

A special message from Bill Robinson and the farmers at The Crazy Chile Farm

For the second time in the past three weeks, The Crazy Chile Farmers at Transfiguration are spearheading a COVID-19 relief effort to remote parts of Northern Arizona. Three weeks ago, we organized a shipment of indigenous seeds to Havasupai farmers stranded in their homes by the virus “stay-at-home order.” Their homes and farms are in a small valley near the bottom of the Grand Canyon, in Supai Village. All mail and supplies go to Supai on mules...down a treacherous 8.5 mile trail! Farmers from three states donated seeds of corn, beans, squash, chiles, and sorghum that were delivered in time for spring planting!

Now we are faced with an even more urgent and daunting challenge. The remote Hualapai Tribal Nation covers close to 1300 square miles on the west rim of the Grand Canyon. Yet, despite a population density of about 1 person per square mile, the Tribe is suffering from the highest per capita infection rate for COVID-19...over 5%. Plus, food, drinking water, personal care items, infant and toddler supplies and livestock feed and hay are in short supply.

Here’s what has been done to help, followed by some simple steps we can all take “to be a part of the solution”: First, we formed a loose partnership with the Hualapai Incident Command Team, Native Health in Mesa, St. Mary’s Food Bank, The Arizona Department of Agriculture, the Episcopal Diocesan Council for Native American Ministries, the Native American Bar Assoc. of Phoenix (NABA), the pilots and aircraft of Angel Flight West. St. Mary’s agreed to provide for ALL of the Hualapai food and water needs. The Tribe provided a list of desperately needed items (see below), and then set up two collection points, one each in Scottsdale and at Baseline and Rural. Three churches on the Diocesan Council volunteered to collect donations of those items, St. Peters in Litchfield Park, Good Shepard in Cave Creek, and Transfiguration in Mesa. Angel Flight West agreed to provide sufficient aircraft to fly those donations from Falcon Field to Kingman where teams from the Hualapai Incident Command Team will transport it to Peach Springs. The N.A. Bar Association is raising cash, primarily to buy hay and feed for Hualapai cattle and horses. If donating at Transfiguration, leave your donations at the front door of the church. Volunteers will move them to the parish hall periodically during the course of each day. On the 9th of June all donation sites will transport the donations to Falcon Field for the flight to Hualapai. If you would prefer to give money, please bring your cash or check to the office, from 8:30 AM to Noon, Monday through Thursday. Thank you. I know, personally, from 15 years of experiences in the valley, the loving and compassionate character of our residents. I give thanks to all of you...every day! Now here’s the list.

Items and Supplies Needed

- Disposable masks and cloth/fabric masks, Latex gloves
- Cleaning supplies (including disinfectant wipes and spray, bleach spray bottles)
- Liquid hand soap and hand sanitizer
- Personal hygiene supplies (shampoo, body soap, hand soap, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste)
- Cots/ sleeping bags/ blankets, tents
- Fans/ heaters, thermometers
- Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper and tissue)
- Baby necessities (formula, wipes, diapers and pull-ups *all sizes*)
- Gatorade, Powerade, Tea, Emergen-C packets, water-electrolytes
- Trash bags, Laundry soap, First Aid Kits

ANY DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED- THANK YOU