

Conrad Center honors Chevak elder

A potlatch was held in honor of Joseph Ayagavak at the Mary Conrad Center Nov. 3 in Anchorage.

Joseph Ayagavak was born in Chevak, Alaska. He lived as a subsistence hunter and provider for his family. Joseph was a community leader and lead drummer/singer in a traditional Eskimo dance group. Joseph was a skilled carpenter and took great pride in his trade. His canoes and dog sleds are exquisitely crafted. Joseph

particularly enjoyed giving his handmade crafts to his grandchildren and sold them as well.

About ten different groups entertained at the potlatch including: Yan Sha Ku, Keex K'waan Dancers, Miracle Dancers, Chevak Dancers, Uprallrit Dancers, Kicaput Dancers, and Sleeping Lady Dancers. The potlatch featured many foods common to Native people: game meats, fish and berries.

It is a great honor for the Mary

Conrad Center to be able to participate in this very special potlatch. Gatherings such as this one help improve the quality of life for many people who live and work at the Center.

Editor's Note: The Mary Conrad Center is a ninety bed nursing home in East Anchorage. The Center is owned by the Cook Inlet Development Corporation, and managed by the Sisters of Providence.