



Vigorously Academic · Beautifully Diverse · Thoroughly Christian

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# Rehoboth Student Support Services: Community Builders For Transformation

By: Kelly Arendsen, Academic Support Teacher

At Rehoboth Christian School, our student population diversely represents the cultures and ethnicities present in our area.

It is our school mission to welcome all students and families to the table, while challenging them to know the Triune God, and equipping them to love, serve, and transform the world in His name. In this endeavor, we hope to embody our transformational goal to be a school of Community Builders.

While many aspects of diversity and inclusion are present at our school, we long to have an environment that readily welcomes students and families with varied academic, behavioral, and physical needs.

I Corinthians 12:12 states, “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” This passage goes on to describe the need for each part of the body to be involved in order for the body to perform at its full potential. All parts belong, all parts are necessary. Our calling, then, is to create a school



*Academic support teacher, Abbie Huizinga, works with a middle school student in the Navajo Code Talker Communication Center.*

community that invites, loves, and nurtures all students, regardless of their abilities.

As Rehoboth continues to build this Student Support Services Program, we will pursue various resources to follow this calling--not only for the

sake of the students with exceptionalities, but also for the sake of our general education students. Our whole community will learn to love more deeply, serve more openly, and transform more collaboratively because of the growth of this program.

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# Community Builders

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The invitation to participate in the work of God is the invitation to participate in Jesus' Upside Down Kingdom. The framing of God's story, and the story that the world around us tells, are in stark contrast with each other. Trusting the Triune God replaces the confidence in our own efforts. Focusing on others replaces the focus on self. Building God's Kingdom community becomes paramount. This is why Rehoboth Christian School seeks to equip students to be "Community Builders."

During these last ten months the health and economic devastation resulting from this pandemic has given Rehoboth opportunities to equip our students to build community. Staff and students have found many ways to focus on others, such as sharing a "to go" Christmas meal, supporting those who grieve the loss of loved ones, and by providing a place for those who need the internet for their education or for their business.

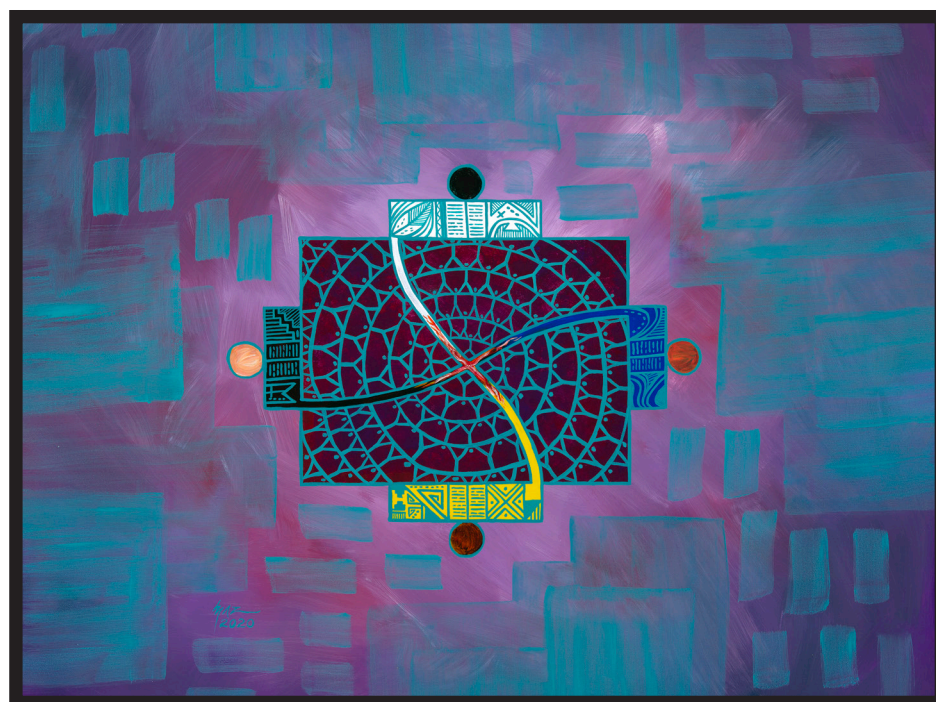
Rehoboth continues to support students and families through the work of our teachers, counselors, chaplain, and the Student Support Service team. This team is leading Rehoboth in the effort to better support students academically, emotionally and spiritually. They are challenging all of us to think about how to serve each other and our community better.

Rehoboth's ability to focus on community building is due in large part to the greater community that includes you. Prayers, volunteering, and financial support, are all amazing acts of love and selflessness which truly reflect the Upside Down Kingdom that God has called us to build. We are truly thankful!

You can watch the Community Builders video and all of our throughline videos at: [www.rcsnm.org/schools/throughlines.cfm](http://www.rcsnm.org/schools/throughlines.cfm)

Additionally, cards and prints are available for purchase of all the throughline images created by our art teachers, Elmer Yazzie and Autumn Newell at our online store:  
[www.rcsnm.org/advancement/volunteer/onlinestore.cfm](http://www.rcsnm.org/advancement/volunteer/onlinestore.cfm)

Bob Ippel  
Executive Director



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## Gap Year and Virtual Volunteers

Over the years we have had volunteers join us for a gap year between high school and college. If this is something you would be interested in, we would love to have you come to Rehoboth.



This year **Charles Nykamp** from St. Paul, Minnesota joined our staff and helped tutor in math and science in the high school. We are so blessed he felt the calling to come to Rehoboth.

This school year has been a struggle for some students who are trying to navigate the world of learning virtually. We are thankful for volunteers from all over the country who were willing to tutor virtually. If this is something that interests you please contact Deanna Benson at [dbenson@rcsnm.org](mailto:dbenson@rcsnm.org) or at (505) 726-9603.



