Featuring
Weaver Elizabeth Clah
“The Elders had no reason to trust me.”

Linda Myers, Founder of Adopt-A-Native-Elder, recalls many heartfelt memories of having known weaver Elizabeth Clah for over 30 years.

In the very early days of Adopt-A-Native-Elder, when I had only about 25 Elders in the Program, I met Delphine Sells. Delphine had seen what I was doing to help the Elderly Navajos. In those days, I had to meet the Elders in parking lots and hand out what I had for them.

Delphine said her aunt Elizabeth had a hogan where we could meet with the Elders. I drove out to her aunt’s homeland in Many Farms, Arizona where I met with Elizabeth Clah. Delphine offered to visit some of the Elders homes and tell them that I had food for them at Elizabeth’s homeland.

Elizabeth invited me to stay at her hogan. She lived in a house that was 50 yards away. Inside the hogan, there were two cots, some bedding, a wood burning stove, and a chair. An outhouse was several yards away. Elizabeth handed me a flashlight for the night. This was my first experience of what life was like for many of the Elders.

The next morning, eleven Elders arrived. They entered the hogan and sat down on the dirt floor. Elizabeth brought a pot of coffee and some cups. The hogan was filled with women in their colorful skirts and head scarves.

I was standing in the doorway and felt very humble as I looked down at the women. They appeared more like children to me with their faces looking up at me. Delphine translated.
Elizabeth, a traditional Navajo, sits in the sand with one of her rugs in front of her hogan. She is a highly respected leader, both in her family and in the community.

I explained to them that I could help them with food and bring them boxes of supplies two times a year. I told them I was going to bring these things in the spring and return again in the fall. They had no reason to trust me. Then I wrote the names of each Elder on a piece of paper and attached the papers with their names on the box of food for each of them. Elizabeth spoke to the Elders in Navajo about how I was going to help them. I kept my eyes down as they looked at me.

That evening, I met with many of Elizabeth’s children. Some were ok with me coming to their homeland to serve the Elders and some were not. But, Elizabeth was in charge.

(Continued on page 4)
I returned the next spring. We went to the Elder’s homes and invited them to Elizabeth’s homeland. Elizabeth seemed to trust me in a very innocent way that did not come so easily with other Elders. I learned that Elizabeth was a very fine weaver but after her husband passed, she had stopped weaving. He was the one who would take her rugs and sell them for her. I offered to help sell her rugs. She was known for her weaving of Yei Bei Chei rugs. She said she would set up her loom and have a rug for me to sell for her when I returned to the reservation in the fall. By the next day, she had already started weaving the cornstalk into her rug.

During this time period, more Elders began to show up at Elizabeth’s hogan each spring and fall. The hogan soon became too small for everyone. Elizabeth had a shade house for gathering and for ceremonies on her homeland. We began to meet there and also served the Elders fresh frybread and coffee. Soon, there were more Elders, and the program grew. Each time I would stay for several days. Elizabeth now wanted me to stay in her home. Together, we would visit the Elders and Elizabeth would tell them that I was selling her rugs for her. The women would look at me. I had no money to buy their rugs and I knew, as they handed their rugs over to me after many months of working hard on them, that I need to find buyers for their rugs.

I invited Elizabeth to stay with us in the summer at my home in Park City, Utah. She wanted a new truck to bring her family when they came. I took her to the store I owned at the time and let her choose a skirt. That became the skirt she wore during her stays with me.

I was invited to do a rug show in Scottsdale at a resort and asked Elizabeth to join me. I told her to weave rugs for it. People loved Elizabeth’s rugs. It was her first time seeing people look at her rugs. Elizabeth tended her sheep and other animals on her homeland and is known for being a great cattle woman.

Elizabeth Clah and her sister, Loretta Begay, holding one of Elizabeth’s beautiful Yei Bei Chei rugs.
loved weaving the large Yei Bei Chei rugs and she loved weaving in bright pinks, purples, and reds. These colors made her rugs stand out. After the show and the experience of selling her rugs, Elizabeth began weaving more rugs to sell.

The Food Runs were growing. Elizabeth allowed us to put a storage building on her homeland. She loved seeing the many volunteers at the Food Runs and decided to create rugs that would tell her story. Since she spoke no English, she wanted to share her beliefs through her rugs. She named one of the rugs, *Women On The Mountains*. The rug has the white corn on the sides, which signifies the corn pollen she uses to make her offerings at dawn. The Holy Ones, represented on both sides of the rug, listen to her prayers. The women go out to the mesas behind her homeland to make offerings in the early morning. She created this rug to help people know about her life.

Elizabeth returned each year to Park City to sell her rugs. I would tell her that her rugs were now in many states across the U.S. When she flew on her first plane ride for her granddaughter’s college graduation, she said she looked out the window and thought about all of the places and people that now had her rugs.

