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For more information contact: Willis Busenitz, chair of the Northern Cheyenne Ministerial Association, at 406.592.3643

NORTHERN CHEYENNE THRIFT STORE COMPLETING WORK THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

LAME DEER, MONTANA – Thanks to the generous support of the community and several philanthropic organizations, final construction of the new Everything Beautiful Thrift Store in Lame Deer is nearly complete. A dedication celebration is planned for Sunday, November 17 at 3 p.m.

Construction is more than 90 percent done, according to Northern Cheyenne Ministerial Association board chair, Pastor Willis Busenitz. The two-story building, 120' long by 72' wide, replaces the current thrift shop and adds to that space with an office and board room for the NCMA plus several rental offices. It also includes a larger showroom, loading dock, meeting room, several bathrooms, janitorial space, a one-bedroom apartment for volunteers, and a work room where donated items will be cleaned and sorted. Outside landscaping and a front parking lot have been completed, and a back gravel lot will soon be done.

According to Busenitz, "The thrift shop is meeting a tremendous need in the community," noting that the community, likewise, has provided generous support. In addition to donations from many local residents, the project has received major funding from the Montana Coal Board, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Gianforte Family Foundation, First Interstate Banc System Foundation, and the Steele Reese Foundation.

In July, the Dominican Sisters of Peace presented Busenitz a \$5,000 award at the Sisters' 10-year anniversary event in St. Louis, Missouri. According to Busenitz, NCMA received the top award. "We were chosen because the churches are all working together." The NCMA includes 12 churches of five Christian denominations, all based on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The association's mission is to share the love of Christ by providing a means by which people can care for their basic needs.

Busenitz notes that the NCMA's philosophy is to provide a "hand up" rather than a "hand out" to those in need. "Many of the kids here are being raised by grandparents on fixed incomes. It gives dignity and meaning to them when they can purchase needed items, such as clothing, at a low cost."

For information on the thrift store or to support the Northern Cheyenne Ministerial Association, contact Pastor Busenitz at 406.592.3643.