

# Walking Shield, Inc.

Helping to improve the quality of life within our Indian Communities since 1986

Volume 15, Issue 1

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2006 Issue

### San Pasqual Environmental Clean-Up Project

Through a very generous grant made by The Environmental Grants Program of The San Diego Foundation, Walking Shield has partnered with the California National Guard to positively impact the environment for those living on the San Pasqual reservation. As a result of this grant, measures will be developed and implemented to reduce contaminated runoff, improve solid waste management, enhance the safety of drinking water provisions and test air quality.



Lt. Steve Danielczyk from the Maryland National Guard explaining how the air quality testing equipment works with a San Pasqual tribal member.



Testing the water quality at San Pasqual Indian Reservation.



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Walking Shield's  
Educational Program



Walking Shield has been able to work on enhancing educational opportunities for the American Indian community because of funds provided by Southern California Edison. The project goal is to help enroll more Indian students into local colleges and universities as well as to assist with preserving, strengthening and enhancing educational initiative and programs that are currently in place.

To reach this goal, a two year plan was implemented beginning with designing a questionnaire to interview potential college and university level Indian students. The next phase was to bring together a group of individuals from the local community who were involved in Indian education programs and services. From this and other meetings, a list of long and short term goals have been developed.

Implementation is ongoing and progress is being made at several campuses. Walking Shield believes that education is a pathway out of poverty. Southern California Edison has been an extremely dedicated partner and has a long history of supporting American Indian activities in general and Walking Shield in particular.

Please check out  
our  
Website:

[www.walkingshield.org](http://www.walkingshield.org)

## Lens Crafters Gives the Gift of Sight



Gift of Sight Mobile Clinic Rolls into Santa Fe

It was a bitter cold day. 38 degrees Fahrenheit and the winds were going at 48 miles per hour. An unexpected snow storm threatened to slow down a much anticipated project that was just supposed to begin. Walking Shield and LensCrafters had set their goal high — to have 700 students of the Santa Fe Indian School in New Mexico examined and if needed have glasses provided to them free of charge.

Through the generosity and support of LensCrafters, Inc., the goal was not only met but was exceeded beyond belief. At the end of the week, 928 students had been examined, and 670 of those were provided with glasses.

Linda Hummingbird, the School Nurse at Santa Fe Indian School, enthused “I’m amazed at the number of children cared for, and I’ll never forget the smiles on the faces of the little ones as they put on their new glasses and were able to see clearly; many for the first time in their lives.”

The needs are enormous. Hummingbird explained that the routine vision appointment at the Santa Fe Indian hospital is usually at least 6-8 weeks. There are literally thousands of students going without eye care in the Indian Country area of New Mexico.

The collaboration between LensCrafters, Walking Shield and the Santa Fe Indian School is a perfect example of how much can be accomplished working together. Each had contributed significantly to make this project a success. LensCrafters corporate philosophy states that they “believe that good eyesight is a basic human right and not a luxury.”

Through the generous donation of their professional staff and the cost of the materials, literally hundreds of children were positively impacted and now can have a better chance a succeeding in school.

The Gift of Sight was established in 1988 and is a family of charitable vision care programs sponsored by Luxottica Group Foundation, in conjunction with the Lions Clubs International and many local charities.



Santa Fe student getting an eye exam.

LensCrafters staff took a tour of the Santa Fe Indian School campus and were so moved by what they saw in the student dormitories, they surprised the students by donating a much needed washing machine from their own personal funds!

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, one in three American Indians has some form of vision-impairing eye disease. With programs like these, Walking Shield can continue to be a catalyst in enhancing the health of the people in our community.



LensCrafters staff help another student select from a variety of frames.

### 2005 Holiday Wrap-Up



The 2005 Walking Shield gift distribution program was another outstanding effort. Over 40 Indian tribes were assisted this year as well as 11 off reservations groups. Our biggest supporter for many years, **Hasbro**, donated thousands of toys. Other groups that donated toys, backpacks and other items, include: the **Orange Grove Quilters Guild**, **Huntington Landmark Toy Makers**, **Psychic Research Society**, **Native American Institute**, **Scholastic Books**, **Diamond Bar High School**, **Evy of New York and California**, **West Valley YMCA**, **Mazda Triz / Cassidy & Breanna Lemon**, **Mattel**, **OCB Trading Post**, **Saddleback Valley YMCA**, **Toys for Tots** and many individual donors listed on page 7 of this newsletter.



