

Navajo News



A Publication of La Vida Missions, Inc.
Bringing the Gospel of Jesus to the Navajo

Vol. 61 No 12

www.lavidamission.org

505-786-5539

December 2023

Annual Showers of Blessings to La Vida Mission

The cold wind of November 9th, 2023 made the outside of the La Vida Mission gym chilly and cold for the few staff on campus but their hearts warmed up as the big U-haul truck driven by Pastor Mike and Cathy Kissner of the Rocky Mountain Conference Community Service Department pulled over by the side of the gym bringing donations of all kinds (from food and groceries to clothes, shoes, household items and appliances, office and school supplies and many other miscellaneous items) sent by our dear brothers and sisters from the following participating RMC SDA churches: Grand Junction Community Service Center, Casper Church, Cheyenne Church, Greeley Church, Loveland Church, Campion Church, Ft. Lupton Church, Brighton Church, Life Source South, Colorado Springs Central Church, Canon City Church, Pueblo Church and Alamosa Churches and others.

These annual donation drives have been happening for almost 30 years now through the initiative of this faithful and loving couple, Cathy and Mike Kissner. It has saved the Mission thousands of dollars in operation and we truly appreciate our fellow Adventist members from the aforementioned churches for their generous support. We



have sorted out and organized these donations and have delivered them to the different areas at the mission, from the food cellar, to the cafeteria, dorms, school, office, church, and community service centers. We will let our staff and students also go through the rest of the donations after which, we will open the gym to our local neighbors on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 for our Annual Community Christmas Fiesta. Please watch out for our pictorial and written reports about this in the next issue of this Newsletter. Again, thank you very much to all these churches, to Pastor & Mrs. Kissner and to the Rocky Mountain Conference leadership for your kind support to the ministry of La Vida Mission.

– Dorie Panganiban



When Children Pray

I was getting frantic. I was praying, I was looking and searching everywhere. I was looking for 2 checks, a church blank check to fill out and give to a community church member who just lost a loved one and a check mailed from someone for the church. I knew they were in my purse. I remember pulling out some pile of papers and envelopes from my big purse as I started my work in the office and evidently the missing checks were in those piles. But I could not find them no matter how much I looked. I went back to the house to check if I left them on my desk but they were not there either. I looked in my car as maybe I dropped them but there were no checks in sight. A day passed, I still could not find the checks and it was causing a heavy load in my mind and heart. If they were my personal checks, I wouldn't have worried so much but they weren't. Then I thought of Ms. Claire's lower grade pupils who, I always hear, have been praying in their class for people and I wanted to ask them to help me pray. Coincidental or providential, they walked to the office because Ms. Claire needed to photocopy some papers. She made them sit on the floor against the wall to wait for her. I was happy, I said in my mind that now I can ask them to pray for me, but I was getting shy. While they were getting ready to leave, I mustered my courage and I asked Ms. Claire if her kids could pray for me and my missing checks. They all knelt down around my office desk and Jordan, one of the youngest boys, directed everybody to pray. I was in tears listening to them pray. After they left, I finished what I was doing on my computer then I stood up and started looking again. Can you guess what happened? In the same pile of papers on my church bookkeeping desk that I had looked at multiple times, there was that envelope with my missing checks. I said a thank you prayer and sent a message to Ms. Claire to thank her little kids for me. When I saw them and personally thanked them, they all just smiled as if telling me, "We knew it, we knew Jesus will hear and answer our prayers". I was humbled. It was another lesson of faith and trust. I thank God for our teachers and every adult at La Vida for teaching and guiding our children.

"TEACH THE CHILDREN". This was what Lily Lilakai, visionary for La Vida Mission, heard Jesus telling her in a dream that she saw more than 60 years ago that led to the establishment of La Vida Mission. She dreamt about Jesus and the little Navajo children dancing around and coming to the light where He was, the Jesus that she loved. (Go to www.lavidamission.org to read the whole account.) Yes, teach the children, not just the academics but teach them about God, about knowing Him and loving Him and having faith in Him.

