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CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY PREPARES 2,700 FOOD BASKETS FOR THANKSGIVING MEALS

Baskets filled with enough ingredients to feed a large family
November 24, 2002

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), Jewel-Osco, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), plus 100 staff and volunteers, have joined forces to prepare 2,700 food baskets for some of the CHA's neediest families.

CHA CEO Terry Peterson was on hand this morning to help pack the Thanksgiving baskets, which were assembled at the Central Advisory Council office located at 243 E. 32nd St. Each basket contains a turkey weighing at least 10 pounds, and several other items like cranberry sauce, boxes of macaroni and cheese, sweet peas, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, dinner rolls and a cake or pie. There is one basket per family and each one contains a roasting pan.

"We want our residents to know that they're important to us," Peterson said. "We're not just concerned about putting up new buildings, but about building stronger families. Helping them enjoy a holiday together is one more way to prove it."

Well-organized teams placed the food into new, large laundry baskets so families can get further use of the baskets once the food is unpacked.

Staff and volunteers will begin distributing the baskets Monday, Nov. 25th after the annual NCCJ Interfaith Thanksgiving Observance. During that observance, an offering is collected, part of which goes toward the cost of the baskets.

"Thanksgiving is the one holiday we can all celebrate together," said Rev. Stanley L. Davis Jr., the Executive Director of NCCJ. "NCCJ is again pleased to help provide food baskets for public housing residents."

Jewel donated 2,000 meals, and NCCJ and CHA donated a combined 750 meals. These three organizations, along with CHA's not-for-profit affiliate, Windows of Opportunity, together provided over \$50,000 dollars to help make this effort possible.

The Thanksgiving basket preparation and distribution is one of several CHA holiday initiatives. CHA's annual holiday initiatives aim to provide residents

with a healthy, happy and safe holiday season.