NELLIE SANDOVAL

Cancer Survivor

ALSO SEE

Students Enjoy
INNOVATIVE PROGRAM
We’re Getting Closer … Help Us Finish the Dream!

As the photo clearly shows, much progress has been made to complete the future Education and Activity Center at Navajo Ministries. While the outside of the 8,000-square-foot building is nearing completion, about $500,000 of work was still to be done inside as of January.

Please consider partnering with us to provide a much-needed new school and activity center for the children entrusted in our care. The building is phase one of the larger Navajo Heritage Center project. We would love to start the 2011-2012 school year in this beautiful new facility!

Those who give $500 or more will receive a special, hand-crafted “thank you” candle in the shape of a hogan.

We would be honored to have you partner with us in completing the Education and Activity Center.

To make a financial gift to this amazing project, please use the envelope located in the center of this magazine. Simply write “Education and Activity Center” on the inside of the envelope, and you will be helping move this project closer to completion.

More information on the overall Navajo Heritage Center project is available at www.NavajoHeritageCenter.org, or by contacting Director of Development Eric Fisher at 505.324.5260 or Fisher@NavajoMinistries.org.

WAYS TO REMEMBER NAVAJO MINISTRIES IN YOUR GIVING PLAN

There are many ways to give to support the programs of Navajo Ministries. Following is a list of tax-wise giving opportunities that friends of Navajo Ministries may want to consider:

- **APPRECIATED ASSETS** - Make outright gifts of appreciated stock and real estate and avoid capital gain taxes.
- **CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS** - Gifts of assets in trust with you receiving lifetime income from the trusts, and Navajo Ministries receiving the assets in the trust at your passing.
- **GIFT ANNUITY** - Gifts of assets to Navajo Ministries in exchange for lifetime income.
- **CHARITABLE LEAD TRUST** - Gift of assets into a trust with Navajo Ministries receiving the income for a term of years or lifetime, and your beneficiaries receiving the remainder at the end of the term.
- **BEQUESTS** - Leaving a gift to Navajo Ministries through your will or revocable living trust.
- **RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS** - Change the beneficiary to Navajo Ministries for a tax-free transfer and give your beneficiaries the after-tax assets.
- **LIFE INSURANCE** - Do you have a current life insurance policy that is no longer needed for your family? If so, consider changing the beneficiary to Navajo Ministries.
- **LIFE INSURANCE** - Do you want to maximize your giving to Navajo Ministries? Then consider buying a life insurance policy and make Navajo Ministries the owner/beneficiary and make tax-deductible donations to Navajo Ministries in order to pay the premium.

Contact us for more information on any of these tax-wise giving opportunities to support the children and programs of Navajo Ministries. Call toll free, 1-888-325-0255, or 1-505-325-0255.
**Letter From the Editor**

Dear Readers,

All of us at Navajo Ministries would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue to share the wonderful stories of our organization and the amazing people we serve in Navajoland. This latest issue of Navajo Neighbors contains a wide range of stories that focus on the work being done here at Navajo Ministries, along with features that celebrate the Navajo people and their land.

The Winter 2011 cover story features Nellie Sandoval, a courageous breast cancer survivor who is helping to save lives by educating Navajo women about the need for early detection. Some other stories in this issue include:

- President Jim Baker explaining a name change that better reflects the work being performed through our main headquarters building.
- A trip to the beautiful Antelope Canyon on another memorable stop through Navajoland.
- An update on our very own John Livingston, now a full-fledged Marine.
- A story on an innovative new learning program at our On-Site School that uses horses as teaching assistants.
- The arrival of a new General Manager at KNMI Vertical Radio.

And, that’s just part of what’s in this latest issue. We hope you enjoy reading the Winter 2011 edition of Navajo Neighbors. As always, we welcome your feedback and value your support.

Eric Fisher  
Editor and Director of Development
Making Connections

In 1983 we moved into our current headquarters building. We decided that a name was needed for this building that would describe the activities that would go on within these walls on a daily basis. We called it the Communication Center, realizing that would appropriately highlight the outreach of our radio station, counseling center, prayer ministry and, yes, even our important communications with friends like you who faithfully pray and give to this ministry.

