A message from Mary Becker
Chairman of the Board of Directors for United Way of Southwest Alaska

"If it’s one thing I’ve learned this past year, it’s that only as Chairwoman of the United Way of Southwest Alaska, do I truly understand how much difference we can make if we all team up to live United.

Working with this united organization, as well as our 35 partner agencies, I’ve come to appreciate the alliances of volunteers in Southwest Alaska. When our partners work in and around their need, their efforts multiply exponentially. The whole–the whole–to which I refer was whole community–truly in greater than the sum of its parts. And it is by–by uniting the people, organizations and businesses of Southwest Alaska–we put great things in motion.

From Diagnosing in Sitka, Homeland to Haines up and down the Panhandle, the enhancing the lives of our neighbors is positively not only required but also essential. This past year your vision, commitment and advocacy efforts, along with your kind financial support, directly helped create a better life for all Alaskans.

A prime example: our 2012 Day of Caring projects, which harnessed and directed the collective power of numerous volunteers across the entire state. The projects served innumerable businesses–to complete all manner of community and neighborhood organizations. That’s stories of people taking the day off, not only allowed, but encouraged by employers to roll up their sleeves and shed their business suits andway girds and build wheelbarrow ramps. The projects of the year also gained a unique perspective on the nature of our community.

A second example: the Board of Directors, along with our 250 volunteers, completed a single meeting to contribute to the overall mission of the United Way of Southwest Alaska.

I’d also like to remark not to the lives of a single individual, but the entire community. All year around, across South- west Alaska, the United Way and our partner agencies change lives and strengthen com- munity partnerships. Literacy, health and domestic violence outreach, assisting the elderly, teaching financial literacy and adult education, just to name a few.

I want to reflect on this one to all. A single year, all year round, across South- west Alaska, the United Way and our partner agencies change lives and strengthen com- munity partnerships. Literacy, health and domestic violence outreach, assisting the elderly, teaching financial literacy and adult education, just to name a few.

We have a great staff of dedicated professionals working to carry out our mission of improving lives and strengthening communi- ties in Southwest Alaska. Jennifer Treadway, our Resource Development Director, Ethan Howes, our SAGA AmeriCorps volunteer, and Tima Lancaster, our Mural Alaskans Seeking Skills Training (M.A.S.T.E.R) Program Worker, are working diligently to address individual needs and improve lives by organizing the caring and identification power of our commu-

Thank you, Wayne

The Board of Directors of United Way of Southwest Alaska is pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report. For our second year in this unique video format, we hope the video captures the spirit and the heart of our organization. This year, we acknowledge our accomplishments, prepare for the chal- lenges in the year ahead and acknowledge the great spirit of vol- unteerism that exist in our organization and in our communities across Southwest Alaska. We rely on the support of many volunteers, both staff and community members, for their time to our partner agencies and make significant contributions of their financial resources.

Our greatest challenge is spreading the United Way of Southwest Alaska message and the oppor- tunities to strengthen our relationships with all of the communities of Southeast. Staff mem- bers Sitka and Ketchikan during the past year, reached out to our partner agencies and intro- duced ourselves to leaders in those communities. We continue to welcome opportunities to visit others and you hope we will extend an invita- tion for us to meet in your community.

United Way of Southwest Alaska has a solid track record of successes and I’m grateful for the op- portunity to build on that success. As with any organization, the people that make the difference. This last year has undoubtedly been challenging to community members who move with purpose and resolve. The vigor and enthusiasm of those who have given themselves of themselves this past year to help create a difference in their respective communities, the projects they have supported, for their time to our partner agencies and make significant contributions of their financial resources.

UNITED. Alternatively, United Way of Southwest Alaska is the United Way message and the op- portunities to strengthen our relationships with all of the communities of Southeast. Staff mem- ber agencies, continue to share our commun- ity and the hope to do it all once more. Together, we achieve our vision: A Southeast Alaska where people and families achieve their potential.

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In June 2012, several of the local food pantries and resource providers along the Southeast Alaska Food Bank and United Way of Southeast Alaska come together to discuss the needs surrounding food access in Juneau. Meeting monthly, the Food Resource Summit aims to identify gaps and overlaps in the food services provided in Juneau. Additionally, the group aims to increase the amount and access of food in Juneau. Before the Food Resource Summit could begin to help individuals and families in need, the need had to be defined.

Finally, the ultimate goal of the Food Resource Summit is to increase food access in Juneau, by providing individuals and families in need access to nutritious food, and creating opportunities for human connection. The group raised many questions and concerns regarding the food system in Juneau and hopes that by answering these questions all organizations involved can better serve Juneau and its population.

A lack of communication among organizations arose early on in the meetings as an ice breaker. During a recent meeting, a table reduction has helped to spark communication among organizations. For example, as a result of those monthly meetings, the Glory Hole, having phasing out their holiday boxes, directed clients to go to the Salvation Army of Juneau. Going forward, Salvation Army has offered to be the main hub for organizations to overdose and distribute food to individuals on receiving multiple holiday boxes from different organizations. Additionally, members of the Food Resource Summit are encouraged to communicate when food drives are happening to other group members to prevent agencies from competing with each other for donations. Thus, sustaining a higher amount of food at the Southeast Alaska Food Bank and food pantries throughout the year.

