Joe’s Article: dadazhimaag waadokaawijig Ji-anishinaabewiiyaang or the ones that are helping me

I am so fortunate to have a grandson and a great grandson at my home with me. The great grandson turned a year old in July, the grandson will turn a year in October. Before the mothers take them to daycare, they bring the kids into my room; I will play and interact with them until they have to go. I will take about them more in a bit. I wanted to shoutout some men, Byron N, Chato G, Dan W, Brad H, Nick C, James C, Bob E, and Virgil W these guys have helped me so much spiritually and culturally, and even with the language. They are always so helpful to me whenever I attend a ceremony with them, they always care to me ensuring that I am comfortable, they’ve taken me to ceremonies and places my spirit and I are needed. Especially on those trips I am taken care of with the basic necessitates, during these in turn there is a lot of laughter, joy, and serious talks about what we’re going to do and just finished. The laughter is contagious and the fun is never ending, and they’ve also introduced me to some of the best food weather it’s fish fries, prime rib, Chinese, and Mexican they’ve even introduced me to Vietnamese restaurant. I also get a little nervous when I get to the Vietnamese restaurants, but then again that in the mid 60’s I had negative encounters with people from there not to mention I have something to remember them by lodged in my body. Thus, my nervousness, just kidding! I’ve done a lot of peace making with my thoughts and emotions towards them, doing away with the hate that was in my heart and mind. Since letting go of all that life has only been on the up and up for me. Not only are there good men in my life but many good women just to name a few of the many are Melanie, Wendy, the late Dorothy and Elfreda Sam just to name a few. Without the women in my life, I wouldn’t have gotten the pushes and teachings needed to do the work creator put me on earth to do and continue. Because of all those people that I mentioned who have and are supporting our culture, language, and ways of life I believe that my grandson and great grandson will be in good hands with these teachers, teachings and, how the Anishinaabe way of life will continue for another generation.