



Manos de Dios, Hands of God Ministries

January/February 2017

Providing host families for Native students and advocating for LIFE



Global Immersion Day at Desert Christian High School



**Drelyn demonstrates
traditional White Mountain
Apache Rain Dance**

Desert Christian High School takes one day a year to honor and learn from its international students. **Drelyn** and **Riscilla** are considered 'international' as they are from the **Apache Nation**! They were invited to have a table to display items from their culture and a traditional food. A cradle board (for a baby), burden baskets, a sage bundle, and moccasins were displayed. A fun traditional snack of dill pickles and powdered Kool-Aid was served, receiving varied responses from students and staff. Some loved the dill/sour combination of tastes. Others made outrageous faces and asked Drelyn and Riscilla, "Do you really like this stuff?"

Drelyn volunteered to demonstrate a **traditional Apache dance** for her entire school. She was the only international student to perform and we are so proud of her. She wore a traditional camp dress and used hoops decorated with ribbons. The 'rain dance' was done to traditional native music of drums and chanting. (to view the dance copy and paste this link: <https://www.facebook.com/DesertChristianSchools/videos/1393683180706775/>).

Drelyn introduced herself and her dance in the **Apache language**. Previous to the performance, she spent a lot of time on the phone with her Dad practicing the pronunciation of the words in Apache.

While Drelyn danced, **Riscilla** recruited students to link arms and do the 'social dance' that accompanies the 'rain dancers'. They moved back and forth and side to side to the beat of the music. The students enjoyed joining Riscilla and Drelyn in their cultural activities and were interested in learning about the tribe which the girls come from.

Desert Christian School's Global Immersion Day was designed to celebrate cultures represented by students and staff and show commitment to **seeing others as bearers of God's image**. They desire to understand other

cultures, ethnicities and peoples in order to build relationships and **further His Kingdom**.

**Riscilla & Lucy
set up a table displaying
items from the
White Mountain Apache
Tribe at Global Immersion
Day at Desert Christian
High School**

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Educational trip to Planetarium and USS Arizona Memorial with Drelyn and Thearsa....by Dennis



Thearsa & Drelyn explore the hands-on displays at the Planetarium

Lucy and I had the pleasure of having Thearsa stay with us for the weekend. We had a great time together! The fun started Friday night. Lucy does not eat my kind of desserts (pie, ice cream, cookies and the like) so it was a great excuse for me to pig out with the Drelyn and Thearsa! Naturally, we had ice cream and all the trimmings and we watched a movie together.

The plans we had for Saturday were both fun and educational. First we went to lunch at J.B.'s restaurant and had a great meal. Then, it was off to the University of Arizona campus where we went to the Flandreau Planetarium. While there we toured the extensive, beautiful mineral exhibit and then sat in for a viewing of "Tucson and The Night Sky." It was a beautiful way of looking at the universe that God created (we ignored the evolutionary comments) and learning about our solar system and astronomy formations. I had never been to the Planetarium so I don't know who was more excited, the girls or me! I even got a little queasy as we leaned back and watched as the stars spun around and we "traveled" to outer space. After the program, the girls worked on many different puzzles in the hands-on display that were there to challenge our thought processes. They even asked me to help them solve some!

The day was not over yet. We then went to the U of A mall where we showed the girls the USS

Arizona Memorial. Mounted on a brick wall is a medal bearing the name of every sailor on that ship who was killed when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. There is also a complete outline (actual size of the battleship) of the USS Arizona in brick stretched out on the ground. It shows just how large the ship was. We also walked around campus a little and reminded Drelyn that soon she will be on a college campus like this one and beginning a new chapter of her life. Reality is beginning to sink in!

All in all, it was a fun and educational Saturday!



Thearsa & Drelyn re-enact a scene from the movie Titanic at the 'bow' outline of the USS Arizona Memorial battleship



Lucy, Drelyn and Thearsa view the memorial on the U of A Campus

Riscilla decides to attend NAU in the fall!

