



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Navajo Nation Council members deliver toys to children in hospitals

**WINDOW ROCK** – The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council spread the holiday joy this week by visiting hospitals across the Navajo Nation and delivering toys for hospitalized children and newborns who are unable to be home for the holidays. The hospitals included Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Center, Tséhootsooí Medical Center, Tuba City Regional Health Care Center, and Shiprock Medical Center.

“On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, we made our Navajo children the priority during this holiday season. This is a time to celebrate the joy of giving and demonstrating compassion. Our children give joy and love to our families, communities, and Nation each and every day,” stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

On Monday, Council Delegate Leonard H. Pete (Chinle) delivered gifts and spread the holiday message to families and children who were admitted patients at Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Center.

“The holiday season is the time of giving, cherishing our families, and appreciating the gift of life. It’s sad that some of our children cannot spend the holidays with their families due to illnesses, but we are thinking of them of them and praying for them,” stated Delegate Pete.

The children at each hospital accepted the gifts from the Council with joy and excitement.

“I did not think I was going to get a gift today at the hospital. I missed two days of school and I was worried about my grades, but I am happy that our Navajo leaders thought about me,” stated an 8-year boy who was visited by Council Delegate Otto Tso (Tó Nanees Dizi) on Wednesday at Tuba City Regional Health Care Center.

“Continue to stay strong *shiyazhí*, my child, because your parents and siblings depend on you. Continue to be joyful during this difficult time and always pray for yourself. You will feel wonderful in a few days and you will be back home with your family,” stated Delegate Tso to the group of children at TCRHCC.

On Friday, Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) and Speaker Bates delivered toys to newborn babies at Shiprock Medical Center.

“It was an amazing feeling to give the newborn babies their first Christmas gifts. Our Navajo babies are so precious and adorable. I always encourage our Navajo mothers and fathers to teach their children the Navajo culture and language because they will continue to make our Nation stronger in the future. We have to appreciate and love our Navajo children everyday,” stated Delegate Chee.

“On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I would like to extend our appreciation to Chinle Comprehensive Health Care Center, Tséhootsooí Medical Center, Tuba City Regional Health Care Center, and Shiprock Medical Center for their wonderful hospitality and for their dedication to care of our Navajo children and elders. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season,” added Speaker Bates.

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