



June, 2023

Native Hope News

Why We Do What We Do

Life can be hard on the Navajo Reservation. Many families live in small, substandard homes with no electricity, running water or insulation. They rely on woodburning stoves for cooking and heating. Without funds to repair broken windows, a family will often board them up, leaving it dark inside—and extra hot in the summer. We see the needs and do what we can, when people don't have the means to do it themselves.

People Tell Us:

"We always look forward in getting the goodies each month. It seems like Christmas when we get the boxes!!" (*One of our Family to Family recipients.*)

"Brody's men came out the other day and picked up a trailer load of logs. Brody said that they would be back until they are able to get all the logs. (We are) VERY grateful. It would have been a shame for us to burn the logs when someone could use them. What a wonderful service they are providing." (*Firewood provider*)

Did You Know?

There are very few grocery stores on the Navajo reservation. Local trading posts charge inflated prices and often don't carry fresh fruits and vegetables. Residents suffer as a result—with obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

Clean Water for Thirsty People

Families are always glad to see our part time employee, Mike, arrive in the Native Hope truck with the big trailer, hauling a tank filled with clean fresh water. He fills a variety of containers at each stop as he covers a wide territory in New Mexico and Arizona, helping some of the neediest families.



Hoping to Increase our Firewood Ministry

We are hard at work cutting, drying and transporting firewood to help meet needs on the reservation once cold weather arrives. Now we have an opportunity to greatly expand beyond our own capabilities. While we have resources for obtaining wood, as well as transporting and delivering it, we need to identify some land in the wider Durango area where additional wood could be stored during the drying process. If you might have space that Native Hope could use for this ministry, please contact Marcia at marciaheid292@gmail.com.

Family to Family News

We are looking for several families to help provide food boxes each month. Contact marciaheid292@gmail.com

Help for a Navajo Fort Lewis Student

Native Hope is working to provide temporary financial help to a young woman who is struggling to complete her education. If you can help, please make contributions to Summit Church, marked for Native Hope Student Aid.

Volunteer Team Makes Big Difference

"Thank you very much for making us more comfortable. We know it was hard work ...And there wasn't any wind blowing through the house!" Yes, it was difficult to replace the rotted sections of the roof and drywall for an elderly man and his wife, but our Native Hope volunteers were able to make some big improvements.



Meanwhile, other team members were replacing damaged ceiling tile and dry wall at another home, following up after roof repairs last fall. The home owner is an elderly woman who is on oxygen. Her daughter told us, "It was leaking so badly the public health nurse said my mom would have to be removed from our home if we didn't get it repaired."

If you might want to be part of the next repair team, please contact Rose Sokol, 907-360-1119, rmjsokol@aol.com.

Remembering a Nuclear Disaster

Yahoo!News recounts the story: On July 16, 1979 the largest radioactive disaster in U.S. history happened when a dam holding millions of gallons of nuclear waste near Church Rock, NM collapsed. In a matter of hours, 94 million gallons of radioactive water and 1,100 tons of uranium waste flooded into a nearby river. It occurred just four months after the Three Mile Island nuclear accident, but was largely ignored, probably because it was in a rural area and mostly affected Navajo people.

Between 1944 and 1986 the federal government and private companies mined the area and often hired Navajo people to work in the mines, without telling them of the dangers. Cattle drank from the contaminated runoff, and children played in the streams. Nuclear waste was stored in dammed tailings ponds. Officials ignored reports of cracks and potential problems. The EPA has started cleaning up the area, but much contamination remains today.

Who We Are

Native Hope is a small grassroots organization based in Durango, Colorado, that works to assist needy families on the Navajo Reservation. Thanks to a number of donors, we are able to provide food, firewood, clean water, clothing, blankets and home repairs. Our funds are managed through Summit Church, with 100% of donations going to the work of Native Hope. For more information contact info.nativehopedurango@gmail.com.

Donations to Native Hope can be made through www.summitdurango.org or by check made out to Summit Church. Be sure to designate it for "Native Hope."