



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: July 13, 2021

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Announcing Return of the Restaurant and Hunger Relief Program

Six months of success in keeping restaurants afloat, workers on the job and hungry Alaskans fed has its perfect reward: Six more months.

WHO: Anchorage Mayor David Bronson, United Way of Anchorage president Clark Halvorson, Alaska Hospitality Retailers executive director Silvia Villamides

WHAT: Restaurant and Hunger Relief gets back in business! Join us for the Press Conference that includes a drawing to select the restaurants to participate in a new round of serving up quality meals to the clients of Anchorage nonprofits.

WHEN: July 14 at 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: Moose A'La Mode, 360 K St, Anchorage, AK 99501

Thanks to \$2.4 million in American Rescue Plan relief money granted by the Municipality of Anchorage, the restaurants to be selected by lottery will provide meals in the first 12-week period of the rebooted program, which now has funding through the end of 2021.

Program Background: Restaurant and Hunger Relief began in Anchorage in November 2020, the result of discussions among businesses and nonprofits to figure out ways to help the restaurant industry and its laid off workers through pandemic shutdowns while at the same time helping nonprofits straining to maintain services for hundreds of clients, from preschoolers to seniors. Learning from similar programs in San Francisco and Newark, and efforts in Southeast Alaska, United Way of Anchorage, Alaska Hospitality Retailers, and the municipality joined hands to tailor a program to Anchorage.

The municipality provided pandemic relief funds. Alaska Hospitality Retailers coordinated the restaurant side. United Way of Anchorage coordinated the nonprofit side. The result? Fifty-eight restaurants (44 percent minority owned) did themselves proud by serving 110,965 meals at 34 sites in the city, keeping their businesses alive through the darkness of the pandemic winter and either hiring, rehiring, or maintaining 605 workers that would not have otherwise had jobs. Further, another 276 workers logged extra hours due to Restaurant and Hunger Relief.

Earlier efforts were made possible with other pandemic relief money through the Municipality, the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Community Foundation, Rasmuson Foundation, AK Can Do, First National Bank Alaska and individual donors.