



Community contributes 9,900 pounds of shoes

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Photo courtesy of Beth Schimmel

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Blue Ridge Girls' Soccer Team shoe drive volunteers (from left) include Sydney Crain, Mikayla Schimmel, Meagan Moore and Nichole Bratsch.

Henderson.

Collected shoes are consolidated and shipped to on-the-ground business operators where they clean, repair or melt down outsoles if necessary, to make a new pair of shoes.

"It is nothing short of amazing to watch the micro-enterprise philosophy at work, driven simply by your shoe drive. Unlike donating your shoes to a shoe donation bin or shoe recycling fundraiser, the shoes you no longer want or wear are creating sustainable economic means in countries where there is little hope economic stability," Henderson said. "Recipients of your shoe drive are eternally appreciative and become incredibly resourceful with the products they receive. Micro-entrepreneurs repurpose every donation into a new pair of shoes or usable goods. Your gently worn, used shoes still have life-changing impact left in them."

And the donations have a local impact too, explained NCDP Director Debe Campbell.

"No only do we keep these shoes out of our local landfills, but we receive about 40-cents per pair of shoes donated. This year, our 9,900 pounds of shoes earned \$3,960 for our non-profit Friends of Navajo County Anti-Drug Coalition Inc., the non-profit funds substance abuse prevention programs and the annual summer Junior Leadership Academy for local youth," she said.

Board President David Butterfield chaired the drive this year, with volunteer assistance from scores of people.

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NAVAJO COUNTY — Community members contributed more than 18,000 shoes in the second annual Navajo County Drug Project shoe drive. Shoes were contributed from Holbrook, Winslow, Show Low, Snowflake-Taylor, Heber-Overgaard, Pinetop-Lakeside and White Mountain Lakes.

The Blue Ridge High School girls' soccer team donated community service hours to sort and bag the hoards of shoes and Navajo County Adult Probationers helped load a semi-truck full with bags of shoes that were stored during the five-month drive in units donated by Midway Mini Storage.

In the U.S. alone, about 600 million pairs of shoes are thrown away each year. Gently worn shoes are used in developing nations for impoverished people to start, maintain and grow a micro-enterprise.

Because of this opportunity, individuals are able to feed, clothe, and house their families, according to Funds2Org's Chief Fundraising Strategist Tom