# Senior Spotlight: Jessica Triplett



By: Dan Meester, High School Principal

In the small community of Fort Wingate, New Mexico, just outside of Gallup, there's a student whose bright eyes light up when she flashes her ready smile. This, along with her dyed-dark-blue hair is what you see when you meet Jessica Triplett. She brings such joy to the Rehoboth community—to both her teachers and her classmates. Jessica, a senior at Rehoboth Christian High School, president of the school's National Honor Society chapter, and key member of multiple sports teams—is showing all of us the power of hopes and dreams during the pandemic.

Rehoboth Christian High School (RCHS) students normally take seven classes as a full course load. Jessica's course load as this year began totaled nine classes, including AP Calculus and AP English. "Having our classes online helped free up space in my schedule so that I could take the extra anatomy class I wanted to take and still

take Navajo language and Navajo government," said Triplett, turning the hardship of missing in-person classes into an opportunity to expand her horizons.

The Navajo classes serve as two of the prerequisites for the Chief Manuelito Scholarship—a \$7,000/year award given out by the Navajo Nation. A Spanish language student for four years at Rehoboth, Jessica explained her motivation for the additional courses this way, "I want to get the Chief Manuelito Scholarship so that my mom wouldn't have to worry too much about paying for college and so that I would have a way to pay for something." Jessica's mother worked two jobs last year to support the family, and in return, the senior wants to make her whole family proud. Her results? She finished the first semester with a 4.22 GPA, earning A's in all of her subjects.

Her top choice for college is UCLA, but Jessica is keeping other options open as well. "I have also applied to ten other colleges because I get fee waivers for those applications. I want to go kind of far away to get some new experiences and some more exposure to the world." At Rehoboth, Jessica has gleaned knowledge, skills, and a sense of direction for her life. "Right now, I want to be a teacher, although I'm not sure what subject yet because there's still so much that I want to learn." Jessica credits RCHS teachers like Emily Wuestewald, Kellie Wright, and Steve Terborg with planting the teaching seed in her heart. "They have all put in so much effort to make learning fun and meaningful for students, and I'd



*Jessica Triplett is a senior at Rehoboth Christian High School where she currently serves as President of NHS.*

like to come back to this area and help in some way by teaching."

Her time at Rehoboth has also built on Jessica's lifelong faith. Her family has attended Bethany Christian Reformed Church in Gallup for as long as she can remember, and she explains that her faith has taken on a new level of importance during the pandemic. "Right now, we just don't know what's to come. I've been trying to put my trust in God because He has a plan for us—every one of us." She passes along advice to her fellow students by saying, "Hold on to hope. We'll slowly and gradually get there, even if it's not right away—There are greater things to come." If others are able to channel Jessica's drive and enthusiasm, time will no doubt prove her right.

*I want to go kind of far away to get some new experiences and some more exposure to the world."*

# A Story Worth Telling



By: James Schaap

NAVAJO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
NAVAJO OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH & PROTECTION PROGRAM March  
20, 2020 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2020-  
003 Public Health Emergency Stay at Home (Shelter in  
Place) Order for All Residents of the Navajo Nation for  
Quarantine and Isolation Purposes to Limit the Spread of  
COVID -19

The numbers, today, seem miniscule. By April 1, 2020, 174 Navajo men and women had tested positive for the coronavirus, just seven had died. Although no one could have guessed, then, how much grief was to follow, those meager numbers were enough to make tribal authorities put a Health Emergency Order in place for everyone to stay at home, to “shelter in place.”

**Melvina Musket**, her sister **Lorenda** and brother **Milford**, didn’t require an Emergency Order to be on guard. Mom and Dad were dangerously susceptible to the deadly virus coming on like a plague—that they knew.

They created exacting rituals for Dad (**Ben**) 80, a Vietnam vet with Parkinson’s, as well as diabetes that required three rounds of dialysis a week. Since childhood, Mom (**Louise**), 75, had lived with a weakened mitral heart valve after a bout with rheumatic fever. In addition, she’d developed COPD, having grown up in the campfire smoke of a hogan.

Ritual isn’t a strong enough word. The Musket siblings operated in restriction mode—committed, diligent in their discipline. Wary of public places where customers weren’t masked, they bought groceries in Albuquerque, not locally. Antiseptic



*(Front L-R) Melvina Musket, Megan Joe, Lorenda Belone, Jeannette Joe, Louise Musket, Ben Musket, Milford Musket (Back L-R) Lilly Baca, Jessica Joe*

cleaning of the house where Ben and Louise and Melvina lived took place daily. Everything and everybody got wiped and swiped again and again. Dad woke up sick on May 12. “I just don’t feel good,” he told his daughter, as if what bugged him was nothing. But there were problems, and yet that evening, a fever and a rough cough had him in an ambulance bound for the Indian Health Service Hospital (IHS) in Gallup. Later, he was flown to Albuquerque’s Presbyterian Hospital. Eventually, Dad improved enough to be scheduled for release, but while he was waiting to leave the virus went on the attack once more.

On May 19, Mom showed alarming symptoms. On the 21st, her hospital test said positive, and two days later she too went to Presbyterian when breathing became a chore. But Mom improved enough to be released—and was, before going to live for a time at Lorenda’s Albuquerque home. Meanwhile, other family members tested positive too, some becoming sicker than others. All of them tried to keep some distance from each other

through the trying period. Between her brother Milfred’s house and her sister’s and the home place in Mexican Springs, life became a chess game, family members moving around between all three places, trying not to pass along even a smidgeon of Covid-19.

“It’s something hard to talk about now,” Melvina says, when she remembers the scrambling. “All of this was happening, all at the same time.” Meanwhile, Melvina, who’d been home, fell into a fever and general body ache. When her temps kept rising, she called the nurse at IHS, who told her to come in.

She was sick, very sick. “I was having a little trouble breathing, and if I’d walk around my oxygen levels would just tank,” she says. In addition, she was dehydrated. “There were a number of things going on with me.” At least she didn’t require a ventilator, and IHS didn’t fly her out. She was home on her birthday, June 5. Just a day later, her brother called with the shocking news



that her Daddy, who she thought was about to be released, had suffered heart failure. “Just couldn’t handle it anymore,” she says. Terrible news: “They believed Daddy wasn’t going to make it another day,” she remembers. They asked if his children would like to speak to him again.

