

2015-2016 Pine Ridge Mittens Project

11/23/15

The original fundraising letter starts on page 2. Since early September of this year, we've maxed out the Wolf Creek School and will have several hundred more pair of mittens to send to other areas of the rez by early December. We will keep making and sending mittens as long as the donations hold out – it's going to be another nasty winter in South Dakota.



Over two dozen people have contributed money or sweaters (U.S. and Canada), many of them more than once. Our value went over \$3,000.00 November 22. Our donations have been running from \$15.00 (from a woman in Germany) to \$150.00, with most sending \$25-50.00. Heather ran her marathon.

The following letter was sent September 26, 2015.

You are receiving this email because you might be willing to underwrite Heather's marathon, have pledged dollars upon completion of her current one, or have already sent money.

Carol:

I am a self-supporting freelance artist who manages to live reasonably well (i.e. a privileged white woman who can buy toilet paper) due to the support of my community. Last winter I developed an ergonomic mitten pattern using felted wool (warm even when sopping wet) and sent my working samples and as many pair as I could to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. This year's project is for the 700 kids at the Wolf Creek School.

Pine Ridge statistical data:

<http://www.4aihf.org/id40.html>

Ergonomic Mitten Pattern:

www.carolkimball.net/mittens

I belong to an online knitting group, the UnRavelers, who haunt thrift stores for sweaters of quality wool to harvest and reuse. Sometimes our sweaters felt: cutting and sewing them into mittens is a good save. When I mentioned mittens for Pine Ridge, Heather and a number of others there got behind me big time, sending sweaters and donating cash (in an escrowed PayPal account).

Heather:

So, what does my running have to do with Carol's mitten project? Well, like all projects, there are expenses that add up - shipping, packaging, reimbursing, buying, etc., etc. and that doesn't even touch the value of Carol's time and talent (which she is donating to make sure little kids on a reservation known for its brutal winters have warm mittens on their hands) and actual CASH MONEY (as my son calls it) is needed, as well as raw materials and talent.

I'm registered and plan to run my first (and likely only) full marathon in Columbus, Ohio (USA) on October 18th of this year. Since February, I have run and run and run some more. I eat and sleep and work and run. That's about it (besides doing lots of laundry). I am going to hit up everyone I know locally to sponsor me on this run and donate 100% of the proceeds to Carol's cause.

I'll run 26.2 miles and if any of you want to sponsor me on that race, you will send your amount (however big or small) to Carol. I'll report in on how I'm doing and after I'm done, how I did. I'll also let you know the total amount I raised locally.

So - if you want to sponsor me, send Carol a donation (in ANY amount) for the Great Mitten Project, and then pm me, I'll put your name on the list for a karmic balancing gift - no need to tell me the amount. If you have a karmic balancing gift you'd be willing to send to a donor, let me know and we will sort it out after I cross the finish line. If there is extra money - I'll bet Carol can figure out a way to donate it to another worthy cause or to the Pine Ridge Reservation, where it can be put to good use.

Carol:

Currently what's in my studio (or already sent) will make several hundred pair of kids' mittens. We'd like to manage mittens for all of them as soon as physically possible, before the weather gets nasty (three local people are helping me). If we overshoot, the folks there will pass them on to other reservation schools.



Heather crossing the finish line at the 2013 Charleston Distance Run and the first batch of mittens sent 9/23/15.

Surplus money will go to the PayPal account of Theresa and Jerome HighHorse, a couple who retired to the rez and for years have been supplying as much organization and help as they can.

"Why not just send wool sweaters?"



They shrink, usually more vertically, so they're wearable by neither the original person nor anyone else. Mittens made from them are already shrunk and felted.

(Your server may not want to open the Ravelry links: there are over 4 million members worldwide and the volume of traffic looks scary)

My Ravelry mittens project page:

<http://www.ravelry.com/projects/carolkimball/fall-mittens-charity-donation>

Unraveler's Thread:

<http://www.ravelry.com/discuss/unravelers/3273487/1-25>

Pine Ridge Wolf Creek School thread:

<http://www.ravelry.com/discuss/for-the-children-of-pine-ridge/3220785/1-25>

Wamblee HighHorse thread:

<http://www.ravelry.com/discuss/for-the-children-of-pine-ridge/3113948/1-25>