



United Way of Anchorage

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What does United Way do?

A: United Way is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners who fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community. Together we fight the big problems that none can solve alone. But we are more than fund-raisers. We are hand-raisers who reach out to people who need help. And hope.

- **90% Graduation by 2020** – From school readiness to night school credit recovery, attendance boosts to tutoring, pre-kindergartners to wayward teens, together we can keep our at-risk students in school, learning and on-track to earn their high school diplomas.
- **Fighting Homelessness** – With your help we can make homelessness rare, brief and non-recurring by focusing on:
 - Prevention: Keep struggling Anchorage families in their homes
 - Rapid response: Swiftly house families who need a little help
 - Long haul: House and support those who need a lot of help
- **Alaska 2-1-1** – One call to this statewide, multilingual helpline connects Alaskans in need to 1,000 agencies and 8,000 services, from their next meal to their last night in the cold.
- **Healthy Kids and Adults** – Connecting people and expanding access to healthcare options and supporting healthy life choices improves individual and community well-being.

Q: Is United Way a local or national organization?

A: United Way of Anchorage is local – governed by a local, all volunteer, board of directors. Ninety-nine percent of your gift to United Way of Anchorage is used here in our community to fight for the health, education and financial stability of everyone in Anchorage. United Way of Anchorage is part of a global network of 1,800 United Ways in 41 countries and territories. Each organization is focused on local issues.

Q: How can I join the fight for the causes that are important to our community?

A: By Living United. You do this when you donate, share and volunteer to help create opportunities for everyone to be well-educated, healthy, housed and financially stable. Don't think of it as a single act. When your gift, your voice and your time is combined with similar acts of others, it drives a movement that shapes long-term positive change in Anchorage and benefits us all.

Q: How can my gift make the greatest impact on the issues facing our community?

A: Your gift is an investment in our community. When you direct your gift to United Way of Anchorage you are investing in the programs and activities that are achieving sustainable and measurable results aligned toward the community goals. Your gift will be strategically invested in the causes that are important to you.



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Q: Can I direct my gift to a specific cause such as 90% Graduation by 2020, Fighting Homelessness or Alaska 2-1-1?

A: Yes. You can even direct it to more than one. Simply let us know how you'd like us to direct your gift on your pledge form and your gift will be strategically invested in the causes that are important to you.

Q: Can I direct my gift to a specific non-profit organization? If so, how much of my gift actually gets to it?

A: As a service to our donors we will forward contributions to qualified organizations. To qualify, the organization must have tax exempt status under paragraph "3" of subsection "c" under section 501 of the US internal Revenue Code of 1954 – 501(c)(3). The organization must be providing health and human services in Alaska. Churches, religious programs, educational institutions and foundations, cultural groups, service clubs, legal defense funds and political organizations are not eligible. All designated funds less a 13% administrative fee are passed on to those designated organizations separate from other funding from United Way of Anchorage. You will simply need to provide us with the name and address of the organization.

Q: Can I donate stock and other securities to United Way or include you in my will?

A: Yes. United Way welcomes these types of gifts. We will be happy to answer any questions and will work with you when you are considering such options. Please call 263-3842 for more information on a wide range of planned giving opportunities.

Q: Why should I make my gift through United Way instead of giving directly to agencies of my choice?

A: Many organizations have great programs that can improve aspects of people's lives. By stepping up to a unique role, United Way offers more - a proven method to join with others to identify community goals, develop plans and get results in a way that not only helps individuals, but actually changes the face of the entire community. AND, United Way provides you with an easy, effective and efficient method for meeting your charitable goals. United Way brings our community together to do the things that none of us can do alone. Working together, United Way creates community solutions, fighting for the health, education and financial stability of everyone.

Q: How much of my investment goes to overhead?

A: 80 cents of every dollar contributed to United Way of Anchorage is invested towards vital community goals – access to health care, achieving a 90% graduation rate by 2020, and preventing and making homelessness as rare and brief as possible. The remaining fraction – 20 cents – covers the costs of fundraising and administration.

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Q: How do I know United Way is efficient with my donation?

A: Non-profit evaluators say 75% is a solid and respectable percentage for a nonprofit to invest in their programs and services. United Way of Anchorage is proud to invest 80% and is a local leader in efficiency. We maintain this low overhead because of the extraordinary commitment and work done by so many volunteers.

Q: How do I know that I can trust United Way with my gift?

A: United Way prides its business operations on integrity, responsibility, transparency and good stewardship. To ensure accountability, internal and external audits take place annually to certify the correctness of our operations. United Way of Anchorage is an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau of Alaska and has a 3-star rating by [Charity Navigator](#), as well as Platinum status on [Guidestar](#).

Q: If I need services or assistance, or know someone who does whom should I call?

A: United Way's Alaska 2-1-1 is the place to start: Simply dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221 and talk to a trained information and referral specialist who will connect you with the community services that best fit your needs. 170 languages available. It's free and confidential. You can speak with a call specialist Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. or you can find help online 24/7 at www.alaska211.org.

Q: How can I give my time and my energy to make an impact in the community?

A: United Way of Anchorage is ready to help guide you to volunteer and advocacy opportunities that will allow you to make the biggest impact. Simply go to www.BeTheChange907.org to search for volunteer opportunities.