



Vigorously Academic · Beautifully Diverse · Thoroughly Christian

Staff Feature: **Alumnus Coming Back**

Written By: Elizabeth Lynch, Advancement Assistant

With over a hundred years of serving the community of Gallup and the surrounding reservation communities, Rehoboth has left an impact on the Southwest. In most cases, graduates of any institution leave their alma mater and it remains a memory thereafter.

Rehoboth has been fortunate to have former students pursue education and careers outside of the community and return to aid the mission and renew their commitment to the Rehoboth family. This season, we have highlighted staff that attended Rehoboth. From the class of '72 to '14 we have listed stories of their favorite memories as students, how Rehoboth impacted them and anecdotes that have remained with them.

We asked these staff and faculty members:

- Autumn Newell (AN), Elementary & Middle School Art Teacher Class of 1997
- Chad Meekhof, (CM) Academic Support & US History Teacher Class of 2004
- Clarissa Johnson (CJ), Elementary Teacher Class of 2008
- Deanna Benson (DB), Campus Hostess & Volunteer Coordinator Class of 2001
- Elizabeth Lynch (EL), Advancement Assistant Class of 2014
- Elmer Yazzie (EY), High School Art Teacher Class of 1972
- Peter Ippel (PI), Elementary & Middle School Principal Class of 2002
- Verlana Livingston (VL), Director of Admissions Class of 1996

Q: What was your overall experience attending Rehoboth?

AN: I had some great teachers and I enjoyed learning. I love that Rehoboth is small enough that I could try everything. I didn't have to specialize in the one or two things I was really good at. I liked the variety.

CM: Playing basketball, running track, commuting from Zuni, NM everyday, choir tours and being on the original "Stomp" team

CJ: Positive. Teachers were welcoming and supportive. I was inspired to be a teacher myself from the staff at Rehoboth.

DB: I loved attending Rehoboth, it always felt more like a family than a school.

EL: I transferred from Window Rock School District and Rehoboth was the first place I saw diversity and a true sense of community. I was able to pursue interests that were outside of core curriculum and was encouraged to do so. I felt like I could be myself at Rehoboth.

EY: I got along with people.

PI: I loved RCS as a student. I remember building castles in 4th grade, learning about South America in 6th grade, all the amazing integrated units in middle school and being involved in as much as possible in high school.

VL: I loved that Rehoboth was a place for me to be a part of various activities that helped me experience many opportunities. I was able to play volleyball and try track (was never good at all, haha!), Editor of the yearbook and school newspaper, as well as, National Honors Society and lead as the Student Council President. Through these experiences, it helped me develop lifelong skills.

Q: What has been your experience working at Rehoboth?

AN: The staff is great! I particularly like getting to know bus drivers on trips. They are funny and have another perspective of the school and the students. Working with them enriches my life.

CM: It has been a blessing to work here at Rehoboth. To be a part of a solid team of hardworking teachers is a lot of fun. The community of the staff outside of school is also something I appreciate.

CJ: I have learned many great aspects of great teaching. The staff are very supportive and collaborative.

DB: It's been wonderful to experience and learn first hand what it takes to keep this wonderful school running. Everything from the financial support to the support of volunteers. We have so many people who love Rehoboth and support us through prayer, volunteering and financial support.

EL: I've been here for almost a year. I've really been enjoying it! It was eye opening when I first started. I didn't realize how much work the staff and volunteers really do, and how much of it goes unnoticed by students. I was so unaware of the commitment and responsibility everyone takes on. It's made me appreciate my schooling so much more than when I was a student here.

EY: Teacher, Coach, Artist.

PI: I've loved working at RCS. For the past two years, we've gone as a staff to Cross Canyon at the beginning of the year. There's a great stream and water hole there and though I wasn't planning on swimming, I was convinced to jump in anyway! Those types of community building experiences are so typical at Rehoboth. Also, the first day of school, the elementary and middle school staff join together to pray and sing the doxology. Hearing those words echo through the middle school commons is a powerful beginning to a school year. I love working with this staff, these students and their families.

VL: My favorite part of being a staff member is to work with some of my previous teachers. It's so good to know they have continued here at Rehoboth and believe in the mission that they now call New Mexico home. Mr. Ippel who was my former choir teacher is now Bob, my executive director and boss. I also enjoy meeting our new staff who come to NM not sure what to expect but are on their journey and have responded to God's calling. I love to watch them grow as staff members and become immersed in our Native community.

