



United Way of Anchorage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 13, 2021

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United Way's UNITE to THRIVE Week calls forth the best in Anchorage

Enstar's John Sims chairs annual United Way community campaign

Anchorage AK – Save the dates of September 13-17. That's when United Way of Anchorage leads a banner week of giving, volunteering, and community action.

UNITE to THRIVE Week kicks off the 2021 United Way of Anchorage Community Campaign in our workplaces and our homes to support successful initiatives to raise graduation rates, improve health, and increase financial stability throughout Anchorage.

ENSTAR Natural Gas Company President John Sims chairs this year's campaign. Joining Sims on the campaign cabinet to help meet this year's fundraising challenge, are:

Walt Bass, ConocoPhillips Alaska

Mike Houston, Northrim Bank

Daniel Mitchell, CIRI

Ed Ulman, Alaska Public Media

Joe Everhart, Wells Fargo

Lori McCaffrey, Key Bank

Andy Pennington, Anchorage Daily News

Chris Wilson, Subway Alaska

Sims and United Way President & CEO Clark Halvorson begin UNITE to THRIVE Week with a [Make It Monday presentation](#) to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce about the challenges Anchorage faces and how United Way and its partners are meeting them.

"There's a lack of understanding about the extent of the struggle out there," Sims said. "We're nowhere near where we want to be."

Sims added that his understanding is deepened by his awareness of how many people in Anchorage are straining to make their utility payments. "We really see that on our side of the fence."

He noted that United Way of Anchorage has been a part of ENSTAR for decades. "We have our own United Way week," he said. "It's really become part of our culture."

As a lifelong Alaskan, Sims reflected that there are so many little things so many of us do to help one another. "When we all do them collectively for the community, they can really make a big impact."

UNITE to THRIVE Week features some of that impact: the biggest single day of corporate volunteer work in the city and a [citywide drive to fill our food banks](#) so no one in Anchorage has to go hungry.

The week also features United Way's [annual campaign kickoff luncheon](#), a virtual event featuring keynote speaker Raquel Cruz Bono, M.D., a trauma surgeon, retired three-star admiral, former CEO of the U.S. Defense Health Agency, former director of Washington State's COVID-19 Pandemic Health Management system, and current Chief Health Officer for Viking Cruises, heading the company's restart operations.

UNITE to THRIVE Week schedule:

Monday, Sept. 13: [Make It Monday](#) virtual forum, Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. United Way Campaign Chair John Sims and Clark Halvorson, CEO of United Way of Anchorage, talk about

community challenges and how United Way and its partners are meeting them. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Dena'ina Center, 2nd Floor, 700 W. Seventh Ave. [Register here](#).

Tuesday, Sept. 14: Day of Caring, the largest corporate volunteer event of the year in Anchorage. More information, call (907) 229-2470.

Wednesday, Sept. 15: [Community Campaign Kickoff \(virtual\)](#). Join UNITE TO THRIVE Campaign Chair John Sims, Kickoff Host Alexandra McKay, Rasmuson Foundation, UWA President Clark Halvorson and others for a celebration of Anchorage's LIVE UNITED spirit and a call to action. Keynote Speaker Raquel Cruz Bono, M.D. 11:45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. [Register here](#).

Friday, Sept. 17: [Day of Caring Food Drive](#), 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Companies, neighborhoods, and families can bring food and/or cash donations to any Carr's/Safeway or to the large trucks at the Midtown Mall Carrs-Safeway and Midtown Fred Meyer.

About United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners working together to improve the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. LIVE UNITED.

www.liveunitedanc.org

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