Heading to the Hoopa Reservation with a van full of toys.

*See page six of this newsletter to find out more on how you can help Walking Shield help others.*

### Humanitarian Aid Report

Our good friends over at the **OCB Trading Post** collected all kinds of stuffed animals, school supplies, clothes and toys for us to start off the New Year. We also received some office and school supplies from **Office Depot** in Tustin to help our students on the reservations. **The Society of St. Andrews** delivered over 40,000 lbs. of potatoes to the Rocky Boy and Ft. Belknap reservations in Montana. Our longtime friends from Florida **The Pine Tree Quilters** have sent us several boxes of handmade quilts which we distribute to children and elders on many reservations. **Patagonia** sent some great clothes which was subsequently sent to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The **Yarn Spinners** from Westminster California have been very busy and have given us bags upon bags of knitted hats, scarves, blankets and sweaters. Many of these items were sent to tribes in the Northern Plains which had an extremely cold winter. **Ray Anderson** donated a computer. The **Huntington Beach Landmark Toy Makers** have donated hundreds of handmade wooden horses, doll beds with dolls and other wooden toys for our children on reservations across the United States. **Elden and Carolyn Calloway** donated some lovely furniture, which, thanks to **Tom and Gloria Bogden** was delivered all the way to the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. The **Bogdens** also donated a \$1,000 scholarship to help a local Indian student continue with his academic journey. Finally, our long time supporters, the **Orange Grove Quilters Guild**, kicked off our summer school supply drive by collecting and donating a truck load of school supplies this past June. They also donated cash to help us buy even more! This August will be the second year that Walking Shield will be shipping out all the wonderful donations of school supplies we have received this summer to several reservations in preparation for the upcoming school year.

### Infrastructure Report

The Navy Seabees are scheduled to assist the Crow Tribe in Montana with a septic pond removal. On the Navajo Reservation, they will be surveying some road work for the future and possibly building a house or two. Over at the Elko Reservation, the Navy will be doing a survey for a special road to be built in 2007. Finally, the Air Force is sending engineers over to the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana to complete some road work they started the previous year.

Plans are already in the mix for the 2007 infrastructure projects, which will include the Elko Reservation in Nevada, the San Pasqual and Santa Ysabel Reservations in San Diego, California. Other possible projects are currently being discussed which we will report in our next newsletter. We want to thank all our supporters in uniform for their assistance in improving the quality of life on the reservations.



Colonel Komyati, the dental surgeon for the 804th Medical Brigade meets with Rocky Boy's dentists to discuss how best to assist the reservation with their dental needs.

### Health Report

This summer is shaping up to be another busy season for Operation Walking Shield and its military partners. The Air Force is scheduled to provide healthcare assistance on the following reservations: Red Cliff, Wisconsin; Fort Peck, Montana; Spirit Lake, North Dakota; Pine Ridge, South Dakota; and Rosebud, South Dakota. The Montana National Guard is planning to visit all the reservations in Montana and providing much needed health care on various weekends throughout the summer. In South Dakota, the Missouri National Guard will be assisting the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation and the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. Through California National Guard's "Task Force Grizzly," health care professionals from Massachusetts and Maryland National Guard units will be helping the Indian Health Council in San Diego and the Hoopa reservation in Northern California. Finally the Army's 804th Medical Brigade will be sending medical assistance to help at Pine Ridge, South Dakota and the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana. At Rocky Boy they are sending a special mobile dental team, the 287th Medical Company, with equipment and personnel to help on a remote area of the reservation.



OCB Trading Post in Glendora gathers items for us all year. If you are looking to buy a gift that is Indian made, this is a great place to go.

## Cooperation and Coordination... Walking Shield and Friends - Coming Together to Make a Difference!

What to do when a donor calls and says they have lots (and we mean lots) of wonderful items to donate? Staff at Walking Shield knows what to do... get on the phone and call for reinforcements!

The Waterfront Hilton in Huntington Beach was renovating and thus had a tremendous amount of quality items such as: beds, cribs, linens, chairs, tables, and mini-refrigerators to donate.

