

Backpack kits support The Center's Pando Home

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The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Lee and Cheryl Trapani of Cameron Park delivered 30 Pando Home Welcome Backpack Kits to staff members at The Center, an organization that provides comprehensive services and programs for families impacted by violence and abuse. The Center's Pando Home is a safe transitional housing facility where residents may stay until they are able to move out on their own.

The July 6 donation was the culmination of the efforts of many volunteers who assembled the backpack kits during a Watch Party held June 26 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Cameron Park. Watch Parties, held at LDS church buildings throughout the United States, streamed a performance celebrating the Tabernacle Choir's 100th anniversary of its first performance at the Hollywood Bowl. The 120-minute program featured special performances by guest artists and beloved choir favorites. In keeping with the choir's global mission, all revenue from ticket sales, along with audience contributions, was matched by the church and donated to charities supporting the well-being of women and children.

In concert with that mission, local

volunteers filled the backpacks with items including hoodies, flip-flops, journals, pens, coloring books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, markers, socks and more to make life just a bit easier for Pando Home residents escaping domestic violence.

"The backpacks have been incredibly well-received," staff member Morgen Earle said. "In fact, last week we had 10 backpacks distributed. The clients were so incredibly grateful and thrilled with the contents as they make their lives a little more comfortable and 'normal' as they continue working toward self-sufficiency."

"We came to The Center as a shattered family," one family shared. "The staff helped pick up the pieces, then gave us the tools we needed to put our family back together."

The Center has been helping families for nearly 40 years. Its mission is to provide structure, support and guided discussion with a focus on accountability, skill-building and practical strategies participants can use immediately in their relationships and daily lives. By helping families overcome challenges, The Center aims to keep families together so they can grow and thrive.

To learn more about The Center, its programs, services, volunteer opportunities and donation options call (530) 626-1450 or visit thecenternow.org.



Courtesy photo

Morgen Earle of The Center received 30 backpack donations from Lee, left, and Cheryl Trapani, right.