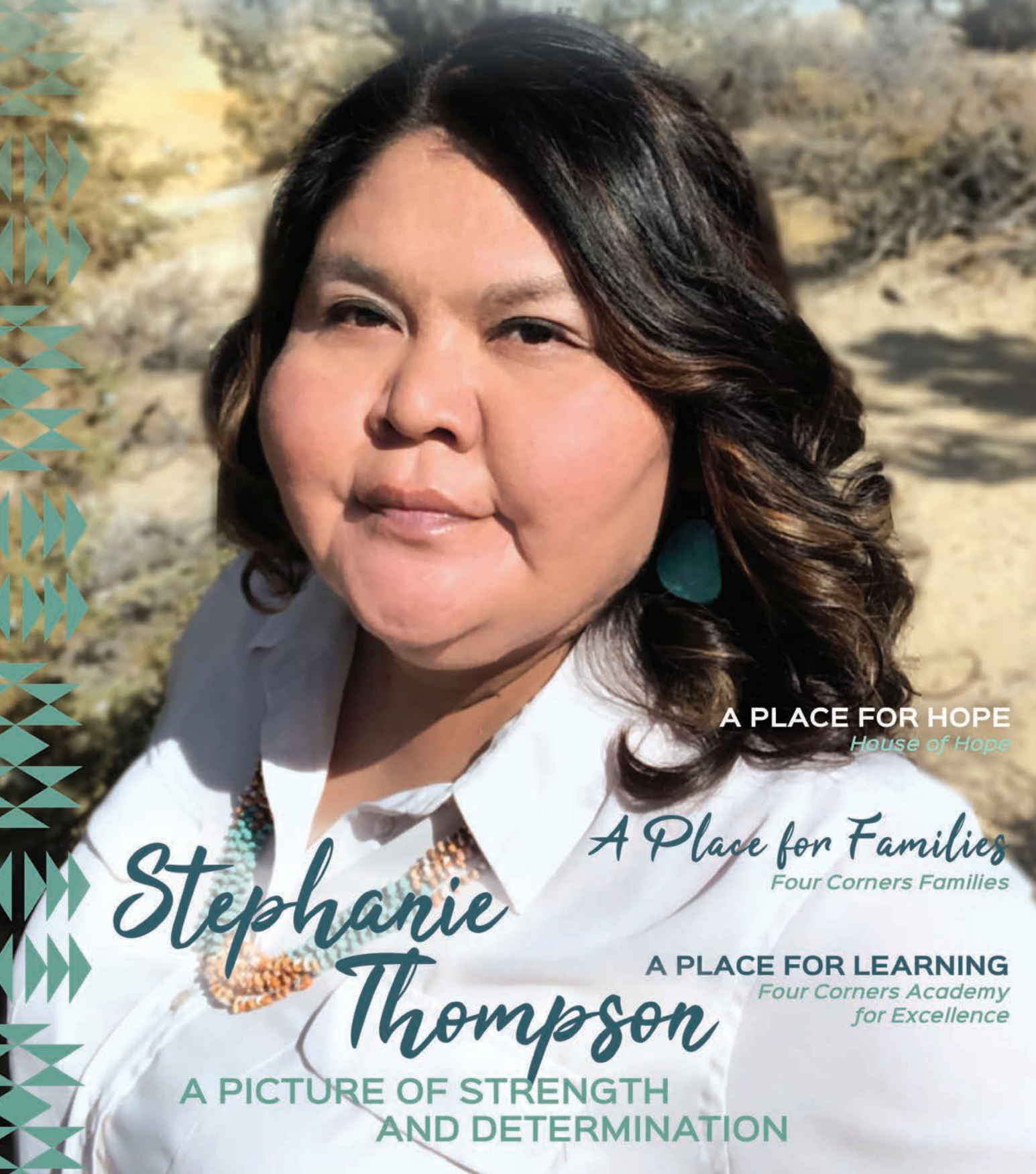


NAVAJO

NEIGHBORS

Fall 2021 • Volume 15, Number 2



A PLACE FOR HOPE

House of Hope

A Place for Families

Four Corners Families

*Stephanie
Thompson*

A PLACE FOR LEARNING

*Four Corners Academy
for Excellence*

A PICTURE OF STRENGTH
AND DETERMINATION

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IMPACT

IN A CHILD'S LIFE



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MISSION STATEMENT

Four Corners Home for Children helps the people we serve through programs that instill hope, restoration and Christian values.

