Betty Ojaye
Educational Leader
Inspired By Faith

ALSO SEE
MISS NAVAJO
Visits Navajo Ministries
**PARTNERSHIP MINISTRY CONNECTS WITH FRIENDS**

For many years, Jim and I have traveled to various areas of the country, connecting with the many friends and donors who make the ministry of Navajo Ministries possible. It’s always a joy to put faces to the names of people who support the children, staff and ministry that goes on each day.

For the past two years, as Director of Partnership Ministries, I have been connecting with friends and donors through cards, letters and phone calls. Our staff counts it a joy and a privilege to share in praying for the needs of those who call into the radio station, drop by the office or send us a prayer request through the mail. These requests are prayed for on a regular basis in our morning staff devotion times and our greatest joy is having someone contact us with a praise report concerning a prayer need met by God.

Andrew Murray said, “Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us. Let our chief work as God’s messengers be intercession; in it we secure the presence and power of God to go with us.” We would love to be used of God to intercede for YOUR prayer needs. If you would like to pray for specific needs of this ministry, we will be glad to send you our monthly prayer guide for Navajo Ministries, if you request it. Drop a note in the mail, or e-mail your prayer needs or requests to kbaker@navajoministries.org.

**COME VISIT US!**

Our doors are always open to visitors. We would love to show you the wonderful work God is doing here at Navajo Ministries.

We are located at 2103 W. Main St. in Farmington, New Mexico. If you are unable to visit us in person, check out our Web site at www.NavajoMinistries.org to learn about how we provide hope and restoration to families in the Four Corners Region through programs that establish self-sufficiency, resilience and Christian values.

We also invite you to visit our online Trading Post, where we offer:

- Secure online transactions.
- Authentic Navajo rugs.
- Prints by renowned Navajo artist Mark Silversmith.

[www.NavajoMinistries.org](http://www.NavajoMinistries.org)

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*You must obtain a total of $10 in per inch sponsorship pledges for the biggest fish you catch during the tournament. Minimum size 12".*
It is a pleasure for me to introduce our newest member to the Navajo Ministries leadership team. Eric Fisher joined our staff in September of last year to serve in the important role of Director of Development. We also welcomed him as the Editor of the Navajo Neighbors magazine last fall. Eric has had a diverse background in communications, including more than 25 years in the newspaper and radio business. He came to us from our local newspaper, The Farmington Daily Times, where he was the Managing Editor.

Eric spent most of his early years growing up in Farmington. As a matter of fact, his mother was the elementary teacher for many of the youngsters in our care during our early years as houseparents in the late 1970s and early 1980s. He graduated from Farmington High School and went on to Eastern New Mexico University, graduating with Bachelor of Science degrees in Journalism and Radio-TV. After spending 11 years in Carlsbad, New Mexico, Eric and his family returned to Farmington in 1999.

In recent years I had been in contact with Eric on several occasions when he appeared on my daily radio show, “Four Corners Spotlight.” While I always envied his deep radio voice, we are now delighted to highlight his communication talents on occasion through our KNMI Vertical Radio station. He’s always on stand-by for my morning show in the event that my guest is delayed. Although he’s not a doctor, he had to play one on radio recently until the real doctor arrived. Actually, I think we talked about sports until she arrived.

Development is a vital aspect of a ministry like the one we have here. When you consider the fact that our operating budget of more than $1 million per year comes primarily from individual donors, businesses or churches, it’s easy to see that we need a person with Eric’s abilities who can coordinate the fund-raising and donor relationships that are necessary to continue to move this ministry of hope onward and upward.

In addition to the ongoing funding responsibilities, Eric is excited to help us develop a major Capital Campaign that will include an “extreme make-over” of our campus on the west side of Farmington. You will hear more about the Navajo Heritage Center project later this year when we publicly reveal all the exciting details.

