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President Ben Shelly Tours Food Pantry

GALLUP, N.M. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly toured one of the areas largest food pantries Wednesday morning to explore ways the Navajo Nation can partner with the pantry.

“I have long supported The Community Pantry since I was McKinley County Commissioner. Now that I am President of the Navajo Nation, I want to see what we can do as a Nation to partner with The Community Pantry since they serve a great number of our Navajo people,” President Shelly said at the conclusion of his tour.



The Community Pantry Director Tim Kelley (left) shows President Ben Shelly and First Lady Martha Shelly the type of foods families can expect in a regular food basket from the pantry.

The Community Pantry opened its doors in 1999 and serves about 37,000 people annually. Nearly 90 percent are Native American which are mostly Navajo.

However, the demand for food often forces the pantry to turn people away.

President Shelly said he wanted to explore a partnership with The Community Pantry through programs such as the Division of Social Services and the Navajo Department of Health.

“They serve a lot of our people, and we should do what we can to help them,” President Shelly said.

During his visit, President Shelly toured the garden, warehouse of donated foods, and conference rooms that are available for use at the 21,000 square feet building.

“I support what you are doing here,” President Shelly said.

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