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ABOUT FOUR CORNERS HOME FOR CHILDREN

Four Corners Home for Children was established in 1953 for the purpose of caring for dependent children, regardless of race, religion or national origin, and for printing and distributing Navajo tracts and hymnals.

The ministry has expanded over the years to include a program for mothers and children, and Navajo Nation Outreach, providing spiritual, emotional and material encouragement to those living in Navajoland.

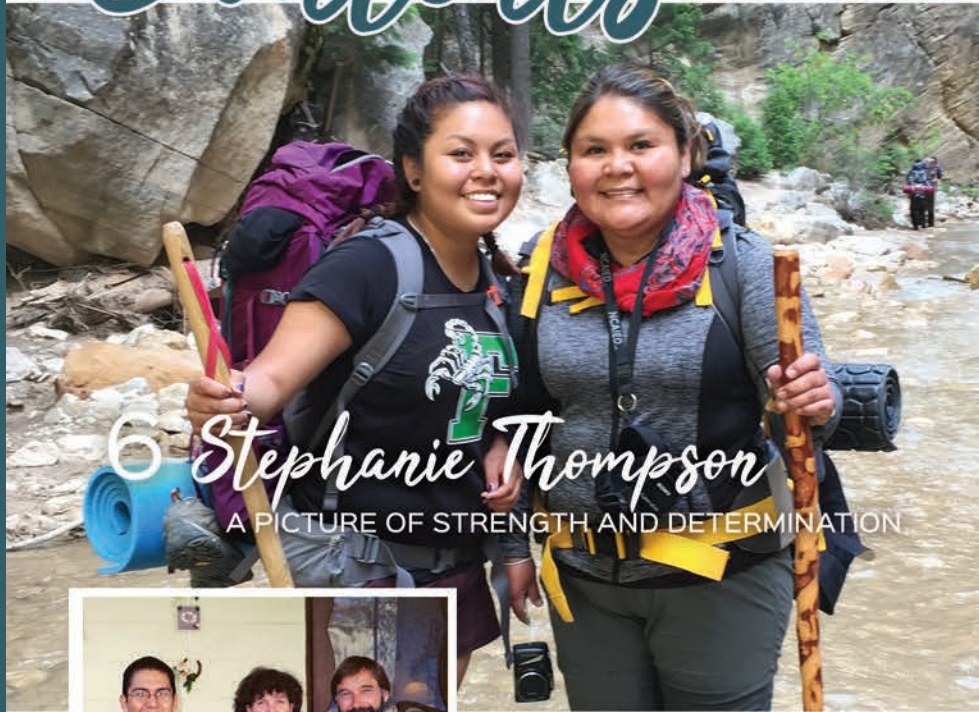
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Views and opinions expressed in Navajo Neighbors by those interviewed are not necessarily those of Four Corners Home for Children.

Four Corners Home for Children is a Charter Member in good standing with ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability).

