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President Ben Shelly Helps Community

THOREAU, N.M. – Nearly 50 families will be a little bit warmer this Holiday Season thanks to efforts from Navajo President Ben Shelly.

Shelly and his staff were at Thoreau Chapter House Dec. 20, Tuesday afternoon loading trucks and cars with wood that was harvested near Sawmill, Ariz.

“I want to make sure that my administration is helping people stay warm in these winter months,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly’s efforts to bring people wood were timely because a recent winter storm walloped the eastern part of the Navajo Nation.

As residents lined in cars and trucks to receive about a quarter of a cord of pine, some talked about their conditions at home and estimated the snow to be knee deep in some areas.

Trucks and cars spun their tires as they backed up to the flatbed trailer that was loaded with seven cords of wood.

“We want to streamline the services and help the Navajo people as much as we can,” President Shelly added.

As 48 trucks and cars received wood, the President also directed a cord of wood to be delivered to the home of Ralph Delgarito.



Navajo President Ben Shelly helps his executive staff load wood into trucks and cars for nearly 50 families.



Presidential Assistant Philip Kinlichee, left, assists Chief of Staff Sherrick Roanhorse with unload wood to Ralph Delgarito's home.

Delgarito lives north of Thoreau High School and about a half mile off the nearest paved road.

He wasn't home when the President's staff arrived Tuesday afternoon, but the President knew of Delgarito's condition.

Delgarito didn't have any wood until Tuesday and since he has dialysis treatment perform twice a week, he needed help.

"I wanted to make sure Ralph and his family was warm. I wish I could deliver wood to all the Navajo people, but with limited resources, we try to seek out those in the most need," President Shelly said.

The wood delivered in Thoreau was gathered by a host of Navajo Nation offices including: Facilities Maintenance, Forestry Department, Navajo Division of Transportation, Navajo Tax Commission, Division of Human Resources, Division of Social Services, and the Office of the President and Vice President.

"I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year," the President said.

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