

## Christmas cheer comes to Fort Peck



Poplar Schools home school coordinator Karen Smoker helps organize the 4,000 presents that will be distributed to all school children this week. (Richard Peterson photo)

**By Richard Peterson  
For the Journal**

Over 4,000 wrapped Christmas gifts made their way to the Fort Peck Reservation this week, donated by a national chiropractic organization dedicated to changing the world.

The New Renaissance, made up of socially-minded chiropractors from around the country, shipped the gifts to Poplar and will distribute them to each reservation school on Thursday and Friday.

Among the gifts, which were

stored at A & S Tribal Industries were boots, coats, shirts, toys, gift sets and candy. Dozens of volunteers from the Fort Peck Tribes and Poplar schools spent the week organizing the gifts for each class.

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"It's just so impressive," said Ken Smoker Jr. of Fort Peck Tribal Health, of the donation. "The intent is to bring a smile to every child's face." Every child in Poplar, Wolf Point, Frazer and Brockton schools will get a present, Indian and non-Indian.

Several chiropractors visited Fort Peck last summer and were determined to help out after their visit. The men experienced dances, a sweat lodge and other cultural events during their visit.

The men heard in Colorado that

Fort Peck is an ideal place that could use some help. "A lot of people higher up don't realize there are third world conditions in America," said Tribal Councilman Daryl Red Eagle, who helped organize the gifts.

The chiropractors will be at Fort Peck Thursday and Friday to oversee the distribution. The group also recently selected Brandi Charette of Wolf Point for chiropractic school and will build her a business once she is complete with her education.