This name has served us well over the years, but now with the old sign showing the wear and tear of weather, we feel the time has come to also change the name of this building to more accurately portray what goes on within these walls. It’s not a major change.

THE CONNECTION CENTER is just that. It is a place where people are brought together for a common purpose to do good in the lives of others. Here are some of the ways we connect with God and those He has called us to serve:

• A Place of Prayer: We begin every weekday morning with a time of devotion and prayer with our staff. This takes place in the small auditorium on the lower floor of this five-level building. We also have two Prayer Rooms on each side of this room that are used for personal prayer time for staff or friends from the community. Many of our supporters share prayer requests that we pray over each morning, asking God to connect His power and provision to meet their needs. On the first and third Thursday of each month local pastors connect with each other and God in a time of prayer and praise and fellowship.

• KNMI Vertical Radio: Through Vertical Radio we are connecting listeners in the Four Corners region to the positive message that comes through the Christian hit music that especially appeals to the young families in our region. Through God’s Word and the encouraging words of our DJs, people are brought closer to God.

• The Counseling Center: Through the wise counsel of Bill and Linda Eubank, our Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors, clients from the community are finding ways to connect with their emotions and make changes that will result in improved relationships.

• Four Corners Home for Children: The office of our Children and Family Services Director is also located in this building. Through the loving care of our houseparents, at-risk children are finding a connection with a mom and dad who can provide some stability in their shattered lives until things improve in their natural homes.

• VBS and Christmas Connections: Each summer we connect churches and youth groups from across the nation to a Navajo congregation, where they will come and work with the local church in leading a week of VBS. At Christmas we connect donors’ dollars to practical gifts (blankets, food, toys, bibles, etc.) that are passed on to Navajo pastors who distribute them to needy families.

• Partnership: It’s also in this building that we connect with friends like you.

Through this magazine and other newsletters we are able to share success stories and challenges. Then as God moves in the hearts of our friends, prayers are given and gifts supplied. It’s a vital connection; one that can change lives for eternity.

In the future when the new Navajo Heritage Center is added to this structure, the sign will change to also reflect this new expansion of our ministries.

If you would like to personally connect with us, come by for a visit. You can also reach us by phone at 888.325.0255 or by e-mail you can contact me at Baker@NavajoMinistries.org. Our web site is www.NavajoMinistries.org.

JAMES D. BAKER, PRESIDENT
BHP Billiton Invests Again in New Center

Navajo Ministries thanks BHP Billiton for providing another $25,000 toward construction costs of the new Education and Activity Center, which is phase one of the overall Navajo Heritage Center project. BHP donated $383,000 to 34 worthwhile causes in San Juan County during a November 10 celebration luncheon in Farmington.

In just two years, BHP has awarded a total of $50,000 to the Education and Activity Center project. Pictured below, from left, are Norman Benally, BHP’s Head of External Affairs; Eric Fisher, Navajo Ministries Director of Development; Navajo Ministries President Jim Baker; and BHP Asset President Jac Fourie. BHP Billiton continues to be a great corporate partner, and we offer our sincere thanks!

Remember Our Vets, Support Our Troops

KNMI Vertical Radio continues to partner with the Blue Star Mothers to collect items to send to military troops both at home and abroad during the Christmas season. A live, 12-hour radio remote was held on Veterans Day at the Farmington Museum, filling up a pick-up truck and flatbed trailer with gifts. Pictured at top right, 7-year-old Asa White of Cub Scouts Pack 152 donates to the cause. Thanks so much to everyone who helped bring some hometown joy to our servicemen and servicewomen.

Navajo Ministries Partners with Jeff Goss Group

Jeff Goss Ministries visited the Four Corners region once again to share God’s love at the Northern Navajo Fair in Shiprock in October. Pictured, Jeff Goss and others with the ministry team share the Gospel with children at the fair. The team, which included people from St. Louis, Oklahoma and Houston, received free lodging at the Navajo Ministries campus during their stay. In addition, the group shared their story on KNMI Vertical Radio’s Four Corners Spotlight show. It’s our sincere pleasure to partner with this worthwhile ministry.

