

Spring/Summer 2017



WALKING SHIELD, INC.

SERVING AMERICAN INDIAN FAMILIES FOR 30 YEARS

Walking Shield's 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, October 16, 2017

Barona Creek Golf Club, Lakeside CA

10:00am Shotgun Start



Please join us for Walking Shield's 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament to help American Indian college students. The proceeds will assist these students with the rising cost of college tuition and college related expenses. These funds make it possible for them to achieve their dream of a college degree. We hope to see you there! *Please visit our tournament site at walkingshield.org*



Walking Shield scholarship recipients, Kaylyn (left) and Ashley De Los Reyes (far right) with their parents and Barona staff volunteering their time at our 2016 golf tournament.



Scholarship recipient, Tyler Vargas (left) was able to golf at our 2016 golf tournament thanks to a kind sponsor. Pictured here with Dennis Tafoya (right) our Vice Chairman, Board of Directors for Walking Shield, Inc. and Tournament Co-Chair.



There are many ways to get involved:

- ◆ Sponsorship opportunities
- ◆ Donate merchandise for our silent auction and opportunity drawing
- ◆ Join us for lunch
- ◆ Make a tax-deductible donation directly to Walking Shield, Inc.





HOLIDAY CHEER HIGHLIGHTS



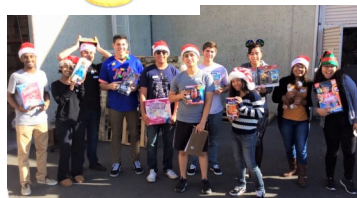
The 2016 Holiday Gift Program was a huge success! We had over 20 volunteers help organize more than 20,000 toys for 50 tribes and organizations across the country.

Katrina Keyoite of La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians demonstrated her gratitude towards Walking Shield by sharing:

“Walking Shield has donated toys for our Tribal Christmas Party for years. Every year, Santa comes and lets the kids go into his workshop to pick out a toy. The kids’ faces light up when they are in his workshop.”



This year, one of the little girls came up to me and asked me if I was really Santa’s helper. I told her yes and she said, “that’s amazing!” The truth is, without the donation from Walking Shield, we would not be able to help as many families that we do during the holiday season.”



A letter from Walking Shield's Founder: Phil "Walking Shield" Stevens



29 November 2016

Hi John,

Congratulations on leading Walking Shield in completing 30 years of service to our nation's American Indians!

Over the past three decades, we have helped improve the quality of the lives of thousands of American Indians by providing housing to the homeless and needy, medical assistance to the sick, eyeglasses to help visually impaired children have better sight, scholarships to help improve the education of talented young American Indians, infrastructure support to improve communities on our reservations, and, of course, thousands of toys to bring joy into the lives of tens of thousands of children. It has been an enjoyable and satisfying journey.

Our unique partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense has resulted in our capabilities being multiplied many times more than our organization could ever provide by itself. We are very grateful for the support the Army, Navy Seabees, and Air Force medics have provided in providing the infrastructure support and medical and dental assistance to our Native American people. The association that we have with the office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs is truly unique and much appreciated.

John, Lisa, Lynda, and Marvin, you are all doing a great job! Keep up the good work, for you are all making a significant difference in the lives of thousands of people who have great needs. And for Andy and Jorge, welcome aboard. We are very pleased that you have joined the Walking Shield team.

My best wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday season and may the New Year bring you all much happiness and comfort in knowing that you are really helping many people who need and appreciate your help.

Warmest regards,

Phil Walking Shield Stevens



It's Time for our Interns to Fly

Graduation day has come for our interns, Jorge Cortez Medina and Andy Ceron who will both receive their Masters degree in Social Work from California State University, Long Beach this month. We could not be more excited for both of them. The past nine months has been rewarding for all of us at Walking Shield. We wish them much success and thank them for the hard work they put into all of our programs.

CONGRATULATIONS JORGE AND ANDY!