So, the hospital staff set up a SKYPE for them to say goodbye. Melvina was at home in Mexican Springs. She has to smile a bit when she remembers. “He had a beard!” she says, amazed. She’d never seen him with a beard—just seemed wrong. Her brother told them when he’d talked to Dad earlier, Dad had said that both of them needed to shave.

Whether or not her Dad heard may be less important than that she was able to speak to him. “I told my dad ‘thank you’ for taking care of me and my family and my mom. I told him Jesus was waiting for him. ‘You can go,’ I said. ‘We’ll be fine. We’ll take care of each other.’ We told him he’d done a great job—that’s what we told him.”

Everyone got a chance to say goodbye. When someone else was talking, she says she heard something muffled she couldn’t identify. She stopped to listen more closely. It was a nurse, and she was crying.

Later that afternoon one of her nieces called to say that she just needed to talk to the family; so the family got themselves together on line to talk, and sing hymns, Navajo hymns, together. “It was just comforting to know that Jesus was coming to take my daddy, so we sang together.”

At that very time, Mom was herself in Presbyterian on a ventilator.

The next day tasks simply had to get done. Around town and throughout the reservation each day more and more funerals were held, so many that taking care of arrangements required diligence and scheduling. Decisions had to be made. She says some family members felt as if they were still Covid-positive and quarantined. Everything, everywhere was stressed. Melvina herself was still coughing. She made it through the arrangements only because she stuffed herself with cough drops.

Then, once again, someone at Presbyterian called. This time, it was about Mom. She was “profoundly weak,” the doctor told them, words Melvina won’t forget. They told the doctor to do everything he could to keep her alive.

Somehow, Mom’s critical condition had made her death come as less of a shock or a surprise. There had been several times, even in the recent past, when Mom had suffered significant health problems, but every time—every time!—Mom had come back. Now, everyone was exhausted. “Jesus is going to come for us when he’s going to come for us,” Melvina told herself and the rest of the family. “We knew very well that God would take her if she got sick.”

Although both Mom and Dad were in Presbyterian when her husband passed away, the two of them weren’t—they couldn’t be—anywhere near each other, but Mom was still in the kind of fog that Covid creates in some who suffer. She didn’t know Dad was gone. She was, the doctor said, “profoundly weak.”

So this is the way the family saw things and still do (smiles all around): Mom and Dad will both be surprised—and blessedly comforted--when they meet on the other side.

“That processional followed all the way to Rehoboth, all the way to the church parking lot, where literally hundreds of friends—an entire cloud of witnesses—held the family’s hand from a distance in a silent tribute of commitment and grace.”

Even when it doesn’t strike, Covid affects every part of our lives. The Musket family buried both parents in one funeral and one gravesite, laid them to rest in the Rehoboth cemetery, just a few family members up there with them on that high ground above school and church and community.

In a tribute that resonates with both her Christian faith and her Navajo heritage, Melvina put an old red-letter KJV into their grave, a little Bible Grandma had given the two of them before they were married, 53 years ago.

Even though there were only a few up there with them, they weren’t by any means alone. People told them that God had brought them to place where they were; therefore, surely He’d take their hands as they walked through the valley of the shadow. He did.

And even though friends and family and all sorts of faithful, she says, were warned to stay away-- “We’re Covid positive and we’re still coughing, so you can’t come up to the grave with us”--the community, the community of saints, stood by.

“Tons of people showed up at the funeral home,” she remembers, with joy; and those tons of people followed the two hearses through town, creating a funeral processional that stretched on, well, forever. “They wanted to honor my parents,” she says. That processional followed all the way to Rehoboth, all the way to the church parking lot, where literally hundreds of friends—an entire cloud of witnesses—held the family’s hand from a distance in a silent tribute of commitment and grace, a reminder to her that she belonged.

Through it all, through the death of both of her parents, Melvina says she kept asking herself a question: “how can we glorify Him through this?” And the answer, she explains, is simple. “It’s only because of Him that this story is worth telling.”

*James Calvin Schaap is a retired teacher and writer who wrote Rehoboth: A Place for Us. One of the families he featured in the collection of stories is the Musket family.*

# Kindergarten Family Testimonies *By: Leanne Gillson*

In Kindergarten, we have a “wondering time” after each Bible story. For the Esther Bible story our wondering time focused on Mordecai’s words, “Who knows but that you have come to be queen for such a time as this?”

We all wondered together about God’s timing which has kept us at home and away from school during this pandemic. After **Laila Tso-Kenny** remotely shared her wonderings with the class, her mom, **Natasha**, spoke insightfully about the way God has orchestrated this time for their family. Because Natasha’s workplace allows her to work from home, she has time to juggle her work while helping her children with their remote learning.

Natasha and Cornelius believe God knew this situation was best for Laila who is quite shy in large groups. Learning from home with her mom is giving Laila the opportunity to gain confidence as she asks questions and talks even more comfortably in response to her mom’s excellent guiding questions.

It is remarkable to see how God has used such a time as this, not only in the Tso-Kenny family, but in so many Rehoboth families during this difficult season.



*Cornelius and Natasha Tso-Kenny and their children, Cayden and Laila*



During our virtual kindergarten parent teacher conference I asked each of the parents how they were doing with remote learning. **Vincent and Zoey**’s faces lit up as they expressed their gratitude for having all this time together with **Nanu**. They talked about the fun they have learning together and believe that it is a gift to be involved in their daughter’s education in this way. They appreciate her curiosity and eagerness as she learns Bible verses, snap words, songs, letters and numbers. As Nanu’s teacher I have seen for myself the evidence of their words while viewing their learning videos, which are always filled with laughter. This family knows how to love each other as they learn. They experience joy as they make mistakes, tell jokes, ask questions and seek answers. Listening to them sing together is always a highlight. “Rejoice in the Lord Always” is the song that captures this family’s theme in life; even in the midst of a pandemic.