Riscilla received acceptance letters from both the University of Arizona (located in Tucson) and Northern Arizona University (located in Flagstaff). They both included nice offers of university grants and loans. Riscilla chose NAU and has accepted their offer of admission for the 2017/2018 school year. She plans to study nursing. She will need to qualify into their nursing program after taking some pre-requisite classes.

Even attending an in-state public university is expensive! Here is the breakdown:

Estimated 2017/2018 Costs to attend NAU:

Tuition	\$9746
Fees	\$2214
Books and Supplies	\$1000
Housing (dorm)	\$5140
Meals	<u>\$4000</u>
Total	\$22,100



Financial Aid offered* to Riscilla (based on financial need):

Federal Pell Grant	\$5920
Federal SEOG Grant	\$1000
Federal Aid Trust Grant	\$2500
University Grant	<u>\$2680</u>
Total	\$12,100

* Also offered were loans, but she did not accept these at this time. Also the school reserves the right to adjust awards due to other scholarships received.

So....\$10,000 is needed in additional funding for this first year! Wow! She is counting on a \$3000 a year scholarship from the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Riscilla has applied for many other scholarships. Some are for Native students attending college. Others are general scholarships that she hopes to qualify for. Riscilla is busy writing essays and submitting applications. She will re-take her SAT test this weekend in hopes of improving her score.

Please join us in praying for complete funding for Riscilla's college education! If you would like to invest in this young lady by contributing to her educational costs, you may do so by donating through Manos de Dios (www.ManosdeDios.org).

Thank you for your support, prayers and encouragement of this young lady who left the White Mountain Apache Reservation to attend four years at Desert Christian High School and now looks forward to a career in the healthcare field.



Riscilla, 17, will graduate from Desert Christian High School on May 26, 2017



Riscilla with date, Samuel Baker, at the Sadie Hawkins dance at school. "He's always been a really nice gentleman."-Ron Smith (Riscilla's host dad)

Girls stay active!



Drelyn & Thearsa both are doing Physical Therapy. They get good exercise and help in healing body aches and pains!



Naomi played softball for Desert Christian Middle School and loved the camaraderie, activity, and fitness. She also works out on her own. She is strong!

Thearsa attended “Take Flight Night” at Desert Christian High School for 8th graders who will be moving up next year!



Thearsa is taking wrestling classes instead of playing basketball this year. She says she loves wrestling and looks forward to her first competition!



“Our” students continue to grow....by Dennis

The girls never cease to amaze me. Their actions can be predictable and then very unpredictable. Sometimes they do things that make me scratch my head and say to myself, “What were they thinking?” And working with teenage girls can be so taxing that sometimes I cry out, “God help me!” And then they turn around and do or say something that is so profound, so wonderful, so mature that my heart wants to explode with pride and the idea that they are getting it! I guess it just boils down to “they are just teenagers!”

And as teenagers, they are getting it. They are maturing, making good decisions, falling down and then getting right back up, growing stronger as young ladies and in their Christian walk, and becoming better people. And people in their home town are noticing it.

One of our girls told me that when she was home, people told her that she “talked different...like white people” and that she was different. I reminded her that we are not trying to change her to be like white people or anyone else. We are offering them a chance to receive a good education (that was the difference in her speech that the people noticed) and instilling in them a high moral character that people of all races should strive for (and that was the difference in their attitude, way of dress, and the way they acted that was not like many of their peers on the Rez.)



Lucy spends a day with her prayer partner, Karen, visiting from Indiana.

Our goal (and the goal of the past and present host families and all our friends that support our girls) is to provide them with the opportunity to receive a good education, knowledge of Jesus, how to succeed in society and then use that information to better their lives and prayerfully use their talents and gifts to help others on or off the reservation. And we pray that they will make a positive difference in the world.

So, Lucy and I ask you to continue to pray for Riscilla, Drelyn, Naomi and Theresa. Pray that they succeed in all that God has planned for them and pray for Lucy and me that we continue to have patience, perseverance, and the ability to continue to carry out the plans we have been entrusted with for these four beautiful children of God.

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Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

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85715 or made on our website:

ManosdeDios.org



Dennis & Lucy celebrated Valentine's Day playing 18 holes of golf! We're hooked...on each other and the game!