RAYMOND AND TUGGY DUNTON
WINGS of Freedom
Navajo Ministries has received a coveted 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities. The rating was made official on Dec. 1, 2014 by Charity Navigator President and CEO Ken Berger.

Navajo Ministries, a 501 c3 non-profit founded in 1953 by Jack Drake, is located at 2103 W. Main St. in Farmington on a 16-acre campus, which includes the Four Corners Home for Children, the Navajo Ministries School, KNMI Vertical Radio (FM 88.9) and the Navajo Nation Outreach program. The Eubank Counseling Center is also located on grounds.

“Receiving four out of a possible four stars indicates that your organization adheres to good governance and other best practices that minimize the chance of unethical activities and consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way,” Berger wrote in a Dec. 1 letter to Navajo Ministries President Jim Baker. “Approximately one-quarter of the charities we evaluate have received our highest rating, indicating that Navajo Ministries outperforms most charities in America. This ‘exceptional’ designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Navajo Ministries from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.”

A full report on this 4-star rating can be found at www.charitynavigator.org and searching for “Navajo Ministries.” Charity Navigator uses a variety of methods to evaluate more than 7,000 charities on financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency. Navajo Ministries scored a 90.2 out of a possible 100 points.

“We are blessed to have a wonderful team at Navajo Ministries that strives for excellence in everything we do,” President Jim Baker said. “In addition to providing varied services to those in need in our region, we are always committed to providing financial accountability and transparency to our donors. We are delighted that we have achieved a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator.”

**NAVAJO MINISTRIES INCLUDES:**

- **THE FOUR CORNERS HOME FOR CHILDREN**
- **THE NAVAJO MINISTRIES SCHOOL**
- **KNMI VERTICAL RADIO (FM 88.9)**
- **THE NAVAJO NATION OUTREACH**

Navajo Ministries, a charter member in good standing with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), receives no state, federal or tribal funding to operate its programs. Funding comes from individuals, foundations, businesses, churches and other sources.

More information about Navajo Ministries is available at www.NavajoMinistries.org

If you would like to sponsor any of the programs located at Navajo Ministries, please fill out the envelope in the center of this magazine, or go to our Web site to securely give online. You will also receive consistent updates on the programs you are helping to support. Thank you and God Bless!
Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of Navajo Neighbors, a magazine that Navajo Ministries publishes twice a year to highlight the stories and people who are following God’s call to help make a positive difference for many.

This issue’s cover story features Raymond and Tuggy Dunton, with WINGS of Freedom in Ignacio, Colorado. They have an amazing story to tell. Through challenging times, they have followed God to share the Gospel message in a culturally relevant way to Native Americans and others. We think you’ll greatly enjoy reading about their life journey.

Inside these pages, you’ll also read about:

- Navajo Ministries has received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation’s most-utilized evaluator of charities.
- Jim and Kay Baker have written a book about their 40 years of adventures in Navajoland. The book is set to be available for purchase beginning this spring.
- Former House of Love houseparents Randall and Rolanda Jeffrey have transitioned to new roles at Navajo Ministries.
- Vertical Radio has welcomed new staff, and won another award for broadcasting excellence.

And, be sure to check out our new and improved Navajo Ministries web site at www.NavajoMinistries.org.

God Bless,
Eric Fisher
Editor and Vice President
This spring will mark four decades of service at Navajo Ministries for Kay and me. What a memorable time we have had. It has been a thrill ride as we climbed to mountain tops and also had our times of living life in the valleys. Over the years we have found these words of that famous Andrae Crouch song, “Through it All” to be true for us.

I thank God for the mountains, and I thank Him for the valleys.

I thank Him for the storms He brought me through.

For if I’d never had a problem, I wouldn’t know God could solve them,

I’d never know what faith in God could do.

Through it all, through it all, I’ve learned to trust in Jesus, I’ve learned to trust in God.

Through it all, through it all, I’ve learned to depend upon His Word.

