

REGION BRIEFS

ThinkFirst honors Eve's Fund founders for injury prevention education, advocacy

BOSTON — At its annual conference held April 14-15, the ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation presented its highest honor, the Dr. David and Donna Cavanaugh Distinguished Service Award, to Barbara Crowell Roy and Dr. Robert M. Crowell (posthumously), the founders of Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives.

This award recognizes their two decades of providing injury prevention education through their nonprofit, Eve's Fund for Native American Health Initiatives (aka Eve's Fund), and its flagship program, ThinkFirst Navajo, based in Farmington. Their work exemplifies the compassionate, community-centered legacy of David and Donna Cavanaugh, the founders of the ThinkFirst chapter headquartered in Shreveport, Louisiana, for whom the award is named.

After the tragic loss of their daughter, Eve Erin Crowell, in 2005, Crowell-Roy, a registered nurse and educator, and Dr. Crowell, a respected neurosurgeon, transformed their grief into a mission of hope, health education, and injury prevention for Native youth.

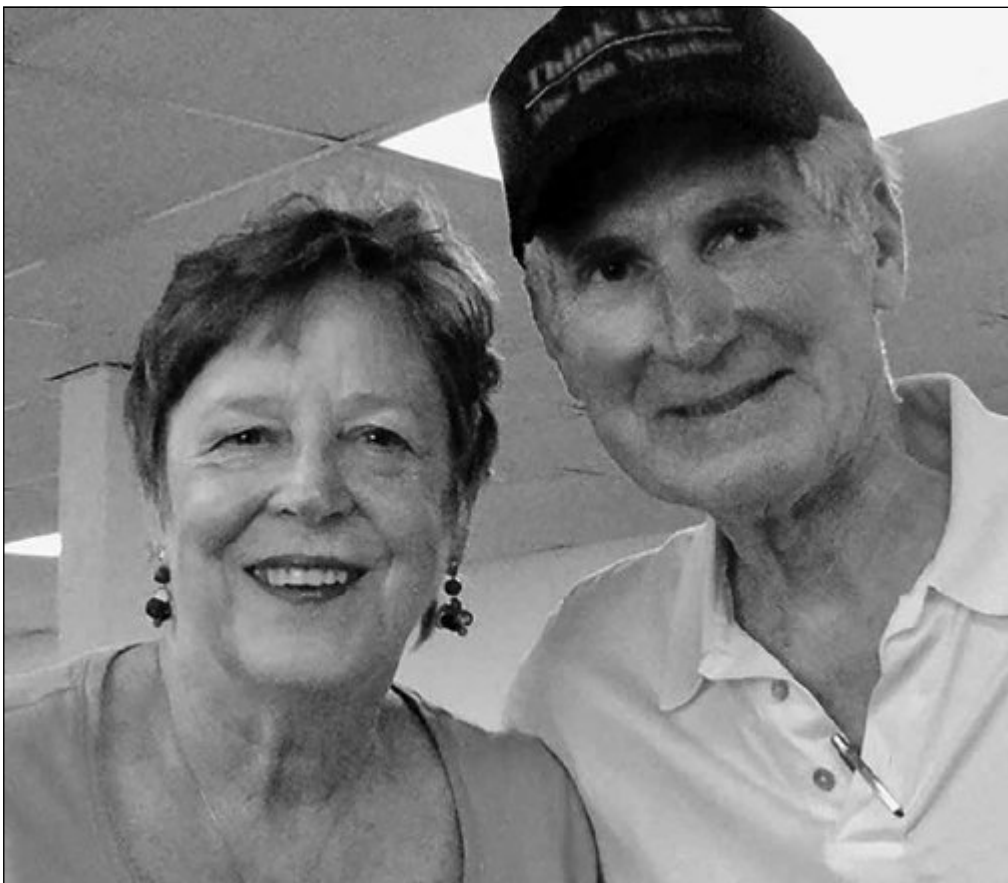
Understanding the disproportionate rates of preventable injuries and deaths, especially among children and adolescents in the Navajo Nation, they launched ThinkFirst Navajo, a culturally grounded chapter of the national ThinkFirst program and the only one in the United States operating exclusively on a federally designated Native American reservation.

Since its founding, the program has reached nearly 70,000 K-12 students with vital evidence-based education and distributed thousands of safety helmets and car seats to families on and near the Navajo Nation. The ThinkFirst program also features "Voices for Injury Prevention," a powerful initiative in which individuals with life-changing injuries share their stories of resilience and recovery with youth.

Throughout their retirement years, Barbara and Bob volunteered their time and expertise to advance injury prevention and improve the quality of life for underserved Native communities and those living with disabilities. Their ability to turn a personal loss into meaningful action and leadership mirrors Dr. Cavanaugh's relentless advocacy for injury prevention on a national level.

Under Barbara's leadership, Eve's Fund has expanded to address broader issues such as literacy, mental health advocacy, and educational scholarships, deepening and expanding its impact on Native youth and their families. Following Dr. Crowell's passing in 2020, Barbara remains a passionate advocate by writing, speaking, and continuing to forge partnerships across Indian Country. Her message continues to resonate:

"Anything can happen to anyone at any time. You just never think it's going to happen to you – until it does."



COURTESY | EVE'S FUND

ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation is honoring Barbara Crowell Roy, left, and Dr. Robert M. Crowell, right, at its annual conference next Tuesday in Boston.

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