Dear Friends,

The Mauthe Center would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for the Synod’s support, and to share the progress we have made with our “Spiritual Growth Through Service; Sharing Technology with the Lakota Tribe” project.

At 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 11, twelve UW-Green Bay students embarked on a life-changing service trip. They piled their sleeping bags and belongings into two vans and headed to Outlaw Ranch, a Lutheran retreat center, tucked away in the beautiful landscape of Custer National Park. There, they met Larry Peterson and Mary Stutz: their counselors, local historians, and tour guides all rolled into one.

Bright and early the next morning, it was back into the vans, destination: Pine Ridge Reservation. When you drive onto the Pine Ridge Reservation, the first thing you notice is the houses, if you can call them that. Tiny shacks assembled from scraps of particle board, pieces of metal, old shingles, and sometimes even cardboard speckle the landscape. Some houses have an outhouse, which indicates a lack of indoor plumbing. Later, we would learn, families that have an outhouse are considered to be doing quite well, as many families don’t even have that basic necessity.

Once you get over the initial shock that people in our country live like this, you begin to notice the vastness of the landscape. Where are the shops? The banks? The businesses? The “main drag” in Pine Ridge consists of one gas station, one grocery store, one café and a Taco John’s. This is supposed to be sufficient for the estimated 40,000 people who live on the reservation. More people use the gas station for their ATM machine than to get gas, because there is no bank on the reservation. If you shop at the grocery store, be prepared to pay $5 for a head of lettuce, because inflation is that high. If you’re hoping to meet locals at the café, you will be sorely disappointed. It is there to cater to the tourists. The only locals you will meet are the neighborhood dogs, begging outside for a scratch behind the ears or a nibble of your lunch.

Yet, amidst this barren landscape and heartbreaking poverty, there is hope. Our students experienced it when building a room for a young woman so that she could get off of the streets, and focus on her life goals. And, you can see it on the faces of the students who attend Red Cloud High School. There is a long waiting list to get into this school. The ones lucky enough to get in flourish. Case in point: Red Cloud High School boasts 57 Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship recipients, the highest per capita in the country. 100 percent of graduates have plans to further their education and training, attending more than 25 colleges today, like Princeton, Arizona State, New Mexico and Black Hills State. 100 percent of high school students volunteer on the reservation. Some travel as far as Washington DC to give back to other communities.
These statistics are especially inspiring when you take into consideration that the vast majority of these students will be the first in their family to attend college. If there’s one thing that The Mauthe Center has to offer Red Cloud High School, it is the precious resource of UW-Green Bay college students. Thanks to the grant we received from the Synod of Lakes & Prairies, we were able to connect high school students on a remote, isolated reservation in South Dakota with compassionate, energetic, and curious college students attending UW-Green Bay.

Upon returning from our service trip, we got right to work on implementing the Skype program. Two of our tech-savvy student interns programmed the ipads to ensure they would be used for academic purposes only, and even created our very own “app” that included a “how to use your ipad” video and introductions from all of the participating UW-Green Bay students. The ipads were shipped to the school, along with a schedule of when each student would be available for homework help, and their areas of expertise.

As soon as the 10 ipads reached the students, the Skype phone calls began. Kaitlyn Back, lead organizer of the trip, was the first to get a Skype call. A young Lakota student needed some advice, so she touched a few buttons on her ipad, and in a matter of seconds was connected to Kaitlyn. The two young women talked for over an hour about what to expect from college, and everything in between. By the end of the first month of the project’s launch, UW-Green Bay students had received at least a dozen Skype calls from different students who were seeking ideas on creative writing papers, help with algebra, advice about life, or simply needed a good listener. Robin Johnson, Dean of Students at Red Cloud, reported in an e-mail, “Our students have been utilizing the tutoring and have made great comments about how helpful the UWGB [students] have been! This has been a great opportunity for our students!”

These ipads have truly been a blessing; they have bridged the gap between our two schools and helped foster wonderful mentor/mentee relationships, have exposed the Red Cloud students to the joys of technology in an increasingly advanced world, and even been an aid in the classroom. Thank you so much for helping us implement this amazing program. Your gift has changed the lives of our South Dakota Service Trip participants and planted hope in the hearts of young Lakota students. UW-Green Bay students and the Red Cloud students are already looking forward to continuing their friendships via Skype this fall.

