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**MEDIA ADVISORY
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Date: May 11, 2015

Contact: Laura Brown
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WHAT: **KIDS IN THE KITCHEN final session with Celebrity Chef Shana Whitlock**
Kids and parents learn to prepare a healthy meal together

WHEN: **Tonight, Monday, May 11**
5 – 7PM

WHERE: **Lake Otis Elementary School**

WHY: **Combating childhood obesity matters**

This final session of KIDS IN THE KITCHEN, the innovative program designed to bring families together for a series of three parent/child cooking classes to learn about nutrition, cooking basics and healthy meals, finds celebrity chef Shana Whitlock of Torchon Bistro helping participants whip up a fast, healthy, simple meal with inexpensive ingredients they can find anywhere.

The KIDS IN THE KITCHEN program was developed by Nancy Edtl, Director of Nursing and Health Services at the Anchorage School District. In the spring of 2013, the program ran in just three schools. Positive program results led to its expansion in 2014 and again in 2015 with ten schools and over 200 students in grades 5 and 6 (with one parent each) participating this spring.

In addition to the knowledge gained through the KIDS IN THE KITCHEN program, each family is provided with other take-aways including a crockpot, cookbooks, cooking supplies and a Start the Conversation Kit from Anchorage Youth Development Coalition (AYDC) to encourage families to engage in spending time together around the dinner table.

Other celebrity chefs who participated in the program this year include Leah Gallahorn with Simon & Seaforts, Jolene Moellers with the Brew House, Rabah Chattefour from Aladdin's, Tim Farley from Humpy's and Matthew Little Dog, head of the Culinary Department at NANA Corporation, to name a few.

Program support for KIDS IN THE KITCHEN this year was provided by Alaska Kidney Foundation and United Way of Anchorage.

About United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage mobilizes people and resources to make lasting, measurable changes in our community to improve lives. Our priorities are successful, prepared kids; strong, financially stable families; access to medical care for all; and a community making healthy lifestyle choices. United Way invites you to join the movement. www.liveunitedanc.org

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