Kindergartners Give Back to Navajo Ministries

Navajo Ministries received a wonderful visit from some terrific local kindergartners in December. A group of students from Emmanuel Baptist Academy collected money in a jar and then went shopping for the children who live on grounds at Navajo Ministries. They delivered the gifts in person, placing them under the tree in the Connection Center. Thank you to these young ones for showing the true spirit of giving.

Live Nativity Draws in Record Crowd

The Live Nativity at Navajo Ministries is always a local highlight of the Christmas holiday as people drive through the decorated grounds to celebrate the real reason for the season. The 26th annual Nativity event, held December 23rd, proved to be the biggest yet as nearly 1,500 people saw the children from the Four Corners Home for Children portraying the characters of the Nativity. It is our sincere pleasure to offer this annual Christmas gift to the community.
Teaming to Save Lives

Sandoval Joins with Local Nurse to Educate Navajo Women About Breast Cancer

By Eric Fisher

Nellie Sandoval says the work cannot stop.

A breast cancer survivor, this retired school counselor is committed to doing all she can to educate Navajo women about the early detection and overall treatment of a disease that can be almost certainly curable if discovered early in the screening process.

Sandoval was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1989 and just completed her 22nd year as a cancer survivor. Along with San Juan Regional Medical Center Registered Nurse Fran Robinson, Sandoval has spent countless hours traveling thousands of miles across the Navajo Nation to spread the word that people can beat breast cancer – if they follow the proper steps. In addition to numerous speaking and support group sessions, Robinson and Sandoval teamed years ago to create a series of Navajo language videos that are saving lives.

“I retired as a school counselor in December of 2005 to take up this whole breast cancer issue full time,” the 60-year-old Sandoval said. “This is what I will do for the rest of my life … Even though it was difficult, my diagnosis was an absolute gift. Now, I’m able to help others and I have such a desire to help people see how full and rich their lives can be.”

Robinson is the cancer navigator at San Juan Regional in Farmington. It’s a fairly new role that helps patients “navigate” through the various systems of cancer care. She was Nellie Sandoval’s first oncology nurse in the late 1980s. Today, they are the best of friends after sharing some of life’s scariest moments, and the precious joys of recovery.

“I’m very fortunate in the friendship I have with Nellie,” Robinson said. “We probably consider ourselves almost best friends at this point. In nursing, that just doesn’t happen. Patients come and go, but Nellie has become a permanent person in my life.”

“Fran is just wonderful,” Nellie added. “I just remember how professional and thorough she was when she was my nurse … I was in need of support then. I had my family, but I needed people outside. Fran and the cancer support groups provided that for me.”

Now connected for more than two decades, these women continue to be driven by a desire to save lives.

“I think we’re making a difference, but there’s more to be done,”
Robinson said.

“I’m blessed – I know it,” Sandoval added. “If I’m blessed the way I have been, I had better give back. The message has to continue to get out there. There is a cure for breast cancer, but early detection is vital.”

Nellie Sandoval’s Struggle with Cancer

Nellie remembers that July day in 1989 well. She said she was very aware of breast cancer since her mother had been diagnosed years earlier with the disease. She was diligent about self examinations and getting routine mammograms. This particular day, she noticed a lump that “did not seem right.”

“I told the doctor I had a lump and he was not real concerned and asked me to wait six months. I reluctantly agreed and waited a month, but couldn’t wait any more. It was very uncomfortable and very prominent. I went back and they did a biopsy. The test came back as malignant. I was really glad I was persistent and diligent,” she said.

Nellie then went through years of treatments and later had a cancer diagnosis in her other breast in 1996. She eventually chose to have a double mastectomy due to the continued discovery of lumps.

