



United Way of Anchorage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ease hunger, keep restaurants afloat in Anchorage

Fundraising campaign aims to maintain triple-win response to pandemic

Anchorage AK – First National Bank Alaska, Alaska Hospitality Retailers, and United Way of Anchorage are launching a campaign to keep the successful Restaurant and Hunger Relief program running into the spring.

The campaign aims to raise funds to prepare and deliver 10,000 nutritious meals to food insecure clients of 32 local nonprofits. First National Bank Alaska already has raised enough for nearly a quarter of the needed meals through its Spirit of Alaska online concert in December.

“We are launching this campaign as the program supported by the Municipality has seen tremendous success these past few months. We’ve heard directly from our neighbors that they want to help and the public funds that started the program are set to run out,” said Clark Halvorson, president of United Way of Anchorage.

The wide-reaching positive impact of the program is the foundation of why the municipality allocated \$600,000, and the Alaska Community Foundation contributed \$125,000 to extend the work that ended in December. The goal was to provide revenue to restaurants half-shuttered by COVID-19, retain and reclaim paying jobs for restaurant workers and provide restaurant-quality, nutritious meals to children, families and seniors through the nonprofits that serve them.

By numbers and testimony, restaurant relief has succeeded on all three fronts. By Valentine’s Day on Sunday, 42 restaurants will have provided more than 60,000 meals to Alaskans at 32 different nonprofit sites in Anchorage.

“It’s been a lifesaver,” said Mike Middleton, general manager of Humpy’s, which provided 40 meals a day to Covenant House.

Restaurants have been able to hire, rehire or maintain about 320 employees who would not have had jobs without the program. About 130 employees logged extra hours.

The recipients of the work have given glowing reviews.

“It’s just been a blessing for us and the staff,” said Angie Rush, director of development at Alaska Child & Family. “It’s like being in a restaurant. Our kids have said they love it.” Those kids are dealing with mental and behavioral issues that keep them apart from family – and the pandemic has prevented even the usual family visits. Tacos from the Bridge, waffles from Mo’s Deli and chicken fettuccini from Sullivan’s have made the pandemic easier to bear.

“They know who they’re cooking for,” Rush said. “This project is trying to help us take care of our kids in such a thoughtful and kind way.”

That care is exactly what the new campaign aims to continue with the help of donors. Dozens of restaurants are ready to keep firing up their kitchens. Chefs and servers/delivery drivers are proud to bring their best to diners who truly appreciate their work.

Donors can contribute online at United Way's Restaurant and Hunger Relief website – www.LiveUnitedANC.org/winwinwin

Participating Restaurants to date:

49th State Brewery, Alchemist, Anchorage Ale House, Anchorage Cider House, Anchorage Made, Bear Tooth, Bridge Seafood, Burrito King, Cassie's Place, Café Amsterdam, Crush, Eagle River Ale House, Fancy Moose, Flattop, Gallo's, Harley's Old Thyme, Hula Hands, Humpty's, Jalapenos, Kindred Spirit, Lucky Wishbone, Matanuska Brewery, Middle Way Cafe, Mo's Deli, Mr. Darryl's Southern BBQ, Oriental Garden, Peppercini, Sal's NY Grill, Snow City, South, Spenard Roadhouse, Sub Zero, Subway Anchorage, Subway Girdwood, Sullivan's, Taco King, Tatilani, Tent City Tap, Tequila 61, Top Bop, Wild Fork, Writers Block

Feeding children, youth, families, seniors at the following organizations:

AK Child and Family, Alaska Behavioral Health - Power program, Alex Hotel, Anchorage Senior Center, Aviator Hotel, AWAIC, Boys and Girls Clubs, Camp Fire Learning Pods, Chugach View Senior Housing, Clare House, Covenant House Alaska, Creekwood Hotel, Downtown Hope Center, Fairview Recreation Center, Gospel Rescue Mission, Karluk Manor, Kids' Corps, Hope Community Resources, RurAL CAP Safe Harbor, RurAL CAP Child Development, Sitka Place, Sockeye Hotel, 325 E. 3rd.

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