Working TOGETHER

Inspiring HOPE

Improving LIVES
Dear Friends,

United Way of Anchorage – sixty years old! Starting 3 years even before statehood, United Way began bringing neighbors together to create a city of opportunity and hope.

In 1956, Anchorage was growing rapidly. People were moving from rural Alaska and the lower 48 looking for a new start, an opportunity, an adventure. Alaskans have a long history of supporting each other and creating community. Our Alaska culture blends independence and self-sufficiency with neighborliness and a spirit of mutual helpfulness.

When our Alaska pioneers needed to raise a community center or a school in their communities, the whole community pitched in and made it happen. Even individuals needing cabins would turn to neighbors and friends, and the favor would be returned in short order, often accompanied by a “raising the roof” party.

With a growing influx of newcomers, visionary Lucy Cuddy, and her family and fellow community-spirited friends, set out to ensure that Anchorage prospered as a city of opportunity, and that Anchorage remained a compassionate city for those who were struggling, and those who had lost hope.

From those early days, as we have grown into a far larger, more complex community, and a cash-based economy, we continue the spirit of neighborly helpfulness through philanthropic giving to promote the community’s well-being. For sixty years, it has been you, our community investors who step up to solve tough issues, provide help and inspire hope by working together. Some things are so powerful, they don’t change and our partnership in creating a thriving Anchorage is one of those things.

The foundation for a better life, and the American dream, has always been a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family, a safe and stable home, and good health. But as much as some things stay the same, some things are destined to change. The changes in society have made it more challenging for everyone to have the opportunities to grasp those foundations for a self-sufficient, productive life. We had to adjust to those complexities as well.

More than 10 years ago, we decided that it wasn’t enough to provide support for needed services, we wanted to change the conditions that caused the need for those services.

We wanted to get at the root source of our social issues and instigate meaningful, lasting change. Change in how we do our work and change in community conditions. It was too large and too important an endeavor to take on alone. It had to be a team effort, requiring the support and commitment of many like-minded visionaries.

2016 was a tough year. Belts tightened, anxieties heightened, and for many working families, the basic ingredients for a good life – health, education and financial stability – became increasingly out of reach. Not deterred, we stayed determined and found new ways to solve problems, to do more with less, to reach as many in need as possible. You’ll find examples in the pages of the annual report.

Over the years, the powerful, life-changing force you created to improve our community and people’s lives has shown that together, united, we can do more than any of us could accomplish alone. Today, with our many community partners and you, our donors, we are merging the power of compassion with the force of focused action. Action that stems from understanding the big picture, because long-lasting changes can only occur when we know where we stand. Action that unites around a shared community vision. Action that pools our resources. Action that gets to the heart of the matter because more people will be helped when the underlying cause of a problem is solved or eliminated.

We call it living united and there is a role for everyone to play. Without you, there is no opportunity for lasting change. United we fight. United we win. Thank you!

Michele Brown
President
United Way of Anchorage
Financials: Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016

Source of Funds

- United Way Campaign: 59%
- Public Sector Employee Campaigns: 15%
- Other Income: 9%
- Grants & Restricted Donations: 17%

Source Totals

- Grants & Restricted Donations: $1,593,803
- United Way Campaign: $5,653,196
- Public Sector Employee Campaigns: $1,438,916
- Other Income: $884,524
- Total Funds Generated: $9,570,439

Use Totals

- Education Impact: $4,462,392
- Income Impact: $1,622,848
- Health Impact: $713,144
- Donor Directed to Other United Ways & Specific Organizations: $1,545,480
- Estimated Uncollectible Pledges: $99,677
- Total Funds Devoted to Improving Lives: $8,443,542
- Fundraising, Pledge Processing: $1,526,166
- Administration: $349,167
- Total Use of Fund: $10,318,875

Use of Funds

- Education Impact: 43%
- Income Impact: 16%
- Health Impact: 7%
- Administration: 3%
- Donor Directed to Other United Ways and Specific Organizations: 15%
- Estimated Uncollectible Pledges: 1%
- Fundraising & Pledge Processing: 15%

*United Way of Anchorage charges a 13% designation processing fee for pledges made through the United Way of Anchorage Campaign. However, no designation processing fee is charged for pledges directed to our sister United Ways in Alaska. No fees are charged for pledges received through other United Ways or public campaigns including the Combined Federal Campaign. The cost of administering the public campaigns, including the Combined Federal Campaign, are recovered from those campaigns after the approval of the governing boards. United Way of Anchorage does not charge a fee to become a member agency or to retain membership status.

