

Koyukuk flood victims receive Operation Silver Eagle donations

More than 16 thousand pounds of donated household items and building supplies headed for the flood stricken communities of Allakaket, Alatna and Hughes have arrived in Fairbanks from Operation Silver Eagle, a private New York-based not-for-profit agency.

"Our communities are thankful for the generosity of the people of New York, the military, Sea-Land and the Teamsters," said Jerry Sam, Chief of Alatna. "These household items and building supplies will go a long way to help make our communities whole again."

Small appliances, hand tools, sewing supplies, paint, clothes and other items were donated from a variety of sources including the INSL-X Paint Co.; truck drivers; warehouse and dock workers; Boy Scout Troop 118; Bethlehem Church of Cornwall, N.Y., and West Point Mechanics.

"We utilize space available military flights and work with shipping companies and Teamsters to get donated items to disaster victims as soon as possible, and, for free," said Richard Ward, founder of Operation Silver Eagle.

The donated goods and supplies were packed onto 16 pallets. Some of the pallets were flown space available by U.S. Marine Corps Air Wing-MAG-49-DETB from Stewart Air Base in Newburgh, N.Y., to McChord Air Force Base in Tacoma, Wash. The rest of the pallets were trucked by ABF Motor Freight and flown by Emery Worldwide Freight from Newburgh to Tacoma. Ground transportation in Washington was handled by Teamster Local 741 and Silver Eagle Trucking. Transportation from Tacoma to Anchorage was donated by Sea-Land. Teamster's local 959 delivered the supplies to Fairbanks where they will be distributed to the three communities. Sea and ground transportation were donated by Sea-Land and Teamsters Locals 741 & 959.

Operation Silver Eagle was established in 1992 to collect and deliver donated goods to victims of Hurricane Andrew. Since that time the organization has donated three million pounds of goods and supplies to disaster victims in nine states.

The Koyukuk River flood victims have received generous donations of goods and services from several other Alaskan and national organizations, including: Hanson's Eagle Quality Center, Alaska Feed Company, Alex

Langer's Flying Lure, Charlie Stevens Fish Processors, Coldspot Feed, d'Artois Gunwerke Company, Moore Plastics, Inc., Valdez Hatchery(VFDA), Dr. Jean Battig(DVM) and Dr. Mike Loibl(DVM).