



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Following Successful Pilot, United Way of Anchorage and Anchorage School District to Expand Unique Program to Engage At-risk Youth and Their Families to Ensure Academic Success

Anchorage, AK--After completion of a two-year pilot program at Lake Hood and Susitna elementary schools, involving nearly 200 kids and families, United Way will begin to expand its unique model of wrap around supports for both family and youth to improve student outcomes.

Program statistics show that 88% of students participating in the pilot program increased or remained stable in attendance, and that students receiving supports improved academically compared to students not receiving supports.

“The pilot program was a learning lab for us to test out a new way of blending school and community resources that brought the right supports to the right kids at the right time,” said Michele Brown, President, United Way of Anchorage. “We are thrilled that the program has helped families and are excited about expanding it to 4 schools next year.”

“Having the support of United Way behind the 90% by 2020 partnership, and coordinating services for the kids, was very powerful,” said Kim Bautista, Principal, Susitna Elementary School. “We will find a way to continue this program next year as we saw a positive impact on the kids.”

Students were referred to United Way’s Pilot Program by staff and teachers for a variety of reasons that impact school success—below proficiency in reading or math, low grades, struggles with attendance. By working directly with the students, their families, and their teacher, United Way was able to identify the specific challenges each student faced and then connect the student and their family to the right supports based on their individual needs, including before and after school activities, tutoring, an adult mentor, food and nutritional assistance, and family engagement and support activities.

“The afterschool programs have been wonderful,” said Dorothy Schooler, mother of five kids all receiving services. “One on one tutoring has made a difference and with five kids you bet that individual attention helps. You can see on their faces the joy that comes from these connections.”

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United Way has a long history of working with high performing partners to drive change for children and families. A special thanks goes out to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Boys and Girls Club, Campfire, Food Bank of Alaska, YMCA, Lake Hood Elementary and Susitna Elementary for their engagement with the Pilot Schools.

For more information on United Way's Pilot Program, please contact Sarah Sledge at 263-3803 or email ssledge@ak.org

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About United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage works to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on the three building blocks for a good life: education, income and health. The goal is to create long lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. United Way invites everyone to be part of the change. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED. Please visit www.liveunitedanchorage.org