



# MEDICINE BEAR SHELTER

The Blackfeet Reservation, Browning Montana

# THE STORY OF THE SHELTER

Around 1986 Joe Bear and Carl Cree Medicine would feed the street People of the Reservation out of the old main stream building on main street then around 1990 or 1991 the Tribe gave them the old detox center building which was the tribal offices years ago then became the medicine bear shelter they decided that the name would be Bear Medicine Shelter taking both their last names but then decided to change it to Medicine Bear Shelter as there is a family here with the name of Bear Medicine and so not wanting any confusion over the name there was room for 50 beds.

The Medicine Bear Shelter then ran in that location till it was condemned in 2012 and they moved in to the existing building and it is quite a bit smaller so now we just serve one to two meals a day depending on the weather and have emergency shelter and house a few in emergency situations we do have a night person, he is housed here at the shelter



# Mission Statement

“ Our Mission here at the medicine Bear Shelter for homeless is to provide a safe haven for the less fortunate, to provide meals and shelter to the poverty stricken, to keep the welcome mat out at all times for all or brothers and sisters in the creators eyes.”



# WHAT WE DO



- A temporary housing facility with a capacity of around (10) cots to house emergency sleeping.
- Provide 1-2 hot meals Monday to Friday
- Daily Showers, laundry and toiletry items
- Clothing/shoes/ outerwear as requested
- Referrals to outlying programs and advocacy for such
- Identify individuals needs and address as able
- Provide temporary shelter to limited few due to space availability
- Assistance with applications needed for Jobs\School/Housing ECT.....

# Goals & Objectives

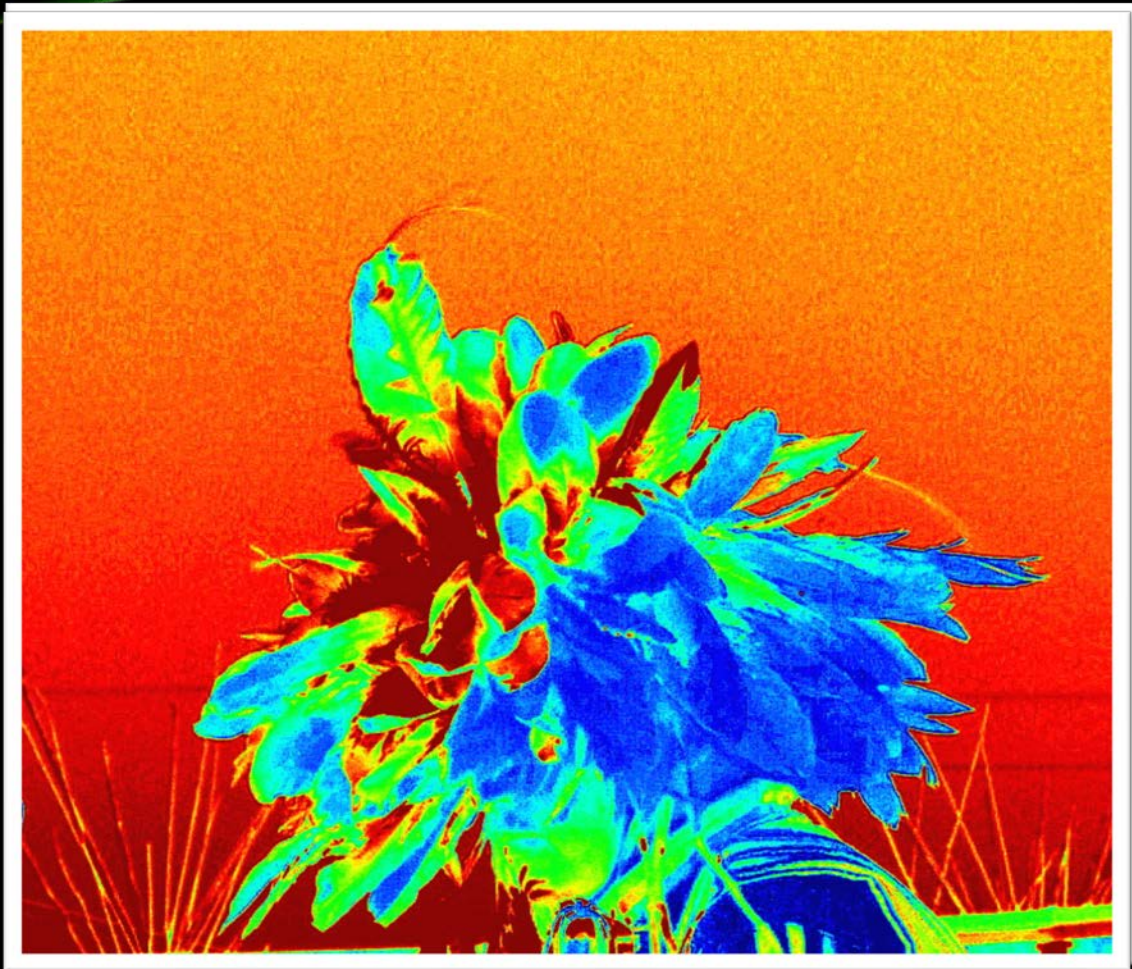
- Work closely with tribal council on expanding or acquiring new building
- Work closely with neighboring programs for collaboration in referrals and needs of residents and individuals such as Manpower, Northern Winds Recovery, Transit, CHNS (Community Health Nurse), CHRs (Community Health Representative), LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy assistance Program), Crystal Creek Treatment center, TERO, head start program/parenting, etc.
- Continue and possibly expand our feeding program
- Possibly expand building the goal is to house emergency cases for up to 20 beds.
- Continue collaborating with programs such as local churches, local and statewide donators, social programs in our community such as boys and girls club, school homeless program, etc...

