

Dignity Mission Update

January 22, 2024

A team of 35 volunteers (pictures attached) gathered at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on January 13th and assembled a record number (2,150) of Dignity Kits, which another team of unbelievable volunteers (picture attached) loaded onto a 15' box truck last Friday. They filled the truck to capacity with your donations which included the Dignity Kits, 240 Children's Kits, 304 blankets, 336 cases of food, 290 pounds of pinto beans, and 180 pounds of rice. They also loaded items designed to combat the cold temperatures at the border, including 144 winter hats, 116 pairs of gloves, and 12 scarves, many of which were donated and, in some cases, handmade by members of All Saints Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. Additionally, we collected 66 jackets/coats, 3 bags of hoodies and sweaters, and dozens of pairs of socks and underwear, as well as 125 Days for Girls (DfG) feminine hygiene kits provided by the Longmont and Las Cruces DfG chapters. Other donations included baby blankets, quilts, sheets, diapers, shoes, belts, backpacks, toys, baby food, medical supplies, ice chests, and cleaning supplies. A big thank you goes out to Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church for their generosity.

We drove this 6,000-pound load to El Paso on Saturday and were met by Dr. Moya's team of twenty-two people eager to unload the truck and immediately transport as much as possible in their private vehicles to shelters in El Paso and Juárez. Attached you will find pictures of the team unloading your donations, sharing information with one another about their individual efforts, and expressing words of gratitude for the work we all are doing to bring a sense of dignity to our brothers and sisters seeking asylum in the United States.

Despite all the noise generated by the current political debates, let's not forget the human side of migration. During the current legislative negotiations on immigration policy going on in Washington, it's important we do not lose sight of the impact these policies may have on individuals fleeing danger with dreams and hopes for a secure life for themselves and their families.

One potential sign of progress in the Senate border negotiations is the inclusion of work permits for asylum-seekers. According to *Politico*, as more and more cities

receive busloads of people seeking asylum, local officials are calling for work permit expansions that would allow migrants, who are barred from legally working, to fill open jobs and become independent, and thus reduce the strain on city budgets. Under current law, migrants are required to wait 150 days after applying for asylum before they can seek a work permit.

USA Today ran an article last week entitled “Can the US handle more immigration? History and the Census suggest the answer is yes.” According to the article, immigrants are contributing heavily to the United States economy by addressing the labor shortage in industries such as agriculture, healthcare, and hospitality. Allowing people who are not looking for a handout and want to work the opportunity to fill vacant job openings makes sense to us.

Until that happens the Dignity Mission will continue to assist those who are seeking a safer and better life for themselves in our country. Attached are just a couple pictures of the distribution of donated items to those in need this month. We remain most grateful for your support in this effort. There is a continuing urgent need for underwear, socks, diapers, and baby food. These and other items you may wish to purchase can be found on the Dignity Mission Wish List

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

and shipped directly to:

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

Monetary donations are always welcome, and you can be assured we will use those donations to purchase what is most needed at locations and in quantities necessary to get the most “bang for the buck.” 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.

Blessings,