“I am so pleased to be a part of the team here at Navajo Ministries,” Eric said. “This is an amazing place where God is at the center of the work being performed each and every day. I look forward to what the future holds as we work together on a wide range of exciting projects. As Editor of Navajo Neighbors magazine, it is my honor to help share the stories of what God is doing through this ministry.”

It is with great joy that I introduce Eric Fisher to you. His love for God and people will be evident when you meet him. I know he will be glad to get to know our many friends and supporters, like you. Here’s how you can contact him: 505.324.5260, or Fisher@NavajoMinistries.org.

James D. Baker, President

Eric Fisher is Director of Development at Navajo Ministries.
Navajo Ministries Welcomes New Graphic Designer

Navajo Ministries is blessed to welcome Hannah Rodden as our new graphic designer. Hannah does all of our graphics work for Navajo Neighbors, direct mail pieces, brochures and other communication materials. She studied visual communications design and fine arts at Mount Vernon Nazarene University in Ohio, where she earned her Bachelor’s of Arts degree. Hannah came to us last fall after working as a graphic designer at the Mount Vernon Christian College.

Oregon, Michigan Work Teams Help Complete Projects

Navajo Ministries welcomed two terrific work teams during their spring break mission trips in March.

Trail Christian Fellowship, of Eagle Point, Oregon, sent its Trail Teens for Truth during March 21-28. This enthusiastic team finished four work projects, which included building two hitching posts, staining two decks, putting up a fence and clearing trails for children to ride horses on ministry grounds. This group also helped with spring cleaning, cooked a meal for the entire ministry and built relationships with the staff and children at Navajo Ministries.

A week earlier, Spring Arbor University from Michigan returned to Navajo Ministries for fellowship and mission work. Spring Arbor, like Trail Christian Fellowship, has been a long-time partner with our ministry. This year, they completed a much-needed outdoor concrete project, along with painting the maintenance room and building storage shelves. They also spent time in ministry with the youngsters at The Four Corners Home for Children.

We are so thankful for friends like Trail Christian Fellowship and Spring Arbor University. We look forward to their next return to Navajo Ministries!

700 Club Visits Us

Reporter Mark Martin and cameraman Tyler James, from the Christian Broadcasting Network, were in the area in late January shooting a story about poverty and the impact of the casinos on the Navajo Nation. They included some brief footage from Navajo Ministries as part of their report. They also included some interviews at Navajo Preparatory School, where our newest board member, Betty Ojaye, is director. If you would like to see this segment of “The 700 Club,” which aired on March 17, go to our Web Site at www.NavajoMinistries.org/news.

Notes from Neighbors Readers

Thank you for the article on the Hubbell Trading Post. I toured it years ago as the guest of Dorothy Hubbell. A very special memory! - D.L. – Arizona

I so much enjoyed the articles in the last “Navajo Neighbors.” Many of the articles were written by persons I had prayed for. That made it special. – V.N. – Illinois
Meet New Navajo Ministries Board Member

By Eric Fisher

Having grown up in the Navajo Nation community of Shiprock, New Mexico, Betty Ojaye said she had long been familiar with the good work happening at what was then known as Navajo Missions. It wasn’t until about 10 years ago, however, that she experienced firsthand one of the many ways this ministry lovingly reaches out to Navajo families in need.

Ojaye’s mother, Irene, who also lived in the Shiprock area, was bound to a wheelchair during what would be her last Christmas season in 1999. A group of fellow Christians affiliated with Navajo Missions, now Navajo Ministries, came to her home during that memorable Christmas time to share goodwill and friendship as part of the Christmas Caravan project.

“One day I came home from work and she was very happy. She was telling me about the Christmas Caravan. She told me, ‘these people came and sang, and prayed for me. They sang Navajo songs, and gave me a blanket.’ She was so happy and it completely made her day,” Betty said.