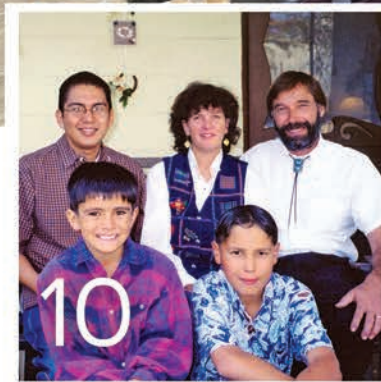


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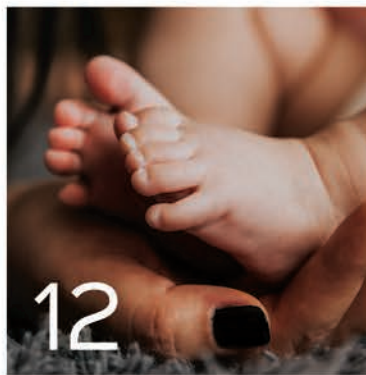


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LETTER FROM THE

Editor

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the Fall 2021 edition of the Navajo Neighbors magazine. We are excited for the opportunity in this edition to “show and tell.” On each page of this magazine, you will read about the places God has prepared here on the campus of Four Corners Home for Children (FCHC). Our feature story will reveal the unique place God prepared for FCHC Board Member Stephanie Thompson through her marriage to Hal Thompson.

You will also discover

- A place for hope God has prepared for children in crisis situations
- A place for faith that has been operating on the FCHC campus for over 68 years
- A place for families that is being developed and will soon open
- A place for learning where our children can thrive, and
- A new place for healing for our children

In the book of John, chapter 14, Jesus tells us that he has gone to prepare a place for us so that where He is, we can eventually be. He has also prepared some significant places on this side of heaven and one of them is on the west side of Farmington, New Mexico. It is called Four Corners Home for Children. I hope you enjoy reading about the special places and programs God has prepared here for His children.

Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.
John 14:1-3 NKJV

Reich

ANNETTE REICH

*Editor of Navajo Neighbors
Four Corners Home for Children President*



Stephanie Thompson

a Picture of Strength and Determination

BY: ANNETTE REICH

Four Corners Home for Children President

Photo By: Shutterfreak

Stephanie Thompson; Christian, Wife, Mother, Friend, Mechanical Engineer. Wait, mechanical engineer? Yes, Stephanie Thompson is an intelligent, gifted, talented, and complex woman. She is not complex as in complicated, but complex as in a mosaic. Stephanie is a mosaic of many separate and diverse elements that come together to create a beautiful picture, a beautiful person. She is strong yet gentle, passionate yet patient, skilled and knowledgeable, yet still learning. Stephanie is noticeably independent and can be intimidating; she is immensely intelligent and is an uncommonly deep thinker. There is an ambiguity to Stephanie. In talking with her, one recognizes her comfort level in the male world of mechanical engineering. Yet, there are glimpses of a fun, whimsical girl that you want for your best friend. She could be characterized as fiercely loyal to the people and ideals that she believes in. Truth

is one of those ideals. All in all, Stephanie Thompson is delightful.

Born in Shiprock, New Mexico, to Leonard and Susie Scott, Stephanie experienced what she describes as a pleasant childhood. When Stephanie was a little girl, her father enlisted in the Army, and he and Susie went off to Ft. Benning, Georgia, to set up house for Stephanie and her younger sister, Serena. During that time, the girls stayed in Shiprock with their maternal grandparents. Stephanie recalls this time with her grandparents as being among her fondest memories,

I remember hanging out with my grandparents during the weekends at their sheep camp, about thirty minutes from their house in Shiprock. We would play there and help care for the sheep. When we were not



at the 7 to 11. There he would buy 5¢ candies for us to take to school. I had a good childhood. I had everything I needed, and everything I experienced and encountered made me who I am today.

After settling in at Ft. Benning, Stephanie's parents came back to get the girls. Stephanie remembers the journey to Georgia, commenting that she cried all the way to Albuquerque. She did not want to leave her home and her grandparents for an unknown place. After a few years in Georgia, then Hawaii, the family returned to New Mexico, and Stephanie began attending school in Shiprock. She struggled through her freshman year, bored and unchallenged, and her grades reflected her disinterest. Although she cannot pinpoint the turning point for her, it occurred during the summer between her freshman and sophomore years. When Stephanie began her sophomore year of high school, everything was different. She pulled down straight A's and started developing her plans to finish high school, get a degree in chemistry, pursue medical school and become a doctor.



