

Contact:
Derek Hill – Press Secretary, Chicago Housing Authority
312-907-2414
Wick Swanton – MK Communications
312-822-0505 wswanton@mkepr.com

**Chicago Housing Authority Creates, Distributes 3600 Turkey Baskets
for Annual Thanksgiving Tradition**

*Jewel-Osco Partnership, over 100 Volunteers Bring Holiday Cheer to
Thousands*

CHICAGO (November 22, 2005) – Thanksgiving is always a busy time for the Chicago Housing Authority and their volunteers. Keeping her 21-year tradition, CHA resident and CAC president Francine Washington once again organized and directed the creation and distribution of the CHA’s annual Turkey Baskets. Working with partners Jewel-Osco and CHA non-profit Windows of Opportunity, Washington oversaw the teamwork of more than 100 volunteers needed to create the 3600 baskets that were distributed on Tuesday. Chicago Housing Authority CEO Terry Peterson was also present to salute the efforts of Washington and her many volunteers.

Each of the Thanksgiving baskets included a large turkey, stuffing, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, rolls, peas, cranberry sauce, juice, and pans needed to cook a family feast and were made possible by donations from Jewel-Osco Food Stores, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), and the help of Windows of Opportunity, the non-profit partner of the CHA that works to support families’ self-sufficiency. The baskets were given out at the Central Advisory Council’s Headquarters on Chicago’s South Side.

“This is an event that is looked forward to by both volunteers and CHA residents alike,” says CHA Executive Director Terry Peterson, who also volunteered at the Turkey Basket distribution. “Thanks to Jewel-Osco, Windows of Opportunity, the NCCJ and community leaders like Francine Washington, thousands of CHA residents will enjoy a real Chicago Thanksgiving.”

“Thanksgiving is the one holiday that we can all celebrate together,” said Barbara Abrajano, Executive Director of the National Conference for Community and Justice in Chicago. “NCCJ is pleased to continue to provide food baskets for Chicago’s public housing residents.”

“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.”

The Chicago Housing Authority’s Central Advisory Council, which oversees the Thanksgiving Basket event, is the representative body for those who reside in CHA developments. Each CHA facility has a CAC president who serves as a link between officials and residents who may have concerns and issues associated with public housing or their property specifically. Francine Washington serves as the president for families living at Stateway Gardens in Chicago’s Grand Boulevard neighborhood.

For more information on the Chicago Housing Authority’s many resident services, please visit them online at www.thecha.org or by phone at 312-742-8500.

###

Note for Editors: Please use these photos for your story. Photos are courtesy of the Chicago Housing Authority.

Photo #1: <http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/Baskets11.22.05.jpg>

Suggested Caption: “Hundreds of the 3600 Thanksgiving Baskets made possible through a partnership between the CHA, Jewel-Osco, Windows of Opportunity and the National Conference for Community and Justice.”

Photo #2: <http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/Terry.Turkey.11.22.05.jpg>

Suggested Caption: “Chicago Housing Authority CEO Terry Peterson greets and assist volunteers at the annual Thanksgiving Basket giveaway.”

Photo #3: <http://www.mkcpr.com/filebin/volunteers11.22.05.jpg>

Suggested Caption: “Volunteers work to unload materials donated by Jewel-Osco, the CHA, Windows of Opportunity and the National Conference for Community and Justice for the annual Thanksgiving Basket giveaway.”