About a year ago we began to consider the possibility of putting some of our stories and experiences into a book that would highlight our adventures over the past 40 years. In reality it’s God’s story lived out through us and so many others. Considering the fact that we began our ministry here as houseparents, which included 11 children in our home at times, we settled on a title – “The Bakers’ Dozen, and Then Some.”

The amazing cover was designed by our Graphic Designer, Hannah Rodden. She creatively took the faces from one of our family photos that was taken around 1980, characterized us and scattered us all over the high-topped moccasin.

Through this book we will invite our readers to come along for the adventure. I think we have a little bit of everything tucked away within the 22 chapters. You will read of miracles and challenges that came with raising lots of children, while at the same time developing new ministries that would provide hope and restoration to our Navajo neighbors. It is our desire that many will finish this story and realize that God is good all the time, and all the time – God is good!

Kay adds, “The camaraderie of our Navajo Ministries team, whether former staff or present, along with continued connections with former children, continues to be a gift in our lives every day. We are living proof that God can use anyone. And when He calls, He equips us. “May God give you every good thing you need so you can do what He wants. May He do in us what pleases Him through Jesus Christ.” (New Life Version)

It is our desire that through our story the word will get out that God is alive and well in Navajoland and that He is using a place called Navajo Ministries to share His love and compassion with our Navajo neighbors. And, don’t forget, the story doesn’t end with us. There is still much to be done for His glory. I close with the same three words that we used to end the final chapter, TO BE CONTINUED …

Check out our web site at www.NavajoMinistries.org for information about purchasing a copy of the book.
Navajo Ministries Cook Ella Woodruff retired from full-time work in January, following 16 years of service. Ella did a wonderful job in preparing the evening meals for children and staff members at Navajo Ministries. We will all miss her pleasant smile and contagious laugh. And, Ella still plans to help out on occasion, especially during the monthly Navajo Taco community luncheons. Thank you Ella!

Connection Center Gets Much-Needed Makeover

Thanks to an anonymous donor, we were able to complete a much-needed stucco and paint job on the Connection Center, which is the administrative building at Navajo Ministries. This facility was built in the early 1980s, and the stucco was beginning to crack and was showing definite signs of aging.

Painters Jami and Lisa Chavez, the son-in-law and daughter to our very own Jim and Kay Baker, did a terrific job during several weeks of work. We also would like to thank the special friend who made this possible. If you’re in the neighborhood stop by and see this beautiful building, along with the rest of the 16-acre campus at 2103 West Main Street in Farmington.

Grainger Foundation Provides Support

The Grainger Foundation provided a $7,500 financial gift toward the Four Corners Home for Children last fall. Pictured are Teresa Sanchez and Randy Dailey, with the local Farmington Grainger branch, along with Navajo Ministries Vice President Eric Fisher. We sincerely thank Grainger for helping to make a difference in young people’s lives.

Along with the Grainger Foundation, Navajo Ministries again received needed funding from BHP Billiton and Navajo Transitional Energy Company. They provided $16,000 toward the childcare program at the end of 2014. Thank you!

Long-time Navajo Ministries Cook Retires

Navajo Ministries Cook Ella Woodruff retired from full-time work in January, following 16 years of service. Ella did a wonderful job in preparing the evening meals.
Raymond and Tuggy Dunton Share Christ’s Love with Native Americans

By Eric Fisher

When it comes to doing ministry outreach, Raymond and Tuggy Dunton like to keep it real, and as simple as possible in a world that can often be complex.

“We want to help people live the abundant life, but sometimes things from our past or current experiences get in the way,” Raymond, who is Navajo and Hopi, said. “We try to help people get unstuck. Nobody can go back and change the past. We help find out where somebody is stuck, and God is the one who gets them unstuck so they can move forward. That’s what Christ modeled. He met people where they were in order to take them where they needed to go.”

The founders of WINGS of Freedom, a non-profit ministry based in Ignacio, Colorado, Raymond and Tuggy also model something called “lifestyle ministry.” It’s an approach that has led them throughout the United States and to a dozen countries, sharing the Gospel with all who would listen.

