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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 6, 2006

No. 06-057

HILAND MOUNTAIN INMATES TO SEND \$13,551 IN GIFTS TO KIVALINA

JUNEAU – Inmates at Hiland Mountain Correctional Center have raised \$13,551 to provide gifts and needed supplies for the Western Alaska village of Kivalina. The effort is the result of the inmates' annual Adopt A Village program, sponsored by the Native Culture Council. The Saint Lawrence Island community of Savoonga was beneficiary of the 2005 effort.

Hiland Mountain, located in Eagle River, is the state's only prison for women.

Heather Simas, Chief of the Council, said traditional Inupiat village of 400 was selected for the drive because of the troubles the community faces from erosion of its shoreline. It is located about 75 miles north of Kotzebue.

The fund-raising effort is supported by inmates as whole, and by outside donors including the Elks and Lions Clubs. This year, inmates crocheted approximately 500 blankets, hats, scarves and slippers and directly donated funds to purchase school supplies and craft items. Outside donations include 23 boxes of unread books for all reading levels from Title Wave Books. Transportation from the prison to Kivalina will be donated by Kidd Curry, Northern Air Cargo and Arctic Transportation Services.

Hiland Mountain inmates also take part in a 'give back' program, which allows participants to provide restitution to the community as a whole. Using supplies purchased by the Inmate Council, inmates in the program sewed 55 adult-size quilts which will be sent to Kivalina.

"The inmates at HMCC have been a great support throughout the year donating wages, time and hand-made crafts. Everyone has come together to give back to the community," said Superintendent Dean Marshall.

The Adopt A Village program is one of a number of community restitution efforts undertaken by Hiland Mountain inmates, said Corrections Commissioner Joe Schmidt.

Recently, through participation in [Project Linus](#), inmates donated six hand-made blankets for use by children who are critically ill, traumatized, or in emergency situations. Inmates raised \$500 to pay for 32 turkeys for use by Bean's Café in their Thanksgiving dinner for the homeless or needy.