

# EN ROUTE

Road signs for our journey  
of transition toward a more  
just and peace-filled world...  
"On earth as in heaven."

News from AMC's Faith in Action Leaf / September, 2020



## Tom and Jeanne help deliver the goods



PHOTOS: 1) Tom and Jeanne en route to Gallup. 2) Tsutima Toostsie ready to transfer the stations. 3) Hand washing station crafted at East Central Ministries. 4) Unidentified driver ready to deliver a station to a home or community center. 5) Water containers awaiting delivery from the backdrop for Somanas daughter's birthday.

July 24, 2020

"I would like to say Kwakwai n Thank you for giving us this water container, we will most definitely use this at the village house since we have no running water..."  
—text from a recipient

**H**ands at ten and two. Shoulders reared back. Cheshire grin and headed west across New Mexico's high desert terrain. This retired Teamster is quite happy to be driving a truck again. This time, my load consists of much needed supplies for the Hopi and Diné (Navajo) people who have taken such a big hit from the coronavirus.

This started when I received a call from our friend and co-elder of Albuquerque Mennonite's Faith in Action leaf, Sayrah Namaste, about the need to help with sanitary conditions in our neighboring native communities where water for hand washing is so scarce. She and East Central Ministries\*, were ready to move on the project begun earlier: A local food processor donates one-use 275-gallon plastic cubes that East Central modifies to become hand-washing stations placed where needed in Albuquerque. They are donating six.

Voila! At "Mike's" donut shop west of Gallup, New Mexico we meet up with Somanas Tootsie of 4th World Foundation\*\* who drove from Flagstaff for a quick transfer of these re-purposed creations. Her son Tsutima does the

heavy truck-to-truck transfer of the precious, awkward cargo. Somanas compassionately expresses the needs of a family that has to drive 45 minutes on rough roads to get water, of a disabled lady without running water, of large families without large water storage. Somanas and Tsutima head back to Flagstaff and after the week-end curfew, these cubes will go one by one with pick-ups to waiting families.

Somanas texts update us on the hand-washing stations. One is at Hotevilla village house serving the extended family of an elder; others are in the 2nd Mesa area. Two are serving Diné communities. All are home.

Now my hope is that we all can continue to cooperate as we try to survive and defeat this terrible virus.

—Tom Elmhurst

\*East Central Ministries is our local recipient of AMC's first fruits tithes and often a placement for our Service Adventure participants.

\*\* [www.4thworldfoundation.org](http://www.4thworldfoundation.org)