SPRING FOOD RUNS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

By the time this newsletter arrives in your mailbox, Adopt-A-Native-Elder volunteers will have already given 1000-man hours of service in the warehouse packing boxes and wrapping giveaways of needed essentials that will be delivered to the Elders this spring, but we're not done! In the coming weeks, we will receive 30 pallets of nonperishable food that will be used to pack the Food Boxes during our Food Packing days on Saturday March 23rd and Saturday March 30th, and throughout the months of February and March we continue to need volunteers to help pack and label incontinence supplies and other essentials in preparation for the Food Runs. Throughout the thirteen spring Food Run deliveries, Adopt-A-Native-Elder and more than 160 Food Run volunteers will deliver more than 500,000 pounds of food, medical supplies, and everyday necessities that help the Elders we serve to age in place on their homelands.

This massive undertaking requires an enormous contribution of time, hard work, and hands from our community of volunteers, sponsors, and donors. In total this year, our commitment to the Elders will require 4400 hours of service in the warehouse packing and

(Continued on page 2)
organizing the life sustaining supplies for delivery to the reservation, 40 volunteers for each Food Run location to give their time and vehicles to transport over 1 million pounds of assistance to the Food Run locations, and the contributions of sponsors, donors, and foundations whose generosity allows the Elders to age with grace, dignity, and respect for their culture and traditions. Lives of the Elders. You can follow A.N.E. on social media and share our posts with your friends and followers, and you can take the information and statistics shared in this newsletter and share them in your communities, helping to introduce new volunteers and sponsors to the program and the Elders we cherish.

However you serve the Elders, the difference you make goes beyond the gift of your time and hands. When you volunteer with Adopt-A-Native-Elder, you are not simply easing food insecurity, or providing basic medical supplies, you are showing traditional Navajo Elders who have experienced extreme injustice, abuse, and genocide that the world beyond the reservation cares about them, cares about their culture and traditions, and cares that their way of life is preserved and honored.

Recently, we have lost three traditional Navajo Elders who I met on my very first Food Run as a volunteer in 2009. You read Elizabeth Clah’s story in the Weaver’s Edition newsletter, and in the following pages of this newsletter you will read about Jenny Todechine and her infectious, life-affirming laugh. We also lost Mary Chee just after Christmas at the age of 103. These three traditional grandma’s were my introduction to the Navajo Elders we serve. Elizabeth shared her homeland and her own time in service to A.N.E. and the Elders of her community, Jenny was an activist who worked to better the lives of her community in Nazlini while sharing her own story with the world through BYU TV’s Turning Point episode about Adopt-A-Native-Elder, and Mary Joe McCabe and Virginia Blackwater at the Oljato Food Run.

In order to meet these ambitious goals, we need support from you, our partners. If you live locally in Salt Lake City, we’d love for you to join us for volunteer activities and cultural events at the warehouse, bring your friends, neighbors, and coworkers along to learn more about the Elders we serve. If you sponsor an Elder, make sure to get your orders in before the deadlines to help us ensure every Elder is receiving the support they deserve, and to help us plan the Food Run logistics by confirming that we have the volunteers and vehicles necessary to transport all of the needed assistance to the land. And, if you’ve dreamed of attending a Food Run, fill out the driver’s application on our website and join us this spring! If you’re unable to join us to volunteer in person, there are still things you can do from a distance that will make a real difference in the
shared the most authentic love, kindness, and affection with every volunteer she encountered.

The loss of these three Elders whose kindness, guidance, and love for their people and culture have been so impactful in my life weighed on me heavily through the Holidays. While looking at Food Run pictures in preparation for writing this article, I saw a photo of a grandma who after receiving her new axe from the program on the Food Run insisted that the axe be loaded at her feet in the car so that she knew it was not left behind. While looking at the photo I remembered the volunteers sharing the story of loading the grandma’s car and her refusal to let go of the axe until they reached a compromise where she could see it but it was still in a safe place in the vehicle. While remembering the grandma and how her story stuck with the volunteers who met her, I realized that every volunteer who gives of themselves to attend a Food Run, leaves with a story and a bond like the one I shared with the grandmothers we lost in December.