This report includes an itemized cost list, a report on program outcomes at this time, our marketing strategy specific to this program, and our next steps. We’re also including a copy of our most recent Mauthe Center magazine, which includes two articles about our South Dakota program. We ask for your prayers for the students involved in this program and for your continued support.
**Itemized Costs**

Food for Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser     $ 285.54  
Sound System for Fundraiser              $ 150.00  
Card Reader Rental for Fundraiser         $ 150.50  
Trip subsidy for low-income student       $ 160.00  
Rental of 2 Vans                          $ 1,682.40  
Gas, carwash, parking for 2 Student Vans  $ 1,328.78  
Accommodations + Food at Lutherans Outdoors $ 3,135.00  
Payment for Construction Supplies         $ 1,000.00  
10 ipads, 1 iMac (paid for by grant)      $ 7,243.64  
Server, host services and registration fees(paid for by grant) $ 719.97  
HP Pavilion Computer(paid for by grant)   $ 399.05  
Apple app (paid for by grant)             $ 28.00  
Cost of shipping ipads(paid for by grant) $ 91.90  
**Total**                                  **$16,374.78**

*Staff salary not included*

**Outcomes**

It is difficult to determine what kind of an impact our Skye program has made in the lives of the Lakota students at Red Cloud High School. The program does not have sufficient time to draw any quantitative conclusion. However as of last May, 12 Red Cloud students were using the iPads regularly. The school incorporated them into their after school program where students would check them out of Robin Johnson’s office and then receive tutoring assistance through Skype. So, how can we tell if the program is “working” or not? We determined that success would mean a positive behavior change in students, higher grades in subject areas that UW-Green Bay students are tutoring, and increased confidence and preparation for college. Robin Johnson, the Dean of Students at Red Cloud High Schools reports, “I have seen a change in students. At first, many were shy to even come to check an ipad out. But once a few students began using them, [more] students became more confident to communicate with the college students. Our students said that the tutors were very helpful and were willing to discuss college and "everyday issues" as well. It definitely is a great fit. Our students commented [that] the assistance they got in math and creative writing was the most helpful for them.”

To better understand the impact we are making with this program, The Mauthe Center is creating 2 surveys which will be administered at the end of the Fall semester. One survey will be given to Red Cloud students, with questions aimed at getting feedback on whether they feel more or less prepared for college, if their grades have improved, whether they are more/less likely to attend college, etc. as a result of the Skype program. The other survey will be given to the UW-Green Bay student tutors to gather feedback on how this program has improved their leadership and teaching skills.
**Marketing Strategies**

To raise awareness about this program, The Mauthe Center:

- Included 2 articles about the Skype program in the Spring Mauthe Center Magazine, which was distributed to 2,500 people
- Drafted & distributed 2 press releases about the program to The Green Bay Press Gazette (main Green Bay newspaper), the UWGB student newspaper, and the Lakota Country Times.
- Numerous word-of-mouth campaigns with our contacts through local churches and partners on the Pine Ridge Reservation. (phone calls, emails, in person visits and prints)
- Included information on trip in our annual report
- Placed stickers on all 10 ipads with the following text: “This iPad was made possible by a grant through the Synod of Lakes & Prairies”

Moving forward, we commit to scheduling presentations with local parishes to report on the success of this program. We are also collecting stories from UWGB students as well as Red Cloud High School students to create a narrative we can use to scale up the program. The best is yet to come.

**Next Steps**

The Mauthe Center will return to Pine Ridge on March 17-23, 2013. Our follow-up activities with the Skype program include: exploring the possibilities of bringing the program to other high schools on the reservation, working with our partners on the reservation to create more spin-off programs such as building straw bales houses with our Episcopal partners, expanding the Skype program to include more students from both schools meeting on Skype, and working really hard to spread the good news about this program on campus, and in the wider community through relationships we have made with the local media. We’ll measure our results through the surveys & testimonials from UWGB & Red Cloud students.