

# Navajo News



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*Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo*

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## "I Love My School Because..."

On January 21-26, La Vida Mission School joined the National School Choice Week celebration across the country. We have not done this for quite some time, especially during the pandemic years. This year, we again received logistics and materials on how to celebrate this week and decided at our staff worship to give it a try in a very simple way. We planned to only give out the "I love my School" bracelets to our students and staff and to do an essay writing on "I Love My School Because...". We asked all our students to write a short essay on why they love La Vida Mission School. To be fair with our students, we categorized the students into three divisions according to classes such as K-4 or Lower Grades Division, 5-8 or Middle School Division, and 9-12 High School Division and giving opportunity to all our La Vida staff to choose and cast their votes. Originally, we thought of choosing one winner for each division. But when all entries were submitted, we had a hard time choosing because they're almost all good and some scores are so close to each other that we decided to just have a 2nd winner for each division. The winners are as follows: Lower Grade Division: 2nd, Kayanna Johnson and 1st is Kayden Johnson; Middle School Division: 2nd is Leann Antonio and 1st is Talise Mescal; and from the High School Division: 2nd is Isiaha Williams and 1st is Natavia Harrison. To recognize each students' efforts, we gave everyone who participated in the essay writing a certificate of participation.

It's so encouraging and inspiring to read our students' essays on why they love their school. We would like to share with you some extracts and short excerpts from what some of the students wrote in the hope that it will inspire you also especially as you continue to support the ministry of La Vida Mission in providing the best Christian Education possible for these precious young ones. (See excerpts on page 2)

— Dorie Panganiban





## Excerpts from Student's Essays

I love my school because I can make friends, meet new teachers, and get free education. I can also have free food and get to sing, play, and get to know my Savior, the Lord. Also, School has my favorite subjects like Math, English, and Art.

One reason why I like school is because I love to see my dormparents. I also like to crochet with Ms. Renita, one of my dorm parents. I like to read, and this is the story I am going to read: the story that is found in Hebrews 11:1, Faith means being sure of the thing we hope for.

I love School because I get to interact with people I don't know and I get to learn more about God and Jesus. I get to learn about stuff I don't know and learn how to Crochet.

I Love my school, because my teacher is cool and she can make me understand School Subjects more and there is free food that I can eat. I can make more bro's here and I can get more closer to God. We can also sing more.

When Ms. Dorie asked me to choose some excerpts from the essays that the student's wrote, I thought that would be an easy task. Just read through them, pick out a few sentences and post them here. I was so wrong. Their essays touched my heart and many brought tears to my eyes. I wish you could read them all! Since that isn't possible, here are a few pictures and some comments from other students. I hope you can see their hearts and I pray you can connect with them as individuals who need our love and prayers and who need to continue to learn about God's love for them.

"I came here to La Vida Mission to better my life and to learn new things every day." "When I first came to La Vida, I didn't know much about God. The staff here taught me discipline, self respect and meaningful lessons from the Word of God." "I love my school because I learn more about God, math, science and art." "School can be difficult sometimes but if I keep putting in more effort, I can do anything if I put my mind into school. Everyone at La Vida helps me always." "One reason I like my school is because it is about God. I am also learning science studies and math. That's not all, we are learning how to be kind and when Jesus returns." "Becoming a student at La Vida Mission is the best decision I made. My school is a safe place to be and provides our needs and gives us many opportunities to learn new things. It inspires the High Schoolers to look forward to college or higher education. Having

Jesus Christ in my life is amazing, it will change your lifestyle, your mindset and it will help you get through life if you believe in God". "My favorite part of the day is having Ms. Cielos class. I love the way she teaches and helps all the students as much as she can".

Do you want to know why I love my school? Well, I love math so much. I also love Recess, I like Bible I even have a favorite verse: John 14:1. It says "Don't let your heart be troubled. Trust in God. And trust in me. There are many rooms in my father's house." I love that verse.

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## Water Project Update

Hello friends!

I have been working with D & R Tank, the folks who will not only build and place our new tank, but will also construct the new foundation for the tank. There is need for some preliminary site work to be done prior to the new foundation being poured and I have asked D & R Tank to provide us with a quote for that work. The engineer from D & R Tank has reviewed the foundation design as provided by Geomat as requested by Dan Flack, our current engineer. The D & R Tank engineer will be providing a new design for the foundation in order that I can submit that design to the NM Environment Department. The new design may save considerable money but is subject to what the NM Env allows.

The project funds are as follows: Total Donations: \$167,382, Expenses: \$62,951 and the balance is \$104,421. What we still need to pay: Balance to D & R Tank for the tank itself: \$44,173, Quote from D & R Tank for the foundation: \$62,163.60. Preliminary site work: Estimated at \$20,000. Remainder needed to complete tank project is estimated to be \$21,916.

As soon as the new design from D & R Tank is available, I will submit it to NM Env Department for their review.

