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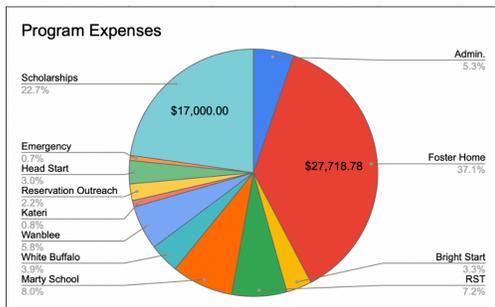
## LAKOTA FRIENDS CIRCLE

### WINTER 2026 NEWSLETTER



#### Here are the 2025 totals for the math wiz among us:

2025 was a year where we really felt that we made a difference! We have accomplished so much with **your** help! We feel that so much was asked of our donors and partner groups, and your enthusiastic response has been nothing short of inspiring.



Category	YTD Amount
Admin.	\$3,924.24
Foster Home	\$27,718.78
Bright Start	\$2,481.12
RST	\$5,349.47
Marty School	\$5,996.54
White Buffalo	\$2,921.63
Wanblee	\$4,317.45
Kateri	\$634.13
Reservation Outreach	\$1,631.11
Head Start	\$2,268.00
Emergency	\$500.00
Scholarships	\$17,000.00



Also known as [Gather Our Children Home](#), this unique shelter for foster children receives very little funding. The foster home has been a major program for us this year. We partnered with Xander, a non-profit who specifically support foster children and they brought clothing, food, and cuddly toys. We are working on several

ways to reduce our expenses while continuing the same level of support.

- **Infrastructure:** The new \$6,000 playground funded by YOU and built by *Reservation Outreach* will withstand the local climate and serve children for years to come.
- **Food Security:** With food costs at an all-time high, we are currently pursuing certification with *Feeding South Dakota*. Once approved, we will be able to purchase staples at a fraction of retail prices (e.g., hamburger meat at \$0.18/lb vs. \$5.00/lb).
- **Placement Challenges:** The home recently operated above capacity due to a shortage of available foster families. We are pleased to share that several children, including teenagers who are often the most difficult to place, have recently transitioned into permanent homes.

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## Scholarships 🎓!

We love that so many dedicated, hard-working young people want an education! We had a flood of serious applications for the 2025 Fall semester, and already have many [returning applicants](#) for the 2026 Spring semester. Having the books or tools needed is an important factor in their educational success.

- **\$17,000** was awarded in 2025.
- We expect to disburse \$20-22,000 in 2026.

We were hoping to raise \$20,000 this past December. While this hasn't happened, we are committed to support as many students as our budget allows.

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### **Marty Elementary School**

The bi-weekly snack program is an important and much needed help. The doll program funded approximately \$3,000 of the \$6,000 we spent on food.

The [school](#) also requested some supplies.



### **Wanblee**

As always, we continue to pay for the electric bill for the [Kennedy Community Center](#). We also purchase essentials such as trash bags regularly.

For Christmas, we sent gifts to their volunteers.



### **Babies and toddlers**

- Nurse Mary from Bright Start retired last summer and has not been replaced.
  - Nurse Sandi at [RST](#) continues to cater to her pint-size clients and their mothers. We are bridging the gap in federal funding by providing diapers, clothing, and educational toys.
  - [Head Start](#) is a program with ten locations on the Pine Ridge reservation. With 300 children from 0 to 5 years old, they lack blankets, socks, hats, and mittens. The lack of books and educational toys is saddening. LFC was able to purchase 252 warm coats for the children. Another group provided 50 coats. Partner groups are working on warm accessories and classroom supplies.
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### White Buffalo Calf Women's Shelter

This Summer, we launched a [Housewarming Shower](#). Partners and followers sent many household items to allow people leaving the shelter to make a home. We encourage *ongoing donations* of new or gently used kitchenware and household items to help families transition from the shelter into their own homes.

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**Kateri Center**



**Bombas Socks Galore!**

This is a [hub](#) for food, clothing, and household goods. They serve three communities and work closely with Marty School staff. We have been sending basic necessities such as toilet paper on a regular basis. We partnered with Journey of Hope, a Rapid City, SD non-profit and they brought a lot of toiletries.

We are thankful to Bombas for sending us 6,000 socks. This will keep many adult and teen's toes nice and warm.

It also kept our own Barb R. very busy with preparing all the boxes to send to the appropriate places.

See more photos below.



### **Bombas' Annual Donation**

UPS driver picking up boxes of socks



### **New donation of socks**



### **6,000 pairs of socks in many boxes**

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## **Looking ahead**

We look forward to another year of opportunities to help the people who need it the most. Your generosity is the heart behind every program mentioned above. As we look to expand our scholarship fund and secure food certification for the foster home, there are several ways you can make a difference:

### **1. Financial Contributions**

Monetary donations allow us to remain agile and respond to needs as they arise.

- **By Mail:** Checks can be made out to **Lakota Friends Circle** and sent in % **Trish Mason, Treasurer, 125 Pine Tree Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852.**
- **Online:** Visit our secure giving portal at <https://www.lakotafriendscircle.org/donate/>.
- **Monthly Giving:** Consider a recurring monthly donation to provide steady support for our utility and food programs.
- **Corporate/Employee:** Charitable payroll deductions are an easy way to support your favorite charity. Most companies will match your contributions which doubles your gift.
- **Donor Advised Funds:** Approach your investment company to include LFC in their list of non-profits.

## 2. In-kind Donations

Our ongoing programs above would love to receive:

- **Household Goods:** Gently used kitchenware, tableware, and linens for families transitioning out of the White Buffalo Women's Shelter.
- **Winter Essentials:** New socks, hats, mittens, and blankets for all the locations.
- **Educational Tools:** Books and developmental toys for babies, toddlers, and elementary students.

## 3. Partner Group Involvement

If you belong to a community group such as a sewing or knitting group, consider sending the group creations to the reservations.

## 4. Spreading the word

Many people are not aware of the desperate situation in South Dakota. Since other reservations receive large income from casinos, we need your help to inform your family and friends. Another simple way is to share our posts on Facebook and to forward our newsletters to your email contacts.

## A Final Note of Thanks

We are honored to be the bridge between your generosity and the people who need it most. While the challenges are significant, the success of 2025 proves that we can make a lasting impact when we

work together. As the saying goes: "It takes a village..." and **YOU** can be part of this special village.

## Thank you for being part of our story!

Gratefully,

Your volunteer [board of directors](#): Carol, Agnes, Janet, Trish, and Barb.

Web site: [Lakota Friends Circle](#)

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### Lakota Friends Circle

#### LAKOTA FRIENDS CIRCLE MISSION

*"Providing resources to Native American led organizations on Sioux Reservations, including support for education, food security, women and children's issues, housing, and native culture."*

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