



**OGLALA COMMEMORATION'S
ANNUAL SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE
IN MEMORY OF MARIAH MONTILEAUX**



This annual school supply drive is one of our community projects created to honor Leonard Peltier's vision of empowering the Oglala people to have an active role in defining the future direction of their tribe.

Both Leonard and the Committees believe that, all have the potential to rise above their given circumstances and to effectively contribute to the preservation of traditional language and spirituality through education in spite of the historical circumstances which have sought to deprive the Oglala of their destiny.

Given the right tools, support and resources, many Oglala children are able to transcend the dire economic and social situation of the challenged reservation community. The failure to adequately provide for these children raises the need individuals to become involved and to help to tip the balance in these children's favor. "It's time to listen to our youth to hear how we can help them -- physically, mentally and emotionally.

There is much need, with drop-out rates over 70% and Lakota Teen suicide rates are 150% above the norm for the US; the BIA reports that Pine Ridge Schools are in the bottom 10% of school funding by the U.S. Department of Education. High unemployment, illiteracy, alcoholism, drug addiction, further fuels the vast sense of hopelessness that many of these children experience daily.

This year's drive is in memory of Mariah Montileaux a 14 year old 9th grader. Mariah was a recipient of the Catherine Laurence Memorial Scholarship, awarded to a freshman at the Red Cloud High School. Her love for children and animals inspired her to study medicine or veterinary sciences. A highly intelligent young woman who loved the challenge of studying math and science, and her desire to maintain her cultural and spiritual heritage by studying the Lakota Language. Mariah danced Fancy Shawl, Jingle Dress and Traditional. Mariah's dreams came to an abrupt end on November 18, 2009. Mariah was the daughter of Iva Black Elk Star Comes Out, niece of Owen Black Elk, and a daughter to many.

The Committee will be collecting school supplies to be donated in Mariah's honor for the Red Cloud High School.

It is our vision of empowerment, and our belief in the destiny of our youth.

Contributions may be mailed, dropped off at booths or brought to the Commemoration Event. (Some pick ups areas) Email: oglala_commemoraiton@yahoo.com

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