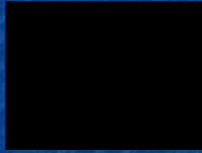


Workshop A8



Shiprock Home for Women and Children



History

- Shiprock Home for Women and Children was built in 1978 as a 501 (3) not-for profit program. SHWC provides shelter, safety, crisis intervention, education, transportation, and advocacy to women and their children.

- The SHWC has served the entire Navajo Reservation, which covers 26,000 square miles for 29 years. An estimated Navajo population is around 310,000 as of Fall 2003. The Program also serves all of the Four Corners area, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Colorado

- Poverty, economic dislocation, alcohol, and drug abuse, the destruction of traditional teachings, and the breakdown of Navajo Culture magnifies and creates the problem of abuse against women and their children. Reservation wide the assistance to women and their children and especially elderly women is practically non-existent in the area of abuse, physical emotional, mental, and sexual.

- In 1996, assaults were the second leading cause of death for the Navajo people. Experts report violence trauma to Native American women is epidemic. UNM School of Medicine reports that Native American women are at greater risk of being killed in Domestic Violence than any other ethnic Group. Research has shown that Native American Women are using women's shelters at a rate 14 times that of women in the state population.

- Navajo Society is matriarchal and in the past, provided safeguards for women by weaving a safety net of nuclear and extended family around them and by affording them high honor and respect. According to the teachings of our grandparents. We are Children of the Holy People. Our prayers, stories and songs reflect teachings of a pattern of life and guidance for proper conduct to live in Bi K'eh Hozhoon, the Beauty Way/harmony, balance, order and peace.

- One of the Holy People is Changing Woman, she taught the rules of conduct with our relatives and all of creation. Everything has a life force and deserves respect. Male and Female are of equal value to live and work together to have Bi K'eh Hozhoon – Beauty Way – harmony, balance, order, peace. A woman represents: beauty way, love, life, home, security, peace and strength and is responsible for the preservation of our culture and to strengthen our cultural belief that the family is the foundation of our society.

- Our Navajo prayers and songs stress this equality and compliment of life. The process of the wedding ceremony teaches the importance of the coming generations. One should value life, respect others, and be a responsible positive productive individual. This is Hozhoogo lina'.

Home for Women and Children, Shelter Services provides:

- Safety
- Shelter
- Food
- Transportation
- Advocacy
- Referrals
- Networking
- Education Support groups
- Health and Nutrition Education
- Living skills
- Parenting Support and Education
- Counseling and Support Groups
- Legal Advocacy
- Cultural Education and Support

Advocates for Harmony, Community Education Program provides:

- Community Education
- Classroom Education
- Advocacy
- Referrals
- Networking
- Support Groups
- Shiprock Domestic Violence Task Force
- Cultural Education and Support

- Our work to end violence against Native women recreate peaceful, harmonious communities is based on reclaiming our traditional values, belief systems and life ways.
- The key values of this life way are: compassion respect generosity, mutual sharing humility, contributing/industriousness, courage, love and being spiritually centered.
- These values are expresses by how we behave and relate to others. Challenge yourself to find other ways to create life-supporting power in yourself and others.

Setting up a Temporary shelter

Planning

- The primary goal of shelter and advocacy programs is to provide and create safety and resources for women who are battered, and offender and systems accountability. Advocates will not tell you how to “fix” a relationship or to leave a relationship. Advocates should act as relatives and support you in looking at options what will help you who is battered and your children to be safe. Our vision as advocated includes creating the social change necessary to reclaim the harmony and balance that once existed within our Nations. This social changes can only be accomplished by working together as relative.

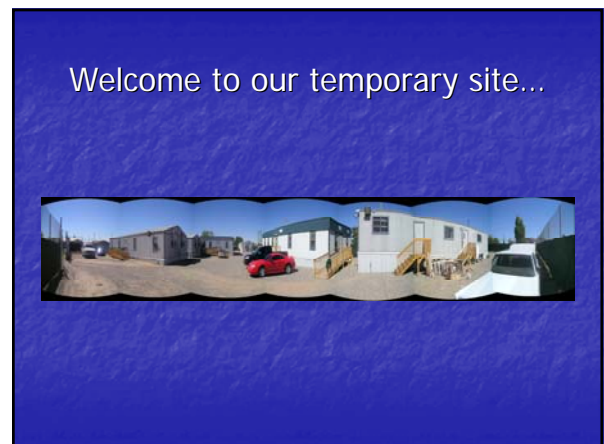
Temporary Shelter

In 2003 the shelter, Shiprock Home for Women and Children Sheltered:

- 250 victims
- 300 children
- 300 victims attended community education and support groups. Sponsored by the home.

In order to build a new shelter the home had to provide temporary shelter that would house the victims and their children. This temporary shelter can house 3 victims and 1 to 4 children in each bedroom. The temporary shelter has been full since moving in May, 2004.

- For its next phase the Home intends to utilize the once temporary shelter as a building and healing program for perpetrators. Target areas will be:
 - Education of Domestic Violence issues
 - Counseling Services
 - Life Skills
 - Parenting
 - Dads Support Group
 - Referrals
 - Networking



Front entrance



Our Current Buildings







Our Old Home



Safety, Security & Shelter



Silent Witnesses
Shiprock Home for Women and Children
Why We Do The Work That We Do



Silent Witnesses

Quotes taken from "Results," Silent Witness Report on Domestic Homicide Reduction in the United States 1976-1997:

- "A small group of artists and women in Minnesota developed the ideas of the red life-sized figures we now call silent Witnesses in the Summer of 1990. It was never imagined that this was birthing an international initiative.