Q: Favorite memory or story as a student?

AN: My senior year was a good one! We were State Champs in both boys and girls cross country, so our whole team celebrated! The girls basketball team went all the way in state to play for third place! The senior class trip was a lot of fun at Lake Powell. I have good memories of my friends and classmates, we worked well together and laughed a lot.

CM: Smashing Bob Ippel's van into the fence by the old church when he asked me to quick transport some supplies across campus during choir one day.

CJ: Senior Trip to Lake Powell!

DB: Making friends and staying friends even to this day.

EL: Choir Tour, pretty much all of the tours that I got to go on. My favorite tour was when Cantabile went to Southern California. We visited some pretty awesome schools and churches.

EY: Friday night movies in the Kuipers Gym.

PI: I loved the wide variety of things that I could participate in as a student: musicals, band, choir, English Expo, Science Olympiad, discipleship training. All of these activities were wonderful!

VL: As a student, one of my favorite memories was being in Art class with Mr. Yazzie (Elmer since we're colleagues now, haha!). Back in the day, we were able to just get in the back of his truck and for one morning for class we went to Churchrock to draw and paint. We had a small class (5 of us) and we sat in back of his 50's classic green chevy truck that had a camper with all his grilling items hanging for camping.

Q: Advice for Graduates?

AN: Try everything! Don't worry about whether or not your friends are in it. You already know most people at the school. Also, if you're interested, someone can teach you and if you learn something, it may help you down the road. Trying something new will at least make you a better learner, and maybe even a better person.

CM: When you move on from here, ask God to give you clear ideas about how you can influence the lives of your neighbors.

EL: Put God first and you'll be amazed what He'll do in your life. It's okay if things don't happen overnight. Work hard, and don't give up!

EY: Seek humility.

PI: Don't be afraid to come back and work in Gallup/Rehoboth. There are some really wonderful people, and some great opportunities.

VL: God is always with you. "But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high." -Psalm 3:3 You will always be a part of Rehoboth's community and continuing story. Know that we are consistently praying for you as graduates and in your walk of life. We want to see you excel in the plans God has for you. Stay true!



Verlana Livingston



Elmer Yazzie



Autumn Newell

Teach For Transformation: Early Adopters

Written By: Dan Meester, High School Principal

Last year, Rehoboth began its journey with a program called Teaching for Transformation (TFT) which equips Christian schools with excellent instructional tools as well as a framework for bringing a Christian perspective to their students' experience. This year, eight teachers and two administrators from the elementary, middle, and high schools are serving as "Early Adopters" of TFT—working to integrate the practices and principles in their own classrooms and buildings. The group is partnering with a similar cohort from Zuni Christian Mission School to receive training, provide accountability, and share ideas with each other.

The TFT program focuses on the big story of God's world and emphasizes that we are participants in this story, furthering the cause of God's Kingdom. Each of us brings a unique perspective to that story that builds in us a deep hope for the lasting effects of our work and the transformative power it will have on others and the world. Armed with that story and that hope, teachers construct specific learning experiences for their students to help them see their places and roles in God's plan as well. TFT is about ensuring that all of our subject areas are anchored in the Good News of the Gospel and that our school

Each of us brings a unique perspective to that story that builds in us a deep hope for the lasting effects of our work and the transformative power it will have on others and the world."

produces knowledgeable, skilled young people who are passionate about the Lord and His work.

Next year, the entire staff will receive the training experienced by this year's smaller group, allowing the early adopters to serve as mentors for their colleagues on the journey. Both Rehoboth and Zuni are excited to embrace the work of TFT while expressing it through a voice and perspective that are distinct to the native peoples we serve.



Christmas Baskets

Written By: Angela Barker, School Librarian & Navajo Language Teacher

Every year the mid school students get the Peter Fish containers, and they go out and ask friends and family for change so they can purchase items to put in Christmas baskets. The mid school teachers then take the students to Wal-Mart to fill baskets with necessities and a few extra goodies. Everyone has a lot of fun and the energy that goes into putting these baskets together is phenomenal. The baskets then go to people that need a little extra help during the Christmas season.

