



The Heart of Volunteers: Wing Serves Communities Beyond Its Borders

Capt. Maryan Tooker of the Nevada Wing sews masks for distribution during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Nevada Wing has worked to serve the state's residents since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Through a renewed relationship with the state Department of Emergency Management, wing members answered the call to deliver much-needed personal protective equipment and food to numerous towns and Native American tribes. Nevada is over 110,000 square miles in size, with vast areas of desolate, open desert between towns and tribes, presenting a substantial challenge to reach remote communities.

Wing members manufactured some 1,045 face masks for distribution throughout the state and beyond Nevada's boundaries, including the Navajo Nation, Rosebud Indian Reservation, and needy families in Oregon. Tyrone Begay, chapter planner for the Chinle Community of the Navajo Nation, said, "We needed to determine how best to help our community and in doing so a request for masks came about ... through these contributions, we were able to provide masks for local elders in the community first ... soon we were able to give to anyone in need. The number of masks donated was a godsend ...

thank you very much for the care, compassion, and willingness to help."

Assisted living facilities were hit hard by the virus; 100 hand-sewn masks were delivered to elderly residents in Reno. Southern Nevada wing members also distributed supplies to people in need.

People in crisis received not only protective materials and food but also the critical knowledge that others care. "The Nevada Wing is proud of its contributions to the well-being of our state and beyond, standing ready to assist whenever and however we can," said Col. Deborah Pierce, wing commander.