



United Way of Anchorage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: December 7, 2020

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United Way teams with Albertsons, school district to keep students and families fed

Anchorage AK – United Way of Anchorage has won a \$60,000 grant from the Albertsons Companies Foundation to get grocery gift cards to families and students in the Anchorage School District’s Child in Transition and Back on Track programs.

The foundation’s Nourishing Neighbors Community Relief Initiative was established to help families impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and beyond. More than \$77 million has been donated nationally this year alone to help food banks, schools and senior centers launch or maintain their meal programs.

This round of the ongoing Albertsons’ Nourishing Neighbors Community Relief fund is aimed at marginalized communities, defined as Black people, Indigenous people, and any People of Color. The pandemic has hit all of us, but members of minority communities have borne a greater share of the burden. Hence the goal of this grant.

Staffers with the school district programs will identify the neediest families from those communities and provide \$50 gift cards, up to \$150 a month, redeemable at area Carrs/Safeway stores. Albertsons, based in Boise, Idaho, is the parent company of Carrs/Safeway stores.

The Child in Transition program provides assistance to students experiencing homelessness with their families, from families living on the street to those in shelters or staying with friends. The Back on Track program is part of the 90% Graduation by 2020 initiative, and helps struggling and economically disadvantaged high school students recover credits for graduation with help both in and out of the classroom.

"Food, shelter, safety - these are foundational needs that must be met for children to focus on learning, but right now so many of our children lack the security of these basic things," said June Sobocinski, United Way’s vice president for education impact. "We are so grateful to the Albertsons Companies Foundation for this support that will help feed families in Anchorage, reduce at least some of the stress, and help students engage in learning, instead of worrying."

"We’re talking about roughly 100 families each month we’re going to support with this," said David Mayo-Kiely, Child In Transition program coordinator for the school district. These are families who have had job hours cut, or their jobs eliminated in the pandemic recession.

“A lot of the families are using food pantries and food banks. It just isn’t enough for a lot of folks,” he said. “There’s stress coming at you from every angle right now. It’s a real juggling act right now for all families, especially for lower-income families with less resources.”

Distribution of cards will begin before Christmas. Grant funds will be administered by United Way of Anchorage.

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