

Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP)

Rosebud Sioux Tribe

THE ROSEBUD SIOUX TRIBE works with existing agencies to sponsor programs and activities which provides a variety of services to elders living on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in Todd County, South Dakota, one of the poorest counties in the nation. These programs include congregate and home delivered meals, holiday food service program, health education and promotion, information, assistance, and transportation. In 2001 the Rosebud Sioux Tribe was awarded a Native American Caregiver Support Program (NACSP) demonstration grant to focus on expanding the availability of education and training in a multi-faceted manner that will address the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being of the Native American Caregiver.



Sharon Swift, Caregiver Coordinator,
Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina
Carbonell and Kathy Waln

The Rosebud Tribe offers the following services to their caregiver participants:

- Counseling
- Support groups
- Caregiver training
- Transportation
- Respite care
- Health screenings
- Information

They are also active each year in National Family Caregiver Month. They show their appreciation for their caregiver by hosting a dinner for elders and their caregivers on Caregiver Recognition Day.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT PROGRAM INNOVATIONS

Work Responsibilities: Some caregivers working in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program were unable to care for their elders due to conflicts in their work responsibilities. Under TANF, employees are required to work 25 to 30 hours a week. This took caregivers away from their homes and left no one to care for their elders. The Rosebud Caregiver Support Program asked the State of South Dakota for an exemption in TANF to allow individuals caring for frail elderly family members to be able to perform their required TANF work hours at home caring for their loved ones. This request was considered and approved by the State. Caregivers participating in TANF and meeting the criteria are now able to complete their required work hours by caring for their sick, aged, or disabled loved ones in their home.

Transportation: Sharon Swift, Coordinator of the Rosebud Sioux Caregiver Support Program, recognized early in developing the program that transportation issues were faced by most caregivers. Since the Rosebud Reservation is in a rural area, people have to drive long distances to access services.



With no public transportation and the rising cost of gasoline, many caregivers were having difficulty attending caregiver meetings and taking their elders to medical and other appointments. Sharon worked with a local gasoline company to set up a special account so caregivers who own their own vehicles but lack resources with could get gasoline so the caregiver could attend caregiver events and the caregiver

Additional accounts have been established with local car and tire repair shops for caregivers who need some assistance in keeping their cars in running condition.

The Caregiver Support Program is coordinating with other programs for assisting in emergency transportation. When other programs have no assistance available, the Caregiver Support Program issues a limited medical travel stipend to a caregiver who has medical emergencies in towns up to 300 miles away. By assisting the caregiver with these emergencies, the Caregiver Support Program is helping both to maintain the caregiver in their caregiver role and keep their loved one at home.

For additional information on the Rosebud Sioux Native American Caregiver Program, contact:

Sharon Swift, Coordinator
Elderly Nutrition and Family Caregiver Programs
Rosebud Sioux Tribe
P.O. Box 430
Rosebud, SD 57570
Phone: 605-747-2960
Toll Free: 877-850-8757
E-mail: sswift@gwtc.net
Web address: <http://www.gwtc.net/~rstcare>

FOR MORE INFORMATION

AoA recognizes the importance of making information readily available to consumers, professionals, researchers, and students. Our website provides information for and about older persons, their families, and professionals involved in aging programs and services. For more information about AoA, please contact: US Dept of Health and Human Services, Administration on Aging, Washington, DC 20201; phone: (202) 401-4541; fax (202) 357-3560; Email: aoainfo@aoa.gov; or contact our website at: www.aoa.gov