

# Volunteers needed to help stranded Rural Alaskans

Would your family be interested in providing temporary housing on a volunteer basis for rural Alaskans who temporarily find themselves stranded in Anchorage?

Often, Alaskan Native Villagers who accompany to Anchorage family members undergoing treatment at the Alaska Native Medical Center, find themselves without housing when the hospital care for their family member extends longer than expected. The Association for Stranded Rural Alaskans has attempted to remedy this and similar situations by obtaining a listing of families in Anchorage who would be willing, on a volunteer basis, to provide temporary housing of not more than three days to these stranded families. Association members would attempt to screen all stranded persons to assure that they would be present unexpected problems to the volunteer families providing the housing.

If your family would be interested in being included on a listing of available volunteer households who would be

willing to accept stranded Villagers into your home, please contact the office of the Alaska Native Commission on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse (ANCADA), 750 East Fireweed Lane in Anchorage; phone: 274-5531. ANCADA is assisting the Association in this effort.

Other services which the Association would provide pending funding approval in September by the Anchorage Assembly include:

1. Working with Alaskan Native Villages so that a system might be developed whereby Alaskan Native Village residents coming to Anchorage might be given a card containing a few emergency Anchorage contacts in the event they find themselves stranded in Anchorage;

2. Providing transportation for stranded rural Alaskans in Anchorage and providing them with emergency overnight housing at the Municipality's proposed Itinerant Center;

3. Screening and bringing such Villagers from the Itinerant Center to a volunteer family for temporary shelter;

4. Assisting rural Villagers in obtaining needed referral/social services in Anchorage;

5. To provide, in conjunction with the Suicide Prevention and Crisis Center, a 24-hour emergency answering service in order to furnish prompt referral services to stranded Village residents

For further information concerning the Association, please contact the ANCADA Office, P.O. Box 4-2463, Anchorage, AK 99509.