

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Three years in...

What a difference three years make. I arrived on site July 8th, 2020. In the heart of the pandemic, nothing was normal. No visitors were allowed on the reservation; we had not had a group in months, and no idea when we would be able to host groups again. Kid's Time was delivering activity packages and snacks. The Job Corp had just come back to work we had just started handing out sandwiches. Following COVID guidelines we did our best to keep people safe.

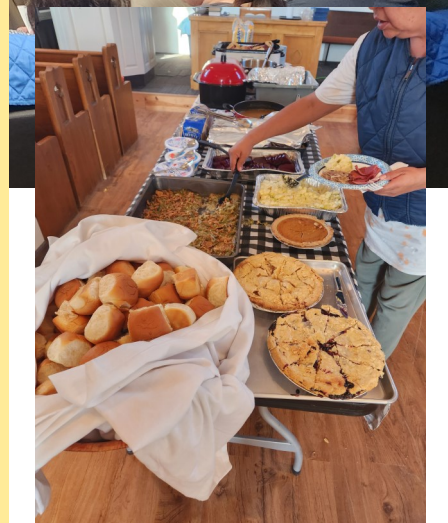
A lot has changed in the last 3 years. Groups have returned. We love having the visitors. As I write this we have 13 people in the for an immersion. **Tony Walking** has been hired in part to be the Immersion Director. (More on Tony on page 4).

The newest program is the Homeless shelter. In partnership with Iglutheca we are providing a safe warm place for people to get their lives together. Funding for the shelter came from an housing grant with the State of South Dakota and the ELCA. (See page 5 for more information.)

Henry Brown is now the Director of Youth and Family. He and his staff work with 75-80 kids per week and the older kid program is off to a great start. (See below for more details.)

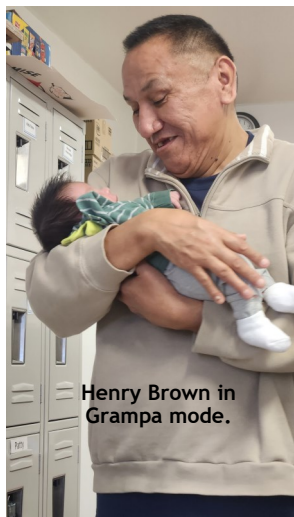
We have remodeled the center and adapted to our new reality. We even built a new sleeping room.

The energy program was busier then ever last season and the requests are already coming in for this winter. (Page 2 for more information.)



A community meal.

How You are Making a Difference.



Henry Brown in Grampa mode.

Children & Youth—Henry Brown!

Kid's Time remains an important part of the work of the center.

Henry Brown was hired to be the Director of Youth and Families. Henry has 30+ years of experience in the community working with kids. Kids he worked with now have kids in our program.

We are currently feeding the kids 2 nights a week and 2 nights of activities and snacks. We average 75 kids a week. We are gearing up for the holiday season. The dedicated Kid's time staff makes sure that the kids know that they are

safe and cared about.

Weekly we receive donations of food to allow us to provide a food pack for the kids each Friday. Thanks to all who send us goodies.

Your support is needed!

The center needs your financial support to continue to do the work we do.

Immersion

We are open for Immersions and look forward to groups joining us in the coming months.

Sign up now!

Immersion at PRRC can be life changing.

Pastor Dan is available for Zoom and possibly in person visit to discuss the importance of Immersion.

Contact us for more information!

Pineridge.center@gmail.com

Energy Matching

Because of the generosity of people like you, during the 2022-23 heating season, 320 households benefited from this program. Those households included 1,521 people. Word got out on Facebook and during a 2 day period in December we had 105 applications. We received multiple thank you notes

We received support for the energy program from 39 different states! ***Our goal for the 2023-24 heating season to raise \$75,000 in assistance.***

We have already begun receiving inquiries about when the energy assistance matching program will begin and anticipate greater need this year due to all the severe weather we have been experiencing. Please consider partnering with us to help provide heating fuel for families this year. If you want to make a financial contribution to the Energy Assistance Matching Fund, please: Make your check out to: "Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center"