*Left: Vincent and Zoey Thompson and their daughter Nanu.*

They are like bookends of the RCS student body: a daughter of an alum just finishing up 13 years of Rehoboth school, and a daughter of an alum just beginning her kindergarten year at Rehoboth. Many parents had to scramble to make on-line learning work in their households, but the challenge was the greatest for single working parents, like **Tashina Golden '07**. She was committed to her daughter, **Lanai**, attending Rehoboth, but at a loss for how to manage. That was until Bob Ippel got her in touch with senior, **Daya Choudhrie** (daughter of **Kris Pikaart, '88**). Throughout the fall semester, Daya babysat Lanai almost every school day, managing her on-line kindergarten, and taking her senior classes at the same time. It has been a beautiful partnership. Lanai enjoys doing school, and having someone to play dress-up and dance with, and Daya finds the structure and challenge a great motivator to get her own work done efficiently. Daya got to re-do all of the best parts of kindergarten, and Lanai managed to learn some Spanish, as she sat drawing and listening to Daya’s classes!



*Senior Daya and with Kindergartener, Lanai*

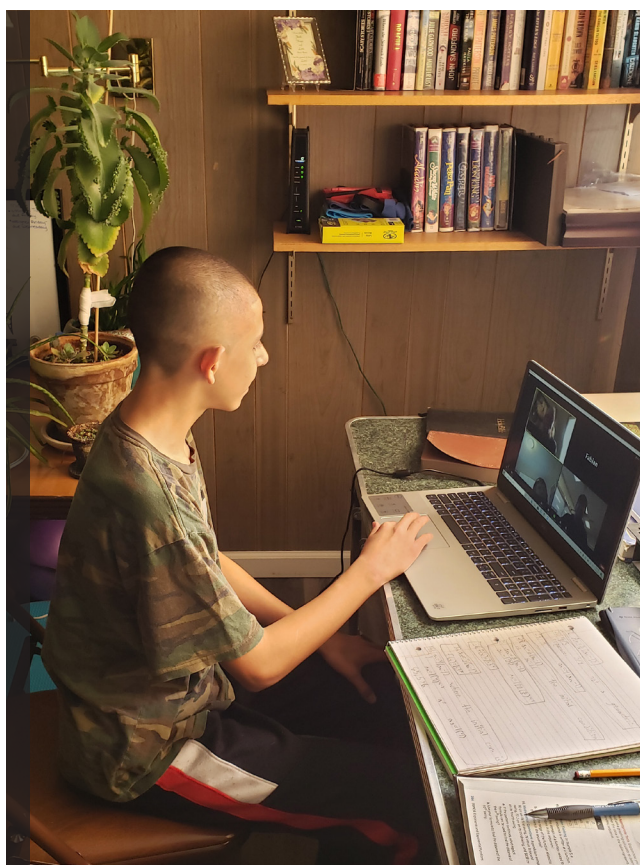


# The Colors Are Brighter



By: Lauren Heredia, RCS Parent

Our son, Fabian, was in a wonderful school district throughout elementary in Ft. Worth, TX. When we moved to Gallup we enrolled him in a school and it was a nightmare! My son is high-functioning autistic. He can work in general education classes but does need accommodations to support his autism. In the former school system he was deemed a “problem child”. They told us he was not compliant, but was lazy and sneaky. We knew this was not the case. His individual education plan (special education) continued to grow and his grades continued to fall. His whole personality changed. Our son prays



*Fabian attending class online this school year.*

when he is anxious or sad or scared. He would silently pray during the day while in school. When his peers recognized this he started getting bullied. That bullying carried on to other things such as picking on his looks, his stutter, his small stature, etc. I looked high and low for a better school, but came up empty when looking around the state. I even considered home schooling. I got all of the information and was ready to go. Then I stumbled upon Rehoboth. After visiting the school and talking with staff, it was clear our son needed this environment. We were blessed to join the Rehoboth family.

Once classes started at Rehoboth, the teachers and we as parents quickly realized his individual learning accommodations were not that lengthy. The teachers already had a good system that allowed our son to settle in nicely. He quickly formed special bonds with several staff members. His grades began to rise again. He was more talkative at home, always with a smile. Since starting at Rehoboth our son went from a D student to an A and B student. His academic support teacher has really taken the time to get to know him and advocate for him when needed. She allows him to be independent, but is there for him when he struggles to communicate. They have a very special bond. She is able to help teachers adjust things so that he is obtaining the same information, but in a way his brain can process it. The teachers go above and beyond to make sure he is successful. The staff is just amazing. They support him emotionally. His anxiety is high, but somehow they can keep him in a sweet spot so he never feels unsafe.

The teachers and administrators are always patient. This is a rarity when dealing with someone who is autistic. The entire staff and faculty are welcoming of any new research or information I throw

“Ever since I started at Rehoboth everything is bright. The colors are brighter. I even have friends.”

their way. They are great at keeping the lines of communication open. The scriptures, chapel, and frequent prayers help him navigate the day feeling protected and loved. He has made some strong friendships with his peers. Many of them help him throughout the day whether it be guiding him to the right place, comforting him when he is upset, allowing him to be himself, or just simply nurturing their relationships.

His stutter has even improved. He is able to stop, slow his mind, and say what he is trying to say. None of his peers are bothered by it. No teacher rushes him. Anytime we feel like he may be having some trouble, we can ask for a short meeting with his teachers. Not only do the teachers join, but so does the principal. It is a safe place for him to express what he needs and collectively we all

*Cont. on Page 10*

# Alumni Profile: Chase McNiel



We can see that in the midst of the pandemic God is using Rehoboth Christian School in so many ways, including the renewing of connections with alumni. The need for reliable internet service brought **Chase McNiel**, RCS class of 2014, back on campus after a six-year absence. While Rehoboth seeks to stay connected with alumni, not often does the school get the privilege of having alumni come back to campus on a daily basis.