Stephanie as a child

at the camp, my grandparents would take us on short drives up to Colorado. We would stop at a grocery store in Cortez or Durango, pick up bread and sandwich meat, and then head out on an adventure. My grandparents would tell us stories of when they were younger and worked on farms in Colorado. Their stories came alive as they would drive us by the actual farms where they worked.

I learned a lot about my heritage by spending time with my grandparents. We were spoken to in Navajo, ate traditional foods, and used traditional medicines. I am proud to be Navajo because I know that the people I come from are resilient, resourceful, and hospitable.

As Stephanie talks about the time she and Serena spent with their grandparents, it is easy to see her heart. She describes her grandmother as a strong-willed woman and becomes wistful as she reminisces about her grandfather,

During the school year, if we missed the bus in the early mornings, Grandpa would drive us to school, first stopping

That is the road I was on. I had my mind set on medical school and planned to specialize in the field of cardiology.

Stephanie was on a straight course and determined enough to follow it, but she met a young man during the latter part of high school, and the course of her life would soon change. A few months after graduating from Shiprock High School, Stephanie discovered she was pregnant. This unexpected turn of events in Stephanie's life redirected her and delayed her slightly, but it did not stop her. With help and support from her family caring for baby Acelyne, Stephanie continued schooling through San Juan College.

At that time, Arizona Public Service was offering a summer internship program. Stephanie applied for the program and was accepted. She remembers touring through the facility,

When they took me on a tour through the power plant, I was just amazed at all the machinery! I remember thinking, how do I get into this field ... ?



Stephanie's Grandparents

After her first summer there, the plant was doing an overhaul, so they kept her on temporarily. She went to SJC during the day, worked at APS until 1:00 or 2:30 a.m., home to sleep, then back up and off to school. Stephanie kept this rigorous schedule for two semesters. With an Associates of Science and Engineering degree in hand, she transferred to New Mexico State to finish the last half of her degree completion plan.

At this time, I had a mentor and stayed in contact with him when I was not in school. During summer and winter breaks, I would intern at APS. The last summer before graduating I expressed a desire to work at the power plant. My mentor recommended that I step away from APS and try something different in the field of engineering. It was good advice. I went to work for Raytheon as an engineer and fifteen years later, I am still there. In my first two years of employment I was able to complete my MBA.

Stephanie changes the direction of the conversation and begins to talk about her family. She shares that she met Hal Thompson when her daughter, Acelyne, was in middle school. She pauses for a reflective moment then comments,

I truly believe that although I was not a Christian at the time, God put Hal in my life. I believe this one man was

placed in my life to take me down the path to meet God. I was not brought up in church, but Hal was. We became friends and started hanging out together. We recognized early on that we are incredibly like-minded. We would even think about the same things at the same time. That continues to this day!

During the course of their relationship, Stephanie and Hal, along with Acelyne, began attending Sagebrush Church in Farmington. After a short while, Stephanie knew God was speaking to her heart. In April of 2015, the three attended the local Passion Play during Easter week. One night at the Passion Play, Stephanie gave her life to Jesus Christ. The church hosted a huge baptism event at Lyons Wilderness Park that Memorial Day weekend, and Stephanie, Hal, and Acelyne were all baptized. This set them on a new course in their lives. Stephanie and Hal realized that God brought them together to be in a relationship that would honor Him and set an example for others. They were married in September 2015.

