



United Way of Anchorage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: February 15, 2021

Contact: Jason Grenn, Senior Director  
Communications and Marketing  
907-263-3823 o; 907-301-3046 c

## **WARM HEARTS WARM HOMES lights a candle to keep utilities paid**

*Campaign aims to help struggling families with gas, electric and water bills*

**Anchorage AK** – Inspired by a generous donor on the Kenai Peninsula, [ENSTAR Natural Gas Company](#) and United Way of Anchorage have teamed up to launch the WARM HEARTS WARM HOMES Utility Assistance Fund to keep heat and lights on and water running for Southcentral Alaskans.

Even with rental and food assistance, thousands of Alaskan families are still struggling in the deep recession of the COVID-19 pandemic. When you don't have a job or go out of business, bills mount fast and across the board. Thousands of low to moderate-income Alaskan families lived paycheck-to-paycheck before the pandemic. When there's no paycheck, and unemployment assistance doesn't cover the budget, it can be hard to find a dollar to stretch, and that missing dollar might have covered heat, lights, and water.

The anonymous donor on the Kenai has seen the need and given \$10,000 to help cover utilities. ENSTAR has matched that \$10,000 and with United Way has launched WARM HEARTS WARM HOMES.

"We know the financial hardship brought by the pandemic continues for many Alaskans.," said Lindsay Hobson, Communications Director for ENSTAR. "And so does the generosity of Alaskans looking out for one another."

"Our work will not be finished until the virus is gone and Alaska's economic recovery is complete," said Clark Halvorson, President of United Way. "If you have the ability, please consider making a donation as we come together again to keep hearts and homes warm."

If you can help, the easiest way is online at [liveunitedanc.org/warmhearts](https://liveunitedanc.org/warmhearts). There you can direct or split your donation – there are separate donation buttons for Anchorage and the Mat-Su and for the Kenai Peninsula.

If you need help, the easiest way to get connected is to call Alaska 2-1-1 at 2-1-1 or 1-800-478-2221 or email [Alaska211@ak.org](mailto:Alaska211@ak.org).

### **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](https://www.liveunitedanc.org)