USU Eastern alum Bud Frazier, a registered nurse, is coordinator of NavajoStrong, a grassroots effort to collect and distribute critical supplies across the Navajo Nation. Courtesy Krista Allen, Navajo Times.

Utah State University Eastern alum Bud Frazier, a registered nurse, who serves as operations manager at Mountainlands Community Health Center in Lehi, Utah.

When Frazier, a member of the Navajo Nation, saw the pandemic unfolding, he teamed with his parents, Aggie alumni and USU Blanding employees Curtis and Teresa Frazier, to determine how to help.

“We came up with the idea of ‘NavajoStrong,’ a non-profit, grassroots effort to collect critical supplies and distribute them to families throughout the reservation,” says Bud, whose own family has been touched by the tragedy. His mother Teresa has lost two uncles and an aunt to the virus. The Frazier family has been soliciting donations of non-perishable food items, bottled water, baby needs, cleaning and hygiene supplies and other necessities, recruiting volunteers and distributing goods to families throughout the reservation.

Among volunteers who’ve joined the effort are USU Biology and Ecology doctoral students Elizabeth Simpson, Megen Kepas and Hannah Wilson, who are sewing masks and collecting supplies in Cache Valley to send to the reservation. All three of the scholars are facilitators in USU’s Native American Summer Mentorship Program. They learned of the NavajoStrong project from Curtis Frazier, a founding faculty NASMP member. Read the entire story here.