

## Red Water Pond Road Community Association LOOM GIFT



Every year, the Red Water Pond Road Community Association (RWPRCA) hosts a commemoration to educate on the largest radioactive spill in US history that contaminated Indigenous land, water, air, and community health on July 16, 1979. This year on July 15, 2023, a traditional Diné weaving loom was gifted to the RWPRCA and during the commemoration youth and adults were encouraged to weave on the loom using traditional Diné weaving tools. The cultural art of weaving requires the wool, loom, and tools to be gathered from natural resources. Divine nature supports Diné cultural arts and any negative impact to the natural environment will make it difficult to create, sustain, and teach traditional Diné arts, teachings, and practices. Restoring beauty through our traditional Navajo arts will allow us to remain resilient, protected, and healthy. The Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment (MASE) funded the construction of the loom by Ty Tsosie.

Written by Kirena Tsosie, Community Water Specialist, Southwest Research and Information Center.