“Early on, I was so young that I did everything – chemo, radiation and more. I was the last patient to have radioactive pellet implants, what is now the equivalent of a booster dose of radiation. It was very difficult, but I was bound and determined to beat this. I wanted to see my children grow up,” Sandoval said.

Her partner throughout all of her cancer struggles has been husband Mike Zimmerman. Married since 1983, Mike also provides transportation wherever Nellie travels since she is legally blind after a long fight against retinitis pigmentosa.

Mike said he’s been amazed by the courage his wife has displayed over the years.

“It was real important that she made the decision to undergo the amount of treatment she went through,” he said. “There were times it was pretty bad, but she took it all. She said, ‘give me everything you’ve got’ – and that’s what got her here today.”

Fran Robinson now jokes with Nellie that she was “the worst patient I ever had.”

“Nellie just had a number of side effects, but she taught me a lot about how to be a good oncology nurse. Nellie has always been someone who spoke up and she always challenged me with questions. It’s been quite a road together.”

The Road Changes to Help Save Lives

During her ongoing cancer recovery in the 1990s, Sandoval said she felt a strong pull to reach out to other women who were struggling through the cancer fight. Along with her own personal experiences with breast cancer, Sandoval’s background as a counselor proved to be beneficial.

“With Fran’s help we started the Reach to Recovery program through the American Cancer Society,” Sandoval said. “Being a Navajo speaking woman, many of the women I worked with were Navajo. After some months went by, pretty much all of my ladies were dying. I told Fran that it was just not right and asked why they were all dying. We realized later that all of my ladies came in with...”
late stage cancer. It was too late for them.”

Both Sandoval and Robinson also found out the women were not getting the important information that could save their lives. They were not undergoing routine exams and they weren’t asking questions when they noticed changes in their body.

“The death rate was disproportionate for Navajo women. Fran and I looked at what kinds of things we could do to try to help Navajo women. We eventually came up with the idea about breast cancer videos in the Navajo language. The three videos that we’re still using today were early detection, treatment options and lymphedema management,” Sandoval said.

The two friends then spent months traveling throughout the Navajo Nation, holding meetings with community health representatives and at chapter houses.

“We showed our videos and explained what we were trying to do and in probably 1999 we made sure all health facilities on the Navajo Nation had the videos on early detection and treatment options. We later did a mailer to key locations. Today, I know the hospitals run them on continuous video loops and they have access for the videos to be taken into patient rooms to show.”

Just last year, the two friends teamed to bring an event called Breast Health and the Navajo Woman to the Shiprock Chapter House. More than 160 women attended the important educational gathering.

“We’re trying to educate young women to take the message home to their adult family members,” Robinson said. “The video projects in the Navajo language are very important, plus Nellie worked closely with Diné College to develop Navajo medical terminology … I’d like everyone to know what a remarkable resource we have in Nellie.”

Dealing with Cultural Issues

Sandoval’s work with Navajo women has not always been met with open arms on the Navajo Nation, especially among those who believe it is not acceptable to talk openly about breasts and other body parts.

“In the Navajo culture, some believe it is taboo to talk about the breast and to do what we’re teaching,” she said. “It was truly a huge thing we had to overcome. My elders were very much not in favor of us doing this. I was spoken to many times about speaking so openly about breast cancer.”

Again, though, Nellie Sandoval was driven by something bigger – saving lives.

“I literally was chastised, but I didn’t care. I felt like some women were hearing what I was saying. I kept seeing women 30 years old leaving little babies behind. Who is going to raise those children? Yes, I’ll continue to take concerns into consideration, but there’s a bigger goal here. It’s more important that we save some lives.”

Sandoval and Robinson have made a major positive impact through their partnership to educate more people about breast cancer. Their work has been featured in national medical publications and Sandoval recently completed a term on the Susan G. Komen for the Cure American Indian and Alaska Native National Advisory Council. She attended a number of meetings across the country, but decided to resign in order to work closer to home.

“They do terrific work with the Komen organization, but it was taking me too far from the reservation. There’s so much more work to do here,” Sandoval said.

