

Alaskans Helping Alaskans

In September 2008, Alaskans were anticipating their largest distribution ever from the Permanent Fund, coupled with an additional \$1,200 per person "Energy Rebate." Many folks believed rural Alaskans needed more help than most urban Alaskans, since they were grappling with extraordinarily high energy costs in their remote communities.

As a result, an effort was begun to create a way that Alaskans could contribute a portion of their PFD/Energy Rebate dollars into a pool from which truly needy Alaskans could be helped. Through letters to the editor in the Anchorage Daily News, Alaskans were informed of this opportunity to better the lives of their fellow Alaskans and they responded.

The "Alaskans Helping Alaskans" campaign received \$21,375 in donations. AVEC has received 70 percent of those funds, or \$14,962.50. The funds will be credited to consumers nominated by their communities to receive assistance.

We will be posting credits of \$100 to the accounts of 150 AVEC members in late March. Each community is requested to submit the names of people (heads of households) felt to be deserving of this extra assistance. Funds will be apportioned based on the number of residents in the community. A smaller community with less than 225 residents will receive one credit and a larger community with more than 825 residents will receive six credits with communities in between receiving two to five credits.

Please do not contact AVEC directly to nominate an individual or family to receive this credit. Instead, submit your nomination to your local city office by February 28, 2009. The city will forward to us by March 15 its list of recommendations. If there are more nominations than credits for a particular community, a random drawing will be conducted at AVEC to select the fortunate recipients.

This is a wonderful example of Alaskans reaching out to help their neighbors. All of us at AVEC are proud to be a part of the effort. Special thanks go to the United Way of Anchorage for helping coordinate donations.

Until next time,



Meera Kohler
President and CEO



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Chevak
Eek
Elim
Emmonak
Gambell
Goodnews Bay
Grayling
Holy Cross
Hooper Bay
Huslia
Kaltag
Kasigluk
Kiana
Kivalina
Kotlik
Koyuk
Lower Kalskag
Marshall
Mekoryuk
Minto
Mt. Village
New Stuyahok
Nightmute
Noatak
Noorvik
Nulato
Nunapitchuk
Old Harbor
Pilot Station
Pitkas Point
Quinhagak
Russian Mission
St. Mary's
St. Michael
Savoonga
Scammon Bay
Selawik
Shageluk
Shaktoolik
Shishmaref
Shungnak
Stebbins
Teller
Togiak
Toksook Bay
Tununak
Upper Kalskag
Wales

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