Irene Ojaye was a devout Christian who, like her daughter today, relied heavily on her Christian faith. “My mother always went to church, but when she was down to her wheelchair, she couldn’t go to church anymore. She was wanting that so badly – that spiritual portion of her life … It was a wonderful experience that my mom had back in 1999. And, it was my first close contact with Navajo Ministries.”

Today, Betty Ojaye is a new member of the Board of Directors at Navajo Ministries. Since 1991, she has served full-time as executive director of the highly successful Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington. While Navajo
Navajo Prep is not directly associated with Navajo Ministries, both organizations provide a place where young Navajo people can succeed and build a solid foundation for a better future.

“I was asked several years back to be on the board at Navajo Ministries. It didn’t work out at that time, but Jim (Baker) asked me a second time and I really believed the Lord was calling me to do something a little broader and beyond what I’m doing here … Knowing the needs out there among the Navajo people, I believe those needs are really being fulfilled at Navajo Ministries.”

A Heart For Children

Betty Ojaye certainly has a heart for children. She knows far too many come from broken homes and she sees Navajo Ministries’ Four Corners Home for Children as a bright spot in helping to address the issue.

“Navajo Ministries does a great job in providing a good home for those children,” she said.

Ojaye became a new board member at Navajo Ministries earlier this year, along with childhood friend Russell Begaye. Russell, who also was raised in Shiprock and attended church with Betty, recently returned to northwest New Mexico as director of the San Juan Baptist Association.

Betty said she grew up in a Christian church in Shiprock, going to church “Sunday morning, Sunday night and Wednesday night.” She holds tight to her faith today, leaning on God’s promises when she needs direction. “My faith has helped me stay grounded in my values. It’s helped me know who I am and where I’m going,” she said.

Betty Ojaye has two master’s degrees in education from the University of New Mexico and a bachelor’s degree from Eastern New Mexico University. She is considered a strong educational leader throughout the Southwest and is credited with being an instrumental force in helping to make Navajo Preparatory School into one of the top college-prep schools for Native Americans. About 98 percent of the students who graduate from Navajo Prep go on to college. While many Navajo Prep graduates attend college in either New Mexico or Arizona, some students have ventured to places like Stanford, Columbia and Brown University.

Navajo Prep, home to about 200 students each school year, is the only Navajo-sanctioned college preparatory school for Native Americans. The school receives federal funding to operate its programs from the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a grant school institution. Students range in grades from freshmen through senior years of high school and come from throughout the Navajo Nation and other parts of the Four Corners states. Some travel hundreds of miles each week to attend Navajo Prep and most students stay in newly constructed dormitories.

(Continued)
“We run five buses Sunday night and Friday night to pick up students and then take them back home,” Ojaye said. “Some students actually live in Albuquerque, which is about three hours away. Their parents meet our bus halfway in Cuba, New Mexico.”

Navajo Prep consists of some of the best and brightest young students throughout the region. The school offers students a challenging and innovative curriculum in science, math, computers and other traditional subjects. Navajo Prep also stresses Navajo language, culture and history teachings. When students graduate from Navajo Prep, they’ve received a well-rounded education that prepares them for the next steps of life. Oftentimes, students return as leaders of their own communities back home in Navajoland.

“My Christian faith certainly helped during the difficult times. I was always taught the power of prayer …”

“Students who get accepted here have to really want to make something of themselves,” Ojaye said. “One of the things I’m most proud of is seeing them change from timid ninth-graders to college-ready seniors.”

The new dorms at Navajo Prep are part of an overall $40 million construction campaign that is almost complete. New facilities were crucial since some of the buildings dated back to the early 1900s. Navajo Prep was founded in 1891 as Navajo Methodist Mission School. Along with the new dorms for boys and girls, the historical buildings were remodeled and new athletic facilities were built, including a new gymnasium. A new student center, which will include a cafeteria, library, science classes and office space, is set for completion later this year.