Elizabeth always loved to have fun. When she traveled to Park City for the Rug Show, she created a song about coming to the mountains where people buy her rugs. All of the other weavers learned to sing Elizabeth’s song.

When she was 88 years old, Elizabeth could no longer see well enough to weave. It was hard for both of us. When I visited her at her home, the loom that had been in her living room for so many years had

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been put away. After so many years, Elizabeth had put faith and trust in me to help her. As her health continued to decline and after several falls, her children decided the best place for her would be a care center in Chinle, Arizona.

In 2019, I went to the care center to visit Elizabeth for her birthday. The following day, the care center was closed to visitors, due to COVID. Families could visit outside the window.

In the fall of 2022, I went to see Elizabeth and was allowed a 15 minute visit. Elizabeth was very withdrawn. I told her about how much weavings meant to people and how everyone missed seeing her at the Food Runs. She listened closely as her daughter translated for me. Then she told me that life was behind her now. At 92 years old, the care center had kept her safe for many years. She sees it now as her home and where she belongs.

Elizabeth’s rugs are part of her legacy. Each rug tells the stories of her culture, her beliefs, and the ceremonies. She touched many people through her weavings.

Each time I travel to Elizabeth’s homeland for the Food Runs, I am humbled by the many memories of this weaver and friend who continues to open her homeland to volunteers and to the Elders.
Although Elizabeth is no longer weaving, a few of her beautiful rugs were given back to the program and will be available for purchase exclusively at the in-person Scottsdale Rug Show in February, 2024. (See page 12 for details.)
Adopt-A-Native-Elder 34th Annual
Navajo Rug Show & Sale

Online Event At: www.AnElder.org
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023
6:00 pm MST

Proceeds go directly to the weavers.
Presenting Sponsor: George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
The Naturals Collection

Mark your calendars for November 10th, 6:00 pm Mountain Time!

This year’s 34th annual Navajo Rug Show and Sale will premiere on our website, www.AnElder.org, on Friday November 10th at 6:00 pm Mountain Time. The spectacular theme rugs for this year’s show are woven in natural organic colors and weave together a modern and minimalist aesthetic with traditional Navajo patterns and symbols. This rug collection called “The Naturals” has been created only for this show and is not available outside of this unique event.
The Autumn Gold Collection

One of the unique aspects that makes the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Navajo Rug Show & Sale the only event of its kind in the world is the annual creation of these one-of-a-kind theme rug collections. Each theme challenges the weavers with design elements that they have not experienced before, and in many cases will never re-create. This helps to foster creativity and artistic license for the weavers and encourages them to keep refining and furthering their craft. It also means that at every year’s Rug Show, you have the opportunity to purchase an original piece of artwork that would not exist without the marketplace of the annual Rug Show & Sale.
Handmade ornaments give the Elders Winter Blessings of food, yarn & firewood and make great gifts for family & friends!

Every June, many caring hands come together at our Salt Lake City warehouse for Craft Day to create beautiful ornaments. Each ornament features a photo of an Elder on the front and information about the Elder on the reverse side. The purchase of an ornament helps provide food certificates, yarn, and firewood to help the Elders during the harsh winter months.

These ornaments are perfect holiday gifts for friends and relatives. Through your ornament purchase, an Elder will receive a $25 Food Certificate, a $50 yarn box, or a $200 voucher for the “Gift of Warmth” purchase of firewood.

Order an ornament today and provide an Elder with winter blessings

I would like to purchase: ______ Ornament(s).

Food certificates, firewood and/or yarn will be sent to the Elder featured on the ornament.

Your Name: ____________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Ornaments will be sent mailed the above address. Please mail this form with your check to: Adopt-A-Native-Elder
328 W Gregson Ave. Salt Lake City, UT 84115

Winter Blessings

___ Food Certificate(s) $50ea.
___ Load(s) Firewood $200ea.
___ Yarn Bundle(s) $50ea.

$ _______ Total Amount Enclosed

Ornaments may also be purchased at our Online Rug Show on November 10th!
BOOK YOUR STAY EARLY IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE SCOTTSDALE SHOW

If you would like to attend the Scottsdale Rug Show, please book your hotel room early. Here are some suggestions for your stay: Hampton Inn in Carefree, AZ: 480-476-9200
You may also find suitable stays on these sites: www.vrbo.com and www.airbnb.com.
Cities within a short driving distance are North Scottsdale, AZ, Carefree, AZ and Cave Creek, AZ.
IN-PERSON RUG SHOW IN SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA
FEATURING CEREMONIAL RUGS