On Christmas Eve, my daughter and I took some baskets to a man named, Daniel, who works really hard. He walks to Highway 491 every morning at 5:00 A.M. to catch a ride to take him to work. He works at two fast food places and he hitchhikes home everyday, no matter the weather. He is blessed with a family but, they have a hard time making ends meet.

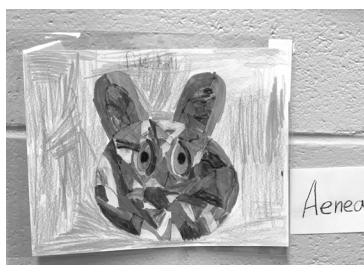
When we got to his hogan, Daniel came out to greet us. We told Daniel what we were doing, and we helped him carry the baskets into the warm, cozy hogan. It has a dirt floor and a stove right in the center of the hogan. The hogan was sparsely furnished so we placed the baskets on the ground. Daniel turned to us with tears in his eyes and said to me, "You are taking your mother's place. She was always good to us and blessed my family and me with food." I was extremely touched by that. Then he said, "Tell all the kids and teachers thank you for me. It's amazing how God blesses me everyday!" What a blessing the Rehoboth community is and how blessed we are to hear such wonderful testimonies of God's love no matter who we are or where we are from.



School Highlights: Syrian Refugee Art Exchange

Written By: Autumn Newell

This fall, the kindergarten through sixth grade students created art that we exchanged with Syrian refugees. These refugees were the same age as the students who created the art. This is the first year that the elementary has been able to join in the **Memory Project's** work, an organization that promotes world peace through art and poetry. We spent some time learning a little about where Syria is located, the war taking place there and what life might be like in a refugee camp. Students then made art to represent their wishes for the student who would receive their art. The students drew kindness. They painted friendship. There were drawings of our peaceful land and fun, abstract art. The elementary artists worked impressively hard to get their pieces just right. Some students worked six weeks in a row to finish. They each gave something very personal to show how much they care about these children from Syria. On the back of each piece of artwork was a photograph of the artist and their handprint. The hands were traced on the back of each piece so that the students can symbolically touch one another. This was a beautiful way to share the love of God through the making and sharing of art.



Chaplaincy Program

Written By: Kevin Ruthven, Chaplain

I want to ask for your prayers and introduce you to a couple of aspects of our chaplaincy program through the use of scripture. First, **II Kings 6:8-23** tells a fascinating story in which Elisha's servant was found panicking as the Syrian Army surrounded their city. However, Elisha wasn't anxious at all, he saw God's angel army surrounding the Syrian Army. Elisha understood that God was greater than the problem at hand. Elisha asked the Lord to open his servant's eyes so he too may see that God was bigger than the problem at hand. At Rehoboth, we have staff, students, families of students, and graduates who, like all of us, live in a world packed with disappointments, sin, trials, tragedies, griefs, and traumas. As the chaplain of Rehoboth Christian School, it's my privilege, and really of all of our staff, to be Elisha's. We get to come alongside people God deeply loves, not minimizing their hurts or pains, but helping them see that there is a God who is greater than anything they're facing! Elisha's name means 'God is my salvation.' Pray that God will use Rehoboth to clearly make known the salvation of God found in Christ alone.



Second, in **Matthew 9:35-38**, Jesus was ministering with compassion throughout Galilee. He told His disciples (most likely with tears and passion), *"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."* In my opinion, this verse should be at the center of all Christian education. We want our students to know Jesus and His passion for the 'least of these.' We get to share this vision with our students through modeling and teaching. One of my favorite things I do as a chaplain is to network with local ministries and organizations, finding ways to introduce and involve our students in what God is doing in our community. For example, on most Thursdays, I get to bring students to help feed the homeless a meal. The students not only hand out food but also sit down with the homeless asking questions like, *"I'm in high school, what advice would you give me?"* The conversations that flow from that one question are always amazing.

Please pray that each of our students will know very personally the call of Jesus to follow Him and be fishers of men.



