

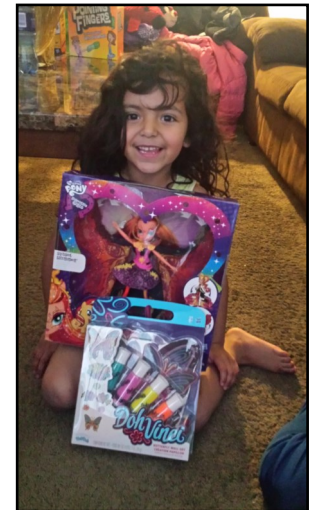
Fall/Winter 2017



# WALKING SHIELD, INC.

*SERVING AMERICAN INDIAN FAMILIES FOR 30 YEARS*

## DELIVER HOLIDAY JOY AND HOPE TO RESERVATIONS



Join us as we collect new toys and humanitarian aid for the precious little ones of American Indian families. Your support as a volunteer or a financial contributor will help "Santa" deliver warm smiles to the coldest areas of rural America. Help us beat our 2016 record of 20,000 toys!

## THANK YOU FOR A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!



College students in Walking Shield's Education Program are grateful for the generosity of everyone who participated in our 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at the Barona Creek Golf Club. The event, which raised \$25,000 for scholarships and other educational services, has become an annual celebration of all who support our future American Indian leaders.

# WALKING SHIELD'S BRILLIANT SCHOLARS SOAR



“Walking Shield has been a tremendous supporter throughout my undergraduate career. I received help with tutoring, financial aid and books. They always reached out to me to make sure I was doing well at school. I cannot thank Walking Shield enough for what they have done for me.”

Krystal Rose Lira  
Laguna Pueblo/Barona Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
2017 Graduate ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE, Billings, MT  
BS in Psychology and BA in Communications Studies



“I want to thank everyone at Walking Shield for all the assistance during my years at UCLA. They eased my debt burden and gave me the peace of mind I needed to concentrate on my studies. In addition to the financial aid, I truly appreciated the kindness from Lynda and Lisa, who were tremendously supportive.”

Gordon Dorrity  
Oglala Sioux Tribe  
2017 Graduate UCLA  
BS in Biology



“I am extremely grateful for the Walking Shield Education Program for their support, which enables me to attend this beautiful campus! This is my first time living outside of Southern California, and I am falling in love with all the nature in this area.

I came to Humboldt a week before school started to meet other students pursuing the same degree. I was also introduced to the faculty associated with my major.”

Sirena Torres  
San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians  
First Year at HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY  
Major: Environmental Science and Management, emphasis on Ecological Restoration



# ONESIGHT DELIVERS HOPE FOR BRIGHT FUTURES

**Access is something we often take advantage of in our lives.** When standing among children who have never received a professional eye examination, it's humbling to witness the wide gap that still exists in America between basic vision care and impoverished families.

The OneSight Vision Clinics coordinated by Walking Shield are reducing this gap by increasing access to better eye care. For a child, a pair of prescription glasses opens doors to a better education. Such a simple remedy can have a lasting impact, especially for students in elementary grades.

"It lifted my spirits to watch our children see clearly—some for the first time," Rick Winters, interim superintendent, Mary Walker School District said.

Overall, **1,344 students and adults received free eye exams** in October during a OneSight Vision Clinic on the Spokane Indian Reservation in Washington. From this group, 72 percent needed prescription eye wear.

In September, Walking Shield assisted Turtle Mountain Tribe leadership in coordinating a OneSight Vision Clinic on their reservation. **More than 1,614 students and adults received eye exams.** Of this group, 71 percent received prescription glasses.