If you’re able, I hope you’ll join us on a Food Run this year. The opportunity to meet the Elders on their land and step into their culture is fleeting, but the bonds you forge and the memories you make will stay with you forever. Each Food Run closes with a circle of volunteers. When the Food Run is completed and everyone is gathered, Linda tells the volunteers that no Food Run is ever the same, you will never attend a Food Run again with the same Elders you just met and you’ll never stand in a circle with the same group of volunteers. She reminds everyone that they may be the last volunteer to have touched an Elder’s hand. I have always found that this summarizes the importance of a Food Run. You come to give to the Elders without expectation of anything in return, and the lives you touch, you touch on behalf of every volunteer, sponsor, and donor who cannot attend a Food Run. As you look back on your experience I think you’ll find that like me, the life that’s changed the most is your own.

~ C.J. Robb, Director of Business & Operations
I first met Jennie Todechine 25 years ago through Elizabeth Clah. The two women were close friends and clan sisters. Jennie did not live in the Many Farms area of Chinle like Elizabeth. She lived 35 miles away in a small community called Nazlini near Canyon de Chelly. Elizabeth asked me to take her to Jennie’s homeland to get Navajo Tea for the Elders for the Food Run. The roads to Nazlini were not paved back then. Jennie was a sheepherder and she had many sheep. She would take her sheep out in the morning and return home to make herself lunch at noon.

We drove very slowly, bouncing back and forth in our seats on the deeply rutted roads. The directions I was given to get to Jennie’s home was to turn at a long fence by the cornfield. When we arrived, Jennie was in her kitchen making fry bread. To enter her home, we stepped up through her doorway and then stepped down into her kitchen. She was right next to the doorway, cooking and looked very curious to see us. In a very loud voice, she welcomed us in Navajo and as she looked at me she said, “Bread!” She spoke to us in Navajo, yet I knew she understood me when I asked her questions.

We went into her living room which had a large table and chairs, a couch, and her bed was in the corner. A small fire was burning in the wood burning stove. Her radio was tuned to KTN and the broadcaster was speaking very loudly in Navajo. This was Jennie’s only connection to the world outside of her small homeland.
Elizabeth explained to Jennie who I was and how I was helping Elders with food in Many Farms. Then she asked Jennie if she had gathered any Navajo Tea while she was herding sheep and if she could share it with the Elders. Jennie brought out an old Bluebird Flour bag filled with Navajo Tea. Speaking in Navajo, Elizabeth invited Jennie to the Food Run that was held on Elizabeth’s homeland. I said something about being concerned about how Jennie would get to the Food Run, being how the roads were so bad and Jennie didn’t drive. But, the women just looked at me and said they were used to the roads and Jennie would get a ride.

Jennie, along with her mother, were both put in the Program. Little did I know at the time how well-known Jennie was in her community. She helped many people by providing sheep and cooking at community events to help raise money. Soon, many of her clan relatives were coming to Elizabeth’s seeking assistance from the “white girl’, as Jennie called me. Jennie was very proud and happy she could get help for her family and neighbors. My home visits expanded to eight Elders in Nazlini who attended Food Runs at Elizabeth’s homeland. Each time I visited Jennie, she gave me a little gift for helping her.

Jennie’s laughter and her ability to tell stories would keep the visits very lively. She loved to show me the things her sponsors had given her. Jennie was very proud that she had many friends who would visit and check on her. The bus driver who picked her up and took her to the Senior Center for lunch would read her letters from her sponsors. When I visited her, I often found people at her home.

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In 2017, I was nominated as a CNN Hero. Jennie, like most of our Elders, did not own a TV and did not know about CNN. The CNN film crew from New York City wanted to film some video of me with some of the Elders on the Reservation. I took them to meet Jennie on her homeland. She was very proud to have people travel all the way from NYC to meet her. In a very loud voice, she introduced herself to the crew, “I am Jennie Samuels Todechine!” Then she began to giggle. The crew spent a lot of time asking her questions about her life and living alone. She stated she was never lonely. She had her sheep to tend to each day and several sheep dogs, and many people who would stop to visit her. She laughed loudly and giggled at their questions.