Navajo Prep is also successful in putting together outstanding athletic teams. In March, the Lady Eagles basketball team won the New Mexico Class 2A state championship in Albuquerque. Betty’s daughters played big roles on that title team. Rainy, who played college basketball at Arizona State, was the head coach and Nicole was a standout senior player. Navajo Ministries’ radio station, KNMI Vertical Radio, broadcast the playoff games to the delight of local fans.

Betty Ojaye is married to Earl Crisp. Earl is the discipline officer at Shiprock Northwest High School. Their third daughter, Leticia, is a teacher at Mesa Elementary School in Shiprock. Betty and Earl have three grandsons: Dante, Tokala and Dontrelle.

She took over at Navajo Prep during a time of serious transition in 1991. The school basically had to start over at that time due to a series of issues, including lack of funding. After overseeing construction at the 84-acre campus and helping to rebuild the school’s programs, Betty said she’s amazed at the progress made during the last 18 years.

“It’s fulfilling to know where we were and where we are today. It’s very amazing what happened,” she said. “My Christian faith certainly helped during the difficult times. I was always taught the power of prayer by my mother and father. They helped me become who I am today. ◇
Grand Canyon: One of God’s Great Wonders

By Eric Fisher

Breath-taking. Awe-inspiring. Truly one of God’s most amazing creations.

The Grand Canyon National Park is all of the above – and much more. Words alone cannot describe the immaculate wonder of this place. One thing is for sure, though: Viewing the canyon’s immense size is an experience unlike any other.

The Grand Canyon, which borders the Navajo Nation in northern Arizona, is 277 river miles long, up to 18 miles wide and one mile deep. Its rugged landscape hosts a fascinating range of plants and animals, which can be found from the desert next to the Colorado River deep inside the canyon to the mountain forests atop the North Rim.

Each year, the Grand Canyon is one of the incredible sights to see on Navajo Ministries’ Navajoland Tour, which takes place every September. Tour visitors from throughout the country are always amazed by this mammoth canyon and are treated to one of the many highlights of the trip – devotion time filled with song and praise at the South Rim as the sun sets.

Nearly 5 million people see the Grand Canyon every year. Most of them spend just part of their day gazing at the beautiful canyon from one of many overlooks before traveling to their next destination. Others, however, venture into the inner canyon for scenic hikes or mule rides. The truly adventurous might even take a river trip through the Grand Canyon on the Colorado River. Those trips can take anywhere from several days to three weeks.

When speaking at the Grand Canyon in 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt offered these fitting words: “Leave it as it is … What you can do is to keep it for your children, your children’s children, and for all who come after you, as one of the great sights which every American should see.”

For more information about an opportunity to see the incredible Grand Canyon, and many other sites on the Navajoland Tour, see page 16 of this magazine. ◊

Pastor Joe Begay leads devotions at the Grand Canyon rim last September as part of Navajo Ministries’ annual Navajoland Tour.

Eric Fisher is Director of Development at Navajo Ministries and the Editor of Navajo Neighbors.
One of Our Own Goes to Washington

By Annette Hall

We love to talk about John. John Livingston is one of our older children in placement at Four Corners Home for Children. He is a junior in high school; he is the starting right tackle for Farmington’s varsity football team; he is a First Lieutenant in JROTC and was recently honored by an invitation to attend the National Youth Leadership Forum on National Security in Washington, D.C.

A select few are nominated for this prestigious Forum and an invitation was extended to John to attend. The nomination likely came from one of John’s teachers but that part of the story is still a mystery.

John spent five days in D.C. being exposed to and learning about national defense, intelligence and diplomacy. He was in a classroom setting early each morning and into the evening hours with a break mid-day to tour the city. John said the trip was amazing but there was NO down time! He toured the Capitol building, the Library of Congress, the House and Senate office buildings, the Supreme Court and took in a very special on-site visit to the Naval Academy.

