



## News about the amazing Dignity Kit mission January 2, 2021

Greetings!

Happy New Year. We hope you, your families, and your friends are well and safe. We trust 2021 will be a much better year for all of us.

One aspect of this past year that has amazed us is the growth of support for the Dignity Mission. We started the year off by delivering 156 Dignity Kits on January 12th to Fabiola Ekleberry, who helps asylum-seekers as a part of the Trauma and Resilience in the Borderland Network. We met Dr. Eva Moya from the University of Texas at El Paso the following month and delivered 233 more Dignity Kits to her. Since that February delivery we have transported 3,530 additional Dignity Kits (which included 600 from United Church of Los Alamos), 1,232 children's kits (200 from United Church of Los Alamos), over 6 tons of food (the bulk of that coming from an anonymous donor), over 1,000 face masks (967 from the Sandoval Mask Makers), and more than 300 boxes of clothing, toys, and children's books valued in excess \$23,000. Additionally, people donated six sewing machines and a serger, which were reconditioned by Jeremi Chavez at Hip Stitch free of charge, and Debbie Chavez from CJ's Upholstery donated bolts of fabric, all of which were put into use at shelters to make clothing.

As you can imagine, the risks to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees living under COVID-19 in Ciudad Juarez have increased over the past nine months and presented additional challenges to them and to those assisting them. According to the Hope Border Institute (Instituto Fronterizo Esperanza), approximately 1,100 migrants are currently living in shelters in Ciudad Juarez, the largest of which (Leona

Vicario) houses over 300 people, making it difficult to maintain the social distances health officials recommend. A “filter hotel” (Hotel Filtro) was set up by the city when the pandemic began to accommodate recently arrived migrants and asylum seekers, quarantine them for two weeks, and arrange for their relocation to other shelters. Many shelters have stopped accepting new residents and have limited entry to minimize the risk of contagion. Consequently, there are thousands of migrants in Juarez living outside the shelter network, increasing the difficulty of getting our donated items to those most in need. Fortunately, Dr. Moya’s team has members who know where they are housed and how to deliver the Dignity Kits, food, clothing, and other needed supplies to them. We have attached photographs of a couple who made some of the deliveries and of the migrants who received them.

We are planning to make another run to El Paso on January 23rd. The following is a list of the most-needed items:

Infant formulas (Gerber Nestle Nan Infant Formula Powder, Enfamil Baby Formula Milk Powder, Nestle NIDO Fortificada Whole Milk Powder)

Diapers (All sizes)

Socks in dark colors (Available in bulk from Amazon)

Underwear (Men and women in small and medium sizes; children’s in all sizes)

Sweatshirts (Youth sizes)

Backpacks (For example, 24 Case Pack of Bulk Adventure Trails Backpacks @ \$84 available from Amazon)

You can find all these items on Amazon and if you have an Amazon Prime Account, you can ship them without incurring any shipping costs directly to:

Dignity Mission

c/o Dr. Eva Moya

708 Somerset Drive

El Paso, TX 79912

We will also accept your donations of any of the above items in addition to toys and books for children and any new or used belts at our house before January 22nd. And of course, monetary donations are always welcome, and they can be made in one of two ways:

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.

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", scroll down the "LPPC Donation" page to the heading "Your Gift" and click on "Choose a Fund", scroll down to the bottom of the list and click on "Mission/Dignity Kits", enter your name and an amount and click on either "Credit Card" or "Bank Account". Complete the form and submit.

Warm regards,

Jack and Cheryl Ferrell

17 Sunset Blvd., Placitas, NM 87043

505-867-2242

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

Photos: Ready to deliver food and dignity kits to the recipients!