“Basically when we talk about lifestyle ministry that means I’m the same wherever I am. I don’t have a church persona, and then I’m somebody else at home or work. The Holy Spirit lives within us … we’re God’s flesh and bones, doing His work on this earth,” Tuggy said.

WINGS of Freedom is committed to serving Native Americans in their quest for dignity, communicating the truth in a culturally relevant way so that Native Americans will embrace their God-given identity in order to understand and fulfill their God-ordained purpose. Yes, you’ll see the Duntons in church settings, but you’ll also see them at motorcycle rallies, conferences and many other venues.

“‘It’s not like I say, ‘now I’m going to put on my hat and go save the Indians.’ Lifestyle ministry means this is who I am and who God created me to be, and I am a Native American who is very comfortable being in many different kinds of environments … We’ve always rolled up our sleeves and gotten involved, being who we are.”
Raymond Dunton was one of the guest speakers at the 2009 ground-breaking ceremony for the new Education and Activity Center at Navajo Ministries.

Raymond Dunton has been an active member of the Navajo Ministries Board of Directors since 2006, first being introduced to the organization in the late 1990s.

“I serve on the Board because I believe Navajo Ministries is truly making a difference,” he said. “The leadership and staff of Navajo Ministries are committed, especially to the children they are ministering to through the Four Corners Home for Children. Kids are so transparent. You can see it in their faces, body expressions and interactions. They know they are loved.”

Like many others, Raymond and Tuggy Dunton have experienced the highs and lows of life. They have been married for 22 years, doing ministry work together from day one. Their past, however, provided many opportunities to “get stuck.” Divorce, bankruptcy, a brief time in jail, cancer, abuse, and so much more, are part of their back stories. Those past situations don’t define them, though. Their hope is in Christ, and they love sharing that hope with people in all walks of life.

The Early Years

Raymond was not raised in a Christian household when he was growing up in southern California.

“My grandparents took advantage of a program when the U.S. government selected native people to move off the reservations and introduce them into mainstream America. I was born in Los Angeles County and grew up as an urban kid.”

Meanwhile, Tuggy was born in Venezuela and didn’t move to southern California until she was 15. Her parents were both missionaries, supported by a church in Glendora.

“After graduating high school, I went to Moody Bible Institute and got a certificate in creative writing. I returned to California, studied at The Master’s College for my bachelor’s in psychology, and got a master’s in marriage and family counseling from Azusa Pacific University, but I realized that was not necessarily what I wanted to pursue as a career,” Tuggy said.

She eventually was hired as a secretary at the church in Glendora – the same place she would one day meet Raymond Dunton.

Raymond’s Christian faith didn’t start until he was 21 years old. A quick trip to the LA County Jail in the 1970s convinced him that his current lifestyle was not working.

“I was a bachelor living in a condo and I had my freedom taken away from me. I knew I couldn’t let that happen again and needed to make some changes. How I ended up in jail was due to the choices that I had made in my life. I finally came to the conclusion that I was going to need God. The problem was I didn’t know how to do that,” he said.

A short time after he returned from jail, his roommate told him some amazing news. While selling encyclopedias door to door, a Christian couple presented the Gospel to him and he had received the salvation message with open arms.

“My roommate told me all about it, and I realized I needed Jesus in my life. I prayed the prayer with him, and I was on the fast track and, after a couple of months, knew I needed to be doing this full-time,” Raymond said.

While working as a school custodian, he attended a Bible college, got connected with a church and eventually helped start youth ministries, a school and had a knack for administrative work. During his time at college, where he earned a degree in theology, he met his first
wife and they had four children together. On the surface, everything looked great. Raymond was serving God and had started a young family with his wife. The marriage, however, quickly fell apart when she filed for divorce.

“It was a big mess. I hit rock bottom spiritually and physically, and felt that God was against me. I later got a good job with Southern California Gas Company as a meter reader and I was just focused on my relationship with my kids. I then got injured, lost my job, had to file for bankruptcy, and was still dealing with a lost marriage.

“I was so angry with God. I wasn’t in church and I felt it was more than just God letting me down. I felt like He abandoned me, and friends don’t do that. I spent a number of years in that mindset – until I finally realized that my soul really needed God. I learned so much about His grace and love for me during that difficult process,” Raymond added.

