

Weavers who have been an important part of our Annual Navajo Rug Show & Sale for many years



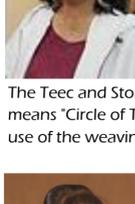
Frances Bahe

Teesto, AZ

My mother was a weaver. She wove rugs, saddle blankets and rug dresses (biil). She could also make sash belts. My father did many things. He did silverwork, making jewelry. He was a blacksmith and was able to build log cabins. My father was also a Hand Trembler and a Chanter in the Blessingway Ceremonies. He used herbs as medicine for the family.

I learned a lot of traditional teaching from my parents. I was taught that the Holy People will always bless you with good things in life if you are up early and pray three times each day for your well-being. My mother taught me to spin and card wool and how to set up a loom.

I brought in income for my family by weaving rugs. My favorite style to weave was the twill. I am in my 90s now. There is much I can't do that I used to in the early years. I miss all the planting and taking care of the livestock.

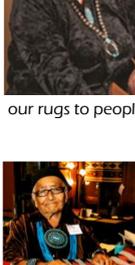


Elsie Begay

Rockpoint, AZ

I am a Master Weaver and I use many color combinations in the complicated Teec Nos Pos style and Storm Pattern style. I have five sisters who are also Master Weavers. We all learned to weave from a young age from our mother, Lucy. I have continued the tradition and have also taught my daughters our traditional art.

The Teec and Storm are intricate and exacting weaving styles. Teec Nos Pos in the Navajo language means "Circle of Trees". Color enhances my tapestry-level rugs; consistent weft tension and highly skilled use of the weaving comb are important to get the crisp and even outlines in my rugs.

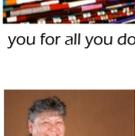


Mary Robertson Begay

Hard Rock, AZ

I've been weaving since I was 6 or 7 years old. There are 16 people in my family who are weavers; four sisters, ten nieces, one nephew, and me. Today, I continue to weave because of the calmness, serenity, and money it brings to support my family.

I have liked all of the themes that Linda has chosen for us to weave over the years. They are all challenges and that is fun. Of all my many years of selling rugs, the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Rug Show has been the most honest experience for me. We get to sell our rugs to people we know will cherish them. The buyers are people with heart. We've been helped!



Jane Benale

Pinion, AZ

I am 91 years old and I have been weaving since I was eight years old. I am so thankful and blessed because of the Adopt-A-Native Elder Program and the Rug Show. It is the only place I sell my rugs and it helps me support my children and my grandchildren. It also helps me pay for hay and feed for my livestock.

Thank you Adopt-A-Native Elder Program for the food and firewood I receive. Thank you for all you do for me and my family.



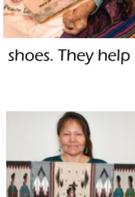
Ella Benally

Pinion, AZ

I have been weaving for 24 years. My mother is a weaver and elder in the Adopt-A-Native Elder Program.

Trading Companies don't buy my rugs as much as they used to. Selling my rugs through Adopt-A-Native-Elder is much better for me.

Now, I only sell my rugs through the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program. I like showing my culture and homeland through my weaving.



Ruth Benally

Big Mountain, AZ

I am 95 years old. I have been weaving rugs to support myself and my family for over 80 years. My four daughters and four granddaughters are weavers as well.

My eyesight is failing and I no longer see very well. Adopt-A-Native Elder is a special program to me. Holy people have made it. My sponsors support me a lot and it makes me strong and keeps me going. They help me with healthy food, warm clothing, and shoes. They help me to keep warm by buying wood and coal.



Nellie Curley

Kaibeto, AZ

I work primarily in vegetal and natural colored wool. My weavings include traditional and contemporary designs. My vision combines with my tradition creating one-of-a-kind works of art. My weaving designs are in Burnham, Ganado, Klagetoh, Crystal, Storm Pattern, Two Greyhills, Classic Revival, and Yei Biecheii tapestry - also multiple weaving with up to 20 regional styles, sample, large rug, and miniatures.

My greatest source of inspiration is trying hard to be different from all the other weavers. I wanted my own style - I don't just do it for fun or publicity. I weave every strand from the bottom of my heart.