John Castillo of Walking Shield describes this project as “an incredible partnership that took place to bring this effort into fruition” and goes on to say “this team effort truly was collaboration at its best.” Helping to pick-up and distribute the items were: the United States Marine Corp, the VA’s Cabrillo Village, the California National Guard and the Sons of the American Legion Post 291.

Due to the participation of so many supporters, Walking Shield was able to coordinate the pick up and delivery of several truck loads of furniture. Because of the large quantity of items we received, Walking Shield distributed the items to the many reservations and off reservations groups we traditionally assist, in addition, we were able to share with other community groups as well. Through this generous donation, we were fortunate to be able to help local military families, needy families in the community, and to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Marsha Henderson of Operation Apple Pie, wrote “we have had an awesome week being able to distribute hundreds of items to our Camp Pendleton families. We appreciate with all of our hearts your wonderful support. Thank you so much for showing our extended family how much you care.”

Program Coordinator, Trudy Wilson from the Community Action Partnership of Orange County gushed “What a blessing! We have so many needy folks on our waiting list for many of these items. You can’t imagine how much this will mean to our clients.”

Thank you to all those special people that worked together to make this special project a success!



Son’s of the American Legion and Cabrillo Village volunteers loading up a truck full of donations from the Huntington Beach Waterfront Hilton.



Paulette Fisher (in the tan suit), Hilton Manager, with Volunteers from the National Guard, Son’s of the American Legion, Cabrillo Village and John Castillo, Executive Director of Walking Shield.



An awesome effort and an amazing sight! A huge convoy of military trucks set out to deliver the donations.

## Summer Backpack & School Supplies Drive

Every year, thousands of children go to school without the needed supplies --no paper, pens, pencils or other essential materials necessary for their education. These students need our help. Walking Shield will once again strive to provide these necessary tools to our students. Last year, we collected tons of items from businesses, churches, organizations, individuals and schools and distributed to those in need.

School budgets are being cut and many items that had been provided for in the past are now unavailable. Teachers who are already on limited incomes have reported that they have spent money out of their own pocket to help provide for their students.

You can help! Organize a supply drive at your place of employment, where you worship, or in your neighborhood. Your efforts can help a child succeed in their educational goals and help pave the way for a positive future. Most needed items include:

- Pencils/Pens
- Erasers
- Notebook paper
- Binders
- Backpacks
- Glue
- Markers/Crayons
- Gift Cards for new clothes and shoes
- Folders

### Community Partners Card - It's An Easy Way For You To Help!

In a partnership with Albertsons, Walking Shield has come up with an easy and convenient way for you to help American Indians. All you have to do is use a Community Partner Card when you shop at Albertson's.

Walking Shield will receive a donation from the store based on your purchases. Help us continue to provide great services and programs to the less fortunate of our community.

Please help spread the word about this unique fundraising opportunity. We can provide cards to you and your family and friends. Walking Shield will also be happy to provide information to your civic group, religious congregation or businesses that may be interested in participating.

Cards can be obtained by calling our office at (949) 639-0472. We will send out your Community Partners card immediately upon request. By using your card every time you shop at Albertsons, you can help make a difference in the lives of so many!



Tim O'Conner, Executive Director for the West Valley YMCA helping to load up backpacks with school supplies for Walking Shield holiday gift distribution program.

## Thanks to our Donors

Brad Albert  
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Nancy Berg, volunteer extraordinaire, delivering more backpacks full of school supplies to Walking Shield's Jim Wynott.

## Donor Spotlight on CoCaLo



Our deep appreciation to CoCaLo for their ongoing generous donations. A recent donation of brand new, high quality, infant items were given to Walking Shield to distribute throughout the country. Literally thousands donated items were given to those less fortunate in our community.

Riverton Memorial Hospital in Wyoming which provides services to the Wind River Indian Reservation, home of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes, received a large quantity of clothes and linens. Connie Ruben, Program Manager at the hospital, wrote, "thank you so much for the wonderful gifts you so generously provided. These items will be very helpful and much appreciated in the treatment of our pediatric patients."

Walking Shield, Inc.  
Newsletter



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**Please help support Walking Shield, Inc. Your donations are needed and appreciated.  
Many Thanks....**



**Walking Shield, Inc.**

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