



## 2023 Red Feather & Rotary Club Native Elders Aging In Place Program

Red Feather Development Group partners with Indigenous communities to develop and implement lasting and impactful housing solutions. Founded in 1995, Red Feather is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with a long history of meeting the housing needs of Native communities. Red Feather works closely with government officials, community members, housing professionals, and volunteers within each community to develop and implement these programs. We have successfully managed numerous private, corporate, academic, and federal grants.

Red Feather requests support from the **Flagstaff Rotary Club** for the Native Elders Aging in Place Program. The financial contribution will be used to construct Two ramps for Hopi or Navajo tribal elders needing assistance. The ramp construction will be done with a Red Feather contractor and Rotary Club Volunteers.

Red Feather's Aging in Place program provides holistic and client-centered home assessment and case management to evaluate the aging-in-place needs of elders on the Hopi and Navajo reservations. Case managers educate elders, their families, and caregivers on basic home safety and aging-in-place needs and interventions and connect clients to the needed resources. Native American elders have lower life expectancy, poorer health, and greater disabilities than other elders living in the U.S. These health disparities are often related to unsafe and unhealthy home conditions. Native cultures also often have a strong cultural preference to age in place within their homeland, but changing demographics, limited access to medical care, and the impacts of poverty make such a difficult reality. However, receiving culturally appropriate and informed care outside the reservation is extremely unlikely and can lead to poorer care outcomes. Meeting the housing needs of American Indian communities is Red Feather's mission, and the housing needs of elders are unique. One out of four older adults falls each year. In 2014, 2.8 million older adults were treated in emergency departments for fall injuries, and from 2007-2016 fall death rates in the U.S. increased by 30%. Fortunately, research shows that falls and fall risks can be addressed through risk assessment, targeted interventions, and community-based programs.

The identified elders will be eligible to receive low-cost aging-in-place resources, such as a shower chair, toilet riser, anti-slip device, night lights, chimney cleaning, firewood delivery, and a HEPA filter. Red Feather will also try and identify additional financial resources if other significant home repair needs are identified during the home assessment process.

Thank you for considering this proposal, and please let us know if you have any questions regarding the program or the accompanying budget. Respectfully,

Joe Seidenberg Executive Director  
Red Feather Development Group