Living with his brother at the time in the early 1990s, Raymond knew it was time to get back into a church. That church was located in Glendora, California – the very same place Tuggy was serving.

A Friendship, and More, is Born

It didn’t take long for Raymond and Tuggy to find each other at church – as friends. Raymond had no intentions of ever getting married again after the divorce and was focused on raising his children. When Tuggy found out Raymond had four children, ages 5, 7, 9 and 11, she quickly saw him strictly as a good friend.

“We weren’t trying to impress each other, and we were just being ourselves. Along the way, we started to fall in love,” Raymond said.

“It just happened over time,” Tuggy recalled. “It was just meant to be.”

Even though they knew they wanted a future together, Raymond and Tuggy weren’t married until Valentine’s Day 1993, preceded by more than 100 hours of biblical counseling and another full year of dating, experiencing children’s birthdays, holidays and everything else together.

The newly married couple got involved in ministry right away, helping to plant a church. Then, Tuggy got some disturbing news – a cancer diagnosis.

“The cancer was diagnosed as breast cancer, but it had the markers of intestinal or thyroid cancer. I had a double mastectomy, reconstruction and was sick for about the first year of our marriage,” Tuggy said.

Raymond was the caregiver, feeding her, clothing her and providing for all of her needs. Tuggy, a victim of abuse earlier in her life, was totally dependent on Raymond, who was discovering he could actually be a “good, loving and caring husband.”

“That experience strengthened our relationship, and God was right there in the middle of it all,” Raymond said.

“The most important thing is that I’m here today 22 years later,” Tuggy added.

Once Tuggy returned to good health, the Duntons again began working together in ministry, this time with the well-known international organization called Freedom in Christ. Based in California in the 1990s, Tuggy was assistant to the executive vice president and Raymond was the personal assistant to the president and founder, Dr. Neil Anderson.

“We had pretty involved positions there on staff and were doing well. One day a phone call came in from Seattle asking if Freedom in Christ knew anybody who was using the Freedom in Christ resources in Native American ministries,” Raymond said.

Dr. Anderson referred the inquiry to Raymond, who was initially hesitant to get involved. He saw himself as content in his current role as an administrator. After plenty of encouragement from Freedom in Christ, Raymond reluctantly agreed to accept the invitation to speak at a Native Family Camp in 1996.

“When I picked Raymond up after this conference, he talked the entire way home from the airport. Something happened there, and when he says something came alive, it certainly did,” Tuggy said.

That something was the first steps toward starting Native American ministries through Freedom in Christ, eventually evolving into WINGS of Freedom.

“We wanted to be culturally relevant
since we knew that 95 percent of the native population believed Christianity was the white man’s religion. We had to find a way to enter into the native environment, otherwise the door was closed … We had to go where the natives were and we had to learn to be culturally relevant,” Raymond said.

While they spent several years working with Native American ministries at Freedom in Christ in California, consistent trips to the Four Corners region – the homelands of several Native American tribes – convinced Raymond and Tuggy they needed to move to Ignacio, Colorado.

The Four Corners Becomes Home

“We had been coming out here three to four times a year and loved it. We got to the point where we said, why don’t we just move out there,” Raymond said. “We moved in 2001 and it’s just been the right place for us. I’m a Navajo and Hopi guy and there’s a large population of natives here. People ask us today, if you could live wherever you want, where would you live? It’s right here.”

While Ignacio has been home for nearly 14 years, they have traveled extensively with WINGS of Freedom, which recently became its own 501 (c)3 non-profit after being under the umbrella of Freedom in Christ.

“We’ve never had regrets and never looked back, although ‘we’ve at times lived paycheck to paycheck,’ Raymond said. “We’ve always gone where we’ve been asked to go. If God calls us, we’ll do it.”

Their longest mission trips? Queensland, Australia and Brazzaville, the capital of the Congo in central Africa.

“I always said when I married the right Christian man, I would follow him anywhere,” Tuggy said.