After graduating in 2018 from Stanford University with a degree in mechanical engineering, Chase moved to Albuquerque where he worked for Applied Technology Associates, designing parts for satellites. While he found this work interesting, he felt that it did not allow him to make a real difference in people's lives. That was a springboard to his co-founding the company From the People, which was designed to help Indigenous Peoples particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. Their tagline is, "Your Indigenous Marketplace and Community."

Chase and cofounder Isabella Johnson are both Native American, he part Navajo and she from the Coquille Indian Tribe. He was introduced to his Navajo heritage through his mother who, until she was fifteen years old, lived on the Navajo reservation. At that time she moved to Utah to live with an Anglo family. Like so many Natives she had been discouraged from keeping her language and her culture. That was the climate that Chase was raised in. When Chase began attending Rehoboth Christian School he was introduced to friends from the Navajo Nation that were steeped in their Native identity. The RCS Navajo language class also added to his understanding. His awareness of his identity intensified at Stanford where he met students from many tribes and nations. His life experiences moved him to the point of wanting to help his people to flourish.

According to the website, From The People "is a decolonized marketplace dedicated to the cultivation of an Indigenous community, that includes groups from across the globe... working to promote the work of other Native artists, activists and vendors by providing them a platform to display their products." A portion of the profits from purchases made on their website goes to help tribes fight "COVID-19 in Indian Country" and "Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women".

Chase has been coding and designing the website from his office located in the Rehoboth Museum, a room in the former high school dormitory. He is surrounded by an array of photos from Rehoboth's past, including



*Chase McNiel '14, works from Rehoboth daily at his start-up business, From the People, a online marketplace for Indigenous products and goods.*

many pictures of the boarding school experience. He claims this setting is helping him think more deeply about his desire to use the business platform to communicate with those who are unfamiliar with the Native experience. Rehoboth Christian School is pleased to provide a work space for Chase on our campus, extending our encouragement to another of our alumni.

**You can see the From the People website at:**  
**<https://www.fromthepeople.co/> (.co not .com)**



# Advancement Needs



## Transportation Update:

Our new buses have been completely funded! Our bus drivers are thrilled to have their new propane fueled school buses. They are eagerly anticipating being able to bring our students to and from school again in the near future when in-person education returns. The new propane fuel station was recently installed on our campus, hopefully with significant savings to our fueling costs. Any additional gifts to the Transportation Campaign will be used to save money for a new Rehoboth Activities Bus to be used for field trips, sports teams, and choir/band tours. Thanks again to everyone who has supported our transportation needs!

## Endowed Scholarship Funds:

This school year, we have, not surprisingly, seen an increased need from our families for additional financial help beyond what our tuition assistance

program provides. We are thankful to be able to offer our Lynx Scholarships to all families who have needed the extra support. These scholarships are the result of generous support given through our endowed scholarship funds, many of which have been in place for decades here at Rehoboth. Through some of our endowed scholarship distributions, we are able to offer grants to help families keep their tuition costs at an affordable level.

We want to encourage you to consider beginning an endowed scholarship at Rehoboth. It has been fun to see how families have been able to connect their children and grandchildren to Rehoboth through their support of family endowed funds. Some of these scholarships have also been set up through memorial gifts given when a family member passes away. Please contact Ken Zylstra, Director of Advancement, to learn more about our Endowed Scholarship Program and how you

can support our students and families through this form of giving.

## Tuition Assistance Need:

Through February 1, 2021 we have received gifts and pledges towards our Tuition Assistance Fund totalling \$1,579,276. This represents 85% of our budgeted need of \$1,850,000 for this current school year. The Administrative Team has worked to reduce budgeted expenses based on significant decreases in tuition revenue and other income decreased due to the pandemic. Please consider a gift in the coming months to help us with the remaining need of \$270,724. Thank you for your help in giving generously so that 82% of our families can receive tuition assistance averaging over \$3,993/student this school year!

**Please reach out to us if you have any questions, concerns, or would like to help:**

**Ken Zylstra**, Director of Advancement  
kzylstra@rcsnm.org, or  
(505) 488-3900

**Dave Sytsma**, Advancement Officer  
dsytsma@rcsnm.org or  
(616) 283-4495



*Left: The new propane fueling station being installed on campus.*

# Cont. from Page 6...The Colors Are Brighter



brainstorm to get him back on track. It has never failed. He always leaves feeling better than when we got to the meeting. He then feels safe to speak up if an assignment does not work for him. Everyone has an open mind and heart and are always willing to adjust if they are able to.

One day while driving to school he told me, "When I was at (my other school) everything turned black and white and gray. It was dark." I asked what he meant and he continued to say that same thing. I asked if that meant he was feeling sad or scared. He said it was heavy. After a pause he told me, "Ever since I started at Rehoboth everything is bright. The colors are brighter. It is light. I even have friends. I like to pray at school. I feel safe." As a mother I broke into tears. I said to him, "God brought us here so you could go to school at Rehoboth. God

brought us here so you could have a great education and keep your strong relationship." He agreed with a smile. That was when I realized we had definitely made the right decision and there was no turning back.

Joining the Rehoboth family has not only improved our son's education and relationship with God, but it has proven to be a strong support for the entire family. We are truly blessed to be part of a community with so many special hearts and hard working educators willing to do the work to teach the students. I know they genuinely care about the work they do everyday.

