



LWML MISSION GRANT

NATIVE AMERICAN OUTREACH TRAINING CENTER— FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

A mission grant from Lutheran Women's Missionary League was requested to grow a more robust volunteer program, create a mission center for Natives coming in from the bush, and develop partnerships with agencies addressing the needs of Native people. The summer of 2014 saw Rev. David and Rosemary Sternbeck working with over 50 volunteers going into 17 villages and serving 500 people. Many of the volunteers have gone back to their home communities and churches and raised awareness, funds, and goods for the Native villages. As teams cross paths and interact with one another at the Training Center, they brainstorm and share experiences. As a result, plans begin to take shape.

Cynthia Erikson, who has a 4-H group of girls, received six sewing machines from a friend in Minnesota. Rosemary bought material for the girls to make gifts for others and items to sell. When Rosemary returned with

more materials and oil for the machines, she had the opportunity to tell the girls about Jesus. Mothers and others also brought out their own sewing machines and joined in the activities receiving the Gospel message as well.

Monies received by the Lutheran Indian Ministries (LIM) have been used to cover expenses for the van traveling to the bush communities and for food and overnight accommodations for the volunteer teams. Sue Gebel, LIM Donor Liaison, shares the following: "The Gospel has previously been delivered to many villages, but in a way that has caused confusion and resistance. Volunteers are learning to walk alongside the Native people, and come – not with the attitude to learn about, but with the humble servant-like mindset to 'learn from.' We have much we can learn from the Native elders."