

## Access for All: The Owen Project's Impact on Navajoland

By Margaret Putnam



*A Starlink at the Hogan in Oljato, Utah.*

For many years now, it has been a dream of the clergy of Navajoland to develop a ministry that provides internet and computer access to our more remote congregations on and around the Navajo reservation.

That dream has come true with the help of The Owen Project, which is a part of the mission outreach program at St Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Mark and Sally Keddal created the Owen Project in memory of their son Owen. Their ministry, supported by their church and their rector, Rev. Stephen Shortess, is to write grants for the materials needed to bring internet and computer services to places with little or no

access to this now-necessary life tool.

We have received 3 Starlink satellites and 30 of 56 laptops, which will be divided among the three regions in Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona. Each region will develop a computer lab location that will be available to individuals and families at select times for schoolwork, scheduling doctor appointments, and other personal business. In addition, the clergy hope to utilize the resources for online VBS, as well as online coverage of special services or events at our more remote locations, such as St Mary's in Oljato, Utah, and St Mark's in Coalmine, New Mexico, where internet is unavailable.

Additionally, our remot-

er congregations can participate in regular ZOOM meetings of the various councils and committees that direct the many ministries of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland, further enabling our effective ministry to our children and elders.

For more information on The Owen Project, check out their website at: <https://theowenproject.wordpress.com/2011/01/>

For more information on the partnership between The Owen Project and Navajoland:

<https://www.dwtx.org/blog/world-missions-ministry-spotlight-the-owen-project-moves-to-navajoland>

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