

KILI Radio

The Voice of the Lakota Nation

Needs

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, sports coverage, 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.

In February of 2012, KILI celebrated their 29th anniversary as the "Voice of the Lakota Nation." The station has depended on hundreds of people to contribute to that voice, to make it really the VOICE of the Lakota Nation.

Yes, KILI has survived for 29 years and that is good and sometimes even outstanding but the board, staff and volunteers want to do more than just survive. They would like to improve their signal, continue to upgrade the equipment and expand the staff. KILI has really never had the staff to do solid news programming. They would like to do regular news and produce features on a variety of issues that impact the community today and will even more so in the future. KILI would also like to improve the Lakota programming by developing shows that feature the language, culture, history and traditions of the Lakota people. We continue to need and depend on the help of so many people and to move ahead we will need the help of even more people. KILI Radio is on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation which makes up Shannon County, oftentimes the poorest county in America. The reservation suffers from unemployment rates anywhere from 40 to 75 per cent. Support to keep KILI on the air and moving forward has to come from beyond the reservation boundaries. Contributions large and small are always welcome.

Equipment

The top priority for KILI is to upgrade the station's main on-air studio at Porcupine Butte. We need a new broadcast board(\$6,000), CD players(four at \$200 each), studio

computers(1 at \$3,000 and 1 at \$1,500), software(\$5,000), a telephone interface(\$2,500), microphones(8 @ \$400 each), headphones(8 @ \$150 each), mic cords(12 @ \$25 each), mic mixer(2 @ \$125 each), weather machine(\$450), console(\$850), installation(\$2,500), handheld digital recorder(3 @ \$600 each), mic processor(4 @ \$700 each) for a total of \$32,150.

Production

Mic processor(700), Adobe audition(\$300), computer with good sound card(\$2,400), mics(2 @ \$400), handheld digital recorder(2 @ \$600 each), console(\$650), software(\$1,800), CD player(2 @ \$200 each) for a total of \$8,250.

Remote broadcast

Remote broadcaster(2 @ \$1,500 EACH), headsets(4 @ \$400 each), mic(2 @ \$400 each), mic cords(\$50), headphones(2 @ \$200 each)....\$5,850

Phone system

We need a new phone system for the station-central switching box and seven phones....\$2,400

Building

New multi-purpose building at the bottom of the hill that includes a broadcast studio, recording studio, wired meeting & conference room/amphitheatre, gift shop, exhibit area, (\$1.5 million)

Staffing

- Lakota culture specialist/programmer
- News director/reporter
- Maintenance

The station still struggles to make ends meet but through the help of a lot of people, it continues. In the Spring of 2007, KILI went back on the air with full power after being limited to a low power version for 10 months due to storm damage. The station now has a new analog transmitter and a new digital transmitter, a new antenna and transmission line. KILI also has their own website at kiliradio.org and streams their signal over the internet. In October of 2008, KILI turned on their donated 65KW wind turbine which was supposed to generate enough electricity to cover about two thirds of the station's electrical needs. It turned out to be a lemon; Honor the Earth, a non-profit organization from Minnesota, has headed up an effort to find a replacement

In the Lakota language, kili means extraordinary, very special and KILI Radio has been just that, to many people over the years. The Lakota people and members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe face serious issues in the coming years, have a need for their people to be fully informed about their life and what's on the horizon while continuing to

celebrate being Lakota, celebrating the language, the culture, the history and traditions – KILI Radio has already started on their next 25 years and they plan to continue to be an integral part of the community as The Voice of the Lakota Nation!!!!