

Christmas presence

We're helping those who help make Christmas special for hundreds of families and seniors right across the North. The corporation has partnered with Christmas Hamper and Food Bank organizations, contributing \$15,500 to ensure those who need it most have a helping hand.

"No one should want for simple comforts at this time of year and these organizations make sure that doesn't happen. Many of them take care of the fundamental needs of our communities year-round. They are the North's unsung heroes and we're grateful to be associated with them," says Leon Courneya, NTPC President and CEO.

In total, the agencies assisted by NTPC provide Christmas Hamper and Food Bank services to more than 600 households in 17 NWT communities. The agencies are listed in the appended list.

Fort Simpson,

The Deh Cho Friendship Centre received \$1,000 to assist with Christmas food hampers in the region. The needs are high, about 65 hampers. At a cost of about \$50 per hamper, the Deh Cho Friendship Centre relies on financial contributions to meet its requirements.

"Donations like this one from the Power Corporation will go a long way to make Christmas a little brighter for many families," says Aaron McNab, Executive Director of the Deh Cho Friendship Centre.

Fort Smith

NTPC contributed \$1000 to the Fort Smith Ecumenical Group, which operates the Food Bank, and an additional \$1,000 to Extended Hand, which distributes food hampers at Christmas.

"We're very thankful for the Power Corporation's donation," says Linda Mabbit, representing the Group. "This time of year we often run low on food and we need help from local business to keep food on tables. We usually ask local businesses for \$500. NTPC came back with \$1000."

Hay River

The Hay River Soup Kitchen and the Secret Santa Program each received \$1000. Secret Santa ensures families and kids have gifts under the tree and food on the table during the holidays. The Hay River Soup Kitchen offers holiday food hampers, but also makes sure school age children and less fortunate families can have a hot meal year-round.

"During Christmas it can be very tight," says Laura Rose, President of the Hay River Soup Kitchen. "We're very grateful for NTPC's donation."

Inuvik

Santa's Elves received \$1,500 and the Inuvik Food Bank received another \$1,500. This year, Santa's Elves hopes to provide food and gift hampers to 110 families. The average cost of each hamper is around \$140. Meanwhile the Food Bank expects Christmas to be the busiest time of the year.

Norman Wells

Santa's Anonymous in Norman Wells is one of a kind; and it takes a one of kind person to make it happen. Glenda James has been running the program for the past 10 years. She puts together 80 food hampers for all five Sahtu communities. Local airlines distribute the hampers. The Corporation donated \$2,000 to the cause.

Yellowknife

We contributed \$5,000 to the Salvation Army and \$1,500 to the YWCA for emergency groceries for single-parent families at Rockhill Transitional Home.

The Salvation Army provides 400 food hampers to families in Yellowknife, Dettah and seven other NWT communities. The hampers are shipped to communities courtesy of Air Tindi, Department of National Defence and Simpson Air. Then they're distributed to local families by Band Offices or Friendship Centres.

NTPC's Legacy of Community Contributions

Each year, the corporation donates \$100,000 a year to community initiatives. These donations are not recovered from customers in rates.

Christmas Hamper and Food Bank Programs		
<i>Community</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Agency</i>
Fort Simpson	40 hampers	Salvation Army
Fort Liard	35 hampers	Salvation Army
Providence	15 hampers	Salvation Army
Behchoko	36 hampers	Salvation Army
Lutsel' Ke	35 hampers	Salvation Army
Gameti	15 hampers	Salvation Army
Fort Resolution	25 hampers	Salvation Army
Yellowknife & Dettah	200-250 hampers	Salvation Army
Yellowknife	Emergency groceries	YWCA Rockhill Transitional Home – 33 single-parent families
Inuvik	Hampers and children's gifts	Santa's Elves: Independent group of volunteers
Inuvik	Food bank	Independent group of volunteers
Colville Lake, Port Good Hope, Deline, Tulita, Norman Wells	80 food hampers	Santa's Anonymous, Norman Wells
Hay River	Hampers and children's gifts	Secret Santa: Independent group of volunteers
Hay River	Hampers and drop-in meal service.	Hay River Soup Kitchen



NEWS RELEASE

Fort Smith	Food Bank	Fort Smith Ecumenical Group
Fort Smith	Hampers	Extended Hand
Fort Simpson	Hampers	Deh Cho Friendship Centre