



POTLATCH FUND

INSPIRING THE NATIVE TRADITION OF GIVING

The Blanket Ceremony

The blanket ceremony is a tying together of the Tribe and the Tribal Indian person. The blanket emerges from the back, held by persons appointed as an honor to representatives of the clans. The wrapping is a symbolic practice as the Tribe offers protection from the environment, another human being, or whatever dangers are out in the world. The blanket instills strength against an unknown world of nature's dangers and that which makes us vulnerable. For a man the blanket engages the spirit of the ancestors during hunts in dangerous weather and harsh elements, for he is the provider of food and the ensurer of the Tribe's survival. For a woman, the blanket symbolizes healthy childbirth and the strong ways of the mother. With the blanket, the Tribe wraps us in wisdom, knowledge, love, and survival. For once we are wrapped in such warmth and love, we can think deep thoughts, refrain from fast reaction to life, and live in harmony with nature and with ourselves as precious human beings.

