



10/27/2020

Thank you everyone who has donated items for our Emergency Winter drive that we have been doing since Sunday. Here are a few updates and an awesome KUNM web post. We have been able to do this thanks to YOU ALL!!! Our ABQ community rocks, way to go everyone. I am so thankful and my sentiments also come from the hundreds of faces we help light up when we are able to hand them a 'care package' (see the photo attached).

<https://www.kunm.org/post/community-steps-help-unsheltered-neighbors-abq-survive-cold-snap>

A group of us in the community worked together on Sunday to put together and distribute about 80-100 'Care Packages' of items for people living/camping/sleeping on the street and have continued the efforts this week. FaithWorks delivered them throughout Nob Hill, SE heights area and some further north off Carlisle on to Menaul between Sunday and Monday. This group included International District Healthy Communities Coalition (Cathy Sanchez), Khadijah Bottom with the Visiones Refugee's group in the International District, Ilse's outreach and ABQFaithWorks Collaborative. We all contributed different items from our Drive Through efforts both at FCUCC on Sunday (which continued the last few days) as well as the one in the International District that Ilse Biel helped coordinate which included many amazing groups one of which was the Quakers. See what these 'Care Packages' included in the picture attached.

Today, FaithWorks got about 15 sleeping bags and about 10+ blankets donated from the Allied People's Coalition that we then gave to the Hopeworks Outreach team who will get them out to the folks that need them in the morning. We donated items to Street Safe and Ilse's outreach groups today and will coordinate items to both the Francis Center and Compassion Center (Joanne Landry) tomorrow.

The 4 individuals, FaithWorks in collaboration with others, helped place in emergency hotels last night in the snow included; a 69 year old woman and her dog, a veteran on crutches, a man who has been on the street more than a year and a severely mentally ill individual who has spent his life on the streets. At 7:45p when we were leaving the room of the last individual, my heart was full. Full of gratitude, hope and ganas/desire to go home and hug my kids/family extra tight last night and praying for all those we were not able to reach so far. I can say with a certain amount of confidence that we may have saved at least one person's life last night.

If you have not been able to drive through and would still like to help out, socks and new underwear are year round items we are always in need of and of course monetary donations can be done as well here <https://www.abqfaithworks.org/contribute> Teamwork makes the dream work.

With the most gratitude,

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