

Dignity Mission Update

December 17, 2024

We experienced another rollercoaster ride of emotions during our trip to the borderlands this weekend, witnessing firsthand the joy and hope expressed by the children and their parents as we delivered Christmas gifts and other donations to migrant shelters in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, while learning that shelters on both sides of the border are closing. Casa del Sagrado Corazon and the Border Servant Corps' Hospitality Center in El Paso as well as the Kiki Romero Gym in Juárez have already closed. The migrant shelter at the Rescue Mission in El Paso plans to shut down next month. Other shelters we help support, however, are promising to remain open.

Volunteers are at the heart of what the Dignity Mission can accomplish. The preparation for this weekend's journey started when 21 volunteers met on November 23rd at the United Church of Los Alamos and another team of 29 volunteers met on December 7th in Placitas to assemble Christmas Bags and Dignity Kits. Those two gatherings resulted in the completion of 1,569 Dignity Kits and 250 Christmas bags. Our thanks also go out to our friends at All Saints Lutheran Church in Albuquerque who assembled 200 Christmas bags, to the youth at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church who constructed and filled 150 Christmas stockings, and to Sally Gosnell who lovingly filled another 100 stockings.

Additionally, we want to express our gratitude to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church of Santa Fe, United Church of Los Alamos, All Saints Lutheran Church of Albuquerque, and Albuquerque Asylum Seeker Welcome for their generous donations of food, blankets and winter clothing. After assembling all these donations, then came the heavy lifting associated with every trip we make to El Paso—loading the truck in Placitas and unloading it in El Paso. Fifteen volunteers came to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on December 13th to load approximately three tons of Dignity Kits, food, blankets, clothing and other supplies for distribution to shelters along the border. Once loaded we departed immediately for El Paso joined by Rae Van De Motter, whose vehicle was full of Christmas bags from All Saints

Lutheran. Upon our arrival in El Paso that afternoon, we were met by Dr. Moya and her incredible team of 22 volunteers who unloaded the truck and began loading their own vehicles to begin distributing the donations where needed.

Over the course of the next two days, we visited six shelters delivering supplies and Christmas gifts. At each stop we were met by smiles from the adults and laughter from the children. Sadly, that happiness was offset by the horror stories some shared about their journeys—young children describing the drowning of a little girl trying to rescue a dog from a river on their trek through the Darien Gap and the subsequent suicide of the grief-stricken father of the little girl; the blank stare of a pregnant teenage girl who had been raped on her journey north. It seems no one arrives at the shelters unscathed. Five of the shelters we visited (Welcome Center, Holy Family Refugee Center, and the Immigrant and Refugee Project at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in El Paso; Respettrans and Casa del Migrante in Juárez) are committed to remaining open providing humanitarian support and comfort to those seeking safety and we are committed to helping these shelters and others do just that.

The situation, in our opinion, requires the continued extension of our hands to show our brothers and sisters we care about the plight forced upon them and we want to reinforce their hope for a better future for their families by helping them with the basics necessary to sustain them on their journey. Please help us to help them. We still need beans, rice, Nido dry milk, diapers, baby blankets, newborn clothing, and all sizes of jackets, sweatshirts, underwear, socks, and string bags. Many of these needed items can be found on the following Dignity Mission Wish List

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3A8N584B37L61?ref_=wl_share

and shipped directly to Dr. Eva Moya at the following address:

Dignity Mission
c/o Dr. Eva Moya
6520 La Cadena Dr.
El Paso, TX 79912

This weekend delivery marked the 40th trip the Dignity Mission has made to the borderland since we began going to El Paso in January 2020, having transported a total of 47,341 Dignity Kits, 4,129 Children's Kits, 3,250 Christmas stockings/bags, over 6,000 blankets, and an additional 175,000 pounds of food, clothing, and other supplies. We estimate the Dignity Mission has touched the lives of approximately 55,000 people over the past four years. We don't intend to stop now.

Please consider donating to the Dignity Mission. Monetary donations can be made in one of two ways:

1. A check written to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church with Dignity Mission noted in the memo line and mailed to Las Placitas Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 768, Placitas, NM 87043.
2. On-line giving by going to 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 the box next to Dignity Mission on the Donation page, enter an amount, frequency and start date, and click on "Continue." Complete the form and submit.

To gain an important perspective of the asylum seeker's point of view, please listen to the poem "Home" by Warsan Shire:

["Home" di Warsan Shire](#)

To get a perspective on the current situation at the border, we would encourage you to attend a presentation by Dr. Eva Moya (Professor at UTEP), Father Peter Precourt (Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in El Paso), and Dr. Georgina Sanchez-Garcia (Research Assistant at UTEP) at All Saints Lutheran Church in Albuquerque on January 11th, 2025, at 1:00 PM. An announcement is attached, which lists a link to allow you to follow on Zoom.