Jennie did not have a phone. When she would run out of food, she would walk to a neighbor’s, hand them a piece of paper with my phone number on it, and have them ask me to mail her a food certificate.

In the spring of 2023, Jennie turned 92 years old. She had only a few sheep left and people were helping her tend them. Jennie’s niece Sandra wanted to move Jennie to live with her in Salt Lake City. But, Jennie did not want to leave her homeland. When I visited Jennie in the fall, I saw that she was struggling with her health. The day after Thanksgiving, I got a call that Jennie was in the hospital and she asked that I be called because she wanted me to know.

Her niece Sandra and her family had been able to celebrate Thanksgiving with her. A day after they left, Jennie passed.

Jennie’s family told me how much she loved the Program and all the support she received. It was a great honor to share so many years and special moments with her and Elizabeth Clah.

The week following Jennie’s death, Elizabeth Clah also passed. I’m sure the two of them are somewhere together laughing and sharing stories.

(Continued from page 5)
Donor Report: Our Work In 2023

Over 300 volunteers helped us pack and deliver 900,000 lbs. of assistance to Elders living on the Navajo Reservation.

850 Elders are currently enrolled in the Program. 150 additional Elders in need receive support in the form of food certificates and firewood vouchers.

Spring & Fall Food Runs To the Navajo Reservation:
SUPPORT DELIVERED DIRECTLY WHERE IT IS NEEDED

$2.5M DIRECT SUPPORT TO THE ELDERS

$1.3M FOOD CERTIFICATES & FIREWOOD VOUCHERS MAILED

$123,000 GIVEN IN HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES

$18,840 MOBILITY EQUIPMENT GIVEN

EXPENDITURES

85% ELDER SUPPORT 11% ADMINISTRATION

FOR EVERY $1 RECEIVED, A.N.E. DELIVERS APPROXIMATELY $10 IN VALUE BECAUSE OF OUR DEDICATED NETWORK OF ON-THE-GROUND VOLUNTEERS AND IN-KIND SERVICES

www.facebook.com/adoptanativeelder/
Rainbow Food Certificates are gifts of food in the form of a $150 Bashas’ Rainbow Food Certificate and are given to the Elders in your name at the Food Run.

Sponsors for Elders at Kayenta, Dilkon, Leupp, Birdsprings, Forest Lake, Sanders, and Tolani Lake should purchase this item as part of their semiannual obligation. Elders at these locations have chosen to receive ‘Rainbow Food Certificates’ instead of ‘Rainbow Food Box Sets’.

You may order more than one $150 Rainbow Food Certificate or, if your Elder lives in an area where we deliver Rainbow Food Boxes, you can add an additional $150 Rainbow Food Certificate to help them.

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Freddie Mitchell, Tolani Lake, gets food certificates, firewood vouchers, and Cracker Jacks for his birthday.

Etta Rock from Oljato wears an outfit she made from the Grandma Box fabric her sponsor provided for her.

When you order a Grandma Box, it’s like taking an Elder shopping. They love to open the box and see what color their outfits will be. In each box are 3 yards of Panne velvet for a blouse and 5 yards of print fabric for a skirt.

They prefer vibrant colors such as blues, burgundies, browns, and purples. The Grandma Boxes include new socks, needles, thread, and yarn for traditional hair ties.
Yarn bundle color combinations:

**Chiefs:**
Red, black, blue, grey heather, and white

**Ganado:**
Black, red, white, charcoal & silver-grey heather

**Greyhills:**
Heather grey, sable brown, crème, rust brown & oatmeal

**Old Style:**
Deep charcoal, sable brown, cream, gold & oatmeal

**Traditional:**
Red, deep charcoal, white, black & light grey heather

We have chosen the most weaver-requested yarn color combinations. Each box contains six skeins of wool and one warp, enough to weave a 2’ x 3’ rug. The cost for each yarn box is $50.

If you are ordering more than one box, we recommend that you order at least two of the same color. This will allow the Elder to weave a larger rug.