(b)



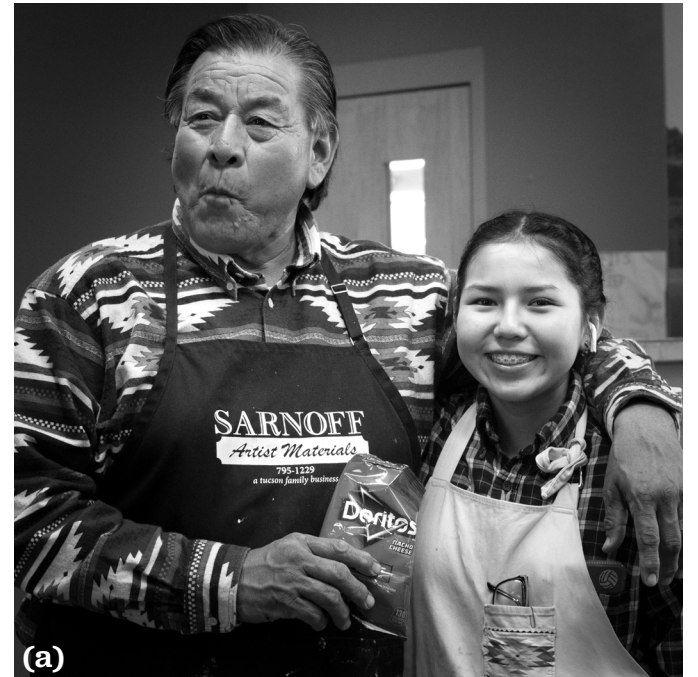
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20 Homeec

Twining with a Teacher Day (a) Pep Rally (b) Star Wars Day (c) Yee Yee Day (Western) (d)



(a)



King & Queen (e)



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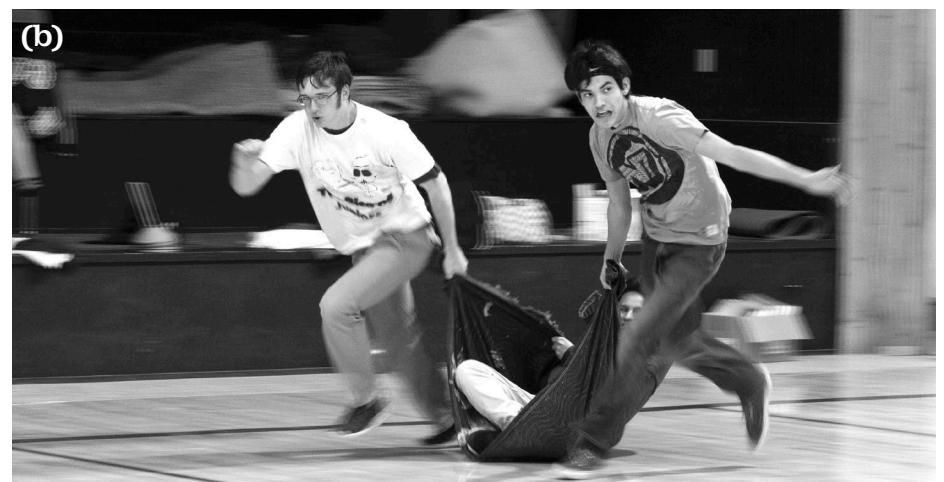
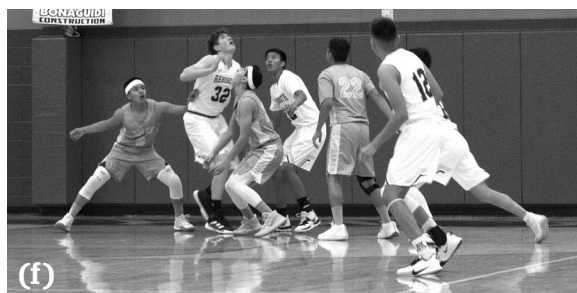
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coming 20

Homecoming Court (e) Homecoming Game (f)



Financial Needs Update:

Written By: Bob Ippel, Executive Director

My child is being bullied.
My child is not being challenged.
My child has no friends.
My child is making bad choices
My child does not get the help she needs from her teachers.
My grandchild needs support- her parents are no longer in the picture.

As Executive Director I hear many reasons why people are choosing Rehoboth Christian School. While many families choose Rehoboth because it offers Christian education, a significant number choose Rehoboth because of challenges facing the child or the family. They are looking for hope. We love supporting parents, guardians, grandparents, and their children as they seek something better. We try very hard to offer a safe community, good academic and emotional support, and the good news of the Gospel which redefines life.

Providing the excellent support needed for Rehoboth students requires more staff. Last year our Advancement Office was tasked to raise additional money so that we could expand our elementary/middle school counseling position into a full time position. While the school receives some federal money for supporting students academically, the need to have a full-time special education person to serve the middle and high school is clear. Rehoboth is thankful for Christian brothers and sisters around the country who generously support our students through their faithful prayer and financial giving.

