

Above and Beyond

*In honor of the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation Dialysis Patients and the helpers near and far
who assisted during the Ice Storm January 2010.*

A fog rolled in on those January days
Icing the trees, lines and road ways.
Power out for who knows how long
Dialysis patients first to hear what went wrong.

Water & power they can't live without
"Evacuate, gather your things, we'll send you out."
To the four directions – east, south, north and west
Shuttled to safety; not sure what would happen next.

In blinding snow drivers unable to see the road
Chasers ahead and behind carried a heavy load.
Family and helpers left at home
A prayer for all and what was to come.

Eventually finding a way to the west
A bed, some clothes and making the best.
Hotel rooms, meals and helping each other
Sharing word from home about the power & water.

Who knew the time and effort it would take
So many stepped up and helped to coordinate.
Relatives, friends and strangers reached out
Helping with food, clothes and other ways no doubt.

Long days of travel and waiting to dialyze
Harder to be away from loved ones than any realized.
Comforted with visitors bringing gifts
Soup, prayer and song the spirits to lift.

Three weeks, three hotels and many a meal
Away from home, but no one lost through the whole ordeal.
The sun shown down and melted the ice
Restored water never seemed so nice.

People did what they could to get it done.
From their hearts they did their job and then some.
So many went above and beyond.
Today is the time to remind.

We say "Wopila" our thanks, to the Creator above
For those the ice storm blessings and abiding love.
Look down upon us in a good way
Our Heavenly Father and the angels with you today.