Stephanie describes her marriage to Hal as a work in progress. She confesses that being a new wife and a new Christian brings challenges to her life. Stephanie is an avid learner in all areas of life, including marriage. She and Hal regularly attend marriage events and conferences, absorbing everything they can to help sustain their marriage. When asked how her strengths play out in her marriage, Stephanie is quick to respond,

Hal and I are constantly learning about marriage and how to be married through conferences, watching marriage videos, reading the Bible, and leading Reengage Marriage Enrichment small groups for couples. Learning about

... I was just amazed at all the machinery! I remember thinking, how do I get into this field? ...

marriage through different resources helps us along the way. They are a reminder to put each other first. I am strong-willed and have been independent most of my life; I don't really need someone to take care of me. I am still in training as a wife and Christian, but I can serve my husband by working on myself and building my faith. We have been committed to our church life throughout our marriage which helps strengthen our relationship. Being

married to Hal has helped me learn that I do not have to do everything on my own. I can have a partner who has my same curiosity and will to do life together with me. I can be myself and still be part of a team with my best friend.

As Stephanie talks about her husband, one senses a man with a servant heart, always willing to help others. A calm, patient, soft-spoken man, who always sees the best in people. He is confident in himself and is not intimidated by having an intelligent, strong, and independent wife. Hal is comfortable in his role as a husband but does not exert his authority. Instead, he extends grace, giving room within the marriage for Stephanie to operate in her strengths.

When given the opportunity to talk about his wife, Hal Thompson does not hold back,

Stephanie is the best. She is strong and intelligent, and I noticed it right away. She is naturally confident and okay with being alone. Stephanie has great determination, and she is proven. I admire that.

Hal describes Stephanie as a mama bear and cautions anyone against “messing with her kid,”

Stephanie has always been there for Acelyne, has always wanted the best for her, and has sacrificed to make it happen. She sacrificed time with Acelyne early in her life to complete her schooling so she could provide for them as a family. That was difficult for Stephanie to do, but she did it knowing it was the best thing for her daughter.

Hal, too, notes the similarities between them, commenting that they are both strong-willed, determined, and stubborn, but it works in their favor.

We are in sync and are often thinking the same thing at the same time. We are like-minded, but it's all natural, not forced. Our top two love languages are even the same, acts of service and quality time. We can serve one another in these ways and love each other because Christ first loved us.

Hal's admiration for Stephanie is evident as he talks about her faith, commenting that faith is not a compartment of Stephanie's life; it is always there in every aspect of her life. When asked how their marriage glorifies God, Hal answers, “we love each other despite our inconsistencies, we hold one another accountable, and we are servants to one another.” The Thompsons have only been married six years but were called to lead a couple's group a year ago and then continued to meet with couples to do more in-depth Bible reading. This year they are leading a Reengage Marriage Enrichment group.



Stephanie and Hal on their wedding day

Whatever they are doing to keep their marriage strong, they should continue. Stephanie and Hal's marriage exemplifies our relationship with Christ in the way they serve one another. They are strong in similar ways, but there is no competition between them. Hal makes room for Stephanie to be who she is, and operate in her strengths. Stephanie responds to Hal's leadership as her husband even though she is well able to take care of herself. They have great respect for one another, working well together and leading other couples to have strong marriages.

As my interview with Stephanie winds to a close, I find that I am not quite ready to part company with her. When we first sat down, I had an impression of Stephanie as a gentle woman, compassionate and caring, knowledgeable, and wise. A woman who does not force her thoughts and opinions on others but is willing to share them when asked. When our interview ended, my impression of her had not changed, and I found myself wanting to talk with her even more. That chance will come, and I am already looking forward to it.



BY: KAY BAKER
Partnership Ministry

In 1998, Four Corners Home for Children began receiving more and more requests to care for children who needed a safe place for a brief time. While placing these children in our long-term homes, we found that their shorter stays were disruptive for our long-term children who could not return to their families. This often resulted in emotional unrest.

We desired to meet the differing needs of all the children, so we opened one of our long-term homes as an emergency placement home for children. This home became the House of Hope. Homer and Mary Lou Stepanek became our first set of house parents in 1999, and they provided love, safety, and stability for children who were found in crisis situations. Maybe they were found home alone by a social worker, taken from a car by police due to an intoxicated driver, or picked up at school because of abuse being reported by a teacher. The doors were opened, and the children kept coming. Sometimes they were with us for 24 hours until family members could be found to care for them. Other times they spent a couple weeks or longer, depending upon their family situation.