Rehoboth is also blessed to have volunteers who are willing to support students by coming alongside the Rehoboth staff. While most volunteers come down for a few weeks or a month, we are so appreciative of our long term volunteers who help us for even longer periods of time. For the 2020-21 school year, we are looking for a long term volunteer who would be willing to be placed in the elementary school. This long term volunteer would receive training in occupational and/or physical therapy exercises for students who qualify but do not currently receiving these services. Whether you are retired, just out of college, or need a sabbatical from your current job, we would love to talk to you about the possibilities of living and working at Rehoboth. Contact our volunteer coordinator, Deanna Benson, at dbenson@rcsnm.org for more details.

Tuition Assistance Update:

Through January 31st, we have received gifts and pledges to our tuition assistance fund totalling \$1,406,971. This represents 76% of our budgeted need of \$1,850,000 for this current school year. Please consider a gift soon to help us with the remaining need of \$443,029.

Thank you for your help in giving generously so that 78% of our students can receive tuition assistance averaging over \$4,490 this school year!

Please also take time to read about our Bus Replacement Campaign in the insert and consider how you can help with this current need!

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

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

Choir Tour: My Song Forever

My Song Forever Concerts and Chapels

Tuesday, March 24

- 7:00 pm: Rehoboth Christian Reformed Church, Rehoboth, NM

Saturday, March 28

- 7:00 pm: Calvary Christian Reformed Church, Pella, Iowa

Sunday, March 29

- 9:30 am: Faith Christian Reformed Church, Pella, Iowa
- 7:00 pm: Brookfield Christian Reformed Church, Brookfield, Wisconsin

Tuesday, March 31

- 9:15 AM Grand Rapids Christian High School Chapel Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 11:00 AM Potters House High School, Wyoming, Michigan
- 1:00 PM Breton Woods Terrace, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 2:30 PM Raybrook, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 7:00 PM Concert Calvin College Chapel, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Wednesday April 1

- 8:20 AM Chapel Living Stones Academy, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- 9:45 AM Calvin Christian High School, Grandville, Michigan
- 2:00 PM Jenison Christian School, Jenison, Michigan
- 6:30 PM Concert 2nd Reformed Church, Zeeland, Michigan

Thursday, April 2

- 7:00 PM Westminster Christian Academy



Advancement Office Updates:

Gifts in Memory of:

