

Community News & Announcements

Adoptive parents needed

The Leech Lake Child Welfare Department is in dire need of adoptive homes for children who need a permanent loving home.

We have several sibling groups waiting for a family to call their own. If you have a lot of love, patience, and room in your home and heart for a child, please call or stop in for more information!

One sibling group will be adopted to a non-native family if a native family is not identified. These children have been in foster care for almost four years and have not had much cultural exposure. We really need your help!

If you know of anyone who might be interested in adoption or learning more about adoption and our waiting children, please call or stop by the Leech Lake Child Welfare office. Our office is located at 6035 161st St NW, across from the Facility Center. Our toll free number is 1-866-252-5665 or local (218) 335-8270. Ask to speak to the Adoption Specialist.

The basic requirements for becoming an adoptive home are that you must be over age twenty-one, enrolled or eligible for enrollment in a federally recognized tribe, and can pass background checks. First generation descendants may also apply and depending on the circumstances, our Child Welfare Commission may approve your application.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information.

Patty Frazer,
Guardianship/Adoption Specialist Leech Lake Child Welfare Department
(218) 335-8244 or 1-866-252-5665 or patty.frazer@llojibwe.org

University of Minnesota Starwatch August 2011



Excerpts from Deane Morrison

Moonless mornings in August and September are the times to look for the elusive zodiacal light. This broad, fingerlike glow points up from the eastern horizon along the sun's path between about one and two hours before sunrise. Called the "false dawn" in the "Rubaiyat" of Omar Khayyam, it is caused by sunlight reflecting off dust in the plane of the solar system.

August's biggest show—the Perseid meteors—will be a flop this year, thanks to a nearly full moon washing out all but the brightest meteors. The shower peaks the night of the 12th-13th. That full moon shines the next night. Algonquin Indians called it the sturgeon moon, for the iconic Great Lakes fish that is most easily caught this time of year. As the moon wanes, though, it glides through the morning stars. Catch it on the 25th, when it appears close to Mars.

The University of Minnesota Duluth offers public viewings of the night sky at the Marshall W. Alworth Planetarium. For more information and viewing schedules, see www.d.umn.edu/planet

What can one person do?

Lisa Sellman, is author of children's book "The Legend of the Wolves of Gunflint Lake".

Don't tell Lisa Sellman that one person can't make a difference. She knows better. Sellman, a community activist and lifelong volunteer, recently learned how one act of kindness can set off a chain reaction that can span the globe.

"It just started out with me asking a regional pet food company for a donation of dog food for Red Lake Rosie's in Minnesota," said Sellman, a professional dog trainer and owner of a pet care business. "I called Solid Gold Northland, and one of the marketing managers there advised me that they were trying to increase the number of people who 'liked' them on Facebook, and that if I could get 40 new Facebook members to click on their 'like' button, they'd give me \$200 worth of pet food."

So Sellman, who currently volunteers for six different community groups, sent a message out to all her Facebook friends inviting them to Solid Gold Northland's fan page on Facebook.

Somehow, the invite made it to the Facebook page of The Patrick Miracle, a page devoted to the story of a two year old pitbull found by a janitor in a dumpster. Their Facebook page has charted over 109,000 "like" clicks from users. When the founders of the page posted Sellman's invite, Solid Gold Northland received more than 2,000 new fans from all over the world in the course of about 48 hours.

"When I contacted them the next week, they were blown away by how quickly the response took off," said Sellman, "As a result of the combined outreach, Solid Gold Northland and Chuck and Don's Pet Food Outlet have committed a donation of \$2,000 worth of pet food, and I've helped to forge new friends from other countries who all care about the same things I care about. And it all started with a simple posting on Facebook because I wanted to help a local animal shelter. It's been magical."

Sellman's simple act was a drop in the bucket compared to her schedule of volunteer activities. She works as an after school care volunteer at the

Minneapolis Indian Center, a special events assistant at the Loft Literary Center, a volunteer marketing director for canine events at the Gunflint Lodge (the real location contained in her children's book), and a trail staff assistant with Wilderness Inquiry, where she and her husband take disabled children and adults on outdoor adventures throughout the US. They have been volunteers with this organization since 1997.

"Although I work hard, I love being able to serve my community," Sellman said. "The people in all the organizations I'm involved with, all share my values and my world view and they are my friends and my family. The people and the activities fill up my life with fun, joy and a purpose I could never have achieved any other way. It doesn't mean that I think everyone should take the same path that I have. I know most people don't have the time. My point is this: it only takes one simple act, one click of a mouse button to start a movement. It happened to me and it can happen to you. All you need to do is give it a shot."