In August 2000, Rick and Paula Terpsma left their

position as houseparents for long-term children and moved into the House of Hope, caring for 60 children over the next 18 months. Our current Director of Education, Hope Humbles, also cared for these children who, through no fault of their own, found themselves facing a crisis in their life. I have taken tearful children into my home at 2:00 a.m.; children separated from their families and all they know. I can appreciate the joy our house parents experience when they calm a frightened child, offer her a glass of milk while talking together, and sit by her bedside until she finally falls asleep.

Being rescued from a fearful situation is life-changing. Our House of Hope offers comfort, relief, healing, and hope. One seven-year-old child expressed her thanks for having her very basic needs met, as she wrote this note: *"Thank you for giving us a home and a warm bed. I like the good food and the family to share."* We extend our thanks to you, our donors, as your prayers and gifts continue to help us provide for these children in crisis. In Matthew 18:5, we read, *"Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."*



A Place for Faith

BY: PAMELA PATRICK
with Annette Reich

Around here, we often call Four Corners Home for Children "The house that Jack built." When Jack Drake began "Navajo Missions" here in Farmington, New Mexico, he was full of faith. It was faith that brought Jack Drake here, and it is faith that built what is now the Four Corners Home for Children. Former FCHC President Jim Baker reflects on Jack's faith, "After spending just one week with Jack, I learned he was a man of faith who was willing to pray for and believe in anyone, anytime, anywhere. Jack was a man who heard the call of God upon his life and followed the hand of God to a desolate land in a region called the Four Corners."

Faith brought Jack here, and faith sustained him. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Jack had God-given hope in that which he could not see, but he knew God called him. So, what does faith look like? Jack started with a borrowed tent, but he saw a home, and then another home, and then more homes. He saw buildings where

there was just bare land, and those buildings were filled with children who needed shelter and love.

Four Corners Home for Children still operates by faith. Our dedicated staff walk by faith as they care for the children God brings to us. Over 1,500 children have lived on our campus since Jack put up his tent. Our long-term children's home, the House of Faith, is filled with children. If you drive onto our campus, you will see them running and playing, riding bicycles, scooters, hoverboards, and horses. You will hear their laughter ringing out as they enjoy the safety and protection Four Corners Home for Children provides for them.

No matter how big our vision or how insurmountable it looks, we dare to believe the impossible. Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).



A Place for Families

BY: PAMELA PATRICK
with Annette Reich

The formation of families was at the heart of God's plan when he created the heavens and the earth. The family reveals God's character in a way nothing else can. A husband's love for his wife exemplifies the love Jesus has for the church, and a wife's love for her husband symbolizes the love the Church or the Bride of Christ has for Jesus.

After creating Adam and Eve, God gives the Creation Mandate in Genesis 1:28: *"Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."* Mankind is the masterpiece of God's creation, and He placed His masterpiece within the context of a family. God designed marriage and families and instituted the family as the bedrock of society. Families are the foundation life is built on.

With the fall of Adam and Eve, sin and death entered the world, and the first family was negatively impacted. Satan has been targeting families since they were formed, and he is still attacking families today. Sin destroys marriages, leads children to rebel against the authority of their parents, and roles within the family become blurred.

One day, Jesus will return to earth and set all things

right. He will bring restoration and healing, reversing sin's curse, but until then, we occupy. We minister to families in need, and that is what our Four Corners Families (FCF) program is all about. Our FCF facility will provide housing for two mothers and up to six children. FCF clients will participate in staff-led classes such as parenting, finances and budgeting, household management, and a discipleship training program. In addition to classes, we will help our clients to either obtain employment or continue their education. When clients graduate from the program, we will send them out with essential necessities for their new home. Local businesses and churches have contacted us to lend their support and help supply our clients' needs.

Our goal is God-given – to love, support, teach, and help single moms rebuild their lives while providing a comfortable and safe environment for their children. It is a big goal, but we serve a BIG God, and we know that He has called us to it, and He will equip us for it.