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

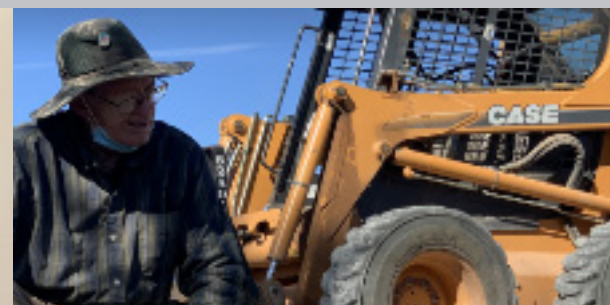
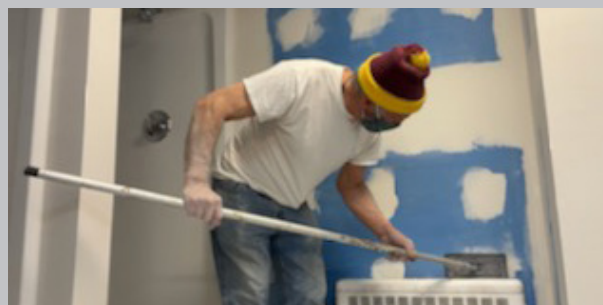
### LOCAL AND LONG - TERM VOLUNTEERS

Jack and Cindy Ippel  
Charles Nykamp  
John Ide  
Lois Harvey  
Jim Holwerda  
Paul Brink

Wes Brower-virtual volunteer  
Ron Zwiers - virtual volunteer  
Donna Genzink-virtual volunteer  
Donna Recht-virtual volunteer  
Paul and Trudi Ippel- virtual volunteers

### SHORT-TERM VOLUNTEERS

Gary and Marcia VanEe  
Ken and Vera IntVeld



### DESTINATION REHOBOTH GROUPS

University of Mary Hardin Baylor/  
Chapter of AIGA - Belton, TX-  
virtual volunteers







**1.** Students who do not have reliable internet at home are welcomed to campus daily. Every afternoon, once they have finished up their assignments, they have "brain breaks!" Every Friday, they go hiking.

**2.** Accommodations have been made to allow all students access to reliable internet. Cheyenne (12th grade) is working from an old dorm on Rehoboth's campus.

**3.** Students needing academic services come to campus for one day a week.

**4.** Santa visited during the Christmas Drive-by parade around Rehoboth!





# Ministering to Body and Soul



By: Gail DeYoung, Rehoboth Staff Emeritus

We've grown familiar with the pandemic parade: cars slowly moving on a route lined with folks, some waving, some crying, some making the heart hand sign, all looking to convey eyes of sympathy with the grieving family passing by. The parade destination is always the same, a place flanked by life and death. Rehoboth cemetery. Resurrection Rock majestically stands above a sea of graves below. Hundreds of white crosses from the 1917 pandemic compete with the freshly dug graves of our current pandemic.

There stands a man at that destination who didn't ask nor want the job of tending graves. In his 5-1/2 years serving Rehoboth Christian School, **Donovan Carlisle**, Class of '85, has been gym ceiling insulation scraper, surveyor, fence mender, veterinarian, civil engineer, head of maintenance, volunteer supervisor and now grave tender, pallbearer and elder.

His task as grave tender became more than a job; it became a calling. At first Donovan struggled for religious reasons to acquaint himself with the culture of death in the cemetery. Then the deluge of death from the horror of the COVID pandemic swept over our land. Donovan's job of maintaining graves went from digging only infant graves to caring for and closing about eight graves per month. But by May of 2020, the grave count rose to 16 per month. In one week in July, Donovan needed to make room in the cemetery for 14 people who had succumbed to COVID.

"In the early days of the pandemic, the coffin came wrapped in plastic with only a few mourners," Donovan reflects. "There was no pastor, and family and friends stood around awkwardly without a clue of how to say good-bye to

Above: Staff member, Donovan Carlisle, looks upon the unmarked graves from the 1917 pandemic.

their loved one." At that moment, Donovan added "elder" to his long list of duties. In those raw moments of grief, Donovan would step in, armed with Psalm 23 and a prayer. It became a role that he was called to do often. Once the impromptu committal service was over, there would often be no pall bearer to lower the coffin into the grave nor anyone to begin shoveling the dirt on the casket. Once again, with shovel in hand, Donovan added shovel after shovel of dirt to that six-foot deep grave. "The family would help where they could, but they were mostly interested in getting out of there as quickly as possible," Donovan added. Having placed a marker on the grave when there was none, and perhaps finding a stray artificial flower to decorate the barren mound of red dirt, Donovan took the lonely road back to Rehoboth waiting for the next time the process would begin again.

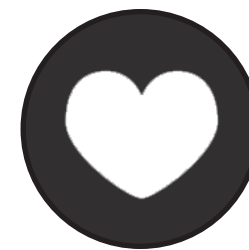
## In Memory: Steve Yoder '00

**Steve Yoder** was passionate for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. His passion began with serving youth in school and youth ministry. But it didn't stop there. As a youth pastor of Grace Bible Church in Gallup, he served and assisted families within the church. The love of Christ he and his wife shared, radiated throughout their home, church and community. Steve also helped bring over 6,000 gospels to Rehoboth and personally impacted the lives of many of our students and staff. Steve died at the age of 38 on August 9, 2020 as a result of Covid-19.

-By: Adrian Pete, Athletic Director; Kevin Ruthven, Chaplain



# Community Memorial List



**The Community Memorial List is a tribute to those who have passed away during this season of COVID. Some have lost loved ones or friends who have passed away after being infected with the virus. Some have lost loved ones due to other causes. No matter the cause of death, this season of saying goodbye has been a challenge. Many have been unable to be at the bedside during a person's last breath. Many have not been able to have friends and family gather for a fitting celebration of life. We celebrate the life of friends and relatives on this Community Memorial List.**

