helps! Thank you for your support!

If your name or address is incorrect please notify us immediately!

Family Services Distributes Shoes

Through the Family Services Program, the Cheyenne River Youth Project continues our mission to serve youth by supporting their parents, grandparents and other relatives. With basic needs secured, parents and guardians are better able to give their children the guidance they need. Every year, Family Services hosts seasonal distributions to meet the most immediate needs of our families. CRYP's Annual Shoe Distribution was held on June 18th in the Cokata Wiconi Teen Center gym for

all those with memberships. The drive lasted from 10am-5pm and families



had the option of browsing and selecting free books while waiting to choose their shoes. Over 51 families were served and over 249 pairs of shoes were distributed to children and their parents. The shoes for this distribution

were generously donated by Christian Relief Services Charities and several individual donors.



New T-Shirts, Hoodies, Sweatshirts and Long-sleeved T-shirts are available. Call (605) 964-8200 to order yours today!