In 2003, Sandoval was named one of 20 Outstanding Women in New Mexico by the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women. And, her family also has some well-known heroes – two older brothers, Merrill and Samuel, who helped win World War II as Navajo Code Talkers. Her oldest daughter, Stefanie Raymond-Whish, is a molecular biologist who does cancer research in the Phoenix area.

Nellie Sandoval’s legacy is strong and established. And, she continues to return to two words when it comes to beating cancer: “early detection.”

“That’s absolutely the key and I’m bound and determined to continue to get that message out.”
Like many places in Navajoland, Antelope Canyon offers an experience few have ever seen before. Located near Page, Arizona, the sandstone canyon resembles walking through a natural cathedral — with walls that rise up to 120 feet above the ground. The narrow passages can accommodate only small groups, and at times a person can touch both sides of the canyon walls with outstretched arms.

Antelope Canyon is actually made up of two separate canyons — Upper and Lower Antelope. Each contains hidden “slots” carved from the swirling sandstone and both canyons drain from the south into Lake Powell. Although dry most of the year, Antelope Canyon sometimes floods with water after sudden rains.

This remote attraction draws tourists from throughout the world who come to marvel at the beauty of the canyons. Both canyon tours usually take a little more than an hour to complete, leaving plenty of time for breathtaking photos. And, occasionally, shafts of sunlight will peak through the canyon openings above.

Entry fee to Antelope Canyon, which is part of the Navajo Parks and Recreation Department, is $6 for general admission, and children 7 and younger are admitted free. The canyon office is located near the LeChee Chapter House and is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information go to www.navajonationparks.org.

**The Name Game**

Herds of pronghorn antelope once freely roamed Antelope Canyon, explaining its English name. The Navajo name for Upper Antelope Canyon is Tse’bighanilini, which means “the place where water runs through rocks.” Lower Antelope Canyon is called Hasdestwazi, or “spiral rock arches.”
A Full-Fledged Marine

By Annette Hall

As reported in the Fall 2010 edition of Navajo Neighbors, our own John Livingston had enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and was headed to Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California for 13 weeks of basic training. He was expecting the experience to be vastly different from his years at Navajo Ministries. His expectations were definitely met!

Here is a little of what goes on during that time referred to as boot camp: Immediately upon arrival, the recruits line up on the famous “yellow footprints,” which is their first formation and they learn how to stand at attention. Then they are issued physical training uniforms and toiletries, and from there they receive their first military haircut. Over the next three days, paperwork is completed, recruits are issued a M16A2 service rifle, vaccines and medical tests are given, and at the end of this three-day “receiving” in which there has been little sleep, the recruits will endure the Initial Strength Test. To pass, a male recruit must complete at least two pull-ups, 35 crunches (in 2 minutes!), and run 1.5 miles in 13.30 minutes or less.

Next is “Black Friday,” but it has NOTHING to do with shopping! This is when the recruits meet their new best friends – their drill instructors. Then the training truly begins. The drill instructors physically, psychologically and mentally challenge the recruits over the next 13 weeks. I can only imagine what John and others experienced during that time.

There were times he wanted to give up, times he wanted to come home, but he made us proud and he finished. He finished well and we are pleased beyond words to report that on October 15, 2010, John, along with many other recruits, marched across the parade deck and was dismissed from recruit training by his senior drill instructor.

He arrived as a boy and as a recruit, but he left as a man and a full-fledged Marine. In addition to the National Defense Service Medal given to all Marines since September 11, 2001, John received a Marksmanship Badge for Expert Shooter.

John enjoyed a 10-day leave and spent that time back home, at Navajo Ministries with his sister, Sonya, and many other adoring admirers – as evidenced by the accompanying picture.

John returned to Camp Pendleton after his leave and remained there for a month before moving on to the Marine Corps Avionics School in Pensacola, Florida, where he will remain for a year. Oorah!

Annette Hall is Director of Children and Family Services at Navajo Ministries.
Students Enjoy Innovative Learning Program

The students at the Navajo Ministries On-Site School got a real taste of Old West education when the Mane Focus Equine Assisted Learning Program saddled up for an eight-week session from October to December.