In Memory of Al Attema

Mr. Robert Verhoeven

In Memory of Jantina "Lynn" Baker

Ms. Jennifer Baker

In Memory of Andrew Bandstra

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Mary Ippel

In Memory of Ruth Bandstra

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Mary Ippel

In Memory of Andrew Bolkema

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald & Vivian Talsma

In Memory of Leonard Brink

Mr. Jim Beelen

Ms. Barbara Youngs

Mr. Dick Walhout

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick & Marjorie Vedders

Mr. & Mrs. Hugh & Della Johnson

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas & Beth Brink

Ms. Elaine A. VanKuiken

Mr. & Mrs. Terry & Carol Wyngarden

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph & Sharon Eilers

Mr. & Mrs. Roger & Rebecca Tuuk

Mrs. & Mr. Laurel B. Cerda

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis & Ruth VanAndel

In Memory of Rodger Buining

Mr. & Mrs. Scott & Linda Wesseldyke

Ms. Pauline Jepkema

Ms. Ruth Jepkema

Ms. Karen Stevens

Mr. & Mrs. Harry & Barbara Jepkema

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Susan Jepkema

In Memory of Gerald DeVos

Mrs. Evelyn DeVos

In Memory of Dr. James Cook

Mr. & Mrs. Dan & Janet Dixon

In Memory of Edwin Gabrielse

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Kathi Brueggemann

In Memory of Ruth Gritter

Cascade Fellowship CRC

In Memory of Jacob & Kathryn Hekman

Ms. Carole Miller

In Memory of Nelson Jacobs

Mrs. Joan E. Jacobs

In Memory of Delbert James

Dr. & Mrs. David & Rosemary Daining

Mr. & Mrs. Donald & Barbara Poel

In Memory of Christopher Johnson

Mrs. Ruth E. Kamps

Dr. Arden R. Post

In Memory of Max & Doris Jordan

Mr. & Mrs. David & Carol Jonkman

In Memory of Lloyd & Elizabeth (Betty)Kamps

Dr. & Mrs. Bryan & Linda Kamps

In Memory of Kenneth Kleinheksel

Cascade Fellowship CRC

In Memory of Mary Jean Kruis

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry & Annette Broersma

In Memory of Herman Lee

Dr. & Mrs. David & Rosemary Daining

In Memory of Lawrence & Tressa Ottens

Dr. & Mrs. Henry & Sharon Ottens

In Memory of Mina Polinder

Mr. & Mrs. Sherman & Phyllis Polinder

In Memory of Colleen Polinder

Mr. & Mrs. Sherman & Phyllis Polinder

In Memory of Henry Prins

Cascade Fellowship CRC

In Memory of Wendy Roon

Mr. Richard Roon

In Memory of John Ruiter

Mrs. Lois Ruiter

In Memory of Howard D. Tazelaar

Mrs. Sharon K. Tazelaar

In Memory of Tony Templeman

Mrs. Janice Templeman

In Memory of Brian VandenBerg

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Faith Niewenhuis

In Memory of Rolf & Nella Veenstra

Dr. & Mrs. Timothy & Stephanie Veenstra

In Memory of Charlotte Veenstra

Dr. & Mrs. Timothy & Stephanie Veenstra

In Memory of Alyda Westenburg

Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Sandy Hoekstra

In Memory of Mary Wiersma

Calvary CRC

In Memory of Rena Wilderom

Ms. Linda G. Philo

Gifts in Honor of:

In Honor of Maureen Bia

Ms. Joanne Abeling

In Honor of Martin & Ruth Cunningham

Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Tara Cunningham

In Honor of Dr. Philip L. Kamps

Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Marie Huizenga

In Honor of Jeffrey & Noell Engbers and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Ilah

VanKlompberg

In Honor of John Langeland

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne and Pat Langeland

In Honor of Bruce & Betty Matthews

Mr. and Mrs. Donald and Joyce Braschler

In Honor Esther Schepers

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry and Kate Stephan

In Honor of David VanderHart

Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Joan VanderHart

We would love to talk to you about the possibilities of volunteering at Rehoboth for a few days, weeks, or months!

Contact our volunteer coordinator, Deanna Benson, at dbenson@rcsnm.org for more details.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Short-term Volunteers

Steve and Sue Kass

Barbara Top

Charles and Melanie DeKryger

Wayne and Angie Zuidema

Donald Dahm

Randy and Linda Buteyn

Uko and Jane Zylstra

Wes Brower

Betty Nikkel

Barbara Fryenburger

Bill VanderHoven

Stan and Grace Pikaart

Sharon Sytsma

Helen Andringa

Sid and Sylvia Terpstra

James, Sarah, Claire and Carly Dirksen

Dave and Joy Koning

Don, Katie, Luke and Joseph Zeilenga

Ron and Judie Zwiwers

Gene and Phyllis Laninga

Jason Meist

Bob and Susanne Jordan

Chuck and Mary Johnson

Steve and Joyce Eggebeen

Jim and Suki Brassier

Mart and Mary Hollebeek

Long-term Volunteers

Jack and Cindy Ippel

Denny and Ruth VanAndel

Paul Brink

Elsa Doornbos

Volunteer Groups:

North Pointe Christian School

2020 Calendar Update:

On behalf of Rehoboth Christian School, the Advancement Team would like to apologize for the mistakes made in the 2020 "See the Story, Live the Story" Calendar. The month of March is missing the 31st and the month of August is offset by two days.

Please correct your calendars so you don't miss your summer vacation!





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Rehoboth, NM 87322

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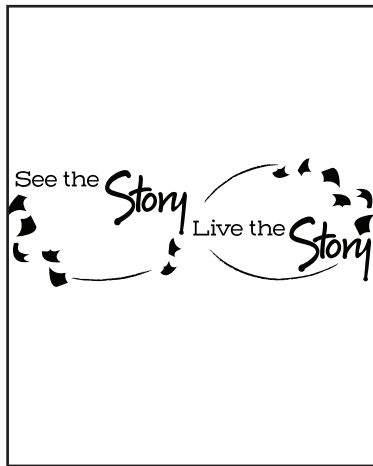
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