



Brattleboro Rotary Club International Project

Pine Ridge Reservation
South Dakota

October 14, 2011



Pine Ridge Reservation

- * Unemployment rate of 80-90%
- * Per capita income of \$4,000
- * 8 Times the United States rate of diabetes
- * 5 Times the United States rate of cervical cancer
- * Twice the rate of heart disease
- * 8 Times the United States rate of Tuberculosis
- * Alcoholism rate estimated as high as 80%
- * 1 in 4 infants born with fetal alcohol syndrome or effects
- * Suicide rate more than twice the national rate
- * Teen suicide rate 4 times the national rate
- * Infant mortality is three times the national rate
- * Life expectancy on Pine Ridge is the lowest in the United States and the 2nd lowest in the Western Hemisphere. Only Haiti has a lower rate.
- * Pine Ridge Reservation, located in South Dakota, is home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe and is 2,000,000 acres large with an estimated population of close to 40,000.



The New York Times

May 1, 2015

U.S.

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Struggles With Suicides Among Its Young

By JULIE BOSMAN MAY 1, 2015

PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION, S.D. — A few days before Christmas, Santana Janis, a 12-year-old Lakota Indian, decided that she did not want to live anymore.

A bright, outgoing girl with a shy smile and a passion for horseback riding, Santana had become afflicted by dark moods. She lived in a decrepit trailer with a grandfather, Earl Tall, and as many as a dozen siblings.



Initial Project

Sewing Machines

12 used; 6 broken



KILI RADIO 90.1

The Voice of the Lakota Nation

- * **KILI Radio** is an independent, Lakota owned and operated, 100,000 watt FM radio station located at Porcupine Butte on the Pine Ridge Reservation in southwestern South Dakota. On the air 20 hours a day, seven days a week, KILI's broadcast area covers 30,000 square miles and includes the Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River and Rosebud Reservations, Rapid City, the southern Black Hills and the panhandle of Nebraska. KILI's programming includes news and information, public affairs broadcasting, cultural celebration and entertainment with a variety of music formats including traditional, Indian contemporary, country, rock and roll, rap, blues and jazz. KILI is a very unique community radio station working hard to meet the needs of individuals and groups throughout the listening area. Owned and operated by Lakota Communications, **KILI** serves 30,000 people on the three reservations, along with the large American Indian urban community in Rapid City, using a translator in the Mount Rushmore State's second-largest city. It seeks to preserve Native American culture and instill pride in the peoples' unique heritage.

Calendar



International Film & Food Festivals



Brattleboro Rotary Club
Presents
**4th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL
FILM AND FOOD FESTIVAL**
Benefiting
KILI RADIO
THE VOICE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

KILI (91.1 FM), licensed to Pierre, South Dakota, is a non-profit radio station broadcasting to the Lakota people in the Pine Ridge, Cheyenne River, and Brule Reservations (southern part of the Great Sioux Nation). The station started broadcasting in 1963 as the first American Indian owned radio station in the United States. KILI serves 25,000 people on the three reservations and seeks to preserve Native American culture and instill pride in the people's unique heritage.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2013
4-8 pm • New England Youth Theatre, Brattleboro
www.brattlebororotaryclub.org



Brattleboro Rotary Club 5th International Film & Food Festival

**Benefiting KILI Radio
Pine Ridge Reservation**

**March 2nd 2014, 4-8pm
New England Youth Theater, Brattleboro
Tickets \$25 at the Door
Info: www.brattlebororotaryclub.org**

Brattleboro Reformer

'We've got to do something'

Rotary launches commitment to help Pine Ridge Reservation with film Sunday

By JON POTTER / Reformer Staff - BRATTLEBORO -- The Pine Ridge Dakota is a long way from Brattleboro, flies.

Flat, dry, and lacking vegetation, Pin many of the blessings of comfortable Little wonder then, that Art Cohn's home when he swung near the Pine 3 a family trip last October. But he was

Representing the Brattleboro Rotary to deliver sewing machines and laptop Pine Ridge. The trip made quite an it

"They were very appreciative of us to My impressions of the folks that I met yet cautiously optimistic," said Cohn. Cohn also brought a Rotary fu Brattleboro and one other thing -- the 1970s.

