



BECOME A MEMBER OF OUR HERITAGE CIRCLE

Creating positive change in Indian Country through legacy giving.

You can help by joining our Heritage Circle which enables you to donate using our planned giving options. National Relief Charities offers a variety of ways that you can donate to a great cause while achieving your financial goals:

- **Bequest in your Will or Trust**
- **Life Insurance policy donation**
- **Retirement plan donation**

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

As a Heritage Circle member you will be periodically informed of our efforts to provide program services to American Indians in need living in the areas we serve. Our Planned Giving staff will be available to you to answer questions you may have about legacy gift planning or about our many program services. As a token of our appreciation you will receive a gift given to you, in honor of your legacy gift to Indian People. This gift will incorporate a highly stylized Medicine Wheel in its design. Our wheel is divided into four sections, which signifies the four directions of north, south, east and west. The colors stand for the four races of man and the circle design symbolizes the circle of life. We included the feathers in our design to embody the strength, pride and independence the eagle has held in many American Indian cultures. ■

The information in this publication is not intended as legal advice. For legal advice, please consult an attorney. Figures cited in examples are for hypothetical purposes only and are subject to change. References to estate and income tax include federal tax only. Individual state taxes and/or state law may impact your results.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE

Here is some sample bequest language that you might use in your Will or Living Trust:

UNRESTRICTED GIFT*:

I give, devise, and bequeath to National Relief Charities, Elkwood, VA, the sum of \$ _____ for its general purposes.

CONTINGENCY GIFT:

In the event of that _____ predeceases me, I give, devise, and bequeath his/her bequest or share to National Relief Charities, Elkwood, VA, to be used for its general purposes.

**Please Note: You may choose to name a specific program of National Relief Charities in your Will. For restricted gifts, it may be possible to specify the specific program service you want to give to. Please contact our Planned Giving office toll free at 1-877-853-6474.*

OUR MISSION IS:

To help Native American people improve the quality of their lives by providing opportunities for them to bring about positive changes in their communities.

A Program of National Relief Charities
Planned Giving Administration Office
PO Box 118 • Elkwood, VA 22718
(877) 853-6474

E-Mail: nrcpg@nrc1.org

www.nrcprograms.org



Give a Meaningful Gift

You have worked hard to accumulate assets throughout your life. When you create a Will, you have the ability to determine how your assets are distributed at death.

To learn how to make a meaningful gift that better communicates your beliefs and values, please send for our FREE Information Kit.



Creating a Legacy

Meet Heritage Circle Member Wayne

When Wayne's father took his six-year-old son to an American Indian reservation more than 60 years ago, he probably didn't know that he was creating a legacy that would last for generations. But the dignity of the Native Americans they met, and the gentle kindness they showed their visitors, struck the boy profoundly — as did the sad and impoverished conditions in which they were living.

Those images have stayed in Wayne's mind to this day. And they helped inspire the extraordinary artwork that he produced for years: stark, graceful, powerful works in pen and ink that Wayne gave to friends or sold through art shows.

Wayne also found inspiration in his avid study of Native American history. The 1932 John Neihardt book *Black Elk Speaks* tells the true story of Black Elk, an Oglala Sioux Holy Man, in his own words. This book has a particularly special place in Wayne's life. "I read it during an extremely difficult time in my life," he says, "and it gave me a peace of mind and was the inspiration for much of my artwork."

Many things changed over the years for Wayne. He stopped making artwork for many years and dedicated himself to his family, including three sons. But he never forgot the Native American people, and the conditions in which they were living were never far from his mind:



- Cancer-related illnesses for American Indians are higher than for any minority group in the U.S., mainly due to poverty and lack of access to quality health care.

- American Indians living on reservations have a per-capita income less than half of the U.S. average.

- Eight of America's ten poorest counties are on reservations.

- Today life expectancy for American Indians has improved but is still almost five years shorter than that of other ethnic and racial groups in America.

- Many American Indians work full-time yet still fall below poverty level.

As a father Wayne kept the legacy of friendship, caring and compassion alive by taking his sons to visit the reservations of the Northern Plains, just as his own father had taken him. He loved going into Indian-run trading posts to purchase pipe stone, feathers, and other items that enhanced his art. And as he would strike up conversations about artwork and history with the people he met, he found barriers were broken and a friendly camaraderie was established time and again.

Today, as a retiree, Wayne continues to keep that legacy alive. He contacted National Relief



to 63%, and health issues are widespread. So he is contributing to programs that encourage independence, care for Native Elders, improve access to health care, provide urgently needed food relief, emergency winter fuel and weatherization services, and so much more.