Cornelia Carroll

Charles A. Smith

Claresia Begay

John E. Begay

Ron Clausing, Holland, MI

Kathy Lambers, Hudsonville, MI

Donovan K. Yazzie, Kayenta, AZ

David Bertinetti, Gallup, NM

Robert Hale, Twin Lakes, NM

Scott Edward Raymond, Marlboro, NY

Larry Murphy, Allerton, IA

Harvey Aten, Hudsonville, MI

Rachael Sluis, Gallup, NM

Norma Boyd Martins, Albuquerque, NM

Charlie Boyd, Sr., Mexican Springs, NM

Ben and Louise Musket, Mexican Springs, NM

Laura J. Musket, Ft Defiance, AZ

Elizabeth Jones, Mexican Springs, NM

Jennifer J. Martinez, Twin Lakes, NM

Glenn E. Marshall, Waxhaw, NC

Kenneth Fletcher, Kalamazoo, MI

Susie Rios, Mexican Springs, NM

Violet Amber Brown, Gallup, NM

Tyrone Tools, Rosebud Sioux Res., SD

Caroline Kills In Sight, Rosebud Sioux Res., SD

Pearl Spotted Tail, Rosebud Sioux Res., SD

Mark Bordeaux, Rosebud Sioux Res., SD

Teunis Witte, Byron Center, MI

James "Buck" Largo, Church Rock, NM

E. William Terborg, Bradenton, FL

William A. Dykstra, Evergreen Park, IL

Kathy J. Holtsoi, Gallup, NM

Fred Rector, Durango, CO

Adolfo De Armond, Gallup, NM

Jerrold Bahe, Gamerco, NM

Ruth Courtney, Angola, IN

Phillip Sandoval, Twin Lakes, NM

Philamena Belone, Albuquerque, NM

Gene M. Begaye, Fort Defiance, AZ

Ambrose Tsosie, Tselani Springs, AZ

Lena Hildreth, NM

Kee Raymond Todechine, Phoenix, AZ

Rosie (Frank) Redshirt, AZ

Margaret Hildreth, AZ

Marlene Martin Huskie, AZ

Ty Clark, Tsaille, AZ

Steve Yoder, Gallup, NM

Everett Nienhouse, Carlsbad, CA

Fernando Tom, Mexican Springs, NM

Bessie Teengar, Vanderwagen, NM

Bernice Martin Yazza, Mexican Springs, NM

Cicile Yazza, Mexican Springs, NM

George & Alyce Brown, Rock Springs, NM

Helen Goodluck, AZ

Karl Gillson, Gallup, NM

Robert Kerr, Montrose, CO

Evelyn Wheeler, OR

Nathan Davidson, Gallup, NM

Bret Hoekema, Chicago, IL

William Weidenaar, Evergreen Park, IL

George Tamminga, Lombard, IL

Harold Wierenga, Palos Heights, IL

Odeline Terborg, Orland Park, IL

Joyce Persenaire, Palos Heights, IL

Evelyn Aardsma, Homer Glen, IL

Ben Vanderwerff, Gallup, NM

Patricia Holtsoi, Gallup, NM

Lester Kinsel, Gallup, NM

Tsosie Gleason, Tohatchi, NM

Gloria Thomas, St. Michaels, AZ

Rev. Bobby Boyd, Churchrock, NM

Elsie Chase, Ft. Defiance, AZ

Rena Bates, Muholland Wells, NM

Lois Holwerda, Grand Rapids, MI

Jim Hale, Moore, OK

Johnny Escsmilla, Albuquerque, NM

Andrew Escmilla, Gallup, NM

Naomi Gibson, Crownpoint, NM

Rollen Martinez, Crownpoint, NM

William Jones, Tohatchi, NM

Namoi Gibson, Thoreau, NM

Vernon Howard, Navajo, NM

Rollen Martinez, Smith Lake, NM

# How Did You End Up Here?



By: DeLyssa Begay, High School English Teacher

One of my dear friends, Melvina, asked me, “How did you end up here in Rehoboth?”

I am from Rough Rock, Arizona; a small community nestled deep in the Navajo Nation. Melvina jokingly asked if we still ate prairie dogs in the rural community. No, not in my family. My Navajo clans are the Blacksheep and One-Who-Walks-Around Peoples. They are my relatives who address me as kin - daughter, sister, mother, aunt, niece, and granddaughter. I grew up knowing “family” extended beyond my immediate family, and into the community. It created a sense of belonging that gave me comfort.

So, Melvina wanted to know how I arrived at Rehoboth. It is a long story, much longer than the allotted 400 word count, but I remember I received a call from the principal. I was not sure if I wanted to leave Arizona. Chris may have noted the hesitancy, and he asked that I not respond on impulse, but to ask for God’s guidance in prayer. He was the only principal who did not pressure me to make a quick decision. Instead, he asked me to slow down and seek God. That struck me. I prayed and felt confident that God was leading me to Rehoboth.

When I arrived, I did not know if I would fit in. I felt like the new student from a rival state. I did not know anyone when I arrived - I saw very tall colleagues, and they were all introverts. At one point, I considered leaving, but God encouraged me to stay. In the past seven years, those introverts have become the friends and family I ask to pray for me and with me in my darkest moments. I can share the moment I felt the colleague became a friend, sister, brother, aunt, or uncle in Christ. It did not happen overnight, but gradually. My family “back home” knows that I am not alone.

Our community is one that we cultivate and build with our students each day. This past year has been a year of intense prayer. Staff, students, and community members continue to pray for one another as one family. The pandemic and despair have only pulled us together to pray for God’s comfort, peace, love, and hope. In our prayers, we always praise God as He is the one who brings the people together.



*Rough Rock, AZ*

## Destination Rehoboth

### Summer Opportunities!

We look forward to having groups and volunteers return again to our campus to learn and serve in our community. We encourage school groups, church groups, families, or individuals to come for a week, a month, or just a few days.

For more information about planning a trip to Rehoboth, please contact Deanna Benson at (505)726-9603 or [dbenson@rcsnm.org](mailto:dbenson@rcsnm.org). Or visit our website: [www.rcsnm.org/advancement/volunteer/destination-rehoboth.cfm](http://www.rcsnm.org/advancement/volunteer/destination-rehoboth.cfm)



## Gifts In Honor of...

In honor of Coye and Shannon Balok  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Mary Ippel

In honor of Martin and Ruth  
Cunningham  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Tara Cunningham

In honor of Jeffrey and Noell Engbers  
and Family  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Ilah  
VanKlompberg

In honor of Zach and Laura Jo Evans  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Deborah Moss

In honor of Chris and Abbie Huizinga  
Mr. Richard Mellema

In honor of David Ihmels  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Barbara Ihmels

In honor of Christopher Kacos  
Ms. Betty J. Kacos

In honor of Jeannie Kamps  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Marie Huizenga

In honor of Jon Kamps  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Marie Huizenga

In honor of Bruce and Betty Matthews  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Joyce Braschler

