

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.
Matthew 25:40*

All Saints has been given an incredible gift in the receipt of the unbelievably generous funds from Harry and Margaret Bibra. This gift will certainly make a difference on the future of All Saints Lutheran Church. In turn, All Saints congregation has chosen to share these funds to make a difference to deserving charitable organizations that make a very meaningful difference in our community.

In October, three checks for \$9,000 each were distributed to the first three organizations identified to receive funds from us – *Storehouse West, New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, and Camino de Vida*. Each of the members of these organizations expressed profound gratitude that we would so generously consider donating to them and described the impact that our donation would make on their organization and its contribution to the community.

Storehouse West: We met with Jim Payne, Executive Director, who is 1 of only 2 paid staff at *Storehouse West*, which depends primarily on volunteer workers. *Storehouse West* is a nonprofit organization providing food, children's clothing, and personal supplies to a large number of



individuals, families, and seniors in Rio Rancho and the surrounding communities. In 2015 over 249,000 meals were distributed to feed almost 16,000 people. Jim reported that the All Saints' donation would make the hope of replacing an old and failing van become the reality of getting a new vehicle enabling them to continue to have the resource for collecting donated food from stores and making deliveries to the homebound and to seniors.





New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty: Stacey Leaman, Director of Development, and Kelsey O’Keefe, Development Associate, met with us at the Center on Law & Poverty office in downtown Albuquerque and discussed the statewide activities and services of their organization. This is a nonprofit law firm who receives no state or federal government funding and is dependent on private grants and donations. The All Saints’ donation would benefit their attorneys’ work in advocacy and litigation to address issues that most impact those living in poverty. Their focus is on expanding healthcare access; defending the food and cash assistance safety net; providing educational opportunities, and fighting for the rights of low wage workers. Monies received are immediately put to work on behalf of New Mexico’s poorest families and All Saints’ contribution will have a huge impact on this work.



Camino de Vida: Pastor Guillermo Yela met us at their new *Camino de Vida* facility in the South Valley where they relocated approximately a year ago. This is a rapidly growing Presbyterian/Lutheran Mission church that is in the process of updating an aging building, providing ministry and assistance to their Hispanic community, and conducting a variety of classes for their ever increasing numbers of young children. They currently have insufficient space and are trying to expand classroom facilities. As Pastor Guillermo looked at the check from All Saints, he showed us a large, empty field on their property and very appreciatively said, “Now we can get our portable classroom”.



*And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.
Hebrews 13:16*