Please refer to page 11 to place your order or order online: www.AnElder.org

The gift of yarn allows the weavers to earn income through the sales of their rugs.

Betty Chee Nelson gets food certificates and yarn bundles.

Lula Notah, Tsaile, weaves a rug with the Ganado yarn bundles she received.
Please order Rainbow Food for your Elder

The Rainbow Food Boxes or Rainbow Food Certificates for your elder are $150. We ask you to walk the Circle of the Giveaway by helping us to see that each Elder receives a $150 Rainbow Food Box Set/$150 Rainbow Food Certificate.

**RAINBOW FOOD CERTIFICATE AREAS (KAYENTA, DILKON, LEUPP, BIRDSPRINGS, TOLANI LAKE, FOREST LAKE, AND SANDERS) WILL RECEIVE $150 RAINBOW FOOD CERTIFICATES**

**RAINBOW FOOD BOX AREAS (OLIATO, NAVAJO MOUNTAIN, MANY FARMS, TSAILE, BIG MOUNTAIN, TEESTO) WILL RECEIVE $150 RAINBOW BOX SETS**

**RAINBOW FOOD BOX, $150:** coffee, tea, toasted oats, 2 cartons oatmeal, Cream of Wheat, cornflakes, shortening, 2 baking powders, salt, 4 cans Vienna Sausages, 2 cans pork and beans, 2 cans corn, 2 cans carrots, 2 cans mandarin oranges, applesauce, pears, 2 cans peaches, 2 cans fruit cocktail, 2 cans chicken noodle soup, 2 cases Ramen noodles, 2 boxes grahams crackers, sugar, spaghetti sauce, noodles, macaroni, 20 lbs. Bluebird flour, 4 pkgs. sugar free Jello, strawberry jam, 10 lbs. potatoes, 2 cans of veggie bean stew, 2 cans evaporated milk, 2 cans green beans, corned beef, 2 boxes of pudding mixes and 3 lbs. of onions, peanut butter, 2 cases of water

**Grandma Box, $40:** 3 yards Panne velvet fabric for blouse, 4 yards cotton print fabric for skirt, matching thread, 2 pairs socks, white yarn for hair ties, safety pins, and sewing needles

**Grandpa Box, $35:** 1 sweatshirt, 2 t-shirts, 2 pairs of socks, bandana, 1 golf shirt, beef jerky, peanut butter crackers and 1 can of Spam

**Medical Box, $40:** Ace bandage, Acetaminophen, chest rub, cough drops, Pepto-Bismol, antibacterial wipes, lotion, petroleum jelly, Band-Aids, 2 Ben-Gay, 3 Chapstick, triple antibiotic ointment, hand sanitizer, soap, eye drops, tooth brush, tooth paste, mouth wash

**Mother’s Day Box, $30: (Spring only)** Cottonelle wipes, Kleenex, wash cloth, bath towel, hair brush, hand lotion, shampoo, hand sanitizer, emery boards, and a bandana

**Forgotten Elder’s Box, $35: (Spring only)**
1 can Spam, Honey Bear, 1 can beef stew, 3 lbs. blue corn meal, tea, peanut butter crackers, 2 cans of fruit, and baked beans.

**Yarn Box, $50:** See page 9 for details

Notice: Reasonable efforts will be made to use donations for the specific purpose designated. All donations become the property of Adopt-A-Native-Elder and will be used at the discretion of the organization to further the mission of the Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program in delivering materials and services to the Elders.
# Order Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elder #1:</th>
<th>Elder’s Food Run:</th>
<th>Elder #2:</th>
<th>Elder’s Food Run:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Sponsor Name:**

**Address:**

**City/State/Zip:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Check#**

**Card#**

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**SUPPORT FOR YOUR ELDER: (May be ordered throughout the year or you may specify delivery at Food Runs)**

- Food Certificates *(Circle Send to: Elder / Sponsor) @ $25 ea.*
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - Mail Now
  - $_______

- Firewood @ $200
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - Mail Now
  - $_______

- Yarn Box @ $50 *(Greyhills, Ganado, Chiefs, Crystal, Old Style, Traditional, ANE Choice)*
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - Mail Now
  - $_______

