

Holiday Resources for Individuals and Families in Need

The Salvation Army – Alaska Division provides Christmas food boxes across the state in December for families that meet income guidelines. They are looking for volunteers and donations. Distribution varies from community to community. This year they will be providing Christmas food boxes in Fairbanks, Homer, Juneau, Wrangell, Kenai, Kodiak, Palmer, and Anchorage. For information and how to donate, visit www.salvationarmyalaska.org.

Hope for Heroes provides assistance to military families and veterans in need during the holiday season. It also sends care packages to Alaska's deployed troops throughout the year. Services are provided by appointment only for active-duty military families and veterans. For information, or to donate, call 907-357-4673 or hopeforheroesak@yahoo.com.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Juneau provides special holiday assistance for people in need with food and gift baskets. The program is for low-income individuals and families, and people with disabilities, and requires picture identification and proof of income for eligibility. The deadline to sign up is December 15. Call 907-789-5535 between 1-3 p.m., Monday through Friday for information. To donate, visit www.svdpusa.org.

Love in the Name of Christ of the Tanana Valley provides an "Adopt a Family" for a limited number of local families at Christmas in Fairbanks, North Pole, and Salcha. Local businesses adopt a family and receive a list of requests from them. Families receive Christmas trees and wrapped gifts from donors. The holiday program is one time only, and clients are not eligible if they have been an "adopted family" in the past. To apply or to donate, call 907-452-3876, or email info@loveinclairbanks.org, or visit www.loveinclairbanks.org.

Food Bank of Alaska distributes large quantities of food during the holidays to people in need in Anchorage. The nonprofit organization also partners with food assistance programs in communities across the state. A list of those communities and contacts can be found on its website at www.foodbankofalaska.org. People interested in donating to the program can do so through the website, or in person at the Food Bank of Alaska Anchorage warehouse located at 2121 Spar Avenue between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Food Bank of Alaska is still looking for hundreds of volunteers on December 15 and 16 to distribute groceries and toys. Interested parties can sign up for volunteer shifts through its website.

Abused Women's Aid In Crisis in Anchorage assists single individuals and adults with children who are survivors of domestic violence for their holiday giving program. Volunteers can adopt a family or individual, which includes purchasing items from a family's wish list and assisting with holiday meals and decorations. To volunteer for the program call 907-743-5753 or visit its website at www.awaic.org. Donations can also be made through their website.

Fairbanks Community Food Bank is still looking for items for its holiday food boxes. Their goal is to provide 275 Christmas food boxes this year. The program serves roughly 200 people per day with its emergency food boxes, so donations for the holiday boxes are appreciated. For information or to donate, go to www.fairbaksfoodbank.org.

Downtown Soup Kitchen, located at 240 E. 3rd Avenue in Anchorage, is looking for volunteers, donated goods and materials, and financial support. They serve between 350-500 cups of soup daily Monday through Friday, from noon to 1:30 p.m., and more than 110,000 meals annually. They also have showers and laundry services, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., as well as emergency hygiene needs. It also operates the offers clothing for job interviews. Downtown Soup Kitchen is a "Pick, Click, Give" organization through the Permanent Fund Dividend. Donations are accepted at www.downtownsoupkitchen.org, or by sending a check or money order to P.O. Box 202684, Anchorage, AK 99520.

Bean's Café in Anchorage is seeking donations for its Christmas dinner as well for its "Beanie Boxes" Christmas gift-giving program. Donations can be made through their website at www.beanscafe.org, or in person at 1101 E 3rd Avenue in Anchorage. Bean's Café is also looking for volunteers to help with their Christmas dinner.

The Glory Hole emergency shelter and soup kitchen in Juneau is currently seeking donations for its Christmas food boxes. Needs range from everything from frozen turkeys and ham, to butter, stuffing and cranberry jelly. Food donations can be dropped off in person at 247 South Franklin Street in Juneau, or financial donations can be made through its website at www.feedjuneau.org. For volunteer opportunities or