On his first day in D.C., he explored the issue of ethics in national security and was introduced to the National Security Strategy Exercise. This simulation was to take place over the final two days of the Forum and presented John with a fictional crisis in the Central Asian and the Caspian Sea region. Day two took him to the Naval Academy to observe leaders in diplomatic institutions, military installations and intelligence agencies. John received practical information about careers and opportunities in these areas.

The rest of the week was filled with preparing for and carrying out his Strategy Exercise. Preparation included traveling to the heart of Washington, D.C. to participate in national security seminars. He also had the opportunity to visit the Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans and Lincoln memorials.

The exercise itself, “Crisis or Crossroads: Collision on the Silk Road,” found John mastering the arts of negotiation and compromise. It included deciphering important information to “send up to the President” and even a mock presidential news conference.

John ended his trip by touring Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian and the Franklin D. Roosevelt and Thomas Jefferson memorials.

We are so proud of John’s accomplishments, and his desire to succeed despite the odds. We are thankful for the houseparents who have filled a need and contributed to John’s life in rich and meaningful ways.

Thank you, also to John’s sponsors, many giving sacrificially above their normal sponsorship, to help with the cost of this awesome adventure.

Thank you, God, for the opportunity to serve You in this place and make a difference in the lives of Your children.

Annette Hall is Director of Children and Family Services at Navajo Ministries.
Students Make Big Strides During Year

By Diane Hebbard

As our 2008-2009 school year comes to an end, we have seen students progress very nicely at the on-site Navajo Ministries School. A total of 17 elementary-age students have come through the school this year, ranging from first-graders to fifth-graders.

We have had some students in class for a few months, while others have been enrolled all year long. Most of our students come directly from the on-site Four Corners Home for Children, but this year we also had some young learners join us from Childhaven, a Farmington-based shelter for children who have been neglected and abused. We hope to continue this successful partnership with Childhaven, along with exploring getting additional students from another local organization called New Beginnings. New Beginnings provides a safe home for primarily Native American women and their children.

Along with our full-time volunteer teacher’s aide Jim Althouse and Navajo Education Coordinator Nina Benally, we have continued working on building our students’ self-confidence, as well as striving for them to reach their academic grade levels. The smaller classroom sizes have proven beneficial to our students, who are often well behind their peers due to difficult home life situations. We’ve seen many success stories during this school year as the children advance to where they should be academically – and beyond.

A second-grader, who has been in our school since kindergarten, is now reading at a third-grade level and is enjoying reading the “Magic Tree House” collection. We also currently have a third-grader who is in special education. He came in as a very low first-grade reader and was tested recently as a middle second-grade reader. That is considered an enormous growth, and a lot of his improvement can be attributed to having a secure and safe home here at Navajo Ministries.

In addition to the necessary math and reading teachings, our students continue to enjoy learning about their heritage in the Navajo Education Cultural classes taught by Nina Benally. Along with Navajo language and history instruction, the students spent part of the year learning how to weave their own rugs. Just ask them where a ceiling beam, edging string, warp strings, batten, shed rod or the heddle rod are located and they will be able to show you. Their rugs were coming together in April and their patterns were being woven with a lot of concentration, as well as pride.

The students and school staff are now looking forward to September, when Navajo Ministries will break ground on our new Education and Activity Center. This beautiful new facility will be a welcome future home for the school, which is now located in a small, outdated building that is right next to a busy four-lane highway. The new Education and Activity Center, which will be located just north of the newer long-term children’s homes, will also include a games and activity area, a new kitchen and cafeteria, and much more. Find out more about this wonderful new facility in the fall issue of Navajo Neighbors.

Diane Hebbard is the full-time teacher at the on-site school at Navajo Ministries.
Training with our childcare team is a big part of our staff responsibilities at the Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries. Besides offering houseparent counseling to their natural children or themselves and meeting with them about the mental/emotional needs of the children in their homes, we also have an hour of training time set aside for them twice a month. We cover such topics as parenting styles, recognizing depression in children, helping children in crisis and much, much more.

