

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 26, 2009

Contact: Anne Even, Wind River Development Fund (307) 335-7330

aeven@wrdf.org <http://www.wrdf.org>

Editor's Note:

WORD document attached titled: Unbroken Spirit PR 1.doc

Photo attached titled: Stanford Addison 1.jpg

Note: Higher resolution image available upon request.

Photo Caption: Stanford Addison, a member of the Northern Arapaho tribe, at his corrals on the Wind River Indian Reservation. He has had quadriplegia since a car accident at age 20 and is known for his skills with horses and people.

Photo Credit: © 2007-2009 Sarah Kariko. All rights reserved.

Unbroken Spirit slated for June 12, 2009 in Jackson Hole.

Ft. Washakie, WY – Stanford Addison, Northern Arapaho Traditional Healer and Horse Gentler, will be featured in an event entitled Unbroken Spirit, on Friday, June 12, 7:00 PM, at the Center for the Arts Theatre in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The public is invited to attend the event which is to feature an evening of stories, photographs, song, film, and discussion. Hear the inspiring story of Stanford Addison overcoming obstacles despite quadriplegia and becoming a leader to his tribe and others.

With a training crop taped to his arm and his long braid swinging behind, Stanford Addison gentles wild horses off the plains near his home on the Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming. He does this sitting in his wheelchair.

Addison lost the use of his legs nearly 30 years ago when the truck he was traveling in hit a herd of wild horses. Since his accident, Addison “learned to make friends with horses again” and has developed an intuitive approach to horse training.



In the process of working with wild horses, Addison shows people positive alternatives to many of the obstacles they face. Social Services and the justice system request his assistance to help youth find positive ways of dealing with hardships on the reservation; he helps them draw strength from traditional Arapaho ways.

Addison's youth was spent busting broncos and raising hell. After his

accident, he became deeply depressed, unable to face either the enormity of the loss of his physical powers or the strange healing gifts he had gained. But eventually Addison accepted his fate. He now lives on the reservation of his youth as a renowned traditional healer and horse gentler. "If we can communicate with a horse," Stanford says, "we can communicate with each other."

Stanford's extraordinary transformation has been recorded in Lisa Jones' book "BROKEN: A Love Story," as well as in Angelique Midthunder's PBS documentary "Silent Thunder." His life on the Wind River Indian Reservation today has been captured in "Unbroken Spirit," an exhibit of photographs by Sarah Kariko.

A book reading by Lisa Jones will be included in the evening's event, followed by a book signing. Lisa Jones was born in California, spent her early childhood in Scotland, and has lived in Colorado since she was 9. She has worked for newspapers and magazines for 25 years. Her stories on food and the environment have appeared in High Country News, the New York Times magazine and National Public Radio. She met Stanford Addison in 2002 while on assignment for Smithsonian magazine, which sent her to Wyoming to cover Stanford's gentle way of breaking horses. She was so moved by her experience in the corral and by Stanford that she returned a few months later to write a book about him. The resulting book, "BROKEN: A Love Story," was published in May, 2009. It is her first book. She lives in Colorado with her husband.

Unbroken Spirit will also have a screening of the documentary "Silent Thunder". It is an emotional documentary in a "slice of life" style that invites the viewer into a world of hope and inspiration. It was shot documentary style but pulling on more "hip" influences from its young director, Angelique Midthunder, it utilizes symbolic images, quick cuts, and special effects to inspire moments of introspection. Stanford delivers a subtle yet timely message of universal peace and cultural tolerance as he casually inspires viewers to seek spiritual consciousness and individual awareness through sharing the experiences of his own life. Stanford irrevocably teaches us that life is greater than it appears and our problems are not as big as they seem.

Photographs by Sarah Kariko will be featured in the Artspace Theater Gallery in Jackson from June 10-July 20. The opening reception will be held Friday, June 12 at 7 PM. Sarah Kariko is an artist and community organizer. Her work explores the transformative power of art; she uses art to create community, raise social awareness, challenge assumptions, and inspire people to take action. After graduating from Harvard with a degree in the History of Science, Sarah taught natural history at the Teton Science School in Kelly, Wyoming. She then received a Fulbright scholarship, and studied spiders in the rain forests of Madagascar. Sarah's photographs of Stanford Addison have also appeared in High Country News, and in the book, "Broken: A Love Story" by Lisa Jones.

The evening will also feature drumming, singing, and discussion by Stanford Addison and his family. Supporters for Unbroken Spirit include Wind River Development Fund, Wyoming Humanities Council, Wyoming Arts Council, Center of Wonder, Art

Association of Jackson Hole, Center for the Arts, The Giving Voice Project, and Clarene Law.

For more information on the Unbroken Spirit event, please call (307) 335-7330 or visit http://www.wrdf.org/index.php?id=148&ee_id=148. For more information on Stanford Addison, visit <http://www.stanfordaddisonranch.com>.

-end-