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Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium leadership group earns community service award

Anchorage, AK — The third group of ANTHC Leadership Excellence through Advancement and Determination members, or LEAD III, has earned a Golden Heart Community Service award. The Anchorage Association for Volunteer Administration and BP present the award to individuals or groups who provide outstanding volunteer service, and have made a difference to our community.

LEAD III members are ANTHC employees Lawrence Chee, Suzanne Collier, Beverly Davis, Tamara Dietrich, Michelle Gonzalez, Janeen Kairaiuak, Galen Kelly, Jake Martus, Garret Spargo and Steven Warner.

“These LEADers have had an enormous impact on our community,” stated LEAD Coordinator Wendy Perrell in an e-mail. Through its volunteer efforts, the group has successfully

- Collected eight tons of food to help feed hundreds of people
- Provided furnishings to help homeless families move into homes
- Helped the Consortium’s new Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation reach an initial level of success
- Collected warm clothes, shoes, and blankets for Anchorage’s homeless

Additionally, many stepped outside of group activities and spent personal time tutoring students in math and helping to help the Anchorage School District, Hospice of Anchorage and public radio station KAKM FM.

Upon hearing the news, Kelly wrote in an e-mail to fellow LEAD III group members, “Wow ... and we’re not even done yet! We have left a little goodness in all those lives we’ve touched and again congratulations to everyone.”

“I’m really proud of this group,” wrote Gonzalez.

The group will receive certificates of appreciation at an April 29 luncheon at the Marriot Downtown Hotel. Also in their honor, BP is donating \$500 to the Alaska Native Medical Center Auxiliary, a volunteer organization that supports ANMC patient care.

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium was formed in 1997 to provide statewide health services to Alaska Natives. ANTHC services include specialty medical care, water and sanitation construction, health clinic construction, telemedicine, and professional recruiting.