- The Medicine Bear Shelter's greatest need for the homeless is to provide them with a temporary place to reside and offer them a hot meal, at this time we have an average daily count of 40 to 120 people at various times of the month . But what we lack most is funding to run the shelter right

We do have a Face Book page it is [medcinebshetler](#). We do post how many we feed on a daily basis, we post things like Bread and milk at the shelter, it comes from a group out of Whitefish MT, or if there is some thing going on in the community that will help with our patrons and also most of them are friends with us on Face Book so they will contact us if there is some thing they need and if we can help with we do.

- The Medicine Bear Shelter is a non-profit organization whose supplies depends on donations in the surrounding communities for food and clothing and we don't want to have to turn anyone away for lack of food.

We also are trying to raise Money to add on to the shelter thru a GoFundMe it is found on our Face Book page, also some of the Tribal employees donate every payday to our building fund



# North American Indian Days 2017

Photo courtesy of Many Horses Digital Studio

# Blackfeet Reservation



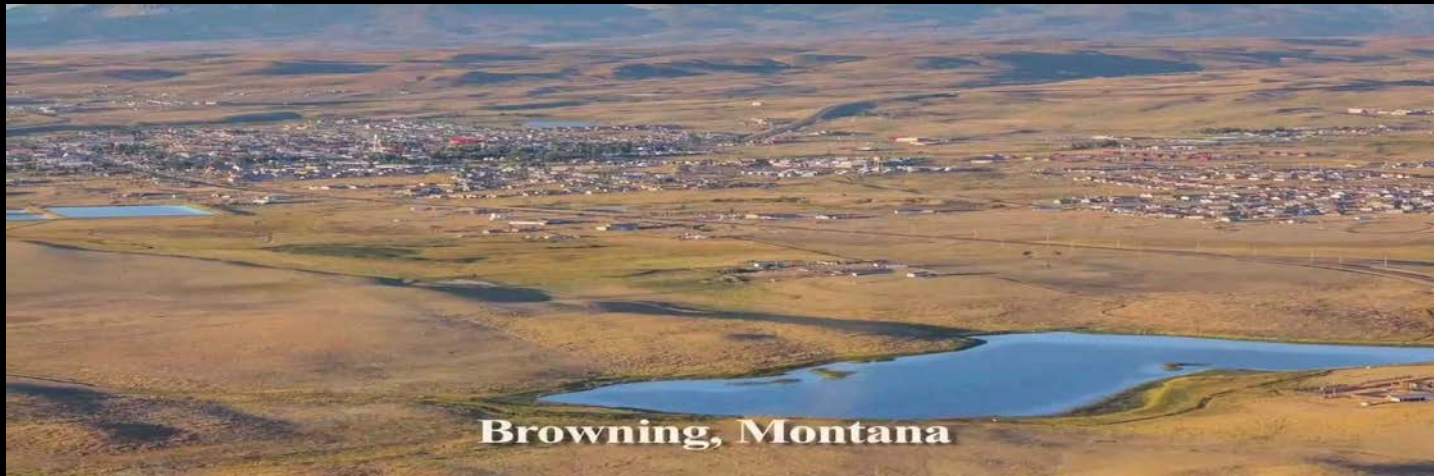
The Blackfeet Indian Reservation is home to the 17,321-members. Blackfeet Nation, one of the 10 largest tribes in the United States. Established by treaty in 1855, the reservation is located in northwest Montana.



