On Sunday, September 10th, 2017, the Red Lodge Transition Center for Women was blessed by community! Over 100 new and old friends and supporters from near and far, filled the house and flowed out into the yard and patio. Everyone seemed to find a space that felt most comfortable to them. A slide presentation looped continuously in the library showing the before and after pictures of the house and yard. The Wellbriety community brought their drum and set up in the front yard. The NIVA van helped shuttle people back and forth from the off site parking place down the road, and Red Lodge supporters were busy cooking up an incredible meal of traditional and favorite summer foods.

On Thursday, September 14, agencies, funders and community partners toured the home. Oregon State Legislature Representative Tawna Sanchez, co-founder and Board Chair, spoke about this historic program and their vision for Native American women returning from prison, jail and treatment programs.

When we first purchased the property in January, 2017 after months of negotiation with Clackamas County and the former owners, the house barely qualified to be appraised. The structure is solid, but there was no heat. The house sat vacant during the winter months with no heat or water running through its pipes. The only insulation in the attic was made up
of Styrofoam—100 trash bags of Styrofoam in every shape and size eventually came out of the attic. We were instructed that it is highly flammable, and lets off dangerous gas when burned. A special thank you goes out to the brave community volunteers who were small enough and brave enough, to go up in the attic and rake it out!

There were some creative plumbing issues that needed to be addressed and remedied, and thank goodness for the IBEW Local #48 women who came out and took on the task of rewiring the entire house for us! Jeld Wen donated windows, and two sliding glass doors. JK Carpet Center donated the upstairs carpet and SAS donated the dishwasher. The stove was donated by Jody and Kay and Globe Lighting of Lake Oswego generously helped us out with recessed lighting and other fixtures. Stu, Snoops, Little Crazy, Dustin, Anthony, Horse, Millie, Joel, Dallas, Beth, Carlee, George, Robert, Trish, Tom, Tami, Erika, Stephanie, Jackie, Christina, Delores, Myrna, and several more folks put over 4,000 hours of volunteer labor into the house. A French drain runs the entire length of the house out back, and the heavy duty gutters work overtime in the rain. Rough cut bark dust on the side and back of the house cuts down on the mud. The sod out front really made the house become a home, now if we could just get rid of that pesky mole! There are still pieces of the house and yard not done—will the work ever be done living out in the country? What we wish for 2018 is a chicken coop, an ADA accessible path to the back door, and two or three more French drain systems for the road. The rest will come a little at a time.

During the warm summer months we were able to hire dedicated community members to do the heavy work and the finish work. It was a win-win situation for Red Lodge to have a consistent work force and helpful for community members who were looking for a part time summer job. Red Lodge spent almost $60,000 on repairs, maintenance, debris removal, materials, professional contractors and manual labor. We will need to raise an additional $30,000 to retrofit the septic system and build out the garage. Solar Power and a medicine garden are also in our future!
**Women Helping Women Project**

**Hosted by IBEW Local #48 and the women electricians who helped rewire the Red Lodge Transition Center!**

In October, the IBEW Union Hall for the Local #48 was transformed into a Native American art show, silent auction, live entertainment and salmon dinner venue! Over 160 people filled the space, and feasted on Columbia River Salmon cooked on cedar soaked planks in a large BBQ filled with mesquite charcoal. It was cooked perfectly by Joel Craig and his brother, both of these men are Warm Spring Tribal members. The Wellbriety community came early to help prep for the dinner and open the evening with the big drum.

Tony Garcia and grandson kept us entertained along with Ed Edmo, a traditional story teller and Red Lodge Board member. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and it was really amazing when so many folks from the community pitched in to help!

The evening was a huge success netting us just over $6,000. The proceeds from this fund raiser were used to finish paying for the insulation in the attic and installation of a new heat pump! We have an all electric house and furnace, so you can imagine how costly it was to heat a split level home without any insulation in the attic or crawlspace. Thanks to all the fall fund raising efforts, the house is warm, cozy and much more energy efficient!

