



# Mission of Love



"You are not here to save the world, but are here to touch the hands that are within your reach."

## TREES OF LOVE

It was a cold windy spring day, the Saturday before the holy day of Easter, there was a gathering of people of all ages at the Sacred Hoop School in Oglala, South Dakota. The cook was busily making Indian tacos and wojapi (a favored pudding made from berries) and the aroma in the air was filled with expectancy, wonder and good food and it was great to see relatives or friends we hadn't seen in a while; so on this special day we were called together for the celebration of a re-birthing or planting an old new June Berry bush on the grounds of this new school.

To go back in history a bit, as the writer of this article can recall, some sixty years ago, as a child we used to pick these June berries. These berries are non-existent today for many unknown undocumented reasons however it was still wonderful to experience the planting of these new berry bushes for the future generations. Prayer was said before the meal and all enjoyed the wonderful meal before the actual planting took place.

There were a total of four trees planted that day, one was planted by Jane Goodall and the Gardening Project, Roots and Shoots. The second tree planted was planted by Mission of Love organization and their group of volunteers, the third tree was planted by the Youth/adult category and the last one was planted in the ground by the children. The four trees representing the cycle of life, from birth to elders.

After the planting of the June berries, all returned to the school house where an honoring took place for Jane Goodall in which she was wrapped in a satin star blanket as is the custom of the Lakota people. A painted picture image of Leonard Little Finger's great grandfather, Chief Big Foot on a feather was given to the founder/director of Mission of Love, Kathleen Price for all her contributions to our people on the Pine Ridge Reservation and especially because Mission of Love organization built the Sacred Hoop School in 2007.

In conclusion, the Spirit of Oneness was in action that beautiful day. We, as human entities individually do not and can not control people, places or things but collectively we do impact lives; those close to us and those around us. **"WE"** make things happen, **thoughts are things**. To all the volunteers, all those involved with the Mission of Love, I salute you and honor you. So be it.

Patricia Catches The Enemy  
Oglala band of the Lakota Nation