

## **Dignity Mission Update**

### **Jan. 4, 2024**

Migration has dominated the news and political discussions and maneuverings worldwide over the past year. The numbers we see in the headlines of people on the move are mindboggling. It's estimated approximately 110 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced last year because of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or climate change. Here in the U.S. the Border Patrol recorded 3.2 million encounters last year and of that number only 60,014 were admitted into our country. Most recently, more than 302,000 migrants crossed the U.S. southern border in December, marking the highest monthly total recorded since 2000. Of that number 52,000 entered legally. They included asylum seekers who were processed at designated ports of entry and many of them were released on parole pending a hearing before an immigration judge. Closer to home U.S. Border Patrol agents in the El Paso Sector were the busiest in the country in fiscal year 2023 ending in October. During December 2023, according to KVIA News in El Paso, they recorded 1,095 encounters, so the El Paso Sector remains busy. All of this equates to large numbers of displaced human beings struggling to find enough food and shelter just to survive.

Regardless of what one's opinion might be regarding our country's migration policy and its enforcement, we believe we cannot ignore the human needs that exist along our border with Mexico where people are caught in the middle and are forced to live without the benefit of the most basic necessities. For that reason, the Dignity Mission continues to be committed to doing as much as possible to show compassion and provide some of those basic needs for those who continue to suffer in their flight from the hopeless situations they face at home. Attached are several pictures of the individual efforts of a few Dignity Mission team members to meet that need. Our thanks go out to Michael Carpenter, Jeff Fleming, Chris Bowlin and Ralph Bowlin from Placitas, who loaded their trucks with blankets, beans, rice, Dignity Kits, jackets, and Christmas gift bags and drove them to El Paso just before Christmas.

Volunteers will assemble Dignity Kits at Las Placitas Presbyterian Church on January 13<sup>th</sup> and we take the next load of Dignity Mission donations to El Paso on

January 20<sup>th</sup>. Locally, we're asking once again for donations of beans, rice, and blankets. Those of you outside the Albuquerque area who would like to purchase any urgently needed cold-weather items are invited to go to the following Amazon link to access our most recent "Wish List" and ship them directly to **Dignity Mission, c/o Dr. Eva Moya, 6520 La Cadena Drive, El Paso, TX 79912:**

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3A8N584B37L61?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3A8N584B37L61?ref=wl_share)

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](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 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,

Jack and Cheryl