"They were very excited to have that that before," said Cohn.

There's a lot the people of Pine Ridge ranked as the poorest county in the U Reservation has per capita income of rate of between 73 and 85 percent, as twice the national average, a life exp average, higher suicide rates, poverty diabetes and alcoholism.

Statistics like those are what brought Dakota. His trip there was the first at the Brattleboro Rotary Club to help t

A couple of years ago, Marty Cohn, Brattleboro Rotary Club, saw a group troubles of people on Pine Ridge.

"After we watched this, my wife and something," recalled Cohn.

The Brattleboro Rotary Club has a lo good works, including founding Pan and his fellow Rotarians successfully Pine Ridge, which is officially a sev as another international project. The commitment the local Rotary Club is

An appearance by John Willis, photo In-Sight Photography Project, at a R helped galvanize that commitment.

Brattleboro Reformer

An international project in the U.S.

By HOWARD WEISS-TISMAN / Reformer Staff - Posted: 06/30/2014



Members of the Ogala Lakota Tribe in South Dakota see some of the new radio equipment that was purchased with donations raised by the Brattleboro Rotary Club. (Submitted Photo)

reservation, which is home to the Ogala Lakota Tribe and is considered one of the poorest communities in North America. Cohn said it was hard to believe people in the United States were living among the conditions shown in the report, and so he decided to go to Brattleboro Rotary membership to see if they would support an effort to raise money for the members of the Ogala Lakota nation.

The group agreed to take on the project and approximately \$10,000 of dollars and about 85 laptop computers have been given to the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"This is an international project that we are taking on in the United States," Cohn said. "We are always looking for ways to have an impact and help people who need it and that's what this project is doing."

Rotary International is an international service organization that brings business people together through local chapters to take on local and international projects.

Brattleboro Rotary is routinely involved in projects around the Brattleboro area, and has also helped raise money, as well as provide volunteers, for international projects.

The Pine Ridge Reservation project, Cohn said, is a first for the Brattleboro group in that it is a multi-year project that is outside of Windham County, yet still within the United States.

"The show was unbelievable to watch," Cohn said about the television report he saw. "I did not know people in the United States were living like that. I knew we had to do something."

Cohn said he was surprised when he called Rotary members in South Dakota to see if their local groups were helping the

In-Sight founded the Exposures program, a cross-cultural exchange program that connects youth from Vermont, Chicago and elsewhere with young people from Pine Ridge. At the lunch, Willis showed photographs he took there and spoke passionately about his feelings for the people of Pine Ridge.

"John's pictures really told the story. Knowing we had a guide has been really useful to us," said Cohn.

people on the Pine Ridge Reservation and found out there were no local projects.

So he asked the members in Brattleboro and everyone agreed it would be a good project for the group.

The project with Brattleboro Rotary might not have gotten off to such a quick start were it not for a chance encounter Cohn had at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center. He was at the museum when he noticed a photograph on the wall by local photographer John Willis.

Willis has been visiting the Pine Ridge Reservation for years, and traveling there with students from In-Sight Photography to document the people and landscapes in South Dakota.

Cohn was not aware of the local connection and he was shocked when just a month after the television report aired he had found someone in Vermont who had connections with the Ogala Lakota Tribe.

Cohn tracked down Willis, and Willis was able to connect Cohn with the people who run KILI radio, the community station on the reservation.

The group raised \$4,500 at its 2013 International Film and Food Festival. The money was sent to the station and used for equipment upgrades.

Cohn also learned that students on the reservation needed computers. He put out a call for outdated laptops and received about 150 donations.

Sam Jones, who owns a computer repair shop in Burlington and is the son of Brattleboro Rotarian Marcy Jones, agreed to take the working parts from the laptops to build updated machines.

Eventually 85 refurbished laptops were sent to the South Dakota reservation.

Cohn said the Pine Ridge project has become a long-term commitment for the Brattleboro club.

