

## **February 22, 2016 Want To Help?**

It's painfully hard to read this blog sometimes. I know. It's even harder to write it. People want to help but feel helpless. It's in our nature to come together to solve problems, end suffering, save lives.

Doesn't have to be people you know, but when you see a wreck, a fire, a crash, people who don't know one another leap into action, often risking their own life and limb, to render aid and assistance.

Watching that helicopter crash in Hawaii reminded me of this. Everyone a total stranger to each other, those in the chopper didn't know anyone who jumped into the water and pulled them out, saving the lives of everyone, including the 15-year old boy who was trapped underwater for 10 minutes because he couldn't free himself from the seat restraints.

People could have just reported it and waited by the sidelines until paid rescue units and trained professionals arrived. They would have done something. They would have done their part, but instead, they wasted no time and jumped into the water to pull out the victims.

They instantly worked together, as a team. No one argued over who got to do what. It was as if that common thread of Humanity wove through them and everyone did exactly what they needed to do and it turned out well. Everyone lived.

Had they not done that, on their own, had they waited for those who are supposed to do the work, trained, paid and with the authority to act, no one would have survived.

So it is with the urgent need of rescue and safety for victims of abuse on the rez. Those who are supposed to help, and who are being paid to help, and who have the authority to help, are doing everything they can to obstruct anyone from being able to help.

Imagine if you can, the helicopter rescue, where everyone runs over to rescue and they are met instead with politicians, agents and police threatening and harassing them, refusing to let them help, ignoring the cries of urgency. What if they wouldn't even allow anyone to make a report?

We would not accept that from a rescue scene, but for some reason, we are forced to accept that from the FBI, ACF, HHS, IHS, Tribal Governments and every agency that is supposed to aid and assist, instead blocking, harassing, threatening and obstructing even the reports.

That's what's going on in Spirit Lake Nation and throughout Indian Country. We have seen a system so corrupted for so long that horror stories are the norm. They are exposed when massive failures, tens of thousands of refugee children are vanished into that system, trafficked into the hands of sexual abusers, and worse.

Those risking everything; careers, safety, security, are trying to rescue women and children who are trapped in a system that protects pedophiles and encourages the rampant sexual abuse of children, even infants.

Those who try to jump in, pull people to safety, have to fight not only the abusers, but the entire system dedicated to pretending the problems don't exist and if they do there is nothing that can be done to remedy it so they prevent all attempts at remedy, or even reports.

It is difficult to see this overwhelming situation. Many of my readers say they lose sleep at night. Many say they now see the results of decades of systemic abuse all around them in the eyes of strangers shuffling in their addictions, folded up onto the sidewalks and crumpled in the alleyways of cities, towns and roadsides.

"What Can I Do?" they ask. They know they can't be the one jumping into the water, pulling victims to safety, but they want to help.

I encourage everyone to write, phone, and speak face-to-face with their elected and those running for election, and demand they address clearly, what they would do to fix this and hold them accountable when as long as there are still ongoing predation and ongoing corruption.

Speaking up, firmly and often, individually and in groups is key. Make yourself their problem.

### **Something Else**

There is something else you can do, all of you. You may have noticed a new permanent link at the top of this blog. A link to a GofundMe page that seeks to fund Robin's Dream.

Robin Poor Bear is gone from us now. As many times as she was broken and shattered she picked up the pieces and put herself together, again and again with one goal in mind: To help end the abuse of women and children on the rez.

True, it's only one rez, a speck on the map and the problem is wide spread, but this is one place where we can help. If you have watched the documentary on Robin's struggle, Kind Hearted Woman, you know. She was a woman of courage and hope and she was all heart.

Click the links, make a donation, small or large. Every dollar is needed. They are working to get their 501(c)3 designation and when they do, you can make even bigger donations and have them be tax write-offs.

Meanwhile, so much is needed. Escaping abusive situations puts women and their children more at risk of murder than at any other time. Enduring the abuse and watching helplessly as your children are being abused is not an option.

There is no real safe path out. Desperation and futility plague the community and those who survive grow up to be angry, violent, abusive themselves, or continue to find themselves in ever more abusive relationships with no way out and more children of their own.

Breaking the cycle is key. Breaking free is key to breaking the cycle.

If you want to help, donate. You know it will count. You may not know the names or the faces of those whose lives you help to save, but you can feel good knowing that you helped and it made a difference.

You may not be one of the people who ever has to jump into the water and pull victims of a crash out of their helicopter, plane, boat or car, but you can be one of the people who, for a few dollars, made a drastic difference in the outcome of someone's life, and the lives of their children.

They will never know who you are. They will never know your name. You will never get a medal, a ribbon, a plaque, but you will have done your part in the fabric of Humanity to make it better instead of just sitting by and watching others make it worse.

I never ask for money for myself in this blog. I fund this on my own. This is my part. I keep this up, and I keep spreading the message as best as I can.

While Richard was in prison, I asked those who wanted to help to donate to the Innocence Project and many of you did and I thank you.

I'm asking now, because it is urgent now, that you help to get Robin's Dream made real for those whose lives desperately need a path to safety.

Thank you.

You know where to find me.

~Cat