

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Envision Counselling and Support Centre Inc.

February 27, 2013

International Women's Day

Carlyle Profile - Angeline Redstar

Carlyle -- Envision Counselling and Support Centre Inc. profiles Angeline Redstar, a member of the White Bear First Nations. She is considered a strong leader in her community and called the *Mother of Many*.

When informed that she had been chosen as a leader in recognition for International Women's Day she was humbled and honoured.

"I'm not looking for recognition. I don't want to be put on a pedestal-- what you see is what you get," says Redstar.

What the community of Carlyle sees is a women who is there to be a shoulder to cry on, someone to seek advice from, or go to for a good meal. On the White Bear Reserve, she truly has been the mother of many.

When she was just 17, the oldest daughter of 13 children lost her mother. Overnight she became the mother of her brothers and sisters. Her youngest brother, who was two at the time, still calls her Mom. He doesn't remember anyone else.

"I didn't know how to be a mother at that time, but I had no choice. That's the way it was done at that time," says Redstar.

She raised her brothers and sisters, then her own eight children and now looks after grandchildren and other family.

"It didn't have to be just my own kids. I opened up my home to kids who needed a place. Even the RCMP in Carlyle knew we were the place to bring children. They would drop off kids who didn't have anywhere to go," she recalls.

She's lived in Edmonton and Regina, and survived more than one abusive relationship. Redstar says the constant in her life has been the children.

"It wasn't always easy. I had a dark time when I was involved with alcohol," she says. At 21, she brought God into her life, and started to make changes to keep her from alcohol and drugs. "If I had not accepted the Lord in my life I more likely would not have been who I am today," she says.

Now she teaches children to be drug free and alcohol free, stay in school, and pray for guidance always.

This year the theme of International Women's Day is ***Building Leadership Together***. Redstar demonstrates that every day, giving back to her community and building strong leaders for the next generation.

She is a role model and is honoured to have many people in her community call her Godmother, a name reserved for strong leaders.

Redstar says she didn't have a role model in her own life growing up, but she looks to Laura Big Eagle as someone to imitate.

"I admire her because she stood up for people. She was a councillor and a chief and a mother to many foster children."

Settled down now for the past 12 years with a supportive partner, Redstar says being a mother to many is a choice she made. Her partner knows that the kids come first and that's why it works for them.

"I only have five more to go," she says. Five more children to finish school before her house is empty. But knowing herself, Redstar will likely have more kids in her house before these have grown.

She is a strong woman who has touched the hearts of many people. "I keep true to my values and beliefs no matter what," she says.

Envision Counselling and Support Centre is proud to recognize the contributions of Angeline Redstar to Carlyle and area and thank her for her efforts to make this world a better place for all.

Angeline wants to share with everyone that, "every day is a new opportunity to make a difference in someone's life, so make the most of it."

--30--

For more information, contact:

Sheena Wock, Outreach Coordinator
Envision Counselling and Support Centre
(306) 637-4007

CARLYLE OFFICE
Box 1017
Carlyle, SK
SOC ORO
Phone: (306) 453-2405
Fax: (306) 453-2407

24 Hour Abuse/Sexual Assault Line
1-800-214-7083