

To: United States Marine Corps.
1st. Sgt. Alphonso Via
Twin Cities Chapter - Toys for Tots

Fr: Cst. K.D.(Dale) McKay #062
Dakota Ojibway Police Service
Western Division
Birdtail, SiouxValley, Pipestone Detachment

Re: Toys for Tots

Dear: Sir/Madam

My name is Dale McKay I am a proud member of the Dakota Ojibway Police Service. Last year I had the honour and privilege of assisting the late Mr. Robert (Bob) Bone with the Toys for Tots Program here in Manitoba, Canada. Until his recent untimely death, Bob was the Medical Director of the Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation, and our bands longest serving Chief, serving over 20 years on our Tribal Council. In his spare time, Bob worked a lot with our youth sports & other programs to improve the lives and conditions of our First People and had become a role model to many, including myself!

For many years, Mr. Bone had also been working as a historian and cultural advisor with the Diversity Foundation of Minnesota. Together, they had been working on recording & documenting our early Canadian Dakota historic "Roots" back to Minnesota, with major emphasis on education and reconciliation, in an effort to begin healing and overcome some of the injustices and atrocities caused by the US-Dakota War of 1862. In many ways, the events and cultural trauma caused by this war & aftermath, continues to affect our Dakota First People/Reserves to this day. After the 1862-63 tragedies, our Dakota ancestors were exiled from our former Minnesota homeland and forced to flee west and north into Canada. Many of our ancestors became refugees in small Dakota Reserves across the border, where we have extreme poverty and hopelessness, along with some of the highest suicide, school dropout, alcohol and drug addiction rates anywhere in Canada!

Altho I grew up here, I was fortunate to get away awhile and graduate from college at Minot State College, taught language & cultural & other jobs at the University of Minnesota. However, deep inside, I always felt the need & calling to do more to help my relatives and First People here in Manitoba. "Uncle" Bob played a major part in my eventually enrolling in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy and coming back home to my Reserve & becoming a Police Officer, encouraging me to serve & help my people in this capacity. Because our Communities are small, isolated and poor, Our Dakota Ojibway Police Service was consolidated & now patrols several Reserves including Sioux Valley Dakota, Birdtail Sioux, Pipestone Dakota & other First Nations.

Thanks to your United States Marine Corps and Minnesota "Toys for Tots" Program, "Chief" Bone, along with my Police Commander & myself (last Christmas) were able to deliver toys and gifts to our underprivileged children and youth, (ages of 0-17) many for the first time! The smiles on the faces of these children who received gifts was priceless and no words can truly describe the moment as these children received your generous donations. I want you to know your "Toys for Tots" program has enabled myself and our Police service to break several communication barriers and find a new sense of respect in serving and assisting many of those "hard to reach" in our First Nation Communities.

At this time, on behalf of our Dakota Ojibway Police, the family of the late Robert "Bob" Bone & our First Nation People, I would like to personally thank The Twin Cities "Toys for Tots" Chapter and especially 1st Sgt. Alphonso Via & Staff Sgt. Hendrickson of the United States Marine Corps. Also I'd like to thank Ed & Lyle with the Diversity Foundation, the Winona Dakota Unity Alliance and the Cities of Winona and Rochester, Minnesota for all your assistance & generosity in caring & remembering our often neglected children, who's ancestral homes were also there in southern Minnesota.

Bob's wife Brenda & family, along with myself and our D-O Police Service again look forward to working with your same group in keeping Bob's memory alive by once again being able to provide "Toys for Tots" for hundreds of underprivileged youth in the Birdtail, Sioux Valley, Pipestone and Dakota Plains Communities. Again words can't describe what your Generosity and Outreach means to our First Nation People.

Should you require further information I can be reached at the following phone numbers: (h) area code 204-571-6311, (c) 204-741-0773 and (w) 204-855-4401. I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Cst. K.D.(Dale) McKay #062
Dakota Ojibway Police Service
Western Division

I will be forwarding our individual Reserves household numbers and childrens age breakdown & other documentation to the Diversity Foundation in a separate transmittal.