But the Congo? Raymond laughed and said that was a test of the true strength of their marriage, since he hadn’t exactly gotten Tuggy’s stamp of approval before that marathon 10-day journey.

Today, they don’t travel as much since they are both on part-time staff at Ignacio Community Church. Raymond is the associate pastor there, while Tuggy is the women’s shepherd.

“We love people and opportunities and when we’re presented with something, I want to say yes. Of course, I pass everything through Tuggy now,” Raymond said with a smile. “We’re amazed at the ministry opportunities we’ve had to so many indigenous people throughout the world.”

Since May of last year, WINGS of Freedom has been its own non-profit organization. Raymond serves as President and Tuggy is the Vice President.

“It was kind of bitter-sweet to leave Freedom in Christ. It was like leaving home, but they are extremely supportive of what we’re doing,” Raymond said. “We’re now on our own and can apply for grants through foundations. We also have great individual donors who support us.”

“We’re very excited about this transition,” Tuggy said. “Raymond asked me if I had to choose between the administrative stuff and working with women, what would I choose? I really couldn’t make a choice since I enjoy them both. I love doing it all.”

They truly enjoy their work with Ignacio Community Church, and living in the Rocky Mountains. They also love hitting the open road on their motorcycles.

“We’ve had the opportunity to minister to the biker community and establish relationships. They see us as one of them,” Raymond said.

“One biker told me you have been my friend, and now you can be my pastor,” Tuggy added. “It’s about making those connections and showing you care about people.”

Raymond said it’s often a challenge for believers to be in the world, but not of the world.

“Everyone draws the line somewhere. I like to put the line way out there sometimes to reach people. Sometimes the Holy Spirit says ‘you went a little too far on that one.’ But, somebody’s got to go. That’s how we reach people … by going where they are.”

For more information on WINGS of Freedom, visit their Web site at www.wings-of-freedom.org. ☼
Jeffreys Move into New Roles

By Randall Jeffrey

Almost 2 1/2 years ago, God brought Rolanda and me to Navajo Ministries. We left our church, our friends, some family, our home, and the life we knew, to become houseparents at the Four Corners Home for Children. Kelly Hargrove said that it was the toughest, yet most rewarding job there was, and she was right.

During our time as houseparents we cared for and loved on 43 children. It doesn’t take long to fall in love with them. Many of the kids who left our care took a piece of our hearts along with them, but still I believe our capacity to love has actually grown in the process. It has been an honor to serve in the House of Love.

During 2014 God started to move us again, and we went upon another journey. We had no idea what He had planned, but to make a long story short, God’s perfect timing fell into place. We began a transition in January 2015. Early this year, God brought Jeff and Sheila Weaver as houseparents into the House of Love, as Rolanda took over as the Campus Cook for our retiring Miss Ella, and I became Campus Coordinator. The way we see it: our roles have changed, but our calling has not. Our calling is to serve God, and to serve His people here. Leaving Navajo Ministries just was not an option, so we moved again, but this time not nearly as far. We still live on grounds.

Rolanda has seen the prevalence of obesity and diabetes among the Navajo. She actually had a false diagnosis of diabetes last year that was enough to help her see how diabetes could affect someone. She wants very much to improve the overall health value of the food that is served to our children and staff while they are here, and it is also her hope that our kids will learn the value of a healthy, nutritional lifestyle that will serve them throughout their lives.

She enjoys cooking, but more than that she loves these kids and Navajo Ministries. That is why she just can’t see herself anywhere else.

As Campus Coordinator I will be involved in many different areas.

In my life and yours, and in any organization, there is always room to be better and more effective than we are today. I don’t want to just go through the motions. We never stop growing, and we keep moving forward. I want to be a part of that here.

I wish to add value to this ministry by “filling in the gaps” and “bridging the gaps.” By filling in the gaps, I refer to coming alongside various areas of the ministry and helping where I can by adding another perspective to the mix, or just simply another hand.

