



*We are dedicated to sponsoring programs in literacy, injury prevention, mental health, education, and leadership for young Native Americans.*

*News Update*

*Spring 2011*

**Eve's Fund and *Magic Tree House* authors team up to keep Navajo kids reading**



On Wednesday, April 20, bestselling children's authors Mary Pope Osborne and Natalie Pope Boyce helped celebrate the re-opening of the Mesa Elementary School library in Shiprock, New Mexico. The library had been destroyed in a fire last year.

Osborne and Boyce spoke with nearly 400 students in grades 4-6 via teleconference. During their one-hour presentation, the women encouraged the children to keep reading, talked about what inspired them to become writers, and answered students' questions about how they come up with ideas for the *Magic Tree House* books.

The students also had fun playing a few games with the authors, and several children won an Eve's Fund T-shirt. During the event, the school principal announced that the *Magic Tree House* team had donated a "Teaching Bookshelf" to Mesa Elementary, adding more than 500 copies of the popular books to the school's collection.

Later that day, Eve's Fund sponsored a Family Literacy Night, which was open to all families in the Shiprock area. Once again, Osborne and Boyce participated by teleconference, talking to parents about the importance of reading to their children.

Representatives from the Shiprock Library were on hand to let parents know about the library's summer reading program, and Eve's Fund Program Director Echohawk Lefthand gave parents information about other Eve's Fund events and activities. After parents had some quiet time to read to their children, they were invited to stop by the Book Fair to select a free book, which was donated by Books-a-Go Go, another literacy partner of Eve's Fund.





### **Eve's Fund announces new Gardening Program to bring healthy food to Red Mesa, Arizona community**

In April, the Red Mesa Unified School District and Four Corners Regional Health Center—in conjunction with Eve's Fund—celebrated National Garden Month by opening a community greenhouse on the grounds of Red Mesa Junior High School.

As part of the community's "From the Ground Up" Gardening Program, students and teachers will plant seeds for a variety of fruits and vegetables. Eve's Fund's Scout Troop #928—along with Red Mesa students and community volunteers—will help maintain and cultivate the greenhouse gardens.

"One of the goals of the Gardening Program is to educate students, parents, and community members about the importance of healthy eating," said Dr. Bob Crowell, founder and president of Eve's Fund. "We want kids and parents to get excited about eating more fruits and vegetables, and opening the greenhouse is an important first step."

### **Eve's Fund to award three scholarships to Navajo Prep**

In February, Eve's Fund established a scholarship fund for Native American high school students. For the 2011-12 academic year, the fund will award three \$1,000 scholarships to students accepted by Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, N.M.

The scholarships will help cover tuition, room, and board at the residential high school. Students must demonstrate financial need and complete a short essay as part of the scholarship application process.

"Since starting Eve's Fund six years ago, we have been steadfast in our efforts to bring hope to young Native Americans," said Dr. Bob Crowell, president of Eve's Fund. "This scholarship fund gives us the opportunity to address the significant educational needs of Native high school students."

In future years, Eve's Fund will offer scholarships to assist students with tuition at vocational schools, colleges or technical schools, along with college-preparatory high schools.

"During her life, Eve tried to make a difference by donating her time to many charitable causes," said Barbara Crowell Roy, secretary of Eve's Fund. "Through this scholarship fund, we can honor Eve's legacy and help Native high school students continue their education."

Navajo Preparatory School is the only Navajo-sanctioned, college-prep school for Native Americans. Located in Farmington, N.M., this residential, four-year high school offers a challenging curriculum that includes traditional academic subjects as well as Navajo language, culture, and history. For more information and to complete an application, go to <http://www.navajoprep.com>.

## Eve's Fund Scout Troop 928 Makes Their Mark



In March, Scout Troop 928, led by Scout Master Echohawk Lefthand, attended a “camporee” at the Ute Campground in Colorado. During the camporee, each of the 10 troops had to use teamwork to build pioneering projects such as a bridge and catapult.

Troop 928—also known as the “Penguins”—took second place overall in camporee competitions. They also won top honors in the cooking competition for their chicken wraps, made with cooked chicken strips, spinach, bell peppers, lettuce, granola, cranberries, and poppy seed dressing. The six boys who attended from Troop 928 were very proud of their accomplishments during the camporee!

