



## Christmas in July at Cornfields Chapter

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PHOTO: Volunteers and the Ganado Fire District prepare gifts for the families of the Cornfields Chapter community.

**CORNFIELDS, Ariz.** — Last week, various partners, leaders and volunteers delivered gifts to the families of the Cornfields Chapter community. The drive-thru “Christmas in July” event was open to the public. Gifts distributed were toys, educational supplies, food, personal protective equipment (PPE), and household items.

“The pandemic may have hindered Christmas this past year, but our ‘Christmas in July’ event brightened the faces of our veterans, elderly, and our children from the Cornfields community,” said Delegate Vince James (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kinłichii, Steamboat). “We were happy to provide an uplifting experience; the community of Cornfields is truly blessed thanks to the Navajo Nation and all the volunteers who celebrated with us.”

Glenda Wheeler, the primary organizer and sponsor for the “Christmas in July” event, was driven by the kids, elders, and veterans who were affected by COVID-19. Wheeler wanted to bring the joyous time of the year to the families who lost loved ones due to the pandemic.

Lucas Garcia, Executive Director of Colorado Creating Change (CCC), a non-profit organization, was approached by Wheeler for the “Christmas in July” event to assist in delivering gifts to the Cornfields community. Garcia responded almost immediately to offer their assistance. Garcia was initially worried CCC would not be able to deliver an adequate number of gifts, but the people associated to their organization stepped in and donated many items.

Garcia created CCC when the COVID-19 pandemic began in April 2020. Garcia delivered food, water, PPE, and hygiene projects to Indigenous communities of the Navajo Nation and South Dakota. Since then, he has delivered supplies to 31 communities and plans to deliver more to other communities as soon as possible.

Through Wheeler's connections, experience, and personal interactions, she was able to receive assistance from Delegate James, Cornfields Chapter, CCC, the Vet Center, Apache County District 3 Office of the Superintendent, Ganado Fire District, Navajo Head Start, Damon-Bahe Boxing, Diné Naazbaa' Partnership and Navajo & Hopi Families COVID-19 Relief Fund.

In the spirit of giving back, the "Christmas in July" event was a success. Garcia stated, "It is a beautiful journey to be able to help people and have people willing to help their communities."

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