



United Way of Anchorage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ANCHORAGE CARES fund quickly surpasses \$83,000 in donations  
helping those impacted from COVID-19 crisis**

**Anchorage AK** – Established in response to the economic fallout of the coronavirus, the ANCHORAGE CARES fund exceeded \$83,000 today thanks to donations from over 150 individuals and businesses.

"Anchorage's response has been rapid and robust," said Cassandra Stalzer, United Way of Anchorage's Vice President of Philanthropy. "It has truly been incredible to watch our neighbors rally together and meet the needs of those who find themselves in crisis during these unprecedented times."

Additionally, Rasmuson Foundation will provide a 1:1 match for the next \$25,000 donations into the fund, further inspiring Alaskans to donate as they can and maximizing the support to those in need. "We have never experienced anything like this in our lifetimes. Like many of our colleagues, we are gathering as much information as we can and figuring out how we can best help those who need it," said Diane Kaplan, Rasmuson Foundation president and CEO. "We are guided by the words of our founder Elmer Rasmuson, 'helping others is an Alaskan tradition.' "

The ANCHORAGE CARES fund was set up on March 19<sup>th</sup> to address the numerous and unexpected needs of Anchorage citizens impacted the most from business closures, including those without access to sick days, placed on unpaid furlough that threatens housing stability, or left without quality childcare due to school or facility closure.

Support immediately poured in and donations were instantly sent to agencies assisting individuals and families facing the burden of financial disruption or loss of benefits. 100% of the donated funds will be used to support Anchorage-area needs and funds are quickly being distributed. The highest needs will be identified using Alaska 2-1-1 call data and input from United Way's network of partner agencies. So far, funds are being used to help people retain housing and meet basic needs, like utilities, groceries, and childcare bills. "We are committed to move these funds quickly to where they are needed most," said Stalzer.

Thanks to all who have given to help Anchorage pull together through this challenging medical, social and financial moment. We unite as a community to care for each other and show that ANCHORAGE CARES.

**About United Way of Anchorage**

United Way of Anchorage is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners who work for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community. LIVE UNITED.

[www.liveunitedanc.org](http://www.liveunitedanc.org)