I also hope to be able to bridge the gap between potential supporters and the Four Corners Home for Children. There is a world of possibilities before us. I believe in what God is doing through Navajo Ministries and the Four Corners Home for Children, and I believe that God can and will continue to do great things through this organization. It is our privilege to be a part of it and to get to see firsthand what God is doing, and where He takes us! ☮
The Navajo Ministries School is blessed to have many visitors who help encourage and provide positive influences to the elementary-aged students in the school. In recent months, the students were able to hear from representatives of Up with People, a local student leadership group called UmatR, and from Miss Navajo, McKeon Dempsey.

In years past, the students have been able to interact with international visitors from as far away as England and New Zealand. These visits always provide something interesting for the students to learn.

Miss Navajo told the students to follow their dreams, even at a very early age.

“I knew I wanted to be Miss Navajo when I was in kindergarten. I met Miss Navajo at that time, and wanted to pursue that dream from then on,” she said.

“That’s a big dream,” a Navajo Ministries School student replied.

Miss Navajo speaks fluent Navajo and competed against five other contestants for the honor last September. She had to butcher a sheep, make bread, build her own fire and even painted the image of a killer whale live on stage, to name a few skills. No, this is not your average pageant.

“I also sang a song called ‘Old Age’ in English. Elderly people have knowledge, traditions and culture that are very important. It is good to remember our elders and what they give to us,” she said.

A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe, Miss Navajo said it is good to learn the Navajo language, and to use words wisely. Her mother was a Navajo language teacher growing up, so she was able to learn English and Navajo at the same time.

“Words make us strong and build up our minds. Language teaches us a lot about values and not talking down to each other. It is good to learn the sacred language,” she said.

The Navajo Ministries School has daily lessons in Navajo culture and history, in addition to the required curriculum of math, reading, science and more.
Navajo Ministries Hosts 30th Annual Nativity

Navajo Ministries hosted our 30th annual Live Navajo Nativity on December 23. It has been our privilege to offer this community tradition that always highlights the true meaning of the Christmas season – the birth of Christ. Hundreds of cars toured the grounds during this special evening as the Four Corners Home for Children kids portrayed the characters of the Nativity, dressed in traditional Navajo clothing. Live animals, Navajo choirs and a festively decorated campus made it a “night to remember.”

Why Are Relationships So Difficult?

By Linda Eubank

We are living in a time in our Western world in which the dissolution of relationships is a norm. There are a lot of reasons for this that are legitimate. The increase in drug and alcohol addiction, domestic violence, various types of abuse, and lifestyle infidelity are just a few of them. But what about people deciding they can just do better, or they are bored with their current spouse, or the best one yet is that “they have fallen out of love!” Whatever happened to “Love is a decision?”

We currently live in a “microwave” society. We want change now, we have to be happy now, and life better work for us now! This has led to couples and individuals giving up on salvageable relationships. All relationships take work, especially marriage.

It is dramatically more difficult when we go through hard times like serious illness, loss of a job or career, problems with children (even if they are grown) or death of a child. Often these tragedies separate rather than pull us together. They can pull us together, however, if we will let them.

Sometimes we have to change our attitude or give up our selfish needs and desires. Perhaps this will create growth, happiness or a higher quality relationship. Perhaps this will cause us to learn what it means to sacrifice our personal desires at times and become strong in adversity. Perhaps we need to learn to lead with our knowledge of the Word and our mind, rather than our feelings.

The end of a relationship hurts more than just the two individuals involved. There are extended family and financial issues to consider as well. Help is available for stagnant or stressful relationships. God has gifted many individuals within the church body to help with these types of issues. Seek out older individuals who have gone through similar problems or engage Christian professionals to help. You will be glad you did!

Linda Eubank is a licensed professional clinical counselor with the Eubank Counseling Center, located on the campus of Navajo Ministries. Two-thirds of her clients are children ranging in age from 3 to 17.
Navajo Ministries coordinated the annual Christmas Connections to more than 300 needy families on the Navajo Nation in December. Thanks to financial support and many donations, these families received much-needed items, such as fruit, beans, peanuts, Bibles, blankets, warm coats, caps and mittens, and much more.

