



United Way of Anchorage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tom and Sheila Barrett Honored with 2019 United Way Tocqueville Award

Anchorage, AK – Tom and Sheila Barrett were awarded United Way of Anchorage’s prestigious Tocqueville Society Community Service Award at a reception held at the home of Carolyn and David Johnston on the evening of April 24, 2019.

Celebrating the Barretts’ commitment to community were nearly fifty of Anchorage’s philanthropic leaders and generous Tocqueville Society members who each give \$10,000 or more annually to create long-lasting changes by tackling our community’s most serious issues.

Patrick Flynn presented the award and shared highlights of Tom and Sheila’s history as donors, advocates and community champions.

“Admiral Tom Barrett, USCG (ret.), was a major advocate for philanthropic giving to the Combined Federal Campaign during his 35 years of federal government service,” said Patrick Flynn. “Taking the helm at Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in 2011, he continued his advocacy for giving back. Tom has served on the 90% Graduation by 2020 leadership team for many years and led United Way’s Fundraising Cabinet in 2013 and 2018. Sheila, a former kindergarten teacher, helped start the “Kids Don’t Float” program and developed several programs to help young readers build confidence by reading out loud to therapy dogs. She can be found every Friday with her own therapy dog, Swivel Shot, welcoming visitors to the Anchorage Convention and Visitor Center log cabin.”

“It’s important for us as a community to show our appreciation for those who give back so generously to our community,” said Michele Brown, President of United Way of Anchorage. “Our Tocqueville Community Service Award is all about saying thank you to an individual or family that best epitomizes outstanding service to the community and exemplary philanthropic leadership. We are grateful for all the Barretts’ do to make Anchorage a great place for all of us.

Last year, United Way of Anchorage’s Tocqueville Society, which represents approximately 1.6% of the donor base, contributed more than 30% of total campaign revenues.

The society was named after Alexis de Tocqueville, known for his writings and observation of American society and politics in the 1800’s. One of his most important comments was that Americans hold in common a special willingness to work for the public welfare – a tendency to lend faithful support to neighbors and countrymen, especially in times of need.

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

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