In the early days of The Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program, the Elders at Big Mountain faced relocation during the Navajo-Hopi land dispute. Because their homeland and sheep grazing area were now determined to be on Hopi land, Sally and Hennie Yazzie were among the Elders who found themselves displaced. In 1989, they were relocated to Sanders, Arizona. Sally was deeply saddened by the move. They continued to attend the Food Runs at Big Mountain so they could see their clan relatives and family members.

Sally and Hennie had 10 children. Hennie was a Medicine Man and was often called away from his family to hold ceremonies for people on the Reservation. Three of the Yazzie’s
sons followed in their father’s footsteps and also became Medicine Men, which made their parents very proud. Sally raised the children through the sale of her rugs. Traditional Saddle Blankets and Raised Outline were the styles she wove with wool from her sheep. Sally taught each of her girls to weave so that they would have a way to help support their own families some day.

Sally taught her girls to be good mothers, telling them to treat their younger brothers and sisters as if they were their own children. And, she gave them many chores to do. She taught them to cook all of the traditional food like blue corn mush, kneel down bread, underground cake, and how to cook the meat from her sheep.

Her children and I have many special memories of Sally being a very kind and lovable person. She enjoyed helping others and was always patient. Sally cleaned, carded, and spun her wool everyday in preparation for weaving her rugs.

Sally and Hennie shared many good years together. Their kids had grown when Hennie passed. Sally found herself alone. In 2011, Marylou Yazzie, one of Sally’s daughters, moved back home to care for her mother.
She and her sister Irene helped take care of Sally’s sheep and Sally continued to card and spin her wool. When Sally lost her eyesight, her daughter would set up her loom and instead of weaving patterned rugs, Sally wove all white sheep rugs. Sally’s rugs became very popular when she brought them to sell at the Food Runs.

Just before the 2023 fall Food Runs, I received a call that Sally was close to passing. Although her death certificate stated that she was 97, her doctor said she was more likely over 100 years old.

Sally and Hennie Yazzie in their later years.

Special thanks to Marylou Yazzie who took care of her mother for 13 years and is now an Elder in The Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program. It has been an honor to have known Sally and her family for 34 years and to have shared in her life. There is only a window of time left with these old, traditional Navajo Elders.
What we love most is seeing the Elders, who live in remote areas, able to share special moments with each other.
David O’Day with 103 year-old Mary Chee at Tsaile.

Dave and Donna Hunter meet their new Elder Cora Manygoats at Tolani Lake.

Les Beull escorts Lula Notah at the Food Run at Tsaile.

Alicia Marquez with Annie Tso at Tsaile.

A Bridge of Hope

CJ Robb, Director of Business, with Annie Daily at Birdsprings.

Linda Myers with Frieda Edd at Leupp.

Mary Owen with Louise Reed at Tsaile.
The Program gives out many new wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and incontinent products at each Food Run.

- Alex Northcott gets a wheelchair ready for an Elder at Forest Lake.
- Mary Benally is very happy to receive her new wheelchair.
- Stella Chase gives the “thumbs up” on her new wheelchair.
- Ruby Goldtooth gets a new walker with a seat at the Tsaile Food Run.
- At Dilkon, Kee Yoe gets a new walker.
- At Birdsprings, Annie Dailey receives a new wheelchair.
Getting Food Boxes and Water to the land at each location is a BIG job

A special thanks to Art Mills and Alice Vandorn from Meridian, ID who made sure water was delivered to all 13 Food Runs this fall.

Phil Mesdag and CJ Robb unload all of the Elder’s special order boxes at the Tsaile Food Run.

Howard Benally loads a Penske truck with food boxes from our warehouse and then drives to Cortez, CO to pick up up Bluebird Flour for the Food Runs.

The Rainbow Food Boxes are unloaded from the truck at Big Mountain.

Dave Dillon checks off the boxes for each Elder, making sure all sponsored-ordered items are in place.
Hannah Young fits a grandma for one of the new jackets every female Elder received.

Julie Mesdag helps an Elder get a new warm flannel shirt jacket and a new, warm long sleeve t-shirt.

Johnny Grandson hold his new shirts at Forest Lake.

Every Elder received a $200 firewood voucher.

Many Elders cheered when Rodger Williams translated that they would each receive a new ax.

The Giveaway in Native tradition means giving your very best.

Eva Tohonnie Yazzie holds her sponsor’s gift letters at Big Mountain.

A happy Elder with a truckload of Rainbow Food and Giveaways.
The Program provides about 140 lunches at each of the Food Runs for all of the Elders, their families, and volunteers. A special thanks to the Robertson family who cooked for over 100 people at Big Mountain. Special thanks Cindi Allen from New Mexico for coordinating the food for the Many Farms, Tsaile, and Forest Lake Food Runs.
It is very special to see families sharing their time and their hands to help the Elders at Food Runs.
Thank you to each sponsor, donor, foundation, and volunteer for your level of care and service to the Elders.
Give the gift that keeps on giving:  
A yarn bundle so a weaver can make a rug to sell

Each box contains six skeins of wool and one warp to weave a two-foot by three-foot rug. The cost for each yarn box is $50. That includes shipping and insurance. Our goal is to make it easier for the Elders who depend on family for transportation to be able to receive their yarns at their post office box.

