



Spring, 2026

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. Many live in isolated areas with no transportation and few means of support.

Our Latest Accomplishments

Here's what you helped us do in 2025:

- Provide monthly food boxes to 30 individuals and families.
- Give out 179 care packages to other needy individuals and families.
- Deliver fresh water regularly to 27 homes.
- Deliver 269 large loads of firewood.
- Install solar lights in 5 homes.
- Help provide weekend food for approximately 80 students.
- Hand out warm clothing, shoes, coats, hats, blankets, quilts, sleeping bags, mattresses, books, school supplies, toys, personal hygiene items, fabric, sewing supplies, dishes, paper goods, and even several beds.
- Employ two Navajo men all year.

Why We Serve

According to *Census Reports* the poverty rate on the Navajo Nation is 35.2%, compared to the U.S. rate of 12.5%

Celebrating Our 5 Year Anniversary

It was on January 5, 2021, that Native Hope had its organizational meeting. After years of serving in a variety of ways on the Navajo Reservation, we needed an official structure and a leadership team. Several of those original volunteers are still at work today. It's amazing how much we have accomplished since that first meeting, thanks to an ever-expanding list of donors and volunteers. We are so grateful for your support.

Tohaali Community School Needs Books



The school's resident student teacher from the U. of Indiana is directing a project to upgrade the school's library, dorm library, and supply of books to be given to students.

Please bring new or gently used books to the Summit Church garage on Thursday, March 19, between 9:00 and 12:45, or April 16 (same time), or by contacting Native Hope to make special arrangements.



A Message from Melton

Our employee, Melton, reports that families he has delivered loads of firewood to (over 200 since mid October) have been so grateful and want to express their deep appreciation to Native Hope donors.

Mark Your Calendars for April 18

That's the date for the next Native Hope Food Drive. From 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Summit Church parking lot we will be collecting healthy, non-perishable food plus bar soap, dish soap, paper towels, facial tissues and toilet paper.

Due to the high incidence of diabetes and heart disease on the reservation, we concentrate on healthy items like canned fruits packed in juice (we need lots of these), cereals with low sugar, and low or no-salt vegetables, soups and meats. Canned or dry pinto beans are preferred over other beans. Please, no large sizes or glass, no mixes requiring the addition of milk, eggs or ground beef or anything needing refrigeration or baking.

We will pack the items donated into individual "care packages" which our employees will hand out to needy Navajo individuals and families. Please contact us if you could help on the 18th.

Donations

General donations of food or other items can be arranged by contacting us.

Monetary donations can be made through www.summitdurango.org or by check made out to Summit Church and sent to 2917 Aspen Drive, Durango, CO 81301. Be sure to designate it for "Native Hope."

From Fort Lewis College

The *FLC News* has just shared that alum Hosava Kretzmann, a citizen of the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation, has qualified for the 2028 Olympic Marathon Trials after running a personal best of 2:15:50. A passionate runner, he nearly dropped out of high school due to poor grades before a cross-country coach encouraged him to improve academically in order to continue running. That was a turning point.

At Fort Lewis Kretzmann participated in both track and cross country. After graduating in 2018 with a degree in Public Health, he went on to earn a Master's in Public Health from Northern Arizona University. He is now working on a Ph.D., focusing on Native American health. Meanwhile, his running continues to improve. "Fort Lewis College really shaped who I am today," he said. "The community, the trails, and the support I found there helped me grow not just as a runner, but as a person." We wish him well.

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, solar lighting, clothing, blankets and other items. Our funds are managed through Summit Church, with 100% of donations going to the work of Native Hope.

Contact us with questions or to volunteer: info.nativehopedurango@gmail.com.