*The smiles express volumes of gratitude to the volunteer vision care experts of OneSight. Over the years, thousands of American Indian families have benefited from its free vision care.*

# OPERATION WALKING SHIELD

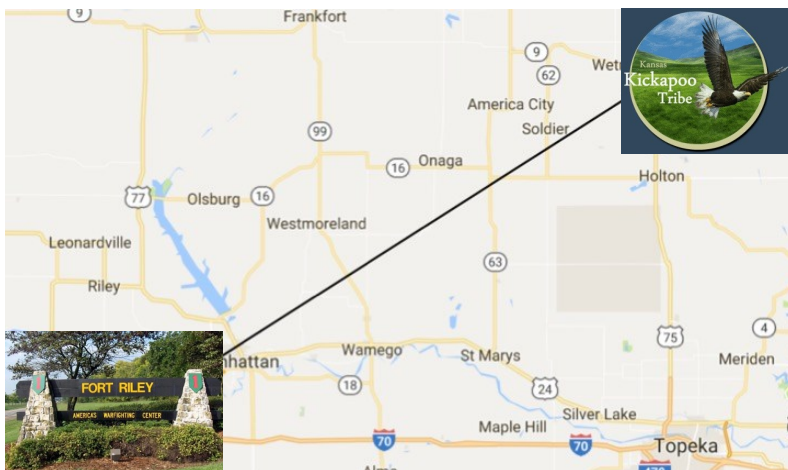
## COLLABORATION LEADS TO HOUSING SOLUTION FOR FAMILIES

Families of the Kickapoo Nation in Kansas are settling in their new homes made possible through the coordination of Operation Walking Shield with the Department of the Army, the Kickapoo Nation Housing Authority and Corvias Military Living. The tribe received the homes from the U.S. Army installation at Fort Riley, Kansas.

“The transfer of homes from a base to a reservation is a practical and cost effective housing solution for rural American Indian families,” Dr. John Castillo, executive director of Walking Shield, Inc. said. “A quality home slated for demolition now provides a family a safer and healthier place to live and build a promising future for the children.”

The homes, which were transported by semi-trailers, were originally slated for demolition at the base. Fort Riley, LLC, the privatized partnership between the U.S. Army and Corvias Military Living, worked with Operation Walking Shield to save and donate the homes to help meet the Kickapoo Nation’s housing needs.

“We are totally excited about this because we get to work with Fort Riley and Operation Walking Shield,” Kickapoo Tribal Council Chairman Lester Randall said. “What this does for us is it gives our reservation members living in multi-family households an opportunity to have their own home, whether it’s rented or owned, and that will help economically, help the tribe and allow members to move back to the reservation.”



*“A quality home slated for demolition now provides a family a safer and healthier place to live and build a promising future for the children.”*

Dr. John Castillo

# OPERATION WALKING SHIELD ADVANCES TRIBAL QUALITY OF LIFE

## **INFRASTRUCTURE: BLACKFEET NATION RESERVATION AND CROW AGENCY RESERVATION (MONTANA)**

Like dinosaurs of a lost age, giant earth movers shape the landscape in preparation for a housing expansion and to improve road conditions for the Blackfeet Nation Reservation near Browning, Montana. Through the Innovative Readiness Training (IRT), US Army Reserve and US Navy Seabee personnel gain valuable experience in using the heavy equipment.

The soldiers came from bases throughout the country for hands-on practice in operating dump trucks, excavators and other construction machines. The work is a vital step for improving the quality of life on the rugged, wind-swept plains.

In another region of Montana, US Air and Army National Guard units finished the construction of new homes and refurbished others for military veterans as part of the IRT program. The homes are located in the Crow Agency Reservation near Big Horn, Montana. Operation Walking Shield coordinates these efforts that accomplish goals for the both the tribal communities and military branches.



*A dental specialist prepares for patients at the Pine Ridge Hospital Dental Clinic.*

## **HEALTHCARE: PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION AND ROSEBUD INDIAN RESERVATION (SOUTH DAKOTA)**

To help meet training and readiness requirements for US Army Reserve soldiers serving in a medical capacity, Operation Walking Shield coordinated a month-long healthcare deployment to support the work of the Pine Ridge Indian Health Service Hospital and the Rosebud Comprehensive Healthcare Facility.

