



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 16, 2024

25th Navajo Nation Council Celebrates Yá'át'ééh Késhmish with NAOMI House



Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley talks with the children at NAOMI House.

JOSEPH CITY, Ariz. – The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the Speaker hosted a joyful and heartfelt Yá'át'ééh Késhmish celebration on Saturday at NAOMI House, spreading holiday cheer, cultural connection, and the spirit of giving to children in the foster home.

Navajo Nation Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Council Delegate Shaandiin Parrish, Miss Navajo Nation 2024-2025 Ranisha C. Begay, and staff from the Office of the Speaker joined the children for storytelling, creative activities, and celebrations rooted in Diné traditions, reflecting the core values of K'é (kinship) and hózhó (harmony).

"The holidays can be a difficult time for children who have faced hardships," Speaker Curley said. "It is our duty to bring the warmth of K'é and the beauty of hózhó to these children. In the spirit of giving, we hope to remind them that they are loved, valued, and connected to a larger family—our Navajo Nation."

Council Delegate Parrish shared her personal reflections on leadership and the importance of serving the Navajo people. "When Speaker Curley was Miss Navajo Nation, I was a high school student inspired by her leadership and dedication to our people," said Parrish. "Now, as we serve together on the 25th Navajo Nation Council, I want to encourage the children here: no dream is too big. With hard work and belief in yourself, you can achieve incredible opportunities."

The evening featured activities that blended holiday joy with Navajo tradition. Children decorated gingerbread houses, wrote letters to Santa Claus, and gathered to hear traditional Navajo winter stories. Miss Navajo Nation Ranisha C. Begay enchanted the children with tales of the constellations, the Navajo Shoe Game, and personal family stories.

“Storytelling is more than entertainment; it is how we pass on the teachings of our ancestors,” said Miss Navajo Nation. “These stories remind us of who we are, where we come from, and the strength of our cultural heritage. They give us a sense of belonging and identity.”

The celebration concluded with a gift distribution through the Toys for Tots program, leaving the children with bright smiles and treasured memories. The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the Speaker reaffirmed their commitment to the safety, well-being, and bright futures of all Diné children.

NAOMI House (Native American Outreach Ministries, Inc.) is a non-profit organization providing a safe, loving, and nurturing home for Native American children in crisis. Located in Northern Arizona, NAOMI House serves as a refuge for children experiencing neglect, abuse, or hardship, offering stability and care while honoring their cultural roots.

Founded by Linda and Gene Brubaker, NAOMI House continues to be a cornerstone of compassion, dedicated to offering hope, healing, and faith-based support to Native American youth in need.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends its gratitude to the Navajo Nation Police Department for providing Toys for Tots gifts, the NAOMI House for their support in organizing the event, and all Legislative Branch staff whose efforts contributed to the event’s success.

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