



2009 Tewa Holiday Project



Tewa Elder Sadie Henio along with Rich Skovlin, Ed Baron, Lee Congdon, Raynard Tungovia standing in front of the brand new Tewa Community Center. Our delivery to the new Community Center was the first event that was held in the Center. It took three or four people to get each elder out the door with their "basket". Each elder received a 12-14 lb ham, 10 lbs of apples, 10lbs of oranges, 5 lbs of potatoes, 2 lbs of carrots, 5 lbs of flour, 5 lbs of sugar, dressing mix, canned soups, chicken broth, canned peaches, canned olives, oatmeal, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, hot sauce, mac and cheese, rice, apple juice, sparkling cider, honey, nuts, candy canes, peanut brittle, pancake mix, Boysenberry syrup, and salsa. In addition they received personal items of shampoo, lotion, razors, shaving cream, tooth brushes, tooth paste, bar soap, liquid soap, playing cards, flash lights, and a blanket.

Photo Courtesy of Twila Gaseoma

\$10,420.00

As we moved through 2009 I could not help but wonder to my self and out loud, how was the recession going to impact fund raising for the Tewa Holiday Project. I am pleased and grateful to let you know that in spite of the recession, we raised \$10,420.00 dollars. In addition to the cash donations, untold dollars in used clothing and other items were collected and given to the Tewa Community. I want to personally thank each and everyone one of you for your support of the Tewa Community.



From Left to Right: Pam Klauser, Darrel James, Maudene James, Randy Crewse, Edwin Quotskuyva, Bill Klauser, Dick Dawe. The smiles tell it all. Each year the trip to deliver the baskets has been a unique experience and 2009 was no different. This year we delivered the baskets to the new Tewa Community Center. Waiting for us were many of the Tewa Elders and members of their families. We were able to experience first hand the gratitude and gratefulness expressed by the elders.

Photo Courtesy of Twila Gaseoma

A day in the life of the Travelers to Tewa....



Its 7:30 in the morning behind Judy's restaurant and it is cold! 45 Travelers in 23 cars get their last minute instructions for the trip to First Mesa.



The first of two pit stops, outside the woman's bathroom at Little America in Flagstaff. So many smiles when there is so much anxiety. We stay right on time with a 15 minute stop at Little America and another stop at the Flying J in Winslow.

From right to left: Joan Kennedy, Nancy Zoll, Ellen Brooks, Judy Skovlin, Linda Krumrie

Our destination at First Mesa is about 75 miles North and East of Winslow. The trip North out of Winslow first travels across the Navajo Reservation and then on to the Hopi Reservation. This trip up 87 North is one of my favorite Arizona drives as you pass by the remains of ancient volcanic lava flows and eroded cinder cones.





Upon our arrival at the Tewa Community Center organized mass chaos prevailed. In short order we unloaded the 23 vehicles, prepared 10 lb bags of apples and oranges, organized the bags and boxes, hams, vegetables, blankets and other items into an assembly line ready to be picked up by the Tewa Elders.

Pictured from the upper left to right: Lew and Nancy Hoyt, Justin Stallings, Emily Stallings, and Aloma Kern

Photos courtesy of Milton Crewse and Laura Van House





I encourage each and every one of you to make time to put the delivery trip to First Mesa on your Holiday schedule at least once. The positive energy released needs to be experienced first hand. The Tewa Holiday Project crosses the boundaries of culture and generations, providing a rich and rewarding experience for all. Pictured from top left: Josephine Zeena, Leonard Shupla, Verla Dewakuku, Judy Reddington, Brandon Gaseoma, Jeannie Gaseoma, Sydney Stallings, Leroy Townsend, Jean Sahmie, Vernida Polacca, Rachel Shamie, Darlene

James Photos courtesy of Milton Crewse, Laura Van House, and Twila Gaseoma



Our day ends back at La Posada and the Turquoise Room for dinner and Holiday Spirit.. I am indulging myself by posting so many of these pictures, I see so much love expressed in them. Pictured Clock-wise: Leroy and Sammy Townsend, Pat Whitfield, Linda Krumrie, Ellen Brooks, Pam and Bill Klauser, Earl and Aloma Kern, Eric Larson and Susan Riley.

Photos courtesy of Laura Van House





Pictured Clockwise from the upper left: Jack and Marilyn Morley, Claude Pahona, Laura Van House, Rachel Sahmie, Mac and Sue McGuiness and their daughter Emily and her children Justin and Sydney, Lew and Nancy Hoyt, Joe and Judy Reddington, Ralph and Ruth Johnson

Photos courtesy of Laura Van House





We have \$2,500.00 from last year and about the same from this year to award as scholarships. With our increased recognition within the Tewa Community, I am confident that we will find recipients this year. Pictured Clockwise from the upper left: Bob and Nackey Scagliotti, Randy and Milton Crewse, Nancy and Ken Zoll, Rich and Judy Skovlin, Hal and Shirley Driggs.