This is La Vida Mission! This is the life of the Mission! Our little precious children and youth that we try to lead to know and love Jesus! Not our old facility and buildings and barren surrounding but these young ones for whom Jesus gives His utmost love and attention. This is what our teachers and dorm parents and all the staff do every day – to bring these children to the Lord and to teach them about His wonderful love. Please continue to join us in fulfilling this vision and goal for these dear Navajo children through your prayers and financial support. (You can see pictures of the children in Ms. Claire's class on page 4 of this newsletter.)

– Dorie Panganiban

High School Basic Electricity Class Trip to Ramah, New Mexico: Straight from the Students' Pen

The Unforgettable Dates - November 8-10, 2023 The Learning Experience

I learned how to set up an outlet, to bend conduits, and to pull wires. ---Marcella Tarango

I learned wiring a circuit breaker, bending conduit, and doing mathematical measurements. ---Natavia Harrison

My experience in Ramah was awesome. I learned more about bending conduits in place, and connecting wires. ---Isaiha William

The Spiritual Activities

Morning and evening devotionals by the campfire and by the fireplace were conducted. Listening to Pastor Tobin's conversion story and how God blessed his family with their dream house was very inspirational to the whole team.

The Fun

Pastor Tobin led us to the lake nearby and we had so much fun kayaking and boating. The water was clear and cold. In addition to the fun was when Natavia, Damiana, and Damian could not go back to the shore and instead headed to the bushes along the lake. Isaiha was alone rowing another kayak and got so wet. Mr. VJ was chasing the ducks that were swimming so fast that he could not catch up with them. The next day was a hike to the waterfalls. We saw great rock formation and canyons. On the second day of our trip, there was a slight snowfall for the first time of the year that gave a treat to Ms. Cielo who had not seen snow yet. Her reaction

was so funny.

Another highlight of the trip was the jacuzzi. The warm/hot water, the welcoming lights, and the starry sky made the night so memorable.

The Food

Mrs. Rebekah Savage is an awesome chef as well as Pastor Tobin Savage, so we tried to help them before heading on to the shop where we had our training. The whole class together with our teachers Mr. Andrew Moeller, Mr. VJ Panganiban, Ms. Beth Panganiban, and Ms. Cielo Domino left Ramah with grateful hearts for the hospitality provided to us

By: Damian Werito, Damiana Werito, Demetrius Werito, Isaiha William, Marcella Tarango and Natavia Harrison

Pictures on page 3



Navajo News

A publication of
La Vida Missions, Inc.

December 2023 Vol. 61, No 12

Navajo News is published monthly
by La Vida Missions, Inc.
Bulk rate postage paid at
Phoenix, Arizona

La Vida Mission, a supporting ministry
of The Seventh-day Adventist Church,
serves the Eastern Navajo Nation. It op-
erates a K-12 Boarding school for Navajo
children, clinic, water/mail/clothing ser-
vices and an evangelism outreach for the
Navajo community. The mission is located
off Highway 371, 55 miles north of I-40,
just south of mile post #56, or 50 miles
south of Farmington, New Mexico.

Director

Editor

Gayle Smith

Send address corrections & correspondence to

P. O. Box 3308

Farmington, NM 87499

UPS/Fedex Shipping Address

Lake Valley Area

700 CR 7730

Crownpoint, NM 87313

Telephone (505)786-5539

Fax (505)786-7650

E-mail: office@lavidamission.org

Website: www.lavidamission.org

Donation Information

Make checks payable to:

La Vida Missions, Inc.

Federal Tax Exemption #85-0168123

La Vida Missions, Inc. is a

nonprofit corporation of New Mexico.

Water Project Update

Hello Dear Friends!

Today, November 29, 2023, I received La Vida Mission's Certificate of Project Approval. We have one year to complete the entire project. I will inform the NM Environment Department, Drinking Water Bureau when construction begins, of any changes before they are implemented, and transmit record drawings in electronic format after project completion.