Eve's Fund's scout troop has been very active since its first meeting in 2010.

Last year, the boys participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Walking Together for Healthier Nations walk and the troop plans to participate again this May.

They have also “carried the colors” during the homecoming parade in Red Mesa and have gone on several hikes in the area. With each activity, the boys are building character, self-esteem, and hope.





## Eve's Fund VIP tells students to "Think First"



On March 29, Navajo VIP (Voices for Injury Prevention) Cecelia Fred and Program Director Echohawk Lefthand talked to more than 100 Winslow Arizona high school students as part of our ThinkFirst Navajo program.

They gave three separate presentations to students in grades 9-12 who live in the Winslow Residential Hall while attending high school.

Fred, an injury survivor, answered questions about her own injuries and emphasized the message that prevention is the only solution. Students who asked questions received stickers and Chicago marathon T-shirts with the ThinkFirst Navajo logo.

Each year, 430,000 brain and spinal cord injuries occur in the United States; one-third happen to young people between the ages of 15 and 24.

ThinkFirst Navajo is one of 250 chapters of the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation, an organization dedicated to preventing the tragedy of brain and spinal cord injuries—most of which are preventable.

For more information on our award-winning injury prevention program, [visit our ThinkFirst Navajo website page](#).



## Meet Jeanette Rivera



We are pleased to announce that Jeanette Rivera will join Eve's Fund as a summer intern starting in June. Jeanette grew up on the Navajo reservation in Teec Nos Pos, Arizona, and will enter her senior year at Williams College this fall. She is majoring in Anthropology, with a dual concentration in Latino and Native American Studies.

Jeanette, a graduate of the Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington, N.M., will help Eve's Fund develop a youth mentoring program for Native American youth. This program will offer support, advice, and encouragement for students who want to attend college, as well as practical assistance with admissions applications and scholarships.

Jeanette will also be working with our community partners on several other Eve's Fund programs, including Digital Storytelling and our Community Garden Project.

## Did you know?

- ❖ Poverty in the USA is greatest among Native American children.
- ❖ Suicide is a profound problem for Native American youth—the suicide rate among this group is 2.5 times the national rate for all youth.
- ❖ Injuries and violence account for 75% of all deaths among Native Americans aged 1-19.
- ❖ Young Native people, 19 years and younger, are at greater risk of preventable injury-related deaths than others in the same age group in the United States.
- ❖ Only 21% of Native youth graduate from high school and only 1% from college. The average literacy rate for Native youth is one-third that of the rest of the population.
- ❖ Native American youth have higher rates of obesity, diabetes, and other health-related problems than any other demographic group in the U.S.
- ❖ Native American drug and alcohol abuse are at rates substantially higher than the national average.

***Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives*** is dedicated to changing these population disparities. Through our literacy, mental health, injury prevention and other educational programs, we are making a difference in the daily lives of Native children and teenagers. We are promoting hope, healing, health and wellness...so there can be a future for these deserving young people.

## About Eve's Fund

**Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives** promotes youth literacy, injury prevention, mental health, and leadership and education programs for young Native people. It was established in 2005 by Dr. Robert M. Crowell, a retired neurosurgeon, and named in memory of his daughter, Eve Erin Crowell. Eve's Fund is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization incorporated in New Mexico and all donations are tax deductible.

Our ThinkFirst Navajo program, which is dedicated to sponsoring injury prevention education, is a chapter of the ThinkFirst National Injury Foundation. In January 2010, the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation awarded us a "**Quality of Life Grant**" to expand our efforts in sending trained paraplegic speakers to speak to Navajo students about ways to prevent severe injuries. Although our programs have been focused primarily in the Four Corners area of the American Southwest, we have recently sponsored health and wellness initiatives in other parts of the U.S. For more information, please visit our website at: <http://evcrowellsfund.org> and see our blog at: <http://evesfund-thinkfirstnavajo.blogspot.com>

## Want to help Eve's Fund?

If you believe in what we are doing to help Native American youth, you can support our initiatives by making an online donation with a credit card through our secure Pay Pal account:



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Or by sending a check to:

**Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives**  
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Pittsfield, MA 01201-6552

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