

Eagle Scout Project for Jon C.

A Collection Benefiting the Crow Creek Indian Reservation of South Dakota

Dear prospective supporter,

The Crow Creek Indian Reservation of South Dakota is struggling for survival. In 2000, Buffalo County – where the majority of the reservation is located – was named the poorest county in the United States, with just under \$5,300 per capita income annually. Due to extreme unemployment in the area, basic commodities are constantly scarce among the Crow Creek natives. The resulting poverty has left the reservation without basic living supplies like nutritious food, clean water, appropriate shelter, and clothing, just to name a few.



Facts about the Crow Creek Reservation

- 86% earn less than \$5,000 a year
- 80% of adults are unemployed
- 63% suffer from alcoholism
- 32% drop out of high school
- 29% of people are homeless

I have thus decided to facilitate a collection of goods for the impoverished people of the Crow Creek Reservation for my Eagle project. My charitable sponsor for the project is Mr. Ray Piagentini of Barrington High School, who has led a group of high school students to help the Crow Creek reservation with collection and aid work for over a decade through the organization Brother's Keeper. Each summer, the group of volunteers arrives on a coach bus packed with clothes, household supplies, and hundreds of pounds of food. Many natives walk for miles from all directions to get their first satisfying meal in months. However, though the club raises a good deal of supplies to send to the reservation every year, there is simply never enough. Basic needs such as winter coats, household goods, and food are constantly in short supply, and many natives have to walk home empty handed. I wish to enrich these collections substantially with both long-term items (housewares, clothes, blankets) as well as short-term items (food, toiletries, cleaning supplies) that will be of great use to the Crow Creek people. In addition, the collection plan will have a long-term benefit to the group by acting as a “how to” template for fundraising in future years.

On the pages following this letter, you will find several ways that you can be a part of this initiative. As many of you may know, I participated in a similar fund-raising campaign for the orchestral group I play in, the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra. Simply mailing out a dozen letters to generous, committed family and friends, I was able to raise over \$1200 in less than a month. The implications of this project are huge– so long as each person gives what they can.

How to contribute

Personal item donations:

Donations from this project are expected to be part personal and part business contributions. In terms of personal donations, each year there are dozens of families in the Barrington area that support the project by hitting big department stores at sale times, stocking up on children's clothes or housewares to contribute to the annual project. This is the type of contribution most expected for the project. You'll be amazed at how far \$50 can go in the clearance areas at Wal-Mart or Costco.

Used items are certainly welcome, however with the following note in mind. Each year my sponsor receives about thirty garbage bags full of donations. After sorting through all of the bags, he is left with only ten bags of suitable donations. Any good that is non-functional or clothing that is torn or soiled is not acceptable for donation and could be taken as an insult to the Crow Creek people. So please do not donate defective goods, as disposal of these goods could consume valuable project funds.

Business donations:

The way this project will really succeed is if we get bulk donations from businesses. If you or someone you know owns a business that sells any of the suggested items, a donation would be greatly appreciated. Donated clearance and sale items would be especially appealing since we want as many goods as we can get.

Financial contributions:

Much of this project depends on the outside finances I am able to bring in to fill in categories of items that don't come in as donations. I am expecting to purchase a good portion of the donations myself with donated money from those who live too far to make shipping donations cost efficient. If you are looking for a "stress free" way to contribute or live more than an hour away, please consider writing a check to benefit the project.

****Checks are payable to "Boy Scout Troop 10" with "Jon C. Eagle project" on the memo line.**

As with the past fundraiser I participated in for the Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra, dozens of small donations of \$20 add up to have a serious impact. Simply mailing out a dozen letters to generous, committed family and friends, I was able to raise nearly \$1200 in less than a month. The goal for this project is near 100% participation, so please give what you can, even if it isn't much.

On behalf of the Crow Creek natives,
Thank you for your generous participation!

Jon C.
Boy Scout Troop 10
Barrington, IL

Suggested Donations for Jon C.'s Eagle Project

Durable items	Expendable items
Clothing: for all ages, but especially for children. Specific needs are winter clothing, shoes, boots, socks, durable rain gear	Foods: canned food (beans, soups, vegetables), dry foods (PB and jelly, cereal, snack bars, boxed (baking mixes or pasta)
Housewares: blankets, linens, bath towels, pillows, silverware sets, pots and pans, dishes, luggage	Cleaning supplies: sponges, dish soap, household cleaners, sanitary wipes
Household needs: cleaning supplies, vacuum cleaners, floor mats, garden hoses, tool sets, etc.	Kitchen goods: plastic silverware, sturdy paper plates, disposable cups, paper bowls, aluminum foil, Ziploc products
Children's goods: school supplies like notebooks, markers, pens, pencils, coloring books, children's books, backpacks, children's toys. **One great option is to stuff backpacks with school supplies, toys, games, and other necessities for children.	Personal hygiene: hand sanitizer, lice shampoo, soap, body and face wash, toothbrush and toothpaste (think Costco packs of these items)

- Donated items should be primarily practical. Clothing especially should be appropriate for outdoor work in the harsh terrain of South Dakota. However, quality items that are less utilitarian will still be accepted. No prom dresses!
- Clothing and other goods for all age groups are welcome, but I would like to do the most for children. Outgrown children's clothes – especially winter coats, school supplies, backpacks, and small toys would be great!

Arranging a Donation Drop-off or Pick-up

- Most donations (especially larger ones) should be dropped off at my home at any time before Friday, May 28th:
 - Please contact for home address
 - There will be a large bin near my front door for donations
- I will also pick up some donations with a group of scouts. Please contact me ahead of time to arrange a pickup time between May 22nd and May 28th. Pickups are limited to the area within half an hour of Barrington.
- **Donated items must be picked up or dropped off by Friday, May 28, but preferably earlier if possible.**
- Please don't hesitate to ask any questions. You may contact me via the blog posted below or via the Troop 10 Yahoo group.

Follow the progress of my Eagle project on the project blog filled with pictures and posts about the project!

<http://JCeagleproject.blogspot.com/>