Thanks to everyone who has donated to this very needed project. Please help us continue to meet the goal.

God Bless you all!

Lee McIntosh



## Blessings Come in All Forms and From All Sources

Since I first came to La Vida Mission about 17 years ago, I have observed that while "La Vida Mission exists to bring the love of Jesus to the Dine (the Navajo people) and to everyone within its sphere of influence", La Vida Mission is able to fulfil this mission statement through the many forms and kinds of blessings provided by the wonderful people that God uses to bless its ministry.

Recently, Sherman Moeller and a group of paleontologists came to visit the Mission and brought in donations of a couch, dishwasher, dryer, assorted groceries and several dozen new New Balance shoes to the delight of both the students and the staff.

Pastor Mark Phillips, pastor of Pinion Hills and its neighboring churches including La Vida Mission SDA Church, drives to the Mission every Tuesday to do worship/chapel for our students and staff and to teach our high school students basic auto mechanics. But most of the time he also comes with a truck load of clothes, household items, cleaning supplies and food from our brothers and sisters in Pinion Hills Church and Aztec Churches which helps not only our dorms and cafeteria, but also our Community Services and Dorcas.

We found another partner in Ministry in Bimbo Bakeries. They have donated huge amount of breads and pastries that's more than enough to supply our cafeteria, dorms, staff houses, and church needs and so we're able to share it with our out-reach programs. This weekend, we're able to distribute to all the Mission campus residents, cafeteria, dorms, church, and to the community such as the chapter house, senior center, church guests and community neighbors a total of 120 crates of assorted bread from wheat and white loaf breads, hot-dog and hamburger buns, English muffins and bagels, pizza crust and donuts and all kinds of boxed pastries.

Surely, God's promise of blessings continue to shower upon La Vida Mission in all forms and from all sources. Thank you Lord. — Dorie Panganiban



## Bulletin Board

### Special Thanks to:

- Our Heavenly Father** for providing our needs.
- Faithful donors** who support LVM with prayers, financial and other donations (including Box Tops for Education).
- Student sponsors** for their many contributions, prayers, letters and Christmas gifts.
- Echo Food bank, Farmington, NM** for produce and other food items.
- Neal Kelley & Sharing Ministry** for cleaning supplies, donations of food and vegetables.
- Partnership with Native Americans** for food for the community food pantry.
- Linda Jarboe** for yarn and crochet hooks.
- Pinon Hills SDA Church** for clothing, household items and groceries.
- Sherman Moeller, Joe Reavis & Paleontologists** for furniture, appliances, clinic supplies, shoes & assorted food.
- Bimbo Bakeries** for assorted bread and bakery items.

## In Memory of

George & Margaret Armstrong  
Dr. Burton Everett  
Arloe Goley  
Francis Gregerson  
Wayne Hyatt  
Luella Lamoreaux  
Bob & Mary Lee  
Albert Lind  
Art & Barry Lizer  
Jose A. Lopez  
Larry McCoy  
Brenda McDonald  
Mom & Dad  
Fleta Oliver  
Lyman & Ed Roberts  
Robert Sammer  
Kenneth Smith  
Lydia Brooke Wood

by Lanny & Barbara Davis  
by Bonnie Everett  
by John Goley  
by Phyllis Gregerson  
by Lynette Hyatt  
by David & Nancy Lamoreaux  
by Lynette Hyatt  
by Margaret Lind  
by Oradelle Lizer  
by Diane Lopez  
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner  
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald  
by Jackie Small  
by Jack & Mary Wood  
by Martie Hansen  
by David & Maxine Smith  
by Lola Smith  
by Jack & Mary Wood

## In Honor of

Mary & Jack Wood  
Grace Pintacuba

by Sam Small  
by Lucretia Pintacuba

*Thank you to all of the donors who make a difference at La Vida!*



## The Continuing Adventure with Crochet



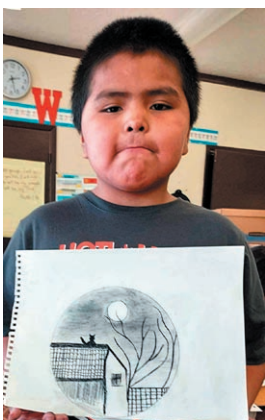
Thank you to everyone who has contributed yarn, needles and other craft supplies. Our students are learning how to create and that is a very important part of their education. One young boy had a hard time with it at first and was sad about that but then, once he "got it", was so pleased. That teaches more than crochet, it teaches that perseverance can pay off and it increases their confidence in themselves, that even when something is hard, they can master it if they keep trying. What a good lesson for them and for all of us!



### Ms. Claire's Class



Yes, it snows at La Vida Mission. The kids picked up big pieces of ice and called them Antarctica because they were studying the continents.



Right: Learning to be a missionary doctor.

Left: Art class helps to develop a variety of skills.



Indoor activities, like catching bubbles, are great when it is too muddy or cold to play outdoors.