Our next step is to have D & R Tank complete construction on our new 18,000 gallon tank. The new bedding ring for the tank will be constructed and inlet and outlet pipes will be directed to the new tank.

Winter weather may delay the project's completion until spring, but preliminary work can commence now. Also, the Community Hydrant will be redesigned to prevent any cross contamination.

Although La Vida Mission has, through your generous donations, met the minimum financial goals, there still may be unanticipated costs. To date, we have received \$164,912, expenses have been \$58,673.85 with a balance of \$106,238.15.

La Vida Mission and I thank you for your continued support of this project.

God bless each of you!

Lee McIntosh
Water Project Manager





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.

•**All the RMC Churches** who participated in the Annual Donation Drive for La Vida through Pastor Mike & Cathy Kissner.

•**Dr. Robert and Kimone Gardner** for clothing, foot-wear, kitchen items & 2 laptop computers for High School.

•**Phoenix Rose** for Vege franks.

•**Joe Reavis** for hygiene & clinic supplies.

In Memory of

Carl Anderson
George & Margaret Armstrong
Bern Bliss
Shirley Brackett
Joanne Clifford
Meredith Genton
Steve Gillham
Arloe Goley
Wayne Hyatt
Amica Johnston
Robert & Mary Lee
Albert Lind
Art & Barry Lizer
Jose A. Lopez
Larry McCoy
Brenda McDonald
Frank Putnam
Doreen Radke
Miriam Sammer
Nobert Sammer
Nobert Sammer
Kenneth Smith
Romulo Tabo
Lance Turner
Lydia Brooke Wood

by Mrs. Carl Anderson
by Lanny & Barbara Davis
by Simon Elloway
by Peggy Oldland
by John & Robin Korponay
by Marc Genton
by Scott & Marlita Bennett
by John Goley
by Lynette Hyatt
by David E. Johnston
by Lynette Hyatt
by Margaret Lind
by Oradelle Lizer
by Diane Lopez
by Nancy McCoy-Wearner
by Pat & Rhonda McDonald
by Clare Putnam
by Mr. & Mrs. Lanny Davis
by Marc Genton
by Marc Genton
by David Smith
by Lola Smith
by Arlegie C. Tabo
by James-Shirley Turner
by Jackie Small

In Honor of

Verneda Bayless
Irene Kalina

by the Rusk Family
by Andrew Kalina

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

La Vida Mission Core+ Enhanced Educational Program

The preparation for students' future is not limited to the four core academic subjects only. There are different areas where high school students acquire practical skills through various vocational subjects such as Introduction to Culinary Arts, Basic Auto Mechanic, Introduction to Basic Electricity, and other crafts like crochet, paper quilling, etc. As they prepare to get high school equivalency or to enter college education, the students are getting intensive review on GED subjects in Reasoning Through Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and Mathematics.



Ms. Claire's Class



We visited this campus home to see a tree that Ms. Vicki Pioche's daughter, Amanda, planted a couple of decades ago. We brought back pine cones with which to make little bird feeders.



The students are winding yarn into balls, they will soon be learning to crochet. If you have any yarn you would like to donate, please mark it for Ms. Claire.



On October 29 we went to a local pumpkin patch for a reserved field trip, but they had forgotten and it was closed. How disappointing! Instead, we took the kids to Pizza Hut and they had vegetarian pizza and sugar free soda. This was paid for by my birthday fundraiser on Facebook. Almost all of the children said that they had never been inside a Pizza Hut. They were still talking about it days later. They were so happy.



The children have been wanting to paint rocks for a long time. Josiah used his leftover paint for a space picture.



We appreciate everyone who donated items to our mission. This donated ear flap cap will keep this young student warm this winter. Thank you!



Peanut math. We spent a couple of days in math estimating, counting, and graphing how many different kinds of peanuts were in a bag. Specifically, single peanuts double peanuts and the rare three peanuts. We also estimated how many cracked ones. Had to really watch that they didn't get eaten while we were counting LOL.