# Browning Montana

Browning (originally Browning Indian Agency) is a town in Glacier County, Montana. It is the headquarters for the Blackfeet Indian Reservation and the only incorporated town on the Reservation. The population was 1,016 at the 2010 United States Census.

The town was named in 1885 for Commissioner of Indian Affairs D. M. Browning. The post office was established in 1895.



**Browning, Montana**



Some Time in 2015 the town of Browning went Bankrupt so there is no longer a town of Browning have not heard of any solutions for this dilemma as of yet.

# FOOD FOR THE DISASTER

In March there was a national disaster declared by the governor here on the Blackfeet Reservation the VFW from white fish Montana called the shelter and ask if we could distribute food for the disaster we had 70 inches of snow some drifts rose to the tops of homes and people were snowed in for weeks here is some of the food and the volunteers that helped







Bear Grass spring 2017

Photo courtesy of Many Horses Digital Studio

# EASTER DINNER MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2018



- Served 180 people



THE BLACKFEET BUFFALO HERD  
SUMMER 2017

Photo courtesy of Many Horses Digital Studio

# DIRECTOR: MARCEDES OLD PERSON

- Mercedes became the director of the Medicine Bear Shelter around 2011 she came out of retirement to run the shelter she worked in law enforcement for a number of years before and Mr. CreeMedicine was her Father.



# COOK: MARLA AUGARE

- Marla has worked for the School District for 10 years then owned her own restaurant for 3 years before coming to the shelter in 2015





# RESOURCE OFFICER: KEN WALTER

- Ken worked in nursing for 40 years and came to the shelter from the Community Health Rep's where he was for 5 years also working the Pets for Life Program he works 4hrs for the shelter and 4hrs for PFL aday.



# BAKER/COOKS HELPER: DEBRA SPOTTED EAGLE

- Deb came out of retirement and was on placed here from the Workforce Innovation Opportunity program and Mercedes was able to put her on on a part time basis she works 6hrs a day



# WARREN TROMLEY

- Warren Is the Custodian/Security and he is working as Darryl is he comes to us from the general assistance program as a volunteer for his hours with GA the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act pick him up for 300 hrs to work here with us as the custodian/security





# DARRYL HORN JR

- Darryl Horn Jr born 06-10-1966 with limited education and has had 4 or 5 jobs thru out his live he came to us 5 months from the general assistance program as a volunteer for his hours with GA and he was doing good work so the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act pick him up for 300 hrs to work here with us as a staff assistant he lives at the shelter as a night watch men Darryl and his 2 adult children have been homeless for the last 4 year's
  - Darryl States that it is really tuff here to raise kids and find work here on the reservation as he is a single father and his two adult children have some handicap's that hold them back from being a productive adult so he takes care of them in his words the best that I can.
- Darryl is hoping that there is some way that we can pick him up in our budget soon.

# THOMAS VIELLE



- Tom is a 49yo that came to the shelter in 2014 as a client and in 2015 started to volunteer and staying at the shelter with his son. The shelter staff then was able to get Tom training to become a Flagger for the road construction he then came back to the shelter and was volunteering and he eventually started working at the shelter as the handyman/security and after a few months working he got a car and an apartment he now is working for one of the stores since earlier this year.

# MEDICINE BEAR STAFF

- Director: Mercedes Old Person
- Cook: Marla Augore
- Baker/Cook: Debra Spotted Eagle
- Resource Officer: Ken Walter
- Staff Assistant: Darryl Horn Jr
- Custodian/Security : Warren Trombley

# GLACIER PARK SPRING 2017



Photo courtesy of Many Horses Digital Studio