

## **Pine Ridge Reservation:**

### **Some Statistics**

Pine Ridge is one of the poorest areas of the Western Hemisphere in terms of material poverty. (At the same time the Lakota people have spiritual wealth and a rich sense of humor. )

Average Life Expectancy - 56 years  
(Male), 60 years (Female)  
(US average: 77.2 years)

Per Capita Income - \$6,286  
(US Avg. \$21,587)

Median Household Income - \$22,779  
(US avg. \$43,318)

Poverty Rate – 35.6 - 55%  
(US avg. 12.5%)

Median value of housing - \$25,900  
(US avg. \$119,600)

Unemployment Rate – 83%  
(US avg. 4.6%)

Overall Substandard Housing – 59%

Tribe-estimated homelessness rate -  
28%

Tribe-estimated Average of Number of  
Occupants per Home -  
14-17 individuals

School Drop-out Rate - over 70%

Statistics courtesy of Link Founda-  
tion, National Center of Health Statis-  
tics, the Oglala Lakota Tribe, the US  
Bureau of Census, and the US Depart-  
ment of Agriculture.

If you feel led to donate, please make  
check payable to St. Louis Monthly  
Meeting, with “Project Lakota” in the  
memo line.

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projectlakota/index.html](http://iym.quaker.org/projectlakota/index.html)

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# Project Lakota



**Under the care of St.  
Louis Monthly Meeting  
(Quakers)**

## About Project Lakota

In 2000 Candy Boyd, Maya Suffern, and Greg Woods founded Project Lakota after attending an AFSC-IMYM JSP workcamp to benefit the Oglala Lakota community Pine Ridge Reservation, located in southwestern South Dakota. Upon our arrival we were shocked by the extreme poverty that existed on the reservation. We were also impressed with the spiritual wealth of the Lakota people. We made many friends and they shared their humor and spirituality with us.

We established Project Lakota with the desire to help this amazing community toward self-sufficiency, first by assisting their efforts to improve the substandard housing conditions on the reservation, and with the aim of eventually supporting them in other ways as well, (for example by helping them to create sustainable income opportunities on their land).

In our first six years, we have raised over \$100,000 to help more than three-dozen families by providing residential building supplies, ranging from siding to a whole log cabin kit.

We helped the family of Gerald and Ingrid One Feather with the cost of their new log cabin (pictured on front). Gerald built their previous house in the early 1960s, but as his health started to decline in the

1990s, he was unable to keep up with the repairs. During the long winters, the strong north wind could come through their old cabin. Now, thanks to their new home, they can keep their family warm.

There are many more families that need housing. With recent cuts in federal funding, groups on the reservation like Habitat for Humanity, Partnership for Housing, and the Tiwahe Tipi Log Cabin Cooperative are struggling to help house the Lakota people. Project Lakota tries to help these groups and individual families.



### Statement of Leading

Project Lakota will promote relations between Lakota people and F/friends. This will include supporting housing, land, ta-

The medicine wheel represent the four directions of the universe, each with a corresponding color and natural symbol. This image illustrates the interconnected relationship between humans and nature. We try to honor this sacred relationship in our statement of leading.

Red / Deer

Black/  
Thunder



Yellow/  
Spotted eagle

White/Buffalo

Your donation enables us to buy materials that will be used to help people build or repair their houses. Below are some of the materials that we can buy with your donation.

Prices:

2X4X8"- \$3

Paint Brushes - \$20 for 3

Box of Roofing Nails - \$30

Toilet - \$280

Stove - \$350

Construction Supervisor- \$20,000/year

Log Cabin Kit- \$25,000