

CITC seeks Christmas basket donations

The staff at Cook Inlet Tribal Council are as busy as Santa's elves as they prepare for their annual Christmas Basket program. Designed to help those experiencing hard times during the holidays, 1993 marks the ninth year this project has brightened the season for many families, with turkey dinners and goodwill.

The Christmas Basket program started out modestly in 1985 as an effort by the CITC staff to help 10 families served by the Family Services Department have enough food to enjoy a good holiday dinner. Since then the project has grown into a full blown production involving hundreds of people and thousands of dollars. Last year, 154 families comprised of 600 people benefited from the program as volunteers raised more than \$8,000 in money, clothing and toys, and delivered nearly six tons of food and goods.

"This project has grown so tremendously in the past few years, we are finding it difficult to keep up with the demand," said Esther Combs, CITC executive director.



Essie Ahsoak, Kattie Lee, and Richard Fast busily prepare Christmas baskets for last year's needy. This year, production of the Christmas baskets have begun and Cook Inlet Tribal Council is looking for donations of food, clothing, and toys.

"We're planning on preparing 100 baskets this Christmas in order to keep the program more manageable."

As the Christmas Basket program moves

into high gear, donations of food, toys, canned goods and volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping or can donate food or toys, please contact Ruth Black at 265-5981.



Santa Claus, assisted by Alaska's First Lady Ermalee Hickel (center, in plaid jacket) passes out gifts to Nome children

Photos by Paul Pike