We are blessed to have a childcare staff that is dedicated to the job God has called them to do. Imagine attempting to meet the needs of not only your own children but also up to 10 children in foster placement in your home. These children are often placed by their parents so that we can provide a safe place while Mom and Dad address a variety of life’s issues. Many of the children living at Navajo Ministries are with us for six months or more.

While we provide therapy for these children one hour a week, houseparents have the biggest job. They are meeting the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs of these children on an hour-by-hour basis. Imagine those two hours between school’s end and dinner time with 10 children doing homework, going to a therapy appointment, getting picked up from soccer practice, finishing piano lessons, and much, much more. You are starting to understand the level of the childcare staff’s calling and commitment.

While the activity level in the home is a constant, they are attempting to meet the relational needs of each child. Bedtime brings snack time, baths (and, with up to five children under the age of 6, that can be a huge undertaking), tucking in and saying prayers and listening to their fears of the dark or crying for a parent that has lost their way. Wow!

Now you understand the need for your prayer support. Perhaps while reading this you have felt the Lord asking you for more of a commitment. He may desire of you to provide a week out of your busy life to come and volunteer during the summer, spending time in activities with the children. Perhaps He is asking you to sponsor an individual child in our care for a minimum of $25 a month. Perhaps He has asked you to provide tangible resources in order to feed, clothe and provide therapy for these children, who feel abandoned or who may have suffered from physical or sexual abuse. Whatever He is asking, you will be blessed to be a part of our ministry to these children. The children truly become a blessing in all our lives at Navajo Ministries!

Bill and Linda Eubank are licensed professional clinical counselors at the Counseling Center at Navajo Ministries.
Miss Navajo Makes Stop at Navajo Ministries

By Eric Fisher

Navajo Ministries received two welcomed visits from the reigning 2008-2009 Miss Navajo, Yolanda Charley, in January and April. Miss Navajo spent a good part of her day on the ministry campus on January 14, appearing on Jim Baker’s “Four Corners Spotlight” radio program, touring the Four Corners Home for Children and wrapping up her visit with an appearance at the Navajo Ministries On-site School.

Charley, of Chichiltah, New Mexico, was crowned the latest Miss Navajo last fall and will complete her reign in September. She said being Miss Navajo for one year is a dream come true – a dream her late grandmother encouraged her to pursue.

“I was raised by my grandmother and she would tell me, ‘you can be Miss Navajo one day.’ I never imagined I would become Miss Navajo. I truly can relate to all of the kids here,” Charley told the students at the on-site school. “I didn’t grow up with my parents … and I didn’t have the perfect life in childhood. There are a lot of beautiful things in this life and you can overcome. On the other side, it’s always a better day.”

Miss Navajo told the children, “as long as you have a prayer, it’s much better. It gives you hope.”

Charley said she grew up in a hogan with no running water or electricity. Her grandmother, Matilda Wilson, always served as a source of inspiration during her youth. “My parents couldn’t raise me, but they gave me life. I still love them and they put me on this Earth.”

Miss Navajo tours the entire Navajo Nation and surrounding border cities, like Farmington and Gallup, New Mexico, during her 12 months, making three or four appearances each day. The process in earning the title is anything but easy. Contestants endure a grueling week of events at the Navajo Nation capital city of Window Rock, Arizona. Included in the week are a 45-minute, 18-question interview by former Miss Navajos to test their traditional knowledge, a sheep butchering contest, a test of their cooking skills, and a showcase of contemporary and traditional skills.

“I didn’t expect to win, but I did my best and won,” said Miss Navajo, who added she loves to sing and make charcoal drawings.

During her talk with the Navajo Ministries School students, she left the children with some practical advice: “I would tell you to get an education and later a good job. In the end, it will all work out.”