NOTE: To view the unqualified audit report for year ending June 30, 2016, visit us online at www.liveunitedanc.org
In 1956, eighteen amazing community dynamos organized the United Good Neighbor Fund and raised $269,048 to improve lives and build a stronger Anchorage for everyone.

Flash forward 60 years...our focus and commitment has not wavered, but the complexity and scale of issues, and the ways to improve lives and our city, certainly have. The consistent operative word throughout the past 60 years is "UNITED" – joining with partners throughout Anchorage and you, our loyal donors, to keep our finger on the pulse of the community, build collaborations, be accountable for results, and tackle the hardest issues that matter most – homelessness, high school graduation, access to health care and family financial stability.

From Supporting Programs to Reaching the Right Kids at the Right Time

From the start, United Way has been committed to ensuring that children and youth prosper, supporting services from early childhood development to afterschool enhancement, to keeping kids off drugs, out of gangs and alcohol free.

Where there was a challenge, a road block, an issue keeping our kids from succeeding, United Way was there – gathering partners, finding solutions, getting things done – in the neighborhoods and schools where help was most needed.

United Way of Anchorage has evolved from funding services to very intentionally connecting the right supports to the right kids at the right time. We have built a cradle to career strategy that focuses on the milestones that predict success on the road to graduation.

"THIS DISTINCTLY AMERICAN CREATURE HAS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THOUSANDS OF OUR PEOPLE TO SERVE AND BE SERVED THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN MANY AGENCIES OF GOOD WORK AND GOOD WILL.

Richard Gay, President
United Way of Anchorage
1968
In 1956, Anchorage's population was around 60,000. Today, that is approaching the number of people who are homeless, at risk, or financially struggling to stay housed. Fifty percent of the children in Anchorage qualify for free lunch programs and thousands of families cannot afford basic necessities. As our city has grown, so has the need— and United Way has been there.

From funding many organizations that provide services, to distributing federal funds for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program, to co-chairing the Project Homeless Connect event, to coordinating Thanksgiving Blessing and GIFT at Christmas, United Way has tried to help people with their basic needs and keep them housed.

As the reality of an increasing homeless population came to the forefront, United Way and our partners joined to plant a stake in the ground to build a client-centric networked system to end chronic homelessness, not just making homelessness a little less miserable, but making homelessness as rare and brief as possible.

Working with providers, businesses, government and others as backbone of the 90% by 2020 Partnership, we are promoting the importance of attendance, ensuring children are kindergarten ready, kids are reaching 8th grade math proficiency and are on track for credits by 9th grade. We have seen high school graduation rates soar to 80%, up from 59% in 2005. Moving forward, we will be expanding our efforts to reach more kids who are struggling, and ensure they get back on track and stay there through graduation.

**Your support of these efforts is impacting the lives of thousands of people everyday and we are just getting started.**

Assisting our neighbors to stay warm, housed and fed has always compelled our action.

**21,605** Number of people receiving prevention services and/or income boosts to remain warm, housed and fed.

**PLUS School students receiving 2 or more supports had 10% better attendance**

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**1977**
- The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is completed. Jim Barnett creates the first Campaign on the North Slope.
- Over $1M raised in Campaign for the first time. Campaign Chair is Howard Slack of ARCO.

**1978**
- United Way offers Board Training for statewide nonprofit Boards of Directors.

**1982**
- United Way begins distributing federal funds for emergency food and shelter programs.

**1983**
- Volunteer Services put in place.

**1984**
- Mid-80’s economic crash brings oil company layoffs.

**1985**
- Exxon Valdez Oil Spill — oil prices drop, banks fail, property values plummet. One out of every two people in Anchorage received benefits from a United Way agency.

**1988**
- AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison joins United Way staff.

**1989**
- $3M raised in Campaign.
Since 2008, a family emergency cold weather shelter system has been in place thanks to the tireless work of churches, volunteers, the Municipality and many others to ensure no children slept in cars or tents during the coldest months of the year. As a member of the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness, United Way has worked to support moving individuals and families into permanent housing quickly and getting them the additional supports they need to become stable and get back on their feet.

With our partners, we assist those who are financially struggling through free tax prep services that save thousands of dollars in fees and bring in millions in refunds, giving many a lifeline when they need it most. Assistance with budget coaching, credit counseling, affordable bank accounts, and savings plans provides them with the information and resources to get their finances on track for a brighter future.