Operation Walking Shield

Healthcare

This year Walking Shield will coordinate medical Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) deployments on nine reservations across the country - California (Hoopa Valley, Round Valley, and Santa Ynez), Minnesota (Cass Lake), Montana (Fort Belknap, Fort Peck, and Northern Cheyenne), North Dakota (Turtle Mountain), and South Dakota (Rosebud and Pine Ridge).

This unique partnership between the United States Department of Defense and Walking Shield provides the military real life experience. They are placed in conditions and situations they may face when deployed internationally. The military personnel are deployed to the reservations for two weeks to train as a team for real life events while meeting the healthcare needs of the community such as wellness checks, providing pharmacy technicians, dental care and much more.

Earlier this year, Walking Shield's IRT Program Manager Marvin Thurman met with Indian Health Service staff from Rosebud and Pine Ridge to discuss how the medical readiness support group and technical assistance will help meet the community's needs. The troops be will deployed to the reservations later this year.



Infrastructure

In addition to the medical services provided, the IRT program also assist with meeting the infrastructural needs of the community such as upgrading roads, installing water/sewer systems, and improving handicap accessibility.

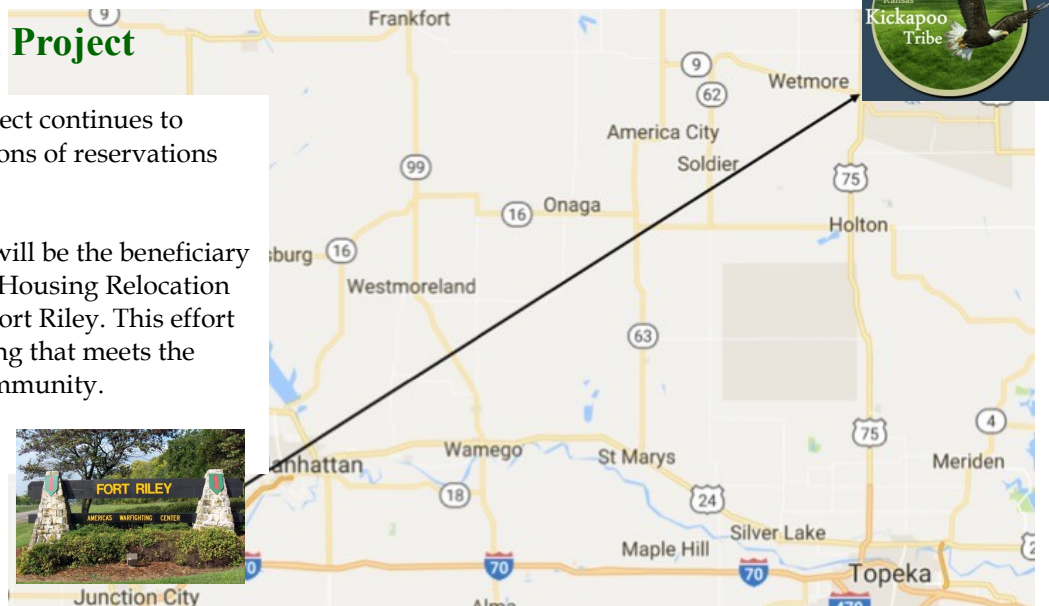
This quarter, Waking Shield will facilitate the IRT deployment to Montana tribes Blackfeet and Crow Tribe in efforts to improve their roads, sewage system, as well as provide housing for veterans. To compliment the tribe's infrastructure improvements, the tribe's capacity building skills are fostered by collaborating with Walking Shield, empowering them to increase sustainability in the areas of community development, economic growth, and health care.



Housing Relocation Project

The Housing Relocation Project continues to improve the housing conditions of reservations nationwide.

In May, the Kickapoo Tribe will be the beneficiary of new houses as part of the Housing Relocation Project in partnership with Fort Riley. This effort will provide adequate housing that meets the basic shelter needs of the community.



OneSight Vision Program



The OneSight Vision Program has been a long standing prosperous partnership between Walking Shield and OneSight that provides eyeglasses to American Indian children and adults. In 2016, we helped Ft. Belknap in Montana and White Earth Reservation in Minnesota, where a total of 3,483 children and adults received eye examinations. Over 70% of those tested received new eyeglasses.

