

Changing the world one relationship at a time

In July, 102 servants from Southeastern Pennsylvania traveled to South Dakota for 12 days of work at the Rosebud and Crow Creek reservations. The work wasn't glamorous, but it was still important. At Rosebud, groups built a wheelchair ramp on a home for a young man who otherwise spent his days inside until someone could carry him down the steps. They dug a drainage ditch around the home of 76-year old Pauline Black Wolf because her home had actually slid out of place after several heavy rainstorms. They also installed two windows in Henrietta White Thunder's home and painted and did repairs to the Boys' and Girls' Club in Mission.



Working with the reservations' children was eye-opening. Rylan Black Spotted Horse has chocolate brown eyes that sparkle under his jet black hair, and he always had a wide grin on his face. But his real life was brought home when he mentioned one day that he noticed the youth all wore "different shirts every day. But I wear the same one because I lost my other one." His words and first-hand observations of life on the reservation have led many of our youth to start planning clothing and toy drives for their young Lakota friends.

Though it seemed at times that all the hard work wasn't enough, the youth and leaders learned that *the world changes one ramp, one window, one life at a time*. And that their efforts, no matter how small, were appreciated and made a difference.

Pauline Black Wolf will no longer fear a heavy rainstorm, and Henrietta White Thunder's home will be warmer this winter because of the new thermal windows. And the children will perhaps remember the kids from Pennsylvania who built them a new playground, read with them, and played games with them for a few days. Our servants know that they will always remember them.

– Text and photos by Brenda Lange



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