



The Friends of Hopi Foundation

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423 Territory Trail, Cedar Park, TX 78613

Another Successful Service Program by Ray Coin

The winter service program at Second Mesa and Third Mesa schools, March 2nd through March 6th, was quite successful, even though the volunteer enrollment was lower compared to past programs.

The FOHF Board announces the next service program will be the last two weeks of October (18-24) and (26-31) of 2009. You may register with Ginny Rundell 401 Country Club Dr. Newark, DE 19711 or vzeobjl9@verison.net

Foundation Website:

www.hopifriendseducation.org

The volunteers provided the usual assistance to their assigned classroom and teacher. They were welcomed by teachers and students, as well as some of the parents. A comment heard in the hallway was "Where are all the others?" in reference to past programs where the majority of classes had volunteers assigned. Hopefully, the fall service program, tentatively scheduled for the last two weeks in October 2009, will have more volunteers coming to the schools and sharing a week or two of their time with the children.

There were several highlights during the week for the group, but the highlight for me was sitting down over a meal at the Hopi Cultural Center and talking with friends about the day's activities at school. The group discussions always remind me of family meals at home during my growing up years. This fall I hope to see the rest of my friends coming to the program.

Another highlight for the group was being met with enthusiasm by the new management and staff at the Hopi Cultural Restaurant and Motel. My thanks to the personnel of the facility for the work they put into making our stay very pleasant. On several occasions the new manager talked with our small group about the positive changes at the Center. I personally felt very comfortable dealing with the new management and the line of communication established between our entities.

Some of the volunteers were invited to see one of the Hopi Ceremonies in the village of Shipaulavi at the end of the program week. The ceremony called "Soyoko" dealt with the discipline aspect of children in the Hopi Culture. Having the opportunity to see them in an actual home situation - growing up Hopi, after spending time with the children at school, was a good way to end the week.

Let me conclude by saying to everyone who has come to the service programs that I appreciate very much all the time, work and patience you put forth in the program. I know it will always be hard to determine if we make a difference in the lives of the children who we share our experiences and knowledge with, but I still believe in my heart that sometime in their lives they will reflect and remember you being there. I know this for a fact because I have been there.



A Love Story: Volunteering on the Hopi Reservation by Betsy Mahoney

All of us who keep returning to volunteer in two of the elementary schools on the Hopi Reservation in northeast Arizona have our personal reasons for doing so. Yet when we gather for supper and conversation at the Cultural Center each evening we find that we come for many of the same reasons.

We love being with the children and watching them grow and learn from year to year. We cherish the relationships we've developed with the adults in the schools and communities. We appreciate continuously learning about a culture and way of life so different from ours in many ways. We feel our bodies relax and our souls being fed. And who would expect the

sun setting behind the San Francisco Peaks could cause such excitement? And just perhaps we are making a difference in a child's life.

Volunteering in Hopi schools has changed my life and taken it in directions unimagined when I first signed up as a volunteer in what seems a lifetime ago. I became curious about tribal politics and went back to college (at 64!) to get a major in American Indian studies and to find answers to my questions. (Not many answers – but now I know what questions to ask.) I've become an advocate for the protection of sacred sites, including those of Hopi. Through the years I've had wonderful roommates – some becoming great friends – with whom I've shared a variety of adventures (and of course shopping).

As I drive to Hopi I find myself smiling more broadly as I get closer. I feel at home on Hopi, and enjoy the recognition from children and adults in villages and stores that I'm back. When it's time to leave at the end of our program my heart is heavy and my eyes fill with tears as I load the car and drive away. But I know I'll return for the next volunteering opportunity if not before (just to visit). Like a strong magnet, Hopi keeps pulling us back.

Friends of the Hopi Winter Program – 2009 by Marti Donahue

Betsy Mahoney and I arrived at the Hopi Cultural Center on Sunday, February 22nd. Unfortunately our timing was such that we had to miss a Hopi Bean Dance that was held on the night before. Also, when we arrived we learned that not enough people had signed on for the first week of the program, so our status became “unofficial”. This did not deter us from spending a superb week with the Hopi.

Betsy arrived with interesting information and products related to American bison. She shared the information with her second grade class. The students then tasted buffalo jerky. After hearing about bison and tasting the jerky, they wrote poems about this American icon.

While Betsy worked with her second grade class, I spent time with Mrs. Davis and her kindergarten class. Mrs. Davis and the students truly enjoyed the United States wall map and talking globe given to them by Friends of the Hopi. She said that the flannel wall map with cling-on symbols of special places across our country was an excellent learning tool. The map became immediately useful as I talked with the students about Indiana. I had sent them postcards from Indiana in 2008. We used the postcards and map to compare Indiana with Arizona.

The first full weekend we were there, Betsy and I had the privilege of visiting Sichomovi while the Katsinas walked through Walpi, Sicomovi and Hano. The Hopi believe that the Katsinas have special powers, for example, to bring rain or help in everyday activities. For Betsy and me, seeing so many *different* Katsinas was an overwhelming experience.

The next day, Betsy and I met Debbie Sekakuku Baker at the Sekakuku Piki house. We watched, captivated, as Debbie made piki for over five hours. Piki is a thin, dry bread made of corn meal and has a most unique flavor. While Debbie rolled and cooked the piki bread, Betsy and I gathered kindling for her fires. When the wood pile was depleted, Betsy and I went to work chopping wood. Neither of us had wielded an axe in ages. Betsy commented that she hoped no one could see us; had they seen us, it would have been a most entertaining sight.

The following Saturday, Ray Coin took all five volunteers on an adventure. First, we stopped at the Hubble Trading Post, then we proceeded on to the Canyon de Chelly. We stopped at several locations to take in the magnificent scenery.

After our amazing adventure, Betsy, Jan Itner, and I were able to witness the coming of the So'yokowuuti at Debbie's house in Shipaulovi. It was, indeed, a privilege to be asked to join in this event. We sincerely appreciated Debbie's invitation.

The educational, fun-filled week made all of us ready to come back in the fall.

Foundation Videos: We have produced a video that explains the mission of the foundation and several smaller stories of Hopi people that were willing to assist us in telling their stories. You may view these videos on our website. You may also get a dvd to show to groups for recruitment of new members or for fundraising. Contact Bob M. at mrtutor156@hotmail.com

