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Phoenix Irish Cultural Center and McClelland to Serve as Donation Drop Off Location in Aid of Navajo Nation

The Irish Community remembers the kindness of the Choctaw Nation during the Great Famine and seeks to repay the kindness to Native Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic

PHOENIX (May 13, 2020) – The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library will serve as a donation drop off hub for supplies going to support the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe in Arizona. On May 16-17 and May 23-24, members of the community may drop off goods and supplies at the Phoenix location between 9 AM and 12 PM.

In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of volunteers, the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library has developed a set of procedures for community members to follow when they come to drop off supplies. These procedures can be found on the [Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library website](#). Interested members of the community can visit www.nndoh.org/donate for an official list of the medical items needed as well as the official donation site for the tribe.

The global Irish community has a long-standing relationship with the Native American community; during the Great Irish Famine in the mid-1800s, the Choctaw Nation raised funds to support Irish people suffering from the potato famine. In an act of thanks and repayment, Irish people around the world have rallied to provide much needed support to the Navajo and Hopi tribes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This effort to allow the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library to serve as a central drop off point is but a simple act to provide our friends and neighbors with life-saving support,” said Leslie Thompson, President of the Board. “We Irish do not forget when a kindness is paid to us and we are happy to be doing what we can to repay Native Americans’ generosity to us during one of our most trying times in history.”

The Navajo Nation has been impacted severely by the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 2,500 positive cases and 79 deaths reported as of May 5, 2020. Attorney General of the Navajo Nation, Doreen McPaul, spoke to Irish radio hosts on *Morning Ireland* on the impact of COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation and to provide more info on the connection between Ireland and Native Americans. Listen here: <https://soundcloud.com/morning-ireland/navajo-nation-thanks-ireland-for-covid-19-donations>

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About the Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library: The mission of the Irish Cultural Center is to Celebrate and promote Irish and Celtic Heritage and its influence on and partnership with other cultures. The goal of the McClelland Library is to make accessible a comprehensive collection of materials on Ireland and the Irish diaspora on the role of Irish-Americans in Arizona and the Western United States. The Irish Cultural Center and McClelland Library are divisions of the Irish Cultural & Learning Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, and are owned and maintained by the City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation Department.