The local Salvation Army provided canned goods and some toys, while The (Farmington) Daily Times newspaper donated dozens of bats, balls and baseball gloves through their “Glove with Love” program. In addition, Orphan Relief provided many quilts and blankets and our good friend and supporter, Jenette Richardson, from Alabama, delivered nearly 700 jackets and coats toward this ministry outreach.

Joe and Gerri Begay connected us with Navajo pastors, who delivered the gifts and other items to people in their areas in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Below are just some of the reflections from their visits.

• One home had a severely handicapped lady lying on the floor. We gave her a quilt to lie on. They were all extremely thankful.

• We came upon a bootlegging joint. The children mentioned to us that they didn’t have any liquor. They were surprised to hear we were from a church.

• One family was non-believers and we had a chance to witness to them about the birth of Christ. We prayed with them.

• Ten of the homes we visited needed salvation.

• The elderly folks at one stop said that no one ever stops to see them or provide Christmas gifts.

We thank everyone who took part in this annual outreach to the Navajo people. As always, Christmas Connections provides an ideal opportunity to share the love of Jesus with hurting people.
By Emmet Fowler

As Vertical Radio celebrates the 35th anniversary of being the Four Corners’ first Christian music station this year, we were pleasantly surprised to be awarded Best Radio Station by The (Farmington) Daily Times Readers Choice Awards.

This award is voted on by subscribers of The Daily Times, our local newspaper with a circulation of nearly 20,000 throughout the Four Corners. We are grateful for the favor that God has given us in our community and truly believe that we are Christian radio for the community, and not just for Christians.

It was also recently revealed through the latest market ratings that Vertical Radio is the No. 1 non-commercial station and the most listened-to Christian music station in the Farmington market. Because of the support of our listeners and community, Vertical Radio continues to minister through excellence in broadcasting.

**Familiar Face Returns**

Brandi Wright, who was a Morning Show co-host and DJ a couple of years back, has returned as host of the mid-day show from 10:15 to 3 p.m. each weekday. And, Brandi sits in on the Morning Show most days to add to the fun. Brandi also is the youth minister at First United Methodist Church in Farmington. Welcome back Brandi!

**New Voice in the Afternoon**

Vertical Radio welcomes James Mirabal to the on-air staff. James is on the air during the afternoon drive weekdays from 3 to 7 p.m. James is a great addition to our staff as he brings the best Christian Hit music to the airwaves of the Four Corners.

However, his real talents lie in the kitchen: he’s also a professional chef. We hope that somehow, someway, James will find a way to bless us all with the latter!

**Pledge Drive April 22-24**

The Vertical Pledge Drive annual fund-raising event for our listener-supported station is set for April 22-24. These are very important days for the station as we try to raise enough funds to operate the station for another year. Go to www.VerticalRadio.org if you’d like to learn more about ways you can help.

Emmet Fowler is General Manager of KNMI Vertical Radio, FM 88.9.
Expressing Love
Through Living Memorials

In recent months we have experienced the loss of friends in our area who went home to be with the Lord. As we get older the frequency of seeing our friends in the local obituary pages of our newspapers becomes more common place. Unfortunately, in our county we have had too many young people also slipping into eternity in recent months. Peer pressure, bullying and general disrespect of one another has become a factor that some of our youth cannot withstand. We are thankful for our Vertical Radio station that is providing hope to our younger generation through positive, uplifting music and messages.

It is our privilege to provide this page in our magazine each issue to highlight those who have provided a gift in recent months to Navajo Ministries in memory of a departed loved one or in honor of a loved one. These gifts are designated to provide care to the boys and girls who reside in our homes at the Four Corners Home for Children. Through this childcare program, youngsters are able to find rest and peace and safety from the storms of life that have devastated their natural homes.

Upon receipt of your tax-deductible donation, an attractive remembrance card will be sent to the family of the one you are memorializing or honoring. No amounts are ever mentioned. You may use the envelope that is attached in this magazine to respond with your gift.

Thank you so much for considering this unique form of supporting our care of children.

Jim Baker, President

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Living Memorials Through January 2015
Navajoland Fall Tour 2015

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- Painted Desert
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