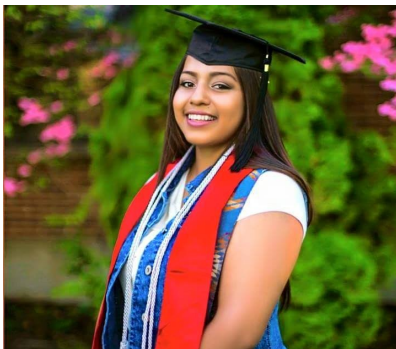
This year, Walking Shield will continue to help children see clearly, many for the first time by coordinating the OneSight Program to Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain (North Dakota) and at the Spokane Reservation in Washington. Walking Shield's Executive Director, John Castillo and OWS Program Manager, Marvin Thurman met in late 2016 with Indian Health Director, Tribal Councilmen, OneSight representatives, and school representatives to discuss the details of the OneSight clinics in Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain. A subsequent meeting with the Spokane Reservation and Blackfeet Reservation is scheduled in the near future.



Operation Walking Shield's Program Manager, Marvin Thurman sharing the joy of eyesight at a vision clinic at Leech Lake, MN.

Education Program

Walking Shield is pleased to announce that we have received a grant from the Los Angeles Scholarship Investments Fund and San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to continue helping American Indian college students complete their college journey. There are 17 students on track to graduate in June and 56 students will be awarded tuition assistance funds for the 2017-2018 school year. LeeAndria Witcraft, a participant of Walking Shield's Education Program and recipient of numerous Walking Shield scholarships, expresses her gratitude for all the support she has received during her academic journey through undergrad and Masters level.



LeeAndria Witcraft
Fort Bidwell Indian Community



"My name is LeeAndria and I am a member of the Fort Bidwell Indian Community from Fort Bidwell California. I graduated from Sherman Indian High School in 2010 and was awarded a Walking Shield Scholarship. I obtained my Bachelors of Science Degree in Community Health in 2015 and I am currently working towards earning my Masters Degree in Social Work this June in 2017 at Eastern Washington University.

Walking Shield has been tremendously helpful throughout my college years. I was funded a scholarship each year of my undergraduate degree and even though I am not eligible for scholarship as a Graduate Student, Walking Shield has continued to provide vital support that has helped me get through my Masters program. I have received help from Walking Shield in purchasing textbooks, a laptop when mine broke, as well as gas cards and gift cards to help cover expenses I would not have otherwise been able to cover as a single parent and full time student. Walking Shield has even helped me cover the cost of summer courses that were not funded through financial aid.

Walking Shield has provided me with critical support throughout the years to get through my education. Without Walking Shield, I would have had so many more barriers that would have made attaining my Masters Degree more difficult. It has been amazing to know that I have help to rely on in times of need and in emergency situations. This assistance allows me to work through the normal academic struggles of higher education with less worry about not being able to meet financial needs. I know I always have help and support from the wonderful staff at Walking Shield."

Planned Giving Program



The most meaningful gifts to Walking Shield come from people like you who care about the work that we do and want to ensure American Indian communities receive services well into the future.

The work Walking Shield provides to American Indian families could not be accomplished without the support from individuals who believe in its mission to improve the quality of life for American Indian families. Walking Shield will continue to carry out its mission to create lasting change and cannot thank you enough for considering us as possible beneficiaries of your legacy.

There are various ways that Walking Shield benefits from your support:

Designating Walking Shield as the beneficiary of your retirement plan, life insurance policy, commercial annuity through a *Beneficiary Designation* is a way to support our mission and make a lasting statement about what matters most to you.

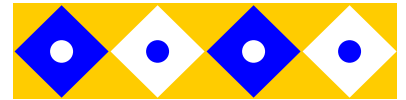
A *Bequest*, a gift through your will or trust, is the easiest way to support our mission.

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.



Create a lasting legacy and provide for the future of American Indian families

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If you are interested in the many ways you can contribute to Walking Shield, please contact us at

Phone: 949. 639.0472 Fax: 949.639.0474

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