With your support, lives are changing as we work together to ensure our neighbors are housed and receive the help they need to build a stable life here in Anchorage.

Providing Access to Healthcare in a Multitude of Ways Throughout the Years

Access to healthcare is key to quality of life for everyone and United Way has been on the forefront for decades, working to ensure Anchorage residents get the care they need.

Fran Ulmer
Lt. Governor
1999
When your contributions – of time, money or talent, no matter how large or small – are combined with the efforts of others, our impact is greater than we could have ever imagined.

From the Anchorage Healthy Futures Project, Access to Healthcare Coalition and Anchorage Project Access to Alaska Mission of Mercy and the ACA Navigator Grant, we continue to look for ways to improve the health of our community.

These efforts take many shapes and forms – transportation to medical appointments, health issue screenings, health care visits to dentists, doctors, emergency room and mental health services, specialty medical care to low income patients through volunteer medical providers, community drug discount cards, and information and guidance in navigating health insurance options, tax credits and sign up.

Connecting Alaskans to Help for Decades

United Way has been committed to providing access to health and social resources for more than 20 years. Every hour of every day, an Alaskan needs these essential services and Alaska 2-1-1 is there to help via phone support or www.Alaska 211.org. Alaska 2-1-1 provides free, confidential assistance to Alaska residents in over 170 languages via trained Certified Information and Referral Specialists.

In addition to the searchable database on the website and the after-hours message service, both available 24/7, in 2016 Alaska 2-1-1 launched an app for Android and Apple devices to expand access to even more Alaskans.

Alaska 2-1-1 not only provides critical information to those needing help, it is also a key source of data for policy makers and professionals providing a real-time barometer of community strengths and areas of need within the health and human services sector.

Getting people connected when and where they need it, help starts here.

“UNITED WAY IS A LEADER IN CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TO BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY.”
Ernie Madsen
2001

261,672 Total number of service referrals given by 2-1-1 since its inception in 2007

For 60 years we have broken new ground, bringing hearts, minds and resources together to change lives for the better.

Together, United, we will make Anchorage a place where everyone thrives, not just today, but for generations to come.

50th Anniversary Workplace Campaign raises $10.8M. Campaign Co-chairs Barbara and Larry Cash.

2003

Michele Brown takes the helm as President and CEO, begins the strategic shift to community impact.

2006

Family Emergency Cold Weather Shelter work begins.

2007

UWA receives 3 year ACA Navigator Grant.

2008

PLUS Schools pilot project and 90% by 2020 Partnership formed.

2013

UWA creates interactive online poverty simulation WALKANC.ORG.

2014

UWA takes a stand to end homelessness and achieves Guinness World Record for longest fist bump relay.

2015

50th Anniversary Workplace Campaign raises $10.8M. Campaign Co-chairs Barbara and Larry Cash.

2016

2,800+ people received education and enrollment support from United Way Healthcare Navigators.
Board of Directors

The United Way Board of Directors sets the compass for our focus and direction. They are volunteers, Anchorage community members just like you, committed to improving our community.

Executive Committee

Chair                Joe Everhart       Wells Fargo Bank
Vice Chair           Susan Parkes      Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Treasurer            Keith Hand        Community Volunteer
Secretary            Jordan Marshall    Jordan Marshall

Directors

Mike Abbott, Municipality of Anchorage
Belinda Breaux, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company
Laurie Butcher, Alaska Communications
Jay Butler, State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services
Dan Clark, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Kitty Farnham, Catalyst Consulting
Charles Fedullo, Strategies 360
Rick Fox, Edison Chouest Offshore
Katherine Jerstrom, The Boardroom
Dick Madsager, Providence Health & Services Alaska
Joe Marushack, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Frank Paskvan, BP Alaska
Natasha Pope, First National Bank Alaska
Ann Penniston*, Emerging Leaders Co-Chair
Cory Quarles, ExxonMobil
Jack Sheppard*, Walsh Sheppard
Beth Stuart, KPMG
Janet Weiss, BP Alaska
David Wight, Community Volunteer

*ex officio

Executive Leadership Team

Michele D. Brown
President & Chief Executive Officer

Sue Brogan, CVA
Vice President, Income/Health Impact

Len Lambert
Chief Financial Officer
Vice President, Finance & Administration

Elizabeth Miller, CFRE
Vice President, Resource Development

June Sobocinski
Vice President, Education Impact

Connect with us

United Way of Anchorage
701 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 230
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907.263.3800
www.liveunitedanc.org