---

**Chef Justin Kay and Virtuous Pie Fundraising Dinner for Red Lodge!**

On November 23rd, also known as Thanksgiving Day, **Chef Justin Kay** and dedicated employees of **Virtuous Pie**, located at 1126 Southeast Division Street, Portland, began preparing an incredible vegan feast! Tickets sold out within two weeks, and many came from Vancouver, Canada to oversee the event. Cooking a fundraising dinner for a local non profit has become a tradition for Chef Kay who made a conscious choice several years ago to not celebrate certain holidays. Joel Craig, a member of the Warm Springs tribe, blessed us with a traditional song and a brief explanation of his prayer for the water, food and humanity. It was a beautiful evening that raised just over $400 and public awareness for Red Lodge. Thank you again to all the folks who gave up their day with family to prepare such beautiful food on behalf of Red Lodge Transition Services!

---

**Cedar Rose and Fish Martinez Concert**

**While Rome Burns**, is a Portland group of musicians and humanitarians who create fundraising projects for social change held a fundraising concert at **Mississippi Pizza** on November 30th. Cover charge was $10 and a hat was passed around the room. Red Lodge sold a few card sets and prints from the Friends of Red Lodge collection and warm, colorful winter hats that women at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility crocheted and donated to us. All total, the event raised $843 for one evening of wonderful entertainment! This money is earmarked for a van.
Before Christmas, NAYA Elder Mary Renville and another community Elders brought beautiful gifts in colorful gift bags, for Red Lodge clients—making the holiday really special for our women. Mary’s daughter purchased most of the materials, but enlisted additional community members to help with the project. Beautiful snuggle blankets were hand-tied by NAYA elders and bags of gifts were filled. Some of the gifts were given to women who do not reside at the transition center, but have gone through reentry and are working hard at keeping up with daily routines. All the women who received gifts were deeply touched by the thoughts and prayers put into making this project. To have our women honored by the Elders, leaves us feeling warm, grateful and valued.

MVTO, NAYA ELDERS!

Thank You Auntie Caryle!

One of our long time Red Lodge supporters Caryle who is a Vietnam Veteran spent several weeks gathering items from people in her building and community, for the Red Lodge! Thank you Auntie for such thoughtful gifts of shampoo, soap, day planners, household items and more!

Icebreaker Clothing Donation!

What a great gift for some really deserving ladies! Icebreaker Clothing of Portland, on West Burnside made a beautiful gift to us in December of merino wool warm hats, gloves, coats and thermals. Red Lodge shared sweaters, coats, hats and socks with other women releasing in December and January from Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and the Clackamas County Jail. This donation could not have come at a better time when the temperature was barely over 38 degrees and raining for several days. Thank you Icebreaker for keeping us warm!

In December, Red Lodge clients, their children and family members numbered 18, celebrated the holiday season with a trip to see the Zoolights at the local Portland Zoo. Several family members had never even been to the zoo let alone seen such a fabulous display of lights! We drank hot cocoa while waiting for the little train that we boarded to tour more zoo light displays. It was such a wonderful, memorable family experience for all involved!

Thank you to our special friend and long time supporter Laura, for helping purchase several of the tickets!

Amazon.com

Do you buy items on line? Amazon offers non profits the opportunity to share in some of the profit by donating ½ a cent for each cost to purchase on line. You have to specify what charity you would like to fund, and Red Lodge Transition Services is only one of many deserving non profits. Please sign up for this donation option next time you purchase something from Amazon!

BECOME A FRIEND. HELP RAISE THE RED LODGE!

100% of all memberships and donations go toward empowering indigent women. Become a member today. Visit us at www.RedLodgeTransition.org or contact us at http://friendsofredlodge.org/membership/

FRIENDS OF RED LODGE MEMBERSHIP

- $100/year or $9/month through autopay
- Senior or Student Membership $50/year or $5/month through autopay
- Eagle Membership for Businesses $300/year

Benefits include: Friends of Red Lodge calendar, two newsletters, and 10% off all original Native American artwork and prints, note cards, unique Red Lodge USB flash drives, and more.
The Mission of Red Lodge

To prevent incarceration and reduce recidivism primarily among Native American women and men.

To provide assistance for individuals released from jails and prisons, who are working on creating a better life for themselves, their children, and communities.

To supply transition information, guidance and support, to Native American individuals, families and communities.

To prevent and reduce incarceration by breaking the cycle of chemical addiction, violence, abuse, hatred, hopelessness and neglect.

Red Lodge is the only holistic program to aid Native women and men to regain their cultural and societal centers before and after release from prison.

The first 72 hours after release can make the difference between going back to prison or being able to start a new life.