“Many students have different learning styles and this program targets students who have difficulty learning in the traditional classroom,” Mane Focus Director Ronda Carver said. “This unique program focuses on improving academic, developmental and character skills, enabling students to reach their full potential.”

The program was held for two hours each week. The students never rode horses during the sessions, but equine assisted learning principles were consistently used to help enhance the educational experience. The Navajo Ministries on-site ranch, which includes full-size and miniature horses, was also used as a venue for the program.

Students first learned about branding through horse painting. They were asked to design a brand that represented what they wanted to show the world, followed by a lesson on what the brands of the Old West symbolized.

“The kids created their own brands, as well as just having fun horse painting,” Carver said. “We also learned to rope just like at the ranch.”

Students also had sessions on cultural diversity and the creation of horse masks that allowed them to see what a horse sees. Other sessions in the program included a lesson on punctuality, using the riders of the Pony Express as examples, along with cowboy poetry and other associated lessons.

Mane Focus hopes to bring the program back to Navajo Ministries On-Site School in the spring, depending on future funding. People wanting more information on how to get involved can e-mail manefocus66@yahoo.com.

“This has been a great new program for the kids,” On-Site School teacher Diane Hebbard said. “The kids ask a lot of questions and they are very involved. It really helps their critical thinking, and I like that about this program. It also is teaching them good character traits.”
Counseling for People Dealing with Health-Related Trauma

By Bill and Linda Eubank

Did you ever notice when you are physically unwell you display the less-desirable traits of your personality? You may be irritable or despondent, angry or unhappy. Well, the same thing happens for those who deal with traumatic loss of health, a traumatic accident or trauma from childhood.

These last two create emotional trauma, which affects our health by lowering our immune system and making it likely that we will suffer loss of health. This in turn affects our relationships, our jobs and our ability to maintain a normal routine. It has been shown that uncontrolled depression or anxiety will cause any one of many stress-related illnesses. This is where the professional therapist enters the scene.

Children who have experienced abuse, the death of a parent or lived in an emotionally unhealthy or chaotic home environment may act out in anger or aggression. Acting out aggressively does not help us deal with the anger. In fact, it may prolong it or increase it. These children may instead withdraw. Children become more susceptible to viruses and even debilitating diseases. These situations also put stress on the body.

Adults who were not taught good coping strategies may not deal well with adversities. Emotional stress leads to physical stress and makes adults more vulnerable to diseases such as heart/circulation issues, stroke, diabetes, asthma and arthritis. Furthermore, dealing with real physical problems puts further stress on relationships.

Finding out you have a physical condition that either creates a need for constant monitoring or is incurable creates the greatest health trauma of all. Individuals with autoimmune disorders need a lot of support because medical intervention is limited. Add to that the controversial attitudes that some in the medical profession have toward certain diseases. In other words, “it is all in your head.” Even if it is largely a psychosomatic disorder, people often need the support of caring relationships. This can be a family member, friend or a professional therapist.

Caring relationships help us put our situations in perspective and, of course, the best caring relationship is with our Lord and Savior. “Cast all your anxiety and worries on Him because He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

Bill and Linda Eubank are licensed professional clinical counselors at The Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries.
Many Help Make Christmas Connections a Success

When it comes to putting together the annual Christmas Connections outreach effort to our Navajo neighbors, it takes many faithful friends to make it the success it has become over the years.

Navajo Ministries accepts donations throughout the year for the Christmas Connections event, which delivers Bibles, blankets, toys, food and much more to needy families in remote areas of the Navajo Nation. If not for this program, these 300 families would not receive these much-needed items at Christmastime. About a dozen Navajo pastors connect with the recipients during the deliveries, sharing the Gospel and reaching out in love to people who need it the most.

Some even begin to attend church for the first time after freely receiving the gifts.

