



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
Office of the Speaker

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Children, Residents Receive Pumpkin Donations

SAINT MICHAELS, Ariz. – Oct. 7, 2019 – Pumpkins were delivered Monday, October 7, to the children and residents of the Saint Michaels Association for Special Education and the children of the Hogan Hozhoni children's home in Saint Michaels.



PHOTO: Eight of 27 children in the care of Hogan Hozhoni in Saint Michaels, Arizona stand outside the children's home as Speaker Seth Damon and staff unload pumpkins on Monday, October 7, 2019.

The pumpkins were part of a donation to area organizations that provide care services to those with special needs or are separated from their parents.

SMASE currently works with 53 children and adults from the age of 6 and older with moderate to severe developmental disabilities. The association cares for Navajo people from all parts of the Navajo Nation with special needs.

Speaker Seth Damon thanked the staff and administration of the association for providing needed services for Navajo people. “You are the backbone of our community,” said Speaker Damon.

### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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Pumpkins were also delivered to Hogan Hozhoni, which is a children's home that is operated by members of the Mennonite congregation. The children in their care are as old as eleven years of age and have been separated from their birth parents.

“As we begin the new year, it's important to remember all the Navajo people that need special care or a place to call home. For our Navajo children that need parents and homes, the Navajo Nation Council encourages our people to consider volunteering or to become providers and adoptive parents,” said 24th Navajo Nation Council Delegate Edison Wauneka, who represents the chapters of Saint Michaels and Oaksprings.

Both SMASE and Hogan Hozhoni plan to hold pumpkin carving and pie making activities over the coming weeks for the children and residents in their care.



PHOTO: Eight children and residents and four staff members from the Saint Michaels Association for Special Education were present as pumpkins were delivered on Monday, October 7, 2019.

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