Several demographic groups including college students, seniors, and young children have been identified as needing more focus placed upon them. In Juneau, nearly fifty percent of students receive free or reduced lunches. This can lead to low medication adherence, which can lead to severe mental and behavioral health services, legal assistance, education, and much more.

FamilyWize Prescription Discount Card
Every hour of every day, an Alaskan needs essential services—from finding food and shelter to seeking adequate care for a child or an aging parent. Faced with multiple governmental agencies, people often don’t know where to turn for help or how to get started. In many cases, they are going without these necessary services.

Alaska 2-1-1 is a free, confidential, and universal information and referral system operated by United Way of Southeast Alaska and all other United Ways in Alaska. Supported by businesses, non-profit organizations, and government officials, Alaska 2-1-1 includes access to local, state, and national stakeholders aware of local, regional, and state-wide issues.

Alaska 2-1-1 ensures that the health and human services system works for Alaskans. With Alaska 2-1-1, people have access to the services instead of the frustrating and time-consuming hit-or-miss connections made by people calling multiple agencies on their own behalf trying to find the right office or program on their own. Health and human services are only valuable when they get to the right people with the right expertise to make sure they improve health, well-being, and the best life possible for Alaskans.

Support for community crisis or disaster response—2-1-1 systems in Alaska provide valuable assistance to those in need when a disaster strikes. Services available statewide by dialing 2-1-1 include disaster preparedness, food and emergency assistance, spiritual care, and health and human services.

For more information and referral assistance, please visit www.alaska211.org or call 2-1-1.

Nearly 1,000 Alaska families received $40,500 just by using the FamilyWize card.

FamilyWize is a prescription drug discount that can reduce the cost of medicine by an average of 35% or more for people without insurance or who take medications not covered by their insurance. Just by presenting the FamilyWize card, families can save up to 70% on the cost of their prescription medicine 80% of the time.

FamilyWize cards can be found on our website (www.unitedwayseak.org/activities/familywize).

Visit www.familywize.com to look up prescription information.

• Free to use in Alaska.
• No registration or application forms.

Most large pharmacies in the United States accept these prescription drug discount cards:

• FamilyWize

In 2012, United Way of Southeast Alaska participated in the City of Juneau’s 4th Annual Healthy Kids Challenge. This healthy eating and physical activity initiative encouraged Juneau’s children, grades K-3, to complete six weeks of workouts and consume nutritious meals. The challenge included a nutrition education component and the promotion of a six-week fitness program designed for children in grades K-3.

The Alaska Food Bank is a part of United Way’s efforts to eliminate hunger in Juneau, and hopes that by connecting people with the right services, the human services system works for Alaskans.

**Basic Needs:** Food, clothing, shelter, temporary financial assistance, transportation, and disaster relief.

**Physical and mental health resources:** Crisis intervention, prenatal care, support groups, counseling, drug and alcohol intervention, rehabilitation, and children’s health insurance programs.

**Financial stability:** Employment referral services, Earned Income Tax Credit, career counseling, food stamp, rent, and utility assistance, unemployment benefits, job training, and education programs.

**Support for older Americans and persons with disabilities:** Home care, adult day program, Meals on Wheels, respite care, transportation, and homemaker services.

**Support for children, youth and families:** Childcare, after-school programs, family resource centers, summer camps, recreation programs, extracurricular programs, and protective services.

**Support for community crisis or disaster response:** 2-1-1 systems in Alaska provide valuable assistance to those in need when a disaster strikes. Services available statewide by dialing 2-1-1 include disaster preparedness, food and emergency assistance, spiritual care, and health and human services.

Services available statewide by dialing 2-1-1 include:

- Disaster preparedness
- Food and emergency assistance
- Spiritual care
- Health and human services

For more information and referral assistance, please visit www.alaska211.org or call 2-1-1.

Nearly 1,000 Alaska families received $40,500 just by using the FamilyWize card.
Continuing its focus on developing volunteerism in the Juneau community, United Way of Southeast Alaska sponsored a Day of Caring event to kick off our annual Giving Campaign on Wednesday, October 3, 2012. On Saturday, October 6, the University of Southeast Alaska continued its tradition of volunteering by involving students and staff members in additional service projects as an extension of Day of Caring.

Each year, local businesses allow their employees the opportunity to spend a workday engaged in volunteer projects at nonprofit organizations as part of Day of Caring. This year’s events matched approximately 50 volunteers from 6 local businesses with 10 projects at area non-profit organizations. Each workplace team member volunteered his or her time and skills in order to complete much needed service projects which included shampooing carpets, stuffing and labeling envelopes, weeding garden beds, organizing craft supplies, constructing a trailer for adaptive bikes, deep cleaning and sanitizing playrooms, and organizing shelving units.

Participating workplaces included:
- City and Borough of Juneau
- Construction Machinery Industrial
- Juneau Building Trades
- Plumbers & Pipefitters, Local Union 262
- True North Federal Credit Union
- University of Alaska Southeast

Benefiting Organizations:
- American Red Cross of Alaska
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Alaska
- Catholic Community Service
- Girl Scouts of Alaska
- Juneau Alliance for Mental Health, Inc. (JAMHI)
- Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL)

A special thank you to our sponsors for their generous support and donations:
- Baxter, Bruce and Sullivan
- DIPAC
- Heritage Coffee
- Prospector Hotel
- Tyler Rentals

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United Way is NOT a membership organization.