Photos courtesy of Laura Van House



What They Have to Say

Personally I can not sing the song of the Tewa Holiday Project loud enough, but of course I am prejudice. I asked for some feed back on the day from the folks that traveled to First Mesa and this is what they had to say

It was an outstanding day which we won't forget. At one of the tables in the reception hall was a stack of books, "Hopi Corn." The author, Duane Tawahongva, signed his book and due to my background of planting thousands of acres of corn I was particularly interested in their procedure. Where we had lunch the husband of the cook shared a lot more information of how they plant and gave me a few kernels of blue corn. I will plant them this summer so we can compare the blue corn to yellow corn. We enjoyed a good lunch and their sincere appreciation of support and gifts for their people. His grandson and other Indian children were very proud to have been invited to the White House for the 2008 Presidential Inauguration. The groups picture was shown on their mantle. We appreciated the invitation by the Morleys to be included in this group.

Ralph & Ruth Johnson

Judy and I had a wonderful time in Polacca. We appreciated the help the young men gave us in unloading those heavy fruit boxes from the pickup. Everyone seems very appreciative and all personally thanked us as we helped them take the boxes, hams and bags to their cars. The lunch was excellent and we felt a great deal of love and caring from those who prepared it. Our hosts had tears in their eyes as they thanked us for what we did for their people....a very emotional and heart warming moment for all of us. Randy, we have a lot of love and respect for you and Milton in your leadership and in the time you spend organizing this huge project. Thank you, thank you. You can sign us up for next year! Blessings,

Rich & Judy Skovlin

Merry Christmas and thanks once again for all your hard work in making the Tewa visit such a success. It was a very moving experience getting to know the people better, their appreciation and the fabulous meal at La Posada. It was also great to get to know Helen better on the drive up and back.

Recia Jenkins

The weekend was a wonderful addition to our holiday season, spending time with the Tewa and then on to La Posada. Thank you for all your efforts.

Nancy Zoll

More of What They Have to Say

The outpouring of gratitude from every Tewa we met was so heartwarming. They seemed to appreciate our caring and our traveling to visit with them at least as much as the gifts they received. They wanted to give back to us, for example through their hospitality at lunch. (The lunch we were served was terrific!) The artists wanted to share with us, too, and generously shared information about their art, their lives and Hopi culture. It was a day to make new friends and to learn. It was also a time to be moved, inspired, and filled with the true spirit of Christmas. Thanks so much, Randy, for what you do to make this wonderful experience possible for both the Tewa and the Sedona participants!

Helen Knoll

This year we found to be quite different from our former trips. With the advent of the newly constructed Tewa Community Center, the spirit and joy was obvious from the moment we arrived laden with goods and good will. To see the faces of the receiving Elders as they accepted our gifts was so gratifying; something we had not witnessed as before the recipients had arrived after we had left the drop off location. This was superb. The crowning glory was having lunch within a Tewa home where we met all generations of extended family under one roof. Conversation abounded and we felt an intimacy with the people not heretofore experienced. Of course, La Posada and the convivial time spent with friends, new and old, is always a highlight. Thank you for the experiences and joys that you make possible through your extensive efforts to let the love of the Season grow year by year.

Marilyn and Jack Morley

The experience of the Hopi Tewa Holiday project hit a new high for us. Now that we know Jeanine Gaseoma (the student whom we mentor through Futures for Children) and her family, we look forward to growing this relationship with them. We were so proud to watch our daughter and two grandchildren participate in the event, have these wonderful enriching experiences, and to see the faces and hear the kind words of appreciation from the Tewa elders.

Mac McGuinness

More of

What They Have to Say

Once again it was a great privilege to be with you and your band of Merry Caravaners this year. Our visit with the Tewa gave us our best Christmas gift of all—precious memories of the warm and interesting people we talked with.

Nackey and Bob Scagliotti

Once again, your hard work paid off and the gift to the givers was greater than the gift to the receivers. Our hearts were full when we returned home. I love the picture of you and Ruth attached. It says it all. It was great for us to help the elders load their vehicles. The personal touch was wonderful and it was obvious that this project is critically important to the Tewa. To us, this is the best part of the Christmas season!

That said, you get 5 stars for a fabulous day!! We hope to be able to do this every year. Have a wonderful holiday season. Take care,

Laurie and Dick Dawe

My Final Thoughts: I say it every year, and I mean it. The Tewa Holiday Project is the best thing that I do the entire year. I have been so enriched through this experience both in giving to the Tewa and the many new friends made at Hopi and First Mesa and in Sedona.

I want to again give many many thanks to my wife Milton for giving me free rein to pour my energies into the Tewa Holiday Project. Without her support it would not be possible.

Many thanks to Nackey and Bob Scagliotti for letting us use their home in the Cottages to stage this year's event, that really worked well, and for hosting us on the day we put the baskets together.

Many thanks to Lew Riley for running all over the country rounding up the supplies.

I want to close with the email that I received from Kathy Sahmie from the Village of Tewa: I would like to personally thank you for your time and commitment to the Tewa Holiday Project. It was rewarding for me to see and hear the positive comments from the village elders. I wish I could personally thank each individual that helps you. If you could please pass along my heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

Katherine Sahmie

I know what we do makes a difference for the families that receive our gifts.

Randy