- "The Silent Witnesses have taken a life of their own. We have come to experience the figures reverentially. The murdered women become real to us, their spirits touching our. When we carried them from the trucks to exhibit spaces, we felt we were carrying their stories. When we "hugged" them in order to fit them in their stands, we were reminded of how much love each of them needed. They had come alive for us. But they were all dead."
- "One incredible thing we learned that had not been clear at the inception of the project was how healing these silent witnesses figures would be for so many of the survivors and the families of the victims. Nor were we aware of how powerful these figures would be for public officials."

Along the way...





Funding Sources

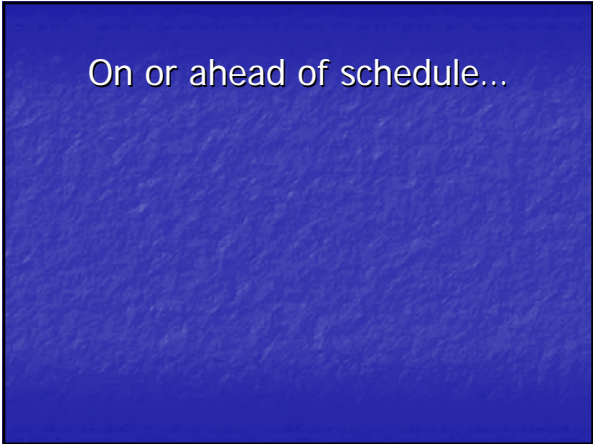
- Native American Housing and Self Determination Act, Navajo Nation NAHASDA
- Child Care Development Fund Program, Navajo Nation, CCDF
- New Mexico State Legislature, Capitol Outlay
- USDA

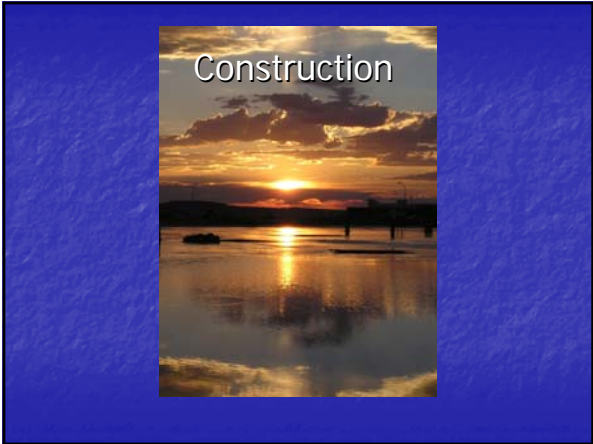
Goodbye old friend, you kept us
safe and warm...

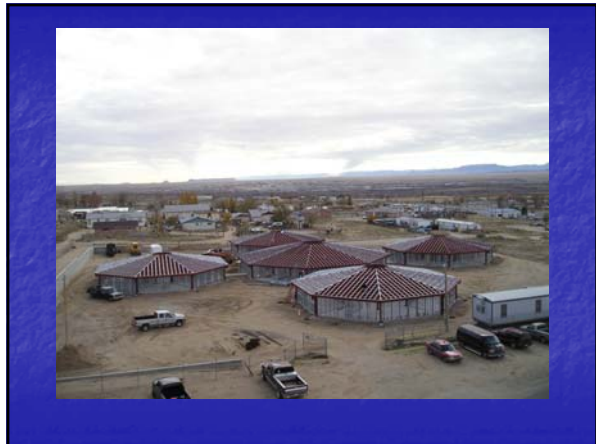
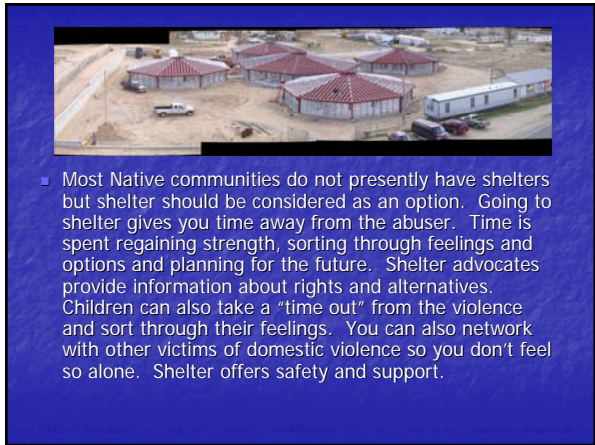
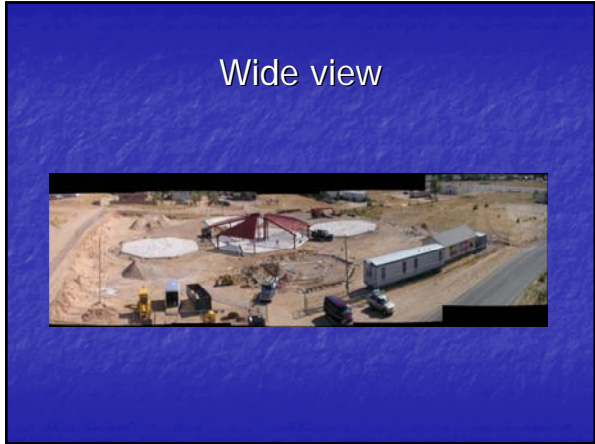


Hagoo'ne'











"A nation is not defeated until the hearts of its women are on the ground. Then it is done, no matter how brave its warriors or how strong its weapons."
-Cheyenne proverb