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**CHA PREPARES 3,000 FOOD BASKETS FOR
PUBLIC HOUSING FAMILIES THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

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.

Representatives from CHA and Jewel-Osco will join the volunteers at 11:30 a.m. today, Tuesday, November 16, 2004, as they assemble Thanksgiving baskets at the CHA's Central Advisory Council office, located at 243 E. 32nd St. Each basket will contain 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 also contains a roasting pan.

"We want our residents to know that we care about them," said CHA CEO Terry Peterson. "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 immediately.

Jewel-Osco donated 2,250 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 \$57,000 to help make this initiative possible. This is the 16th consecutive year of the Thanksgiving Basket Initiative.

"During this season of giving, we all have a responsibility to help those who are less fortunate," said Lauri Sanders, Jewel-Osco Director of Public Affairs. "Jewel-Osco is grateful for the opportunity to make a positive difference by putting food on the tables of those families in our area who need it most."

"Thanksgiving is a holiday that we can all celebrate together," said Barbara Abrajano, Executive Director of NCCJ in Chicago. "The NCCJ is pleased to help provide food baskets for Chicago's public housing residents."

Preparing and distributing Thanksgiving Baskets is one of several CHA holiday initiatives, which also includes a shopping spree and toy giveaway for CHA children, a Senior Gala event, and Thanksgiving 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.

About Jewel-Osco

During its one hundred-year history, Jewel-Osco has supported a wide variety of charitable organizations with the focus on education, food & nutrition and health. In addition, Jewel-Osco and its associates continue to contribute generously to support the United Way and the communities they serve. In all, over \$4 million is contributed each year toward these efforts. It's all part of Jewel-Osco's ongoing commitment to the community through charitable contributions and various community outreach programs.

(more)

PAGE 2 OF 2

Jewel-Osco is the only Midwest retailer operating both combination food and drug stores and freestanding drug stores. Of the retailer's 285 locations, 204 are combination Jewel-Osco stores and 79 are freestanding Osco Drug stores. Jewel Express Fuel Centers are located at 25 Jewel-Osco locations. Jewel-Osco is the Midwest Division of Albertsons Inc., which is headquartered in Boise, Idaho. Albertsons is one of the world's largest food-drug chains and currently operates approximately 2,300 stores in 31 states.

About Chicago Housing Authority

The Chicago Housing Authority (www.thecha.org) is currently implementing its 10-year Plan for Transformation, a \$1.6 billion effort to rebuild or rehab 25,000 units of public housing for low-income families and senior citizens, and turn isolated neighborhoods of poverty into healthy, mixed-income communities.

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