



## **A touching note from the Dignity Kits Committee June 6, 2020**

Greetings!

We hope you, your families, friends and neighbors are all well and staying safe. We are all together on this unfamiliar journey and are so fortunate to live in an area where we can enjoy the security of our community and the beauty of the natural world around us.

Others are not as fortunate. Tens of thousands of refugees seeking asylum in the United States have been forced to wait in Mexico for their hearings. There are approximately 6,000 in Ciudad Juarez alone. The hardships associated with the life of refugees fleeing their home countries living in poverty with minimum shelter and security in a foreign land have now been compounded by the pandemic. The coronavirus now has claimed over 300 lives and infected nearly 1,400 people in Juarez and we know that 12 migrants tested positive a week ago at the largest migrant shelter (Leona Vicario) in Juarez which houses 337 people. Those in this shelter considered to be high-risk, including pregnant women, were transferred to other facilities including Hotel Filtro where our latest shipment of Dignity Kits were distributed.

On Friday, May 31st, we delivered 200 Dignity Kits along with 200 face masks donated by the Sandoval Mask Makers to the dedicated group we work with in El Paso and the very next day this group was distributing the kits and masks plus many other items we took them, which included women's and men's underwear, diapers, baby wipes, tote bags and backpacks, large hand towels, disinfectant wipes, children's games toys, books, crayons and packets of cereal, fruit, cookies and peanut butter. (See the attached pictures.) We can't say enough about the dedication and compassion of Dr. Eva Moya, the UTEP students, faculty, staff, nurses, social workers, counselors, and Dominican nuns who make daily runs across the border from El Paso, delivering the much-

needed items to shelters in Juarez.

While there last Friday we discussed with Dr. Moya what would be on a shortlist that our community could donate in addition to the much appreciated and needed Dignity Kits. The decision was to concentrate on collecting diapers, baby wipes, and underwear for all ages (small/medium sizes for the women and men). As always, we welcome receiving the contents of the Dignity Kits: bar of soap, large hand towel, toothbrush, comb, chap stick, nail file, travel size deodorant, travel size lotion, travel size toothpaste, razor and shaving cream for men, razor for women and one-gallon zip lock bags. Now there is also a need for used sewing machines.

Monetary donations can be made in two ways: 1.) A check written to LPPC with a note in the memo line "Dignity Mission" and mailed to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 768, Placitas, NM 87043; or 2.) A credit card by going to [www.lasplacitaschurch.org](http://www.lasplacitaschurch.org).

Click on "More" in the top right-hand corner of the Home page.

Click on "Give" on the drop-down menu.

Click on "Click Here to Give."

Click on "Choose a Fund."

Scroll down and click on "Mission/ Dignity Kits."

Complete the form and submit.

Our goal this month is to deliver 421 Dignity Kits to El Paso on June 22nd, which would bring the total so far this year to 1,450. We're also hoping to take three sewing machines and as many diapers and underwear as we can stuff into the truck.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of this humanitarian project.

We join with Eva Moya, who wrote all of you the following: Thank you on behalf of the border communities. Your stewardship, love, service and commitment to social justice are inspiring. Gracias.

Warmest regards,

Cheryl & Jack

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