This year, The Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program is once again hosting two shows: our Online Rug Show and our in-person Scottsdale Rug Show. Each show celebrates the important role that Native American Elders and their culture serve, with all rug sale proceeds directly supporting the weavers. The Scottsdale In-Person Rug Show is an opportunity to meet with and purchase rugs directly from some of the weavers who create these beautiful works of art. Special rug collections have been selected exclusively for this show in a dazzling display of Navajo art and culture. Weaving demonstrations, cultural talks, and Navajo jewelry and crafts are all a part of the Show.
YOUR RUG SHOW SPONSORSHIP GOES A LONG WAY TO PROVIDE ELDERS WITH NEEDED ASSISTANCE

Adopt-A-Native-Elder is a not-for-profit charitable organization and hosts both the Online Rug Show and the Scottsdale Show to create a marketplace for the Navajo Elders. Through these Rug Shows, we wish to honor and respect the Elders and their culture and share it with others. To help defray the costs of the Rug Shows and make sure that we are able to distribute Food Certificates and other needed assistance to the Elders throughout the year, it is vital that Adopt-A-Native-Elder recruits individuals, corporations, and foundations to sponsor the shows. Rug Show Sponsors will receive recognition on our website. We thank you for your support!

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<tr>
<th>Who your Sponsorship supports</th>
<th>The Bald Eagle Circle: ($5,000 +)</th>
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<td>The Elders live a humble lifestyle and need help to care for themselves as they age. 100% of your donation towards food and firewood goes directly to the Elders in the form of vouchers that we mail to them. Other donations buy flour and medical supplies that we take to the Elders twice a year on our Food Runs. Every donation makes a difference. Thank you!</td>
<td>Most Elders use firewood to heat their homes in the winter and to cook food year-round. A sponsorship at this level provides firewood for 50 or more Elders.</td>
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<th>The Golden Eagle Circle: ($2,500–$4,999)</th>
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<td>Many Elders live on the land raising livestock, growing corn or weaving rugs. A sponsorship at this level provides Rainbow Food Boxes for 13 to 25 Elders.</td>
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<th>The Bluebird Circle: ($100–$999)</th>
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<td>Bluebird flour is special flour that Elders use to make traditional tortillas and fry bread. A sponsorship at this level provides flour for up to 100 Elders.</td>
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<th>The Hummingbird Circle: ($1,000–$2,499)</th>
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<td>A Medical Box costs $40. A sponsorship at this level provides medicines for 25 to 63 Elders.</td>
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IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PLACE YOUR SPONSORSHIP DONATION ONLINE, PLEASE SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE TO ACCESS OUR ONLINE RUG SHOW SPONSORSHIP PAGE

You may also order your Winter Blessing Ornaments or make a donation to the Diné Weavers Circle with this QR code. (To scan the code from your phone, open your camera app and point your phone at the QR code. Make sure the QR code is inside the box on your screen, and then tap the pop-up banner. This will take you directly to our Rug Show Page. Scroll to the bottom of page to enter your Rug Show Sponsorship.

MAIL-IN SPONSORSHIP FORM (Please mail by October 15th)

Your Name (As you would like it published) ________________________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________
City__________________________________________ State______ Zip_________________

Sponsorship Level

**The Bluebird Flour Circle** ($100—$999) Donation Amount: __________

**The Humming Bird Circle** ($1000—$2499) Donation Amount: __________

**The Golden Eagle Circle** ($2500—$4999) Donation Amount: __________

**The Bald Eagle Circle** ($5,000 +) Donation Amount: __________

On behalf of the Elders we love and assist, we thank you for your consideration of giving sponsorship support. Your contribution continues to help build a bridge of hope with one of the last generations of North America’s traditional Elders. Thank you!

A special thank you to the following foundations for your Rug Show support:

Presenting Sponsor: George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation

The William Wishnick Foundation

The Herbert & Elsa Micheal Foundation

Marion D & Maxine C Hanks Foundation

Because of your support, the Elders know that you care for them.
I wish each of you could touch the Elders hands that have held mine.
I wish you could see the smiles and see the tears of joy that come in appreciation for all that is given and shared.
I wish our hands could reach out and make a circle to show the Elders how far and wide their support has grown.
I wish I could find a way to touch your life, as you have touched my life in honoring the vision that I had in supporting the Elders.
I wish you Peace, that you may feel the special joy which you bring into the Elder’s lives.
I wish you the warmth and the love of walking The Giveaway Circle and the stillness to remind us all how we each make a difference.

Written in 1997 by Linda Myers
Adopt-A-Native-Elder Founder and Director Of Elder Care

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Written in 1997 by Linda Myers
Adopt-A-Native-Elder Founder and Director Of Elder Care

Linda Myers shares a special moment with an Elder.

For 34 years, Adopt-A-Native-Elder has provided an essential venue for weavers to sell their authentic Navajo rugs, jewelry, and crafts. The proceeds from the Shows directly help the Elders to survive the cold winter months on the Navajo Reservation.

We hope you will join us either online or in-person in Scottsdale for these special events!