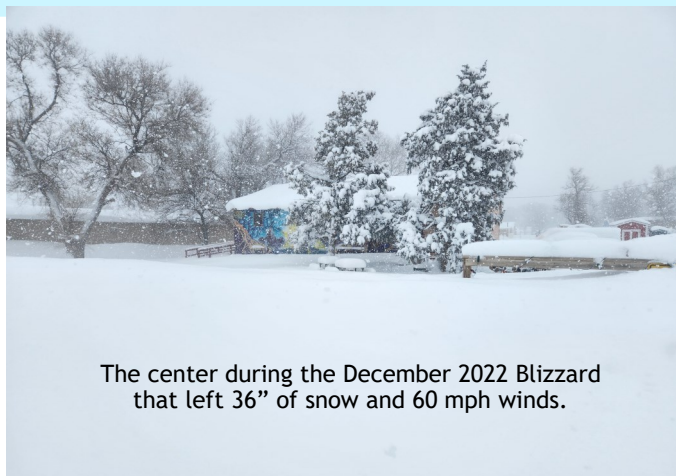
- Designate your donation to: "Energy Assistance"

Send your contribution to: **Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center
PO BOX 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770**

[Donate - PINE RIDGE RECONCILIATION CENTER](#)



The inside of the front door.



The center during the December 2022 Blizzard that left 36" of snow and 60 mph winds.



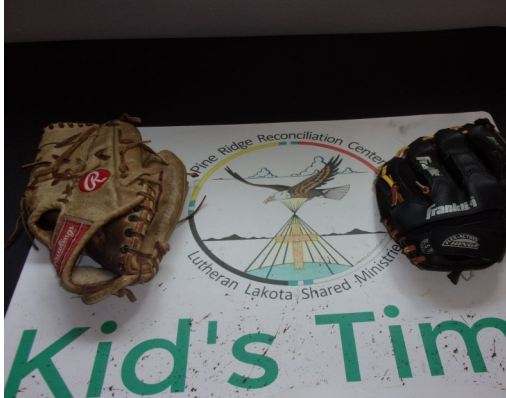
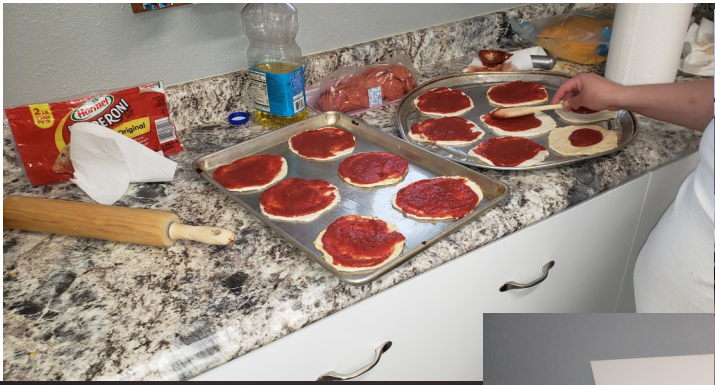
We have an Intern!!! —Lessanes Goings!

Thanks to a new program from the ELCA we are able to have an intern.

Lessanes Goings is a young adult from Pine Ridge. Starting September 1st 2023 Lessanes began a year as our Vocational Fellowship Intern. She will be active in all the aspects in the life of the center. She lives in Pine Ridge Village and started with us in our Kid's Program team.

She is an excellent cook and speaks the Lakota Language. She is excited to be with us.

When you visit the center be sure to say hello.



Pictures of
some of the
Kid's Time.
and
donations
we have
received.

Cultural Immersions

We are excited to announce that in May the South Dakota Synod council approved hiring **Tony Walking as the Director of Immersions!**

Tony is Pine Ridge Lakota man with great ties to the community. He has introduced many new and exciting speakers and organizations to the immersion roster. He has been well received by our visitors.

We were excited to welcome returning groups and several new groups. Each group brought a different energy and vibe. Some of the groups came specifically to spend time with the kid's programming.

Several provided cultural food for the kids including SUSHI! The kids loved it!

"I'm struggling to identify a part of the trip that I didn't enjoy. Perhaps my least favorite part of my experience was the discomfort that I felt as I came into a deeper understanding of America's role in the devastation of the Lakota peoples and their culture."

"Oakbrook Church's immersion trip to Pine Ridge was outstanding in every way. It was educational, eye-opening, challenging, and powerfully moving all at the same time. I felt like my own spirituality was deepened as I learned about Lakota spirituality. We met so many amazing people – Pastor Dan, Tony, Virgil, Jamie, etc. Oakbrook Church will definitely return to the PRRC."

