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## **OUR STORY**

Welcome to Manuelito Navajo Children's Home website. We are proud to present to you our history and plans for the future.

Our story begins in 1959, Mr. and Mrs. Atchison, a pair of missionaries from Dallas, Texas came to the Navajo Reservation to teach Bible to the Navajo People. The Navajo came.....not to study, but to drop of children they could no longer care for! The Atchison's and their sponsors immediately went to work and renovated the missionary buildings into rooms to accommodate their new guests!! It was obvious to them....God hadn't sent them to teach bible to the adults but rather to care for and teach the Navajo children! Their path was apparent.

Mr. Atchison began hunting property to build more permanent accommodations. He discovered 25 acres for sale just outside the Navajo Reservation in 1960 so he immediately hit the road to raise the money. After many miles and many contacts Mr. Atchison raised the necessary funds.....thanks to compassionate, kind and generous people like you. Through the years Manuelito has grown to approximately 40 acres.

The first two cottages for the Navajo Children were completed in 1965 and the 3rd in 1966. Each cottage is designed to house 10 children and one set of house parents. The gym was added in 1970 and the current Christian school building (a cottage renovated into classrooms) was finished in 1982. Mr. Atchison became director of the home in 1963 and he and Mrs. Atchison worked at the home for 25 years until they retired in 1988. The current Superintendent/Executive Director, Jim Christian, has been at the helm for over 10 years. Many dedicated and hard working people have kept Manuelito going through the years.

However, friends, 2022 finds the Navajo children in trouble!!! No amount of hard work and dedication can help the crumbling buildings. Those cottages, so lovingly built in 1965/66, have crumbling foundations and can only be braced so many times until they are uninhabitable. The gym, food pantry/clothing building, shop, and school are all dated and need to be replaced.

To add to the frustration, Jim Christian, (Superintendent), turns away as many as 3 children a week because Manuelito can no longer house the added demand for the neglected, abused, and homeless Navajo children. Our goal in the next 5 years is to replace the old crumbling buildings, add more cottages to house more children, and build a proper school building to accommodate all of the children! It is quite a challenge but we know with God's direction, your prayers, and with your generosity we can accomplish all 5 phases of Project: "NEW HOPE".

NAVAJO CHILDREN'S HOME