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**SUPPORT FOR YOUR ELDER: FOOD RUN BOXES**

- RB Food Box @ $150
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - $_______

- RB Rainbow Certificate @ $150 *(KA, DK, LP, BS, TL, FL, SA)*
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - $_______

- Med Box @ $40
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - $_______

- Grandma Box @ $40
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - $_______

- Grandpa Box @ $35
  - Spring
  - Fall
  - $_______

- Mother’s Day Box *(Spring Only)* @ $30
  - Spring
  - $_______

- Forgotten Box *(Spring Only)* @ $35
  - Spring
  - $_______

- Forgotten Blanket *(Fall Only)* @ $35
  - Fall
  - $_______

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**DONATIONS FOR FORGOTTEN ELDERS**

- General
  - $_______

- Food *(suggested $150)*
  - $_______

- Firewood *(suggested $200)*
  - $_______

- Yarn *(suggested $50)*
  - $_______

- Bluebird Flour *(20-lb @ $10.00 ea. bag)*
  - $_______

- Children’s Program *(suggested $20)*
  - $_______

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**OTHER**

- Annual Newsletter Renewal @ $25 *(1-year subscription)*
  - $_______

- Cedar Bead Necklace @ $10
  - $_______

- T-shirt @ $22 *(Circle Men’s/Woman’s)*
  - Size
  - $_______

- Hat @ $15 *(one size fits all)*
  - $_______

**TOTAL**

$_______
VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES:
Volunteer days are every Tuesday & Friday 9:00-11:30 am and some Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 pm at our warehouse: 328 W Gregson Ave., Salt Lake City. Sign up online on the bottom of the main page of our website: www.AnElder.org

Or call the A.N.E. office and we will be happy to sign you up for a shift: 801-474-0535. Let us know if you would like to receive Kindred Spirits, our volunteer enewsletter!

Food Delivery & Food Packing Volunteer Activity:
Semi Truck Food Sorting: Saturday, March 9: 9:00—11:00am
Food Packing 2 Saturdays: March 16 & 23, 8:00-11:00am both days

FOOD RUNS:
Driver Applications due by March 13

Food Run Delivery Dates
April 8th—11th: Navajo Mountain, Kayenta, Oljato (Based in Kayenta, AZ)
May 1st—4th: Many Farms, Forest Lake, Tsaile (Based in Chinle, AZ)
May 6th—10th: Leupp, Dilkon, Birdsprings, Tolani Lake (Based in Winslow, AZ)
May 13th—16th: Big Mountain, Sanders, Teesto (Based in Winslow, AZ)

FOOD RUN ORDERS:
All Food Run orders for your Elder due by Friday, March 15th.

This newsletter is brought to you through a generous donation by jlcollinsnh.com
Food Run Driver’s Application

SPRING 2024

NAME:________________________________________ PHONE:_________________________

ADDRESS:________________________________________

CITY:___________________________________ STATE:______ ZIP:_____________

EMAIL:________________________________________

VEHICLE TYPE:________________________________________

BED SIZE:________ SHELL ____YES ____NO
(Note: Vehicles need to be able to carry at least 16 food boxes. Each food box weighs 45 lbs.)

PASSENGER NAME:________________________________ PHONE:_________________________

ADDRESS:________________________________________

CITY:___________________________________ STATE:______ ZIP:_____________

EMAIL:________________________________________

I AM INTERESTED IN THE FOLLOWING FOOD RUN(S):

Please do not apply if you cannot be present for the entire Food Run area you have selected.

All Driver Applications due by March 13th, 2023.

_____ April 8-11 Navajo Mountain-Kayenta-Oljato Based in Kayenta, Arizona
_____ May 1-4: Many Farms-Forest Lake-Tsaili Based in Chinle, Arizona
_____ May 6-10: Leupp-Dilkon-Birdsprings-Tolani Lake Based in Winslow, Arizona
_____ May 13-16: Big Mountain-Sanders-Teesto Based in Winslow, Arizona

Please mail application to: Adopt-A-Native-Elder Program 328 W Gregson Ave. Salt Lake City, UT 84115
Alternatively, your Driver’s Application may be submitted online: www.AnElder.org under the Food Runs Tab.