Family Clans:

Kinyaa aanii (Towering House People)

Born for Honaghaahnii (One Who Walks Around)

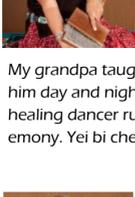


Delorcita Francis

Rockpoint, AZ

I learned to weave from my mother when I was about 8 or 9 years old. Often times my mother would ask me to finish her rugs for her. Then one day she made a loom for me and gave it to me to weave my own rugs. Weaving is just one of many things I learned from my mother.

Everyday I take care of the livestock and I weave. I have horses and cows. I wish that I still had sheep. My favorite pattern to weave is Teec Nos Pos. I can weave so many intricate patterns and use many different vibrant colors. I sometimes card and spin my own wool into yarn but the commercial yarns are also nice because there are many more colors to choose from.



Darlene Furcap

Big Mountain, AZ

I was born and raised on the Navajo reservation in a place called Big Mountain. I would say weaving is my life. I have been weaving since I was about seven years old. My mother, grandma, sisters, and aunts have all been weavers so I became a weaver too.

My grandpa taught me his healing ceremonies. I helped my grandpa to prepare herbs as people came to him day and night. I participate and do dance with yei bi chei dance too. That's where I started weaving healing dancer rugs, because I helped heal people when I helped my grandpa perform his yei bi chei ceremony. Yei bi chei and many more are the designs that I like to do.

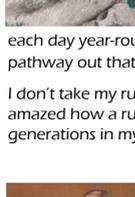


Katie Furcap

Big Mountain, AZ

I was born in 1932 and I have been weaving for 80 years. I like being able to sell my rugs and jewelry to make a living. It has helped me so much when I have needed it. I have been weaving rugs to support myself and my family for so many years.

I started weaving at the age of eight. Now, my eight children and grandchildren are also weavers.



Gloria Hardy

Chinle, AZ

Yá'at'ééh! My mother taught me how to weave. I get my ideas for my designs from traveling through places, different rug designs and putting designs together. Certain designs are only woven certain times of the year. When weaving, I think positive. I prefer weaving Yeii, Pictorial & my own designs in earth tone colors (brown, white, maroon) because it makes good earth or natural color designs. I weave 10 hours each day year-round and can weave 8 or more rugs a year depending on the size. I weave a spirit line or pathway out that people can see in my rugs.

I don't take my rugs to trading posts to sell, I save them for the next Rug Show. A lot of people are amazed how a rug is woven; the time and patience it takes. Weaving has been passed down through generations in my family to earn income.



Elvira Horseherder

Big Mountain, AZ

I was born in 1947. I started weaving at the age of seven so I have been weaving for nearly 70 years. I have been selling my rugs at the Adopt-A-Native-Elder rug show for 30 years and it is the only place I sell my rugs. Rug sales really help me to buy what I need for winter. It helps with everything—to buy water, to buy hay to save my sheep and give me wool for weaving.

We are so thankful and happy for the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program. I have cried and prayed because I feel I cannot give anything back to Linda and the Program. It is a blessing.

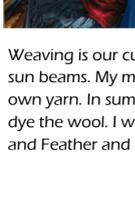


Vina Horseherder

Big Mountain, AZ

I have been a weaver my whole life. I have sold rugs through Adopt-A-Native-Elder for about 30 years. Selling my rugs really helps me to buy food, pay bills, and buy firewood to get ready for the winter.

Where I live on the reservation there are no jobs. There are no mountains and the land is dry. There are no jobs. The Adopt-A-Native Elder program helps me in so many ways. The food I receive from the Food Runs and the monthly certificates are a blessing.



Anna B. Jackson

Teesto, AZ

Yá'at'ééh! I am Anna B Jackson and I live in Winslow, Arizona. I am 92 years old. I was born in Teesto, Arizona to my mother, Hosteen Lukai Bitsi for the Tódich'iinii (Bitter Water Clan), and my father, Hostin A. Yoindeeli Begay of the Kinyaa'aanii (Towering House People clan). My husband is Frank Jackson of the Salt Clan, Ashiini. We have nine children, two of them are weavers.