“For too many Native Americans, their land, their language and even their culture was taken away from them,” he says. “But supporting NRC programs as a member of the Heritage Circle, I’m helping to give back. I can’t change the past, but I’m helping change the future.”

Wayne may have never become a famous artist. But he has created beautiful artwork that will last forever. And through his Heritage Circle support he is helping to create a lasting legacy of friendship, kindness and kinship to Native American people. ■



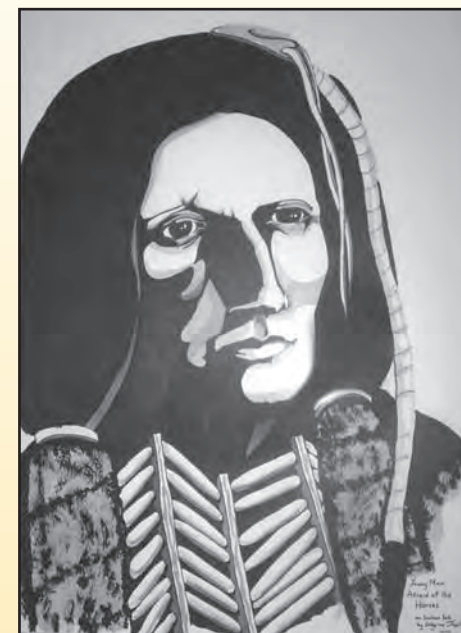
Suzi Smith (NRC Partnership in Giving) during a recent visit with Wayne.

Charities after receiving one of our mailings and called to ask how he could help. He has maintained his generous commitment to NRC because of our approach of addressing the needs of Native American communities in true partnership, and with a spirit of respect and dignity. In fact, he felt so strongly about our work that he started this New Year off by becoming a Heritage Circle Member.

By supporting NRC Wayne is helping to establish strong, self-sufficient Native American communities. He knows that on the reservations where we work, poverty ranges from 38%



In addition to pen and ink, Wayne creates multi-media pieces using plaster, pipe stone, wood, feathers, and other natural materials.



LAST IN LINE

Being last in line is nothing new for Native Americans whether waiting in line for government goods and commodities or inadequate health services. Impoverished Native Americans have endured these shameful conditions with dignity and quiet resolution.

But being the “last in line” to be included in a benefactor’s Will is an honor and a privilege for NRC. We understand donors wish to take care of others first before including a nonprofit in their Will. But please know there is no such thing as too small a bequest as any amount left to an NRC program will benefit the Indian communities we serve.

It is not necessary for a benefactor to inform us of their intentions to include NRC in their Will but it is very helpful for us to know.

- It will give us an idea of how we will receive help “years in the future” as we follow our mission “to help Native American people improve the quality of their lives by providing opportunities for them to bring about positive

change in their communities.”

- We would like to include you in our Heritage Circle to recognize your desire to help the Native American community through a bequest. We will respect your privacy if you wish to remain anonymous.

- It is important for us to know if you have restricted your bequest so we are better able to ensure that your intentions are carried out.

- We can help you with questions you may have in making a specific bequest to the program of your choice.

- We would inform you if we no longer provide the service you designated in your Will so you may decide how to make a change to reflect this.

We know that circumstances may change over the years and you may need to revise your Will accordingly. A Will is not “set in stone” but it is a testament to one’s support and belief in the services we are providing Native American communities. ■



For additional statistics please refer to these sources:

- HHS/Indian Health Disparities Fact Sheets at <http://info.ihs.gov/Disparities.asp>, January 2010
- Native People for Cancer Control at <http://depts.washington.edu/uwcccr/npsc-about.html>.
- I.H.S. and National Council of Nursing at www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/nnc/documents/phcore.doc.
- The National Congress of American Indians, Hearing on Job Creation and Economic Stimulus in Indian Country
 - January 2009 http://indian.senate.gov/public/_files/JackieJohnsonPatatestimony.pdf
- 2005 BIA American Indian Population & Labor Force Report at <http://www.bia.gov/idc/groups/public/documents/text/idc-001719.pdf>
- 2009-10 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS, Navajo Nation)
 - http://www.navajobusiness.com/pdf/CEDS/CED_NN_Final_09_10.pdf
- Mar 2006 Federal Gazette in “Tribal Trends” at http://www.minneapolisfed.org/publications_papers/pub_display.cfm?id=1376
 - 2000 Census.
- Journalist in “Arrogance of Ignorance” at http://silvrdrach.homestead.com/schwartz_2006_oct_15.html.