SCAN
To Sign Up For A Food Run
WHEN EAGLES FLY

Elders we have loved and lost

**Olijato**
- Rose P. Begay
- Meta Atene

**Kayenta**
- Rose Allen
- John C. Billy (No Photo)
- Annie Rose Gray

**Navajo Mountain**
- Meta Bitsinnie

**Forest Lake**
- Arlene Etsitty
- Marie T. Lee

**Many Farms**
- Elizabeth Clah
- Jennie Todechine
- Mary Chee

**Tsaile**
- Jerome Pete

BOOK YOUR STAY EARLY IF YOU ARE INTERested IN ATTENDING THE SCOTTsdale SHOW

If you would like to attend the Scottsdale Rug Show, please book your hotel room early. Here are some suggestions for your stay:


You may also find suitable stays on these sites: www.vrbo.com and www.airbnb.com.

Cities within a short driving distance are North Scottsdale, AZ, Carefree, AZ and Cave Creek, AZ.
MEMORIALS

Candace Brownell donated in memory of Elder Pauline Smallcanyon.
Serana Hunt-Hughes donated to Elders in need in memory of her Elder Meta Atene.
Denise Poullot donated in memory of Helen M. Ashton.
Deborah Stopke donated in memory of Aunt Ethel Mae Lash.
Terry Netzley donated in memory of Sandra Netzley.
Lencie Abbott donated in memory of Delores McCabe.
Merideth Menken Poulson donated in memory of Donald Menken.
Carol Glayre donated in memory of Louis Glayre.
Reid and Elaine Carlson donated in memory of Annie Rose Grey.
Judy and David O’Day donated in memory of Mary Chee.

HONORINGS

Mindy Sanjana donated in honor of Penny Brackenbury.
Tamara Federlein donated in honor of Pamela Berg.
Bruce and Karen Miller donated in honor of Pam Berg.
Tracy Fischer donated in honor of her uncle, Robert Capalbo.
Sylvia Strike donated in honor of Geraldine Jacobson Snow’s 85th birthday.
Brian Farley donated in honor of his wife, Anne McSorley.
Nancy McFadden donated in honor of Jacque Flynn.
Jacque Flynn donated in honor of Richard and Charlie Markwell.
Mary Lyme and Doug Hixson donated in honor of Maureen Dondlinger.
Bill and Joyce Soll donated in honor of Tlesa Riehl.
Fred and Patti Palmer donated in honor of Heidi and Jim Weber.
Heidi and Jim Weber donated in honor of Fred and Patti Palmer.
Therese Lendino donated in honor of Celia Berk.
William Bennett donated in honor of his son John C. Bennett.
Pat and Deb Pridie donated in honor of Barb and But Pridie.
Gail Cowan-Wariner donated in honor of Aunt Minnie, Grandma Edna, and Grandpas Millard S&C.
Heidi Maitland donated in honor of Tammy Maitland.
Steven Deitel donated in honor of Eldridge Felder.
Ashley Barkley donated in appreciation of Margaret Parrish.
George Kirkland III donated in honor of Susan E. Boteler.
Please place your order for the spring Food Runs

MARCH 3rd:
ALL FOOD RUN MONEY DUE FOR FOOD RUNS. YOU MAY ALSO ORDER FOR THE ENTIRE YEAR NOW.

The Food Runs are very important to the Elders. They look forward to seeing everyone and receiving the food and other items from their sponsors. They dress in their best clothing and jewelry for the Food Run.

Drivers are still needed for the Food Runs. A Driver Application is on page 14 or you may fill out and submit an application on our website.

I, Marie Joe, have received my food gift certificate for the month of December 2023 and also the wood certificate. Thank you so much to all A.N.E. supporters. I am going to enjoy my Christmas dinner with my grand kids in my warm house. Than you again, sponsors, for helping me throughout the year 2023!!!
May God Bless You All. Thank you again.
Marie Joe