Yarn color combinations are:
- Chiefs: Red, black, blue, grey and white colors
- Crystal: Beige, coffee, olive, bronze and cream
- Ganado: Black, red, white, charcoal, and silver grey
- Greyhills: Heather grey, sable brown, cream, rust brown and oatmeal
- Old Style: Sunburst gold, charcoal, sable brown, cream, and oatmeal
- Traditional: Medieval red, charcoal, white, black and light grey

A special thank you to Louise and Jerry Sedliecious for delivering backpacks to Rocky Ridge School and to Leanna Nay for delivering backpacks to Many Farms public schools.
If you are interested in attending the Scottsdale Rug Show, you may book your hotel stay at the 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 distance are North Scottsdale, Carefree and Cave Creek.
Memorial Donations

Bill and Debra Thornburg donated in memory of Gene Trausch.
Paul and Janet Edie donated in memory of Linda Elsner.
Jacqui Elsner donated in memory of her mother, Linda Elsner.
Dr. Emil and Donna Authelet donated in memory of their Elder, Doris Jones.
Jim Roberts and Mary Hrbek donated in memory of Jerry J. Janck.
Jan Prideaux donated in memory of Lynn Speck and Wick Prideaux.
Liza Maltsberger donated in memory of Elder Florence Nelson.

A donation has been made by Phyllis Hazel in memory of Charles Boehm’s beloved sister, Betty Kassel.

In memory of her Dear Friend, Carol White, Phyllis Hazell has donated a yarn bundle to Vina Horseherder.

Alicia Marquez donated in memory of Elders in need.
Elaine Streets donated in memory of her brother, Stacy E. Hall.
Cari Carver donated in memory of Julie Williams.

Jeff Williams made a donation in memory of his wife, Julie Williams.
Jeanne Dickey donated in memory of her Elder Lillie Chief.

Linda Myers donated in memory of Betty Mickelson.

Carol Glayre made a donation in memory of her husband, Louis Glayre.

In Honor Donations

Teresa Taylor made a donation in honor of her Elder Janet Benally
Amy Arsenault made a donation in honor of her Elder Mary Y Begay
Bob and Lauri Prashaur donated in honor of Jamie and Jason Soden.
Richard Lippman donated in honor of Beri Swango, Daughter and Artist.

Patricia Neveu donated in honor of her Elder Mayme Lee.
Dounan Zhu donated in honor of Luke and Dinisha’s wedding.
April Wilsey made a donation in honor of Linda Barbano.

Gretchen Vienna donated to Alice McCabe in honor of Grethen’s daughter, Heather Weir’s birthday.

Karen Kauffeld donated in recognition of John Aldrich, our photographer, and the countless hours he spends photographing rugs and food runs. “His attention to detail, his patience, his demeanor, and his precision with a camera are unique! Yeah John!”

Supporters of the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program (ANE) have expressed an interest in naming A.N.E. as a beneficiary in their will or estate plan. If you would like more information on how you may help in this important legacy-building way, please contact John Burrow: (503) 312-5655 or jburrow5@aol.com. We thank those who have already named A.N.E. as a beneficiary in your estate plan.
WHEN EAGLES FLY
In Special Remembrance Of The Elders We Loved

NAVAJO MOUNTAIN
- Mary Miles
- Pauline Smallcanyon

OLJATO
- Mary Rock Holiday

LEUPP
- Nona Shuler
- Charlie Long, Jr.

BIRDSPRINGS
- Zonnie Slowtalker
- Billy Mitchell

TOLANI LAKE
- Betty Curley
- Fred Begay

FOREST LAKE
- Johnson Yazzie
- Lillie Chief
- Mary Gilmore
- Timothy Mose

BIG MOUNTAIN
- Nina Yazzie
- Rose Davis

SANDERS
- Sally Yazzie

TEESTO
- Jefferson Paddock
Firewood Vouchers and Bashas’ Food Certificates: You may order a load of firewood or a food certificate for your Elder. If you place your order with us before December 15, your Elder will receive your gift before the Holidays.

Gift Certificates: You may wish to purchase gift certificates from WalMart in your local area. The Elders can purchase clothing, tools and other necessities with the WalMart certificates.

Non-Perishable Items: The Elders may not frequently check their mailbox, especially if the weather is bad. Batteries for lanterns (6 volt) are always needed. Items must be mailed directly to your Elder via the US Postal System. UPS and FedEx do not make deliveries to the reservation.

Winter Items: Things such as blankets, warm heavy-duty snow boots, heavy socks, thermal underwear, flannel shirts, gloves, neck scarves, sweaters, cough drops, Vicks, and Bengay.

Your Letters and Christmas Cards: Some sponsors hesitate to write to their Elders because the Elder doesn’t read or write. However, the Elders always love to receive letters. Younger family members translate for them. They especially enjoy photos that show them where you live, family pictures, and cards of all kinds.

Every several years, we mail assessment forms to each of the Elders to obtain their updated health and wellness information. Most of the Elders have returned the forms to us. If you would like your Elder’s updated assessment, you may request it through email at: office@anelder.org Please let us know if you would prefer us to email or mail the form to you.

We thank you for your generous support for the Elders in 2023. May you walk in beauty.

Looking to send something special to your Elder for the Holidays?

The Adopt-A-Native-Elder office will be closed from December 21-January 3. Please place Elder holiday orders by December 15 so they arrive on time. We wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyful season.

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