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6



A Place for Learning

BY: JIM BAKER
President Emeritus

Just before the end of the 20th century, on August 17th, 1999, we celebrated a historic event at what was then called "Navajo Missions." It was the first day of school at our newly formed "On-Site School" for our younger school-aged children. Our hopes and dreams had become a reality for our first through sixth-grade students! This was something our staff and board members had prayed about for many years.

A year earlier, we had begun discussions with Tom Sullivan, Superintendent of the Farmington Public Schools. We had concerns regarding our at-risk children who were getting lost in the cracks in the traditional school classroom. Due to their disruptive and dysfunctional backgrounds, they came to us at least one grade level behind in their reading and math skills. They were also being bullied by classmates, or they had become the bullies themselves, just to survive.

After discussions with the school board, they approved an on-site classroom for our elementary-aged students. Farmington Municipal Schools provided the curriculum and a portion of the teacher's salary. We also received Title 1 assistance that helped with the cost of a teacher's aide and computers. Because we were paying a portion of the teacher's salary, we were able to help select a teacher with faith values. While we had a prayer and devotional each morning, most of the day included reading, writing, and arithmetic, just like the other classrooms in the district.

Debbie Fowler was our first teacher. She decided to leave her teaching position in the traditional school setting and come to the Mission to teach our precious little ones. Delores Ledford was her assistant. Debbie's calm and quiet

spirit produced a peaceful classroom environment where the students enjoyed learning. As Navajos, they could connect the students to their history and culture, including the Navajo language, lost to many younger generations. On that first day of school, the Superintendent gave his personal "seal of approval" when he arrived for a tour.

The classroom was in the former Christian bookstore that the mission operated for many years. On this day, books were opened again...this time by our youngsters who desperately needed this one-on-one attention that would enable them to thrive in this safe and comfortable environment.

A few months later, we embarked on a new century that would lead us into many years of successful educational experiences for our children living at Four Corners Home for Children. Before long, we realized that the aging school building right next to the busy highway was not conducive to the ongoing educational needs of our children. When fire engines or down-shifting semi-trucks drove by, the students would lose their focus for the next ten minutes.

As we looked to the future growth of the campus, two new homes were constructed on the lower level of the 16-acre campus. There was room on that portion of the grounds to build our new 8,000 sq. ft. Education and Activity Center, which would include classrooms, a central kitchen, and cafeteria/recreation room. Years of fund-raising would proceed through tough economic times in our country. Finally, in 2012, this dusty field of dreams became a place of promise as the new facility was dedicated for God's glory. It has been a wonderful addition to the care and education of our precious boys and girls.



A Place for *Healing*

BY: ANNETTE REICH
Four Corners Home for Children President

When I was a little girl, my family lived on a farm in Southeastern Ohio. We had 160 acres of hay, corn, and soybeans. We maintained a vegetable garden that fed us all year long due to my mom's tireless efforts in canning and freezing vegetables to get us through the winter. We raised horses, cows, and chickens, and there were plenty of dogs and cats running around, too! It was a beautiful setting to grow up in and provided many opportunities to learn about life.

Whenever one of the larger animals had an illness or injury, the local veterinarian would come out to the farm to make a "house call." I remember leaning against the fence a few times or up against the barn with my sisters, watching as the vet doctored one of our animals, hoping the animal would be all right.

One day while playing outside, I noticed a bird lying at the foot of a tree. He was moving but could not fly. The right side of his little body was twisted, and I assumed his wing was broken. I remember staring down at the bird, not knowing what to do, and I knew if I picked him up or handled him wrong, I could make his injury worse. I also remember

being sad for the little bird because he could no longer fly, which is what he was created to do.

Sometimes children come to us with broken wings. If we are not careful, we can contribute to their pain and discomfort by handling them the wrong way. And just like a bird with a broken wing, if we mishandle them, we can cause further damage. Our childcare staff are "professional" caregivers and provide a safe, loving, and nurturing environment for the children. Our childcare staff also receives training in many areas, but sometimes our children need more intensive counseling or therapy to help heal their emotional wounds.

