

**Sharon Gist Gilliam**  
*Chairperson*

**Lori Healey**  
*Vice-Chairperson*

*Board of Commissioners*

**Hallie Amey**

**Mamie Bone**

**Earnest Gates**

**Dr. Mildred Harris**

**Michael Ivers**

**Martin Nesbitt**

**Carlos Ponce**

**Sandra Young**

**Terry Peterson**  
*Chief Executive Officer*

**Montel Gayles**  
*Chief of Staff*

**Gail A. Niemann**  
*General Counsel*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
November 24, 2003

**CONTACT:** Derek Hill  
(312) 907-2414

**CHICAGO HOUSING AUTHORITY PREPARES  
3,000 FOOD BASKETS FOR THANKSGIVING MEALS**  
*Baskets filled with enough ingredients to feed a large family*

The Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), Windows of Opportunity, Jewel-Osco, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), plus 100 staff and volunteers, have joined forces to prepare 3,000 food baskets for some of Chicago's neediest families.

**CHA CEO Terry Peterson will join the volunteers at noon today, Monday, November 24, 2003 as they assemble Thanksgiving baskets at the Central Advisory Council office, 243 E. 32<sup>nd</sup> St.** Each basket contains a turkey weighing at least 10 pounds, and several other items like cranberry sauce, boxes of macaroni and cheese, sweet peas, sweet potatoes, stuffing mix, dinner rolls and a cake or pie. There is one basket per family and each one contains a roasting pan.

"We want our residents to know that we're thinking about them," Peterson said. "We're not just concerned about building new apartments, but about building stronger families. Helping them enjoy the holidays is one more way to prove that."

Well-organized teams will place the food into new, large laundry baskets so that families can get further use of the baskets once the food is unpacked.

Staff and volunteers will begin distributing the baskets tomorrow.

Jewel donated 2,000 meals, and NCCJ and CHA donated a combined 750 meals. These three organizations, along with CHA's not-for-profit affiliate, Windows of Opportunity, together provided over \$50,000 dollars to help make this effort possible. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the Thanksgiving Basket Initiative.

"During this season of giving, there is a heightened awareness of the needs of the less fortunate," said Lauri Sanders, Jewel-Osco Director of Public Affairs. "The Jewel-Osco family is grateful for the opportunity to make a positive difference by putting food on the tables of hungry individuals and families in our area."

"Thanksgiving is the one holiday we can all celebrate together," said Rev. Stanley L. Davis, Jr., Executive Director of NCCJ in Chicago. "NCCJ is again pleased to help provide food baskets for public housing residents."

Preparing and distributing Thanksgiving Baskets is one of several CHA holiday initiatives, which also include a shopping spree and toy giveaway for CHA children, and a Senior Gala and Christmas dinners for CHA's elderly residents. All of CHA's annual holiday initiatives aim to provide residents with a healthy, happy and safe holiday season.

###