

## **Ho-Chunk Nation helps out South Dakota tribe ravaged by winter storms**

The Ho-Chunk Nation is sending support and supplies to a South Dakota Native American tribe hit hard by a recent ice storm and blizzard.

Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation tribal officials estimate that the storms brought down about 3,000 utility poles, causing extensive failures. A bitter cold snap then froze thousands of water pipes leaving nearly 14,000 people in the region without water for several days.

Volunteers from Wisconsin's Ho-Chunk Nation loaded donated supplies onto a truck and trailer headed to South Dakota.

"We're sending clothing, non-perishable food, toiletries, bottled water and a generator," said Anne Thundercloud, Ho-Chunk Public Relations Officer. "We've been in contact with officials on the South Dakota reservation and it's clear they have some immediate needs. We're doing what we can to help out as quickly as possible."

This round of winter storms is the second major weather event on the South Dakota reservation this season. Another major storm in December depleted the tribe's emergency fund. Tribal leaders are asking for federal aid, and they're depending on donations to help residents deal with the damages.

*Ho-Chunk member Bow Lucero loads cases of water to help with the shortage of drinking water on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's reservation.*



*Ho-Chunk members Robert Blackdeer, Kateri Deford, Chandra Decorah, Ken Lewis, Bow Lucero and Roger Young Thunder prepare to send off the generator to South Dakota.*