We are blessed to be able to provide on-site counseling services for our children. We have recently partnered with a local counseling office that provides a counselor to us one day a week. We have dedicated a special place for counseling to be carried out, a place that is comfortable, casual, and nonconfrontational, a place where our children can visit with their counselor and feel safe.

It is a place for healing broken wings so our children can soar.



Bakers' home church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, First Church of God (now Chestnut Hill Church)

Living Memorials

THROUGH AUGUST 2021

A Place for *Memories*

Where do your memories go when you want to recall a life-changing experience in your life? Sometimes these memories will be triggered by the fragrance of a flower or the sound of chimes from a church bell tower. Maybe it is a visual memory of a sunset over a lake or a visit to your childhood homestead.

We were recently back in Pennsylvania for a visit with family and friends. Being in our home church reminded me of the service when I gave my life to Christ. When I heard of the earthquake in Haiti, it reminded me of my mission trip to that country. Little did I know then, as an 18-year-old kid, that nine years later, Kay and I would begin our own missionary service here in Navajoland.

Another place for memories is the funeral of a loved one. The stories of their lives, along with the slide show of their activities, touch our hearts. Perhaps as you read these words and see the list of those remembered, you would like to remember your loved one who has passed on to heaven. Some friends also decide to honor one who is still living.

Through your "Living Memorial" or "In Honor of" gift, you are helping the youngsters in our care create good memories of their stay with us. A card of remembrance will be sent to the loved one's family. No amounts are mentioned. Thank you for making this a place for some of your memories.

JIM BAKER
President Emeritus

FROM

IN MEMORY OF

Michael Janotka
Walter and Kathleen Katzer
Alfred Campbell
Alfred Campbell
Alfred Campbell
Charlotte Adkins
Vicki Bruno
Royce Fort
Monica Shubin
Barney and Viv Black
Dan and JoAnne Childress
John and Carol Robbins
Gordon Morgan
Iris Thellman
Charles and Susan Barker
Katharine Harvey
Monica Merfalen
Dan and JoAnne Childress
Walter and Kathleen Katzer
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Kevin Bair
Michael Janotka
Betty, David, Cherry Whigham
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Sally and Lynn McCandlish & Family
Bob and Becky Wilson and Family
Terri Fortner/ SJC Commissioner
Kathy Neeley and Family
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Pat and Nancy Affholter
Bonnie Mattison
Horace Nissan- Hyundai
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Greg Neeley
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FROM

IN HONOR OF

Collin and Sherida Stewart
Hendrix Dennison
John H. Summy
Alfred Campbell
Charles and Susan Baker
Alfred Campbell
Mountain Chiropractic / Randy Hutchins
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Our Grandchildren
Our Lord Jesus Christ
Roger and Carol Kittle
Our Grandchildren
Hannah Begay
June Campbell
Gary and Eileen Doberman
Four Grandchildren
Oldest Granddaughter
Katie Campbell
Bob and Harriet Gerding
Dr. Tres Morris
Jim and Kay Baker
Lisa & Chris Clifford and Family
Kate Campbell
Our Four Grandchildren
Jered and Hannah Begay



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Christmas CONNECTIONS

PROVIDING FOR NEEDS IN THE NAVAJO NATION

Each Christmas, Four Corners Home for Children partners with Navajo pastors to help collect and deliver food, toys, blankets, Bibles, and other items to families in need in the remote parts of the Navajo Nation.

YOU CAN HELP

SOME OF THE ITEMS WE NEED INCLUDE:

- Health supplies such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner (even small sizes), deodorants, combs and brushes
- School supplies
- Kitchen items such as dish cloths, tea towels, pot holders
- Small stocking stuffers for all ages, children and adults
- Kids toys

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CHRISTMAS CONNECTIONS CONTACT:

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