



United Way of Anchorage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **United Way “UNITED WE FIGHT. UNITED WE WIN.” workplace campaign kickoff: More graduates, less homelessness, stronger community**

**Anchorage AK** – United Way of Anchorage kicks off its fall workplace campaign UNITED WE FIGHT. UNITED WE WIN. with a luncheon at noon Wednesday, Aug. 29, at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center on Seventh Avenue and G Street.

Doors open at 11:15; the program begins at noon.

United Way continues to build powerful partnerships to raise and sustain graduation rates in Anchorage to 90% by 2020; house the homeless, including some of the hardest to house, and provide a one-stop connection to more than a thousand services through its 2-1-1 help-line.

We can't do this work alone, and we can't do it on a shoestring. In 2017 workplace campaign donors invested \$5.5 million to improve lives in our community. For 2018, our goal is \$6 million.

That's ambitious, but so is the work. Pulling together, United Way and its partners have helped to raise Anchorage high school graduation rates by 22 points, from 59 percent in 2005 to more than 81 percent in 2017. We're spearheading a plan for Permanent Supportive Housing that is part of the municipality's wider Anchored Home project to make homelessness rare, brief and a one-time occurrence.

Three community leaders will be the main speakers at the luncheon – Joe Marushack, president of ConocoPhillips Alaska; Joe Everhart, pacific northwest business banking manager of Wells Fargo; and Michele Brown, president and CEO of United Way of Anchorage. They'll have strong messages of how the workplace campaign provides opportunities to join with United Way and fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community – in short, to be a force for good right here in Anchorage.

Luncheon guests will also see and hear the fruits of that good work with video testimony directly from Anchorage residents who found housing, and Anchorage students who faced long odds but turned timely help into hard-earned diplomas.

In addition, attendees will get a chance to see – and have photos taken with – the 2019 Chevy Trax donated by Alaska Sales and Service that donors can be eligible to win in United Way's WIN-WIN! Sweepstakes.

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$35 each.

### **About United Way of Anchorage**

United Way of Anchorage is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners who fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community. LIVE UNITED.

[www.liveunitedanc.org](http://www.liveunitedanc.org)