In the last couple of years we have hosted visitors from Africa, England, Germany, Switzerland, and had Chinese and Korean groups. Additionally, we had groups from New Jersey, New York city, Washington DC, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas,.... Well you get the idea.

We are accepting applications for 2024!

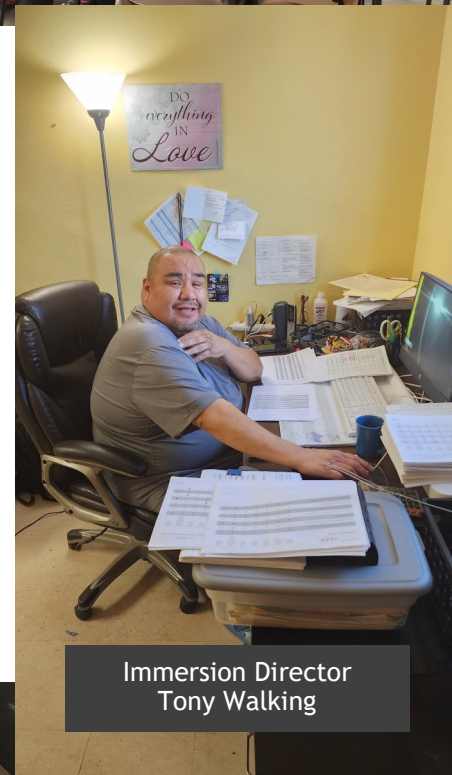
Come see what we are all about.



Sushi!



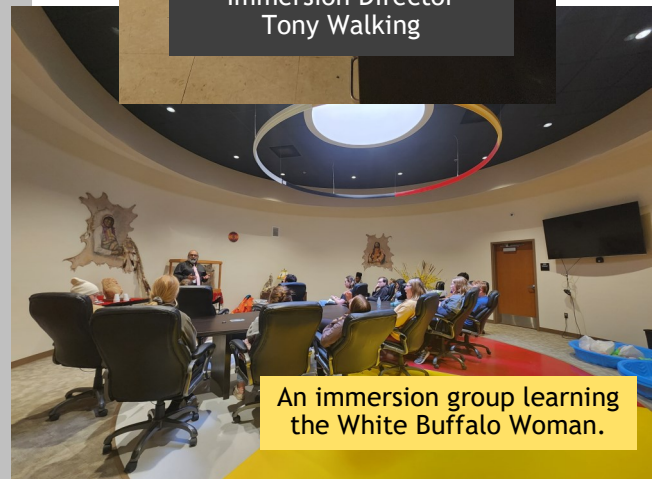
Dinner with the kid's



Immersion Director
Tony Walking



An artist teaching an
immersion group.



An immersion group learning
the White Buffalo Woman.



Homelessness Shelter.

The Emergency Services Grant we were awarded from the South Dakota Housing authority is ending this month. This grant allowed us to continue to serve the homeless community of Pine Ridge. The funding provided from the grant helped us operate the center as a day shelter for the homeless community. The homeless community can shower, do laundry, have a meal, and have a safe place to stay out of the weather.

The grant allowed us to rehouse 66 families into permanent homes. We work with them to find a place and then after they move in, we stay in contact providing encouragement and guidance to ensure it is a successful transition. Tony Walking is the face of the center to the clients we serve.



This grant and funding we received from the ELCA allows us to work with our local partner, Iglutheca, to operate the homeless shelter for the community. We use the center as a day shelter allowing showers, laundry, and a warm safe place. At night we run another building providing a safe place for the homeless community to spend the night. One of my favorite memories is the Christmas dinner and fellowship we had with the homeless community.



Pine Ridge Reservation

The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, also called Pine Ridge Agency, is the Oglala Lakota Indian reservation located in South Dakota. It consists of 3,468.85 sq mi of land area and is one of the largest reservations in the United States. Pine Ridge is the site of several events that mark milestones in the history between the Sioux and the United States.

Located at the southern end of the Badlands, the reservation is part of the mixed grass prairie, part of the Great Plains.

Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

Fostering mutual trust, respect and understanding while addressing the deep poverty that exists on the reservation.

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Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

PO Box 862

Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Make an online donation: sdsynod.org/donate.
Choose Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center in the drop down

Pine Ridge Reservation

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E-mail: pineridge.center@gmail.com