Eric Fisher is Director of Development at Navajo Ministries and the Editor of Navajo Neighbors.
By Wendy Curtin

As I wrote this article, we were preparing for one of our favorite days at KNMI: Vertical Impact Day (April 29). It’s a day to hear from our listeners about why they choose to listen. While Impact Day ’09 has not happened yet, we are confident that we will once again be amazed by the stories that will rise to the surface.

One story that has already been shared with our staff comes from a faithful listener, Lambert, and his son Lyle, who is currently serving in Iraq. On Christmas Day, Lyle and his unit mourned the loss of one of the men in their unit. On the same day, Lyle received his care package from Blue Star Mothers (see the Winter 2009 edition of Navajo Neighbors to learn more). He had received them in the past, so he went straight for the CD and began to play it. The other men in his unit were amazed at what they heard and wondered “who these people were.” He explained that members of his home community create this gift for soldiers each year. He suggested they listen to the radio station online.

While I was recording the Lunch Crunch for New Year’s Eve, I noticed the time zone when Baghdad would be ringing in the New Year (2 p.m. local time) and recorded a break that wished all of our soldiers in Iraq a Happy New Year. The Spirit seemed to be leading what I said, “we hope you enjoyed the CDs we sent you.” They were listening!

Forty-five minutes later, the song “Letters from War” by Mark Schultz played. The same troops were listening the entire time. Most of them had never heard that song before, and they truly knew that the people of the Four Corners were thinking of them, praying for them and supporting them. We don’t often get to hear stories like this, even though they happen all the time. Vertical Impact Day is a time to share encouraging stories with one another, and it reminds all of us at KNMI that the Holy Spirit is using our station for God’s plans. How humbling.

Following Impact Day was our annual Share-a-Thon. Despite the current economic issues, we believe that God will continue to provide for the needs of the station for the upcoming year. By the time you receive this publication, Impact Day and Share-a-Thon ’09 will be behind us. Visit us at www.VerticalRadio.org to read the latest comments, stories and pledge updates. If you missed Share-a-Thon, you can still pledge online. We praise God for the blessings He will bring our way at the end of April, and we thank you for your faithful support for the upcoming year. You are helping us to impact this world for Jesus Christ through quality radio!

Wendy Curtin is host of the “Lunch Crunch” show on KNMI Vertical Radio.

Vertical Radio welcomes Jonathan Wood as our new Music Director and Carrie Olson as our new Marketing Director. Jonathan and his wife, Christine, are also houseparents at Navajo Ministries. Carrie has been a longtime member of the Farmington area community and is involved in many local activities.

Thanks to everyone who pledged their support at Share-a-Thon ’08 to buy a new vehicle for Vertical Radio. We have recently acquired this “Vertical-Radio-Red” truck with the funds from your pledge! The truck can now be seen throughout the community at live remotes, high school games and other events.

Vertical Radio Makes A Big Impact
With A Grateful Heart, We Remember

Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. It’s interesting to note that just 26 days later on June 1, the United States government signed a Treaty with the Navajo Indians at Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

Traditional observance of Memorial Day has diminished over the years. Many Americans today have forgotten the meaning and traditions of Memorial Day. In many towns, veteran organizations place small flags by the graves of former soldiers. In recent years, we have lost more of our young men and women as they laid down their lives for our freedom.

Each day one of our children raises and lowers the American flag at the front of our campus. Occasionally they have placed the flag at half staff in memory of one of our New Mexico soldiers who have fallen in foreign lands while serving their country. They are learning at an early age the importance of respect and honor for those who serve in our military. Many Navajos have chosen to serve their country. Some have given their lives.

Perhaps you would like to remember a departed loved one through a Living Memorial gift. Whether they were veterans or not, you can remember their lives and, at the same time, help care for Navajo boys and girls living in our homes for children. You can also give your gift in honor of one who is still living.

Please fill out the form on the enclosed envelope. We will then send an attractive card to the family member you designate, notifying them of your gift. No amounts are ever mentioned. Listed to the right is a portion of the recent gifts received as Memorials.

![Flag and Child](image.jpg)
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