

DREAM BIG

Blankets of love cover Pueblo

Denver group gives local children gifts of warmth

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THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

Joziah Martinez loves the Denver Broncos.

So when the 7-year-old got a chance to pick out his very own bag full of bedding and other goods, he made a beeline to the orange and blue one.

It was his second choice behind Batman, which wasn't available Saturday.

"Broncos," he shouted to his mother Trina James, right before he

hailed the soft, heavy load from a table.

Joziah and other Pueblo needy children were participating in an event hosted by Sweet Dream in a Bag, an organization that packs bedding and small gifts to give to children across Colorado.

Pueblo Fire Station No. 4 had more than 50 packages ready for children who, along with their families, were transported to the event via bus.

"He's so happy," James

said. "This is so nice. I've never seen anything like this in Pueblo."

James said bedding is something important that people don't always look to donate.

"He's going to really be able to sleep comfortably. This is such a good thing for us," James said.

Pueblo organizations, including Pueblo Transit, Posada and the Steel City Kiwanis Club, hosted the event.

The Kiwanis presented

Sweet Dream founders Susie and Wayne Fox with a donation check of \$1,250. That is enough to provide for 50 children.

"The best thing is seeing the smiles on their

SEE BEDDING, 2A

Joziah Martinez, 7, and his mom Trina James check out Joziah's new Broncos-themed bedding items, given to him Saturday by Sweet Dream in a Bag, a Denver organization.

CHIEFTAIN PHOTO/JOHN JAQUES

faces," Wayne Fox said.

The Denver couple started the program seven years ago after Susie Fox got the idea to help as she watched an episode of the popular TV show "Extreme Makeover."

She was inspired to address the home con-

ditions of children in her community.

The original goal was to provide 20-30 needy children a year with bedding. Since it started, the program has supplied close to 7,500 children.

"We go up and down the Front Range, from

Fort Collins all the way to Alamosa," Wayne Fox said.

Most of the bedding is donated, but the organization also pays for it through funds and monetary donations, such as the one from Pueblo Saturday.

Each pack includes

a comforter, sheets, a fleece blanket, a pillow, a Beanie Baby toy, a toothbrush and toothpaste, and a wooden car donated by Kiwanis.

The children also received a special book called "You Are Awesome!" which volunteers read to each child

after they received their packs.

"We are very excited that they are in our community today," said Brenda Broyles, director of transit for Pueblo Transit and a member of Steel City Kiwanis Club. anthonym@chieftain.com

