

May 14, 2013

Hau Kathleen,

Lila pila miya (much thanks) for compassion and for being a woman of action. Our family is currently living in a very small 30 year trailer house, which we are thankful as it is a roof over our heads. However, it is in no way suitable for residential living, but is much rather a temporary shelter to prevent us from homeless. As you may be aware, the Oglala Sioux Tribe actually took a reservation house on a flatbed to Washington, DC last month to show the federal government and American citizens the status of deplorable housing conditions here on the Pine Ridge Reservation. This demonstration of need reflects the insufficient funding the federal government provides to our people. According to their numbers, there are currently 6,000 families in need of housing. This may not improve for years with the governments recent budget cuts, which sadly, impact our people more than most as we are already in the poorest county in the nation.

My wife, our small 2 year old son, our 6 and 10 year old sons, and our 16 year old high school son live cramped in this small one bedroom trailer house that was not built to endure the extreme winters and summers here on the plains. I believe it came from the south of the country through some donation program. The house has two working electrical plugins, and no running water.

We have built a 30 x 40 foot foundation on our land and we have friends and relatives ready to help build for the dates June 4 through the 12. We lack the expertise of electrical and plumbing etc but we can lift things, swing hammers, and do the work as directed by the experts.

We are so happy you are helping us with this act of love Kathleen. Lila pila miya, we so look forward to seeing you and your friends/helpers again!

Victorio Camp
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