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For immediate release.

Cook Inlet Tribal Council Takes Lead on Alaska KIDS Program

Partnership with Rasmuson Foundation will provide clothing to children statewide

Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) is spearheading the Alaska program for KIDS (Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc.), a national organization focused on providing supplies to children in need, such as clothing and diapers. The program has been operating in Alaska for five years under the leadership of the Food Bank of Alaska.

“We are very excited by the opportunity to reach out to our neighbors across the state,” said Gloria O’Neill, CITC President and CEO. “We’re based in Anchorage, but CITC provides services to people from all over Alaska. We are committed to our Alaskan community.”

CITC recently received a shipment of approximately 2900 pairs of winter footwear for distribution to partners statewide. As the Community Distribution Agency for the KIDS program operations in Alaska, CITC receives the bulk deliveries and sorts and repackages the goods for shipment to partners in Bethel, Fairbanks, Juneau, Nome, and Anchorage. Delivery contents are generally unknown until just before shipment. Since its introduction to Alaska five years ago, the KIDS program has distributed clothing and children's products worth over \$1.8M to low-income children.

KIDS works directly with manufacturers and retailers of children's products to receive donations of new apparel, shoes, toys, and other items such as diapers. The donated items are delivered through community agencies to children who are ill, living in poverty, shelters, foster homes, or are victims of natural disasters. Past and present statewide partner agencies have included Catholic Community Services (Juneau); Kawerak, Inc. (Nome); Fairbanks Community Food Bank; Fairbanks Salvation Army; Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (Bethel); Abbott Loop Community Services (Anchorage); and New Hope on the Last Frontier (Anchorage), and Manna Food and Clothing Pantry (MatSu).

For more information on CITC and the KIDS program, contact Jorie Paoli at 793-3272.

Photo/Footage Opportunity: Monday, January 25, 1 pm, CITC transportation center

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Cook Inlet Tribal Council, Inc. (CITC) is a tribal non-profit organization in Anchorage, Alaska, that offers opportunities to Alaska Natives and American Indians in the Cook Inlet region. CITC is an innovative leader in the social service arena, helping program participants pursue opportunities to develop their personal potential and self-reliance.