One group that helps make it all happen is a team of about 10 volunteers who each year help pack peanuts, pinto beans, apples and oranges for the annual Christmas Connections. Gay and Don Carlson have helped organize this volunteer effort for years, and we truly appreciate their outreach to Navajo families.

Linda Lewis said she wanted to get involved with Navajo Ministries after attending one of the organization’s monthly Navajo taco briefing luncheons. She said helping with the Christmas Connections effort was a great way to give back.

“After touring Navajo Ministries earlier in the year, I was just so impressed with the work being done here, and I wanted to find a way to help,” Lewis said while putting together the packages. “This is a small way that I can help a wonderful program.”

Thank you to everyone who continues to make this annual event such a blessing to so many in Navajoland.
Even though he’s just 24, Devin Neeley’s work history with KNMI Vertical Radio dates back to his teen years. Starting in June 2004 as a just-graduated high school senior, he was a quick fill-in as a board operator for remote broadcasts before finishing the summer out as host of the “Lunch Crunch” show.

He then was off to college, earning a nickname that has really stuck ever since – “College.” Several years later, and with plenty of media experience behind him, Devin Neeley is the new General Manager of Vertical Radio. He was hired in October of last year, returning home to help lead the successful Christian Hit radio station.

“I love what I do and I am very excited to be working, for real, at Vertical Radio,” the energetic Neeley said. “In my time away from home, I think I picked up some quality experience.”

Neeley comes to KNMI with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcasting and Mass Communications from New Mexico State University. He says his four years at college were well served, learning about broadcasting, marketing, public relations and business administration.

“I worked at the television station in the student news department, News22. I served as sports director, anchor and reporter, even filling in as a weathercaster. The hours I spent in the newsroom and studio really prepared me for the real world. That first job out of college was scary, until I figured out that I had done most of the stuff before,” Neeley said.

After graduation in 2008, Neeley joined the videographer staff at Fox11 News in Tucson, Arizona. There he worked in all facets of TV news, on air and behind the camera, honing his storytelling skills and refining skills learned in college.

As for Neeley’s history at Vertical Radio, though sporadic, it spans six years. During many college breaks, he worked part-time as a productionist, remote producer, on-air host and “anything else they needed me to do.”

Neeley said he has a lot of “really good” ideas for the station, but isn’t ready to share all the big plans quite yet. What he will say is his vision for the direction of the station won’t change.

“Vertical Radio is a station loved by people in two states, four counties and all over the world through the Internet (www.VerticalRadio.org). I don’t want to change that. The music might be a little different from years ago, but Vertical Radio will always have the same values as when we started 30 years ago.”

Along with Neeley, Vertical Radio also welcomes Davis Salt as its new Marketing and Music Director. Salt began working at the station last summer after working more than two years in secular radio in sales and as an on-air personality.

“I believe that everything I had done in secular radio was leading me to this station. God has had His hand in everything I’m doing here, and with Devin coming in, we’re of the same mind-set and we’re having a lot of fun,” Salt said.

Davis is married to wife Treva, and the couple is expecting their first child in February.
Memories That Last a Lifetime

In the “old days,” we took pictures of family events and special occasions on our bulky heavy cameras. Then we would take the rolls of film to the store to be developed. Then we could begin the process of keeping the best photos and placing them in an album. Over the years, the pictures would fade, but the memories would last.

Today, our cameras are small, even hidden within our phones. The quality is amazing and we can even print our own photos to place on our refrigerators or e-mail the images to friends and family in distant parts of the country or world. We just hope that our computers don’t crash and lose our treasured photos.

Through Living Memorials you can remember your departed loved ones with a gift to Navajo Ministries in their memory. You can also honor someone who is still living. These gifts are used to provide loving homes to boys and girls who have seen much heartache in their young lives. These remembrances live on in the lives of the children in our care.

An attractive card indicating your gift to Navajo Ministries in memory or honor of your loved one will be sent to their family. No amounts will be mentioned. Please fill out the envelope in the middle of this magazine to indicate your wishes. All gifts are tax-deductible and will be receipted.

Living Memorials Through December 2010

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