Members of the Brattleboro club are trying to organize a visit to Pine Ridge and the money raised at the 2015 International Film and Food Festival will also be dedicated to the radio station.

"Rotary gets involved and helps out where it is needed," Cohn said. "So far we've had real success with this project. We've made an impact on the people who live on the Pine Ridge Reservation."

For more information about Brattleboro Rotary Club's work, or to donate a laptop for the project, go to www.brattlebororotaryclub.org.

Howard Weiss-Tisman can be reached at hwaisman@reformer.com or 802-254-2311, ext. 279.

http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_26059050/an-international-project-u-s

The three film festivals have raised \$12,000



KILI Radio

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November 29, 2013

Martin Cohn
Brattleboro Rotary Club
PO Box 336
Brattleboro, VT
05302-0336

Dear Martin,

Three weeks ago, KILI Radio broadcast live a Mayor's Town Hall meeting in Rapid City; the meeting ~~was~~ ^{was} the U.S. Attorney for South Dakota, Brendan Johnson and the governor's cabinet secretary for Indian Affairs JR ~~LeBlanc~~ ^{LeBlanc}. ~~Allen~~ ^{Allen} Cloud handled the broadcast for KILI with the new remote broadcast equipment purchased for KILI Radio by the Brattleboro Rotary Club; it has definitely come in handy, has helped expand the station's ability to provide better service to our listeners and community members, thank you again.

KILI Radio uses the new set of microphones in our talk studio every day to help us better handle groups of three or more who come to the station for a show. All of the equipment has really helped the station.

John Willis delivered three used laptops that the Rotary Club sent out for the station's use, they are very much appreciated as well.

The Rotary Club is a long ways from KILI ~~Radio~~ ^{Radio}, certainly not in your service area so the station recognizes your commitment and wants you to know it's very much appreciated.

KILI Radio station still has needs, we do not have a real broadcast board yet, we are in need of a wheel chair ramp and we have one solar array but our south facing roof has room for at least another array or maybe even two.

We can't tell you how much we have appreciated your ~~support~~ ^{support}, it has been a great help. We try to be there each day for our listeners across Pine Ridge Reservation and we couldn't do it without the help and assistance from individuals, groups and agencies from across the reservation and sometimes from a long ways away. I hope we are able to continue to work together.

Thank you very much, ~~again~~ ^{again}.

Respectfully,

Thomas Casey

Thomas Casey
KILI Radio station manager/development director

Laptops



To date:

Collected 275

Sent 165

Next Steps



Solar Panels

Rotary District 7870	\$1000
Rotary Club of Henniker	\$ 500
Sunrise Rotary Club	\$ 250
Rutland South Rotary Club	\$ 250
Individual Rotarians	\$ 400



This past summer, KILI Radio was able to add a second solar array to the roof of the station's studio located at Porcupine Butte. We have been committed at finding as much renewable energy as possible to help us with our monthly electrical bill of close to \$2,500 a month. Thank you very much; wopila tanka!

Thomas Casey

KILI Radio station manager/developmentdirector

Next Steps



Quilts – Cottage Industry

Rotary Club of Henniker, NH collected over 6000 pounds of quilting fabric + sewing machines. Rotarian Dana Lewis facilitated shipping.

I would like to send a big thank you to all the good caring folks that helped send fabric and sewing supplies to the reservation. We all felt happy and overwhelmed when a semi pulled into the driveway. This reservation is about the size of the state of Connecticut. We do not have any store on the reservation that sells fabric. A trip to town is about 80 miles away.

Your donation helped many families to sew Quilts and also clothes for their children. And to have it delivered saved gas money and the cost to hire a vehicle that can go off the reservation. Many families do not have the financial means to make a trip off the reservation. We do appreciate your help very much. The fabric was very nice and in good condition and I know that every piece will be used.

Thank you very much and may god bless everyone!

Rosie

Singing Horse Trading Post



Next Steps



Wopila – Thank you!

- * John Willis – Professor, Marlboro College, VT
- * Sam Jones – Computers for Change, Burlington, VT

Martin Cohn, President 2012-2013

BRATTLEBORO ROTARY CLUB

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