Weaving is our culture. My mother taught me to weave and to think of sun rays, rainbow beams, and sun beams. My mother says there are songs for weaving and she says just pray. I buy yarn and spin my own yarn. In summer and fall, I collect Navajo Tea and white sand (clay) that grows on my homeland to dye the wool. I weave 6 hours a day year-round and create 15 to 18 rugs a year. I like weaving Dazzler and Feather and Star designs and get my ideas from the colors of sun beams and morning dawn.



Helen Rose Lewis

Teesto, AZ

I have been weaving to support my family for 40 years. It is good for me to sell my rugs and jewelry at the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Rug Show. I try to sell my rugs on my homeland, but it's hard to them there.

Sometimes I don't have money to buy firewood. During the winter cold season we need lots of woods to keep us warm and to cook. The Adopt-A-Native Elder Program really helps me so much in many ways. Thank you all.



Louise Reed

Chinle, AZ

I have been weaving for almost 60 years. This is the only place I sell my rugs. I like to sell my own rugs to buyers at a fair price.

Adopt-A-Native Elder has helped me a lot. They send me food certificates so that I can buy what I need and like.

At Food Runs, I get food and medical supplies. My sponsor buys firewood for me. I am happy I have a sponsor that works with the Program.



Rena Robertson

Hardrock, AZ

I've been weaving since I was ten years old. I've been married for 25 years and I've woven rugs to help support my family. There are seven weavers in my family. Selling my rugs with Adopt-A-Native-Elder provides not only an opportunity for me, but helps me in many ways. You help my life and my sponsor helps so much with food and firewood. Thank you very, very much!



Mae Shay

Big Mountain, AZ

I am 94 years old. I have sold my rugs through Adopt-A-Native-Elder for 30 years. My sisters and I have been weaving our whole life.

Selling my rugs at the Rug Show has changed my life. It gives value to our weaving. The sales improve my life, my house and my livestock.

I depend on the Adopt-A-Native Elder program, the food runs and help from my sponsor. When hard times come around, I go to the post office to see if something comes in from the program. It helps me so much. Thank you.



Philip Singer

Kayenta, AZ

I studied printmaking at the university level before I print myself at the loom.

Attention to detail, precision and accuracy is key for printmaking. Then add patience and I am ready to weave. This is the foundation I use when weaving. Are my edges straight? Are my designs looking like what I envisioned?

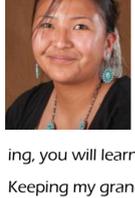
The mountains, mesas, sand dunes, ocean, vegetation, clouds in the sky and the ever-changing light visually transforms all things I see. In some instances, a current event or stories associated with Navajo weaving has helped me produce a tapestry conveying the story.



Wanda Tracy

Nazlini AZ

I live with my mother, Marie Nez. My mother has been a weaver her whole life and taught me to weave when I was a very young girl. I weave mainly Burnt Water rugs that are all vegetal dyes. I also keep busy with grandkids. There is only one vehicle for all of the family and I take everyone where they need to go. I weave as often as I can and also spend a lot of time collecting plants to dye my wool.



Bobbiejo Whitehair

Hardrock, AZ

I am from Hardrock, Arizona and live in a very remote area without electricity or running water. I have been weaving since I was five years old.

I enjoy weaving contemporary designs with elements of nature and the sacred mountains and mesas that surround me. Sources of inspiration and my family heritage, technique, materials and knowledge have built up over generations of learning.



Marty Whitehair

Hard Rock, AZ

I am 29 years old. I was born and raised on the Navajo reservation in northern Arizona. With the teachings of my grandmother, the late Sarah Robertson and my mother, Rena Robertson-Whitehair, I started weaving at the age of six. My grandmother once told me, "Shi tsoi. You will learn to weave and keep weaving so that you will always sustain yourself. There will be no limit to your designs. Through the discipline of weaving, you will learn to know who you are and where you come from."

Keeping my grandmother's and mother's works with me, I have been able to walk outside my comfort zone and create my own styles from the old style designs.



Grace Smith Yellowhammer

Teesto, AZ

I have been weaving since I was a child. I sell most of my weavings at the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Rug Shows for 30 years.

The Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program has helped me and the Elders in special times when we are struggling. The support we receive always gives us hope.