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For Immediate Release

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Bundle Up, Walk for Warmth to Keep Neighbors Housed and Warm

Anchorage, AK-- Join your family and friends this Saturday, February 21st at United Way's 5th annual Walk for Warmth and make a difference for families struggling to stay housed and warm.

Last year the monies raised from Walk for Warmth helped pull 63 families - 157 children, women and men - back from the brink of homelessness.

"For those barely balanced on the financial tightrope, all it takes is a single upset, a temporary job loss, an unexpected medical bill and suddenly they're forced to leave their home altogether – maybe to double up with extended family or couch surf between family and friends, or find a shelter bed." said Michele Brown, President, United Way of Anchorage. "Imagine what that feels like to a nine year old? A little financial help now to keep that child housed is a simple choice."

In an effort to grow the event and in honor of the 5th anniversary United Way is hosting its first 5K run. Timing will be provided by Skinny Raven.

The price to register for the 5K is \$40. All timed participants will receive a Walk for Warmth & 5th Anniversary 5K bib and t-shirt. Untimed participants who raise \$40 or more will also receive the Walk for Warmth t-shirt this year!

There is still time to get in on the fun. Whether you walk or run on your own, with friends or family, form a team, join a team, or make a donation, you will be helping a neighbor stay housed and warm this winter. Just imagine the impact that can have on a child's success in school.

Here's a quick look at the Event schedule. For registration and full participation details, visit <http://bit.ly/2015WalkforWarmth>

February 20: Skinny Raven Downtown, 800 H Street

- 5-7 p.m. Bib pickup

February 21: First United Methodist Church, 725 W. 9th Avenue

- 9 - 9:30 a.m. Last minute Bib pick-up
- 9 - 10 a.m. Walkers Registration and team activities
- 9:30 a.m. Brief program
- 10 a.m. 5K Begins
- 10:15 a.m. Walk begins
- 11 a.m. Door prizes, warm snacks and top runners announced

Enstar Natural Gas returns as the 2015 Walk for Warmth Torch Bearer Sponsor. Other major sponsors include Teamsters, Fairweather LLC and First National Bank Alaska. Supporting sponsors include Anchorage Market & Festival, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Central Labor Council, Laborers Local 341, LaTouche Pediatrics, Odom Corporation and Visit Anchorage. In-kind sponsors include First United Method Church, Your Alaskalink, A Casual Encounter Catering and Orzel Photo.

Walk for Warmth is part of United Way's ongoing work to ensure all Anchorage residents are housed, financially stable and have the opportunity to increase their income and save for the future – to build a sustainable and hopeful life in our community. We invite you to learn more and get involved! Visit <http://www.liveunitedanc.org/>