In honor of Mike and Gail DeYoung  
Dr. and Mrs. John and Liliana Ratmeyer

In honor of Celeste Starchild  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Barbara Ihmels

In honor of David VanderHart  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Joan VanderHart

In honor of Martha Weg  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Betty Polly

In honor of Terry and Carol Wyngarden  
Mr. Ralph Wyngarden

In honor of Elmer Yazzie  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey and Arlene Cooper  
Mr. and Mrs. William and Shirley Martinus

## Gifts In Memory of...

In memory of Connie Bartleson  
Johnson  
Ms. Laura R. Bartleson

In memory of Ann Boyd  
Mr. and Mrs. Merle and Karen VanderSluis

In memory of Nathan Davidson  
Mrs. Phyllis Kerr

In memory of our parents Frank and  
Betty DeHaan  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Marion DeHaan

In memory of Ed DeJager  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Sarah Zylstra

In memory of husband Sam DeJong  
Mrs. Mr. Anna DeJong

In memory of Harry De Young  
Mr. Bruce D. Keuning  
Mrs. Vivian DeYoung

In memory of Jim and Jan Dollahan  
Mr. Scott Gortsema and Mrs. Molly  
Dollahan-Gortsema

In memory of Dorothy Duthler  
Ms. Patty Duthler

In memory of Don and Jane Felley  
Mrs. Kaysee Felley-Cloud and Mr. Douglas  
Felley

In memory of Marion Franje  
Mrs. Vera Franje

In memory of Ed and Elaine Gortsema  
Mr. Scott Gortsema and Mrs. Molly  
Dollahan-Gortsema

In memory of Frank and Revena  
Gritters  
Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Patricia Callahan

In memory of James Hale  
Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Henrietta Sybesma  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank and Jeanne Hale  
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Carol Brink  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Joy Miller

In memory of Mary Ellen Hamstra  
Mr. Kenneth Hamstra

In memory of Edward and Ella Henry  
Ms. Linda G. Philo

In memory of Lois Holwerda  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian and Pamela Denhof  
Mrs. Judy Daverman  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Lisa Beneson

In memory of Jean Huizenga  
Mr. Henry Huizenga

In memory of George and Sena  
Houtman  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Marie Huizenga

In memory of Ruth Ippel  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Sharon Ippel  
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Mr. and Mrs. David and Barbara Ippel  
Mrs. Lois M. Boonstra  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Anne Eggebeen  
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Ms. Carol J. DenBoer  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Mary Ippel  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Beth Zylstra  
Mrs. Bermayne R. Hilbrand  
Ms. Eloise F. Riemersma

In memory of Chris Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Deborah Moss

In memory of Max and Doris Jordan  
Mr. and Mrs. David and Carol Jonkman

In memory of Ken and Mick  
Kleinheksel  
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Nancy Engen

In memory of Keith Kuipers  
Mr. and Mrs. Merle and Karen VanderSluis

In memory of Kathy Lambers  
Mr. and Mrs. David and Sharon Sytsma

In memory of Alice Lee  
Ms. Mary A. Feyen

In memory of Earl Logterman  
Mr. and Mrs. Ken and Kim Hengeveld

In memory of Steve Mosena  
Dr. and Mrs. Curtis and Nancy Hoegh  
Mr. Wayne R. Haines  
Ms. Darci L. Munford  
Ms. Caroline Mathson  
Mr. and Mrs. Nick and Barbara Nelsen  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Beth McCullough

In memory of Barbara Newman  
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In memory of Everett Nienhouse  
Mr. and Mrs. Owen and Robin Long  
Ms. Janice K. Evert

In memory of Mina and Colleen  
Polinder  
Mr. and Mrs. Sherman and Phyllis Polinder

In memory of Kathy Spoelman  
Mr. and Mrs. David and Mary Timmer

In memory of Connie and Marjorie  
Sytsma  
Mr. and Mrs. Andy and Karen Sytsma

In memory of James H. Talsma  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald and Vivian Talsma

In memory of E. William Terborg  
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Mrs. Lorraine R. Pegues  
Mrs. Gloria VanDyken  
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Mr. Ken VanderKooi  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Ruth Huisenga  
Mr. and Mrs. Rick and Susan VanDyken  
Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Sue Blazis

In memory of Marie Van Anandel  
Mr. Gerrit B. Van Anandel  
Doug Bosscher Construction

In memory of Linda VanKlompberg  
Ms. Mary A. Feyen

In memory of Ben Vanderwerff  
Mr. and Mrs. Neal and Alida VanderWerff

In memory of Linda VanKlompberg  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Janet Weeda  
Dr. and Mrs. Gene and Joyce Schripsema  
Mr. and Mrs. Jake and Ruth Reedyk

In memory of Henrietta Bosscher  
VanWingerden  
Mrs. Marideen Holtrop  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Rachel Plasman  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Gayle Bosscher  
Mrs. Lori D. Carlson

In memory of Tom Weeda  
Mr. and Mrs. Ross and Gerda Glass  
Ms. Gloria R. Fauble  
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Peggy Weeda  
Ms. Linda and Ms. Rhonda Kiel  
Dr. and Mrs. Philip and Betty Kamps  
Mrs. Miriam J. Schaafsma

In memory of Rena Wilderom  
Ms. Linda G. Philo

In memory of David Zylstra  
Mr. and Mrs. Randy and Beth Zylstra

# Current Openings

for the 2021-22 School Year:

## Teaching/Staff Openings:

MIDDLE/HS CHORAL DIRECTOR  
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES TEACHER  
HIGH SCHOOL ART TEACHER

Please visit our website:

([www.rcsnm.org/about/employment.cfm](http://www.rcsnm.org/about/employment.cfm)) for more information on the most current openings and to fill out an application

If you have any questions, please contact: Bob Ippel, Executive Director at [bippel@rcsnm.org](mailto:bippel@rcsnm.org) or (505) 726-9623.



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Teaching for Transformation:  
Community Builders



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By: James Schaap



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Ministering to Body and Soul