Christian Children's Fund

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Donation from Virginia Hospital Warms Hands in South Dakota

Richmond, Va. – Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 – Cold front after cold front has brought frigid Arctic air through much of the U.S. this winter, but many children in South Dakota are keeping warm after receiving a donation of dozens of mittens, hats, scarves and blankets.

Henrico Doctor's Hospital in Richmond, Va., donated about 150 items to the Christian Children's Fund program in the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

"We started doing it because we had so many patients who would bring us holiday gifts and food," said Bonita Jones, registered nurse in cardiopulmonary rehab. "So instead, we wanted to encourage them to give back to their community through a mitten tree."

The hospital has received donations for its "Mitten Tree" during the December holidays for the past seven years. "We love working with CCF because we know that our donation will go to children in need," said Jones.

The Cheyenne River Indian Reservation received the donation in early January just as temperatures turned bitter cold.

"This is one of our greatest needs at Cheyenne River," said Deb Swan-Douglas, Northern Plains area manager for CCF. "We are pleased that Cheyenne River children were chosen."

The CCF program on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota began in July 2008. The reservation is home to the Lakota tribe. The CCF program seeks to provide a nurturing and protective environment for children in the communities of Eagle Butte, Cherry Creek and LaPlant.

"We have programs that focus on youth leadership, early childhood development, health promotion, reading readiness and life skills," Douglas said.

The Cheyenne River Indian Reservation is in one of the poorest regions of the United States ranking in two of the top 10 counties for the lowest per capita income.

For more information about this CCF program, visit http://www.christianchildrensfund.org/content.aspx?id=7237.

Christian Children's Fund (CCF) is a global force for children, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, CCF works in 31 countries and assists approximately 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. CCF is a member of the ChildFund Alliance.