An Army Reservist noted one of the most rewarding moments of the deployment was helping make dentures for a patient who had suffered from troubled teeth for years. She literally helped put a smile on the patient's face.

Pine Ridge and Rosebud combined, the reservists worked with more than 900 patients and provided an array of healthcare services from immunizations to MRI's.

# 3 Actions You Can Take to Change a Family's Future

## 1. LEARN

Compared to the social statistics of other ethnic groups in the United States, American Indians continue to suffer from a higher rate of poverty.

Contrary to popular belief, not all reservations have casinos. Nearly 60 percent of the tribes in the United States do not operate gaming facilities. Unfortunately for many remote tribes, opportunities to improve the future are few and far between.

Under the current political climate, the federal government services reservations receive are facing severe cuts. For example, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) might have spending reduced by 13.2 percent in 2018. These cuts will definitely impact American Indians families struggling to overcome the following challenges.

### -Education

High school graduation rates are among the lowest of any population. In the states with the most American Indian students, less than 50% graduate, on average. (The Civil Rights Project, 2010)

### -Housing

The percentage of homes that are overcrowded on reservations is 3-6 times higher than the percentage of overcrowded homes in the U.S. as a whole (Housing Assistance Council, 2013; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 2003; U.S. Census, 2000).

### -Health

According to the Indian Health Service, American Indians continue to die at higher rates than other Americans in many categories, including chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, diabetes, unintentional injuries, assault/homicide, intentional self-harm/suicide, and chronic lower respiratory diseases.

## 2. SHARE

Talk with your friends and family about the challenges American Indian families experience and share how Walking Shield helps meet their housing, education, healthcare and humanitarian needs. You can also share Walking Shield's updates and news on your social media channels.



## 3. SUPPORT TODAY

Designating Walking Shield as the beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy, commercial annuity through a Beneficiary Designation is a way to make a lasting expression of your compassion.

A Bequest, a gift through your will or trust, is the easiest way to support our mission.

Charitable Remainder Trusts that form part of your estate planning supports our mission while setting up annuities or variable payments to you.

Charitable Lead Trust is a gift from that makes payments to Walking Shield for a specified period of time. At the end of the period, it distributes the trust property to a specified beneficiary. The payment can be either a fixed annuity amount or an available unitrust amount.

Charitable Gift Annuities is a gift that gives you the opportunity to support Walking Shield's work. This gift not only provides you with regular payments as you support our work; you will also receive a variety of tax benefits, including a federal income tax charitable deduction.

Current Outright Gifts include stock, real estate and personal property. These gifts can be sold by Walking Shield and transferred to a monetary value.

**Call (949) 639-0472 for more information**

# Thank You to Our Family of Supporters

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# Grateful for Our Generous Golf Sponsors and Supporters

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| Dr. John Castillo                 | Oakley                             |   |

*“With the greatest respect, Walking Shield expresses its heartfelt gratitude for everything you have done and continue to do to help improve the quality of life for American Indian families.”*

*—Dr. John Castillo, Executive Director, Walking Shield, Inc.*



# Walking Shield, Inc.

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**With the holiday season upon us**, Walking Shield wishes you and your family many joyful times together. **Take a moment to extend your compassion** to families in need of better healthcare, housing, and college opportunities.

We are committed to improving the quality of lives of American Indian families. Your financial support makes it possible for us to help provide housing for the homeless, medical assistance for the sick, eyeglasses for the visually impaired and college scholarships for aspiring tribal leaders. **A special holiday or year-end gift** will make a tremendous difference in advancing the mission that we embrace together.



Walking Shield, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Your donations are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Visit our "Get Involved" page on [walkingshield.org](http://walkingshield.org) or contact us at (949) 639-0472 to learn more about volunteering and giving opportunities including our Planned Giving Program.

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