



United Way of Anchorage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## United Way of Anchorage Announces 2020 Campaign Cabinet

**Anchorage AK** – In a year of unprecedented challenges and growing community need, the Board of Directors of United Way of Anchorage has stepped forward to lead this year’s Community Campaign.

“It is so much more than fundraising,” said Board Chair Natasha Pope, Vice President of First National Bank Alaska. “This is about continuing United Way of Anchorage’s focus to help those within our communities who are the most vulnerable.”

“As board members, we have a front row view of how Anchorage’s nonprofit sector is challenged to respond to the public health and economic fallout of the pandemic. We know United Way of Anchorage’s work is needed now more than ever, and that drives this board to reach further and do more,” said Pope.

Throughout 2020, United Way of Anchorage has simultaneously worked for sustained, systemic change while responding to the acute needs of moment. When the pandemic struck, United Way swiftly tapped its bond of trust with the community, the skill of its Alaska 2-1-1 referral helpline and the expertise of its partners to connect hundreds of Alaskans to rent and utility assistance.

Private donations preceded public dollars and were essential in keeping newly out-of-work Alaskans housed and warm. During the same period, United Way and its partners officially launched an innovative public/private partnership to house the most visible homeless while shifting the cost to a pay for success model.

“UWA is extraordinary in that it mobilizes so many sectors, public, private, and nonprofits, to align for the common good,” Pope said. “It stands up and takes on the most difficult community challenges.”

Here’s a partial list of what thousands of generous donors have accomplished in funding the mission that inspires Pope and the rest of the United Way board:

- Information and referrals for 50,000 callers to Alaska 2-1-1, which continues to be Alaska’s go-to resource connecting Alaskans to help.
- Rent, mortgage and utility assistance to more than 3,000 households since the economic blow of the pandemic shutdown struck in March, keeping families warm and housed even as they struggle to regain livelihoods.
- Continued success increasing the rate of high school graduation, including the increase to 476 struggling students who have earned diplomas with help from Back on Track, which provides services both in and out of the classroom.

“We all want health and good prospects for ourselves and our children, no matter what our politics, religion or livelihood,” said United Way of Anchorage’s new CEO Clark Halvorson.

“Active community investors, including our partner companies and their employees, know that by working together, we can better respond to our neighbors’ needs during the pandemic and as we recover and rebuild. I thank our board members for taking on the community campaign leadership. Their willingness reflects an abiding faith in the work.”

The community campaign continues until December 31. Contributions are accepted year-round.

United Way of Anchorage board members are:

Natasha Pope, chair, First National Bank Alaska;  
Mike Dunn, vice chair/chair elect, community  
volunteer;  
Beth Stuart, treasurer, KPMG;  
Laurie Butcher, secretary, Alaska Communications;  
Belinda Breaux, Alyeska Pipeline Service  
Company;  
Greg Deal, Wells Fargo Bank;  
William Falsey, Municipality of Anchorage;  
Charles Fedullo, Strategies360;  
Rick Fox, Edison Chouest Offshore;  
Sarah Gaines\*\*, Northrim Bank;  
Darlene Gates, ExxonMobil;  
Michael Huston, Northrim Bank;  
Teresa LaPella\*\*, GCI;

Dick Mansager, community volunteer;  
Jordan Marshall, Jordan Marshall Alaska;  
Joe Marushack, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.;  
Alexandra McKay, Rasmuson Foundation;  
Daniel Mitchell, CIRI;  
Rachel Norman, Alaska USA Federal Credit Union;  
Susan Parkes, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company;  
Frank Paskvan, community volunteer;  
Veronica Reem, community volunteer;  
Jack Sheppard\*, Walsh Sheppard;  
Brad Spees, GCI;  
Ed Ulman, Alaska Public Media;  
David Wight, community volunteer;  
Thomas Yetman, Providence Medical Group

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