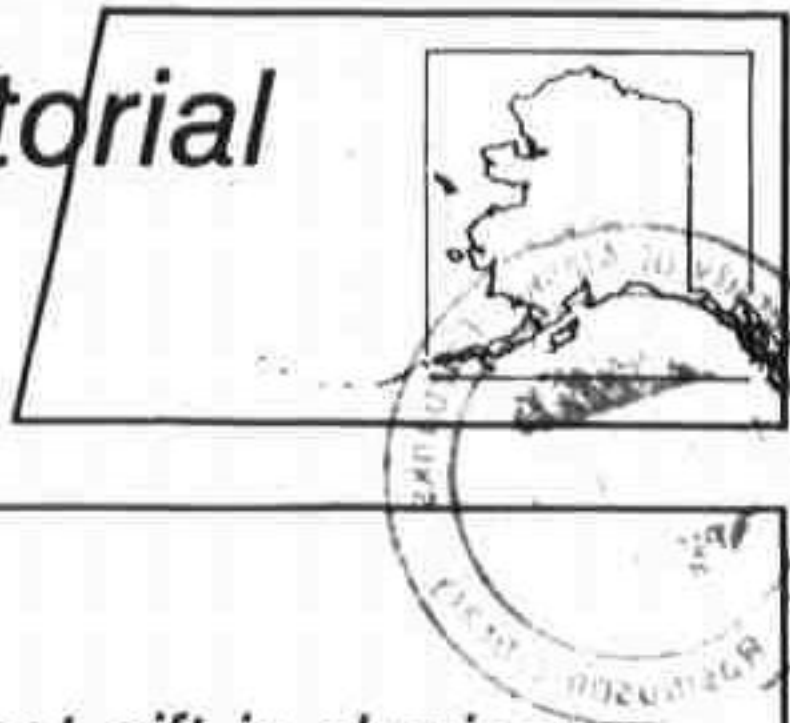


Editorial



The greatest gift is sharing

We'd like to wish all our readers a very joyous and happy Thanksgiving this week, as we enter another holiday season. Many people reading this have much to be thankful for. We hope everyone can take at least a few moments to offer thanks for the good things each of us has.

There are times when the problems of the world can seem almost crushing and when the tragedies of life seem to stand out in stark contrast against a grey background. Thanksgiving, however, offers us a breath of fresh air and a chance to focus on the positive, if even for a short time.

As we give thanks, we hope, too, that people in Alaska will remember those who are less fortunate. Although the state's economy appears to be improving dramatically, that news is lost on the ranks of the homeless, which are growing beyond anyone's expectations.

In Anchorage, the Brother Francis Shelter, which has been offering a nightly roof to around 200 people is now seeing up to 270 people a night. The budget of another of the city's major charities, Bean's Cafe, has been cut drastically by Gov. Steve Cowper's social services vetoes. That budget is just one of many charitable agencies whose funds are stretched to the limit as more and more hungry and cold people seek food and shelter.

It's not just Anchorage. All over Alaska, there are many people in tremendous need of help.

The cultures of Alaska Natives offer all Alaskans a lesson in how to deal with these terrible problems. The answer is sharing.

Just about anyone could write a small check to the Brother Francis Shelter, Bean's Cafe or any other charity of his or her choice. In addition, the Brother Francis Shelter is seeking prepared food — turkey, trimmings, desserts and juices — for the annual Thanksgiving Dinner at 1 p.m. for the homeless on Thursday. Prepared food can be delivered to the back door of Bean's between 11 a.m. and noon on Thanksgiving Day.

As we take a moment to savor the good things we do have — and all of us can count a number of blessings — it's time to offer thanks and think about how to share some of our bounty. It's not that time consuming to get out the checkbook and write a check. It will be appreciated, and no worthy charity will question the size of your donation.

We wish all our readers the very happiest of Thanksgivings, and we hope it's a time of sharing for all of us.