CONTACT:

Wayne A. Stevens

907-463-5530

president@unitedwayseak.org

**FOR RELEASE October 4, 2017**

**Peggy Cowan and Tom Sullivan to Lead**

**United Way 2017 Annual Giving Campaign**

**Juneau, AK** – United Way of Southeast Alaska is proud to announce a dynamic team who will be leading United Way of Southeast Alaska’s annual giving campaign. Peggy Cowan, a consultant in the field of education, and Tom Sullivan, Southeast Regional Manager for First National Bank Alaska have agreed to lead the annual workplace campaign effort. They look forward to building on past success and stretching the campaign goal to $450,000 while also increasing both donors and donations.

United Way of Southeast Alaska’s Board Chair, Mark Mesdag, in making the announcement at the United Way Donor Appreciation event on Friday evening said “We really appreciate both Peggy and Tom taking on this important challenge.  The annual campaign helps to fund United Way’s fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community across Southeast Alaska. Everyone deserves the opportunity to have a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health. Both Peggy and Tom have been great ambassadors for these causes in the past.  We know that they will do an excellent job.”

Peggy Cowan is a consultant working with the Alaskan non-profits and the University of Alaska. She is former Superintendent for the Juneau School District and North Slope Borough School District. She’s been an educator in Alaska since 1982 and first moved to Juneau in 1985. She believes that strong communities make strong schools and strong schools make strong citizens; and sees United Way as critical to this mission.

In stepping up to serve as co-chair, Ms. Cowan noted that “I’m volunteering for United Way now because I know the work of United Way and its partner agencies make a difference for Juneau and our neighbors in southeast Alaska. I know that now, even more than other times, a strong community will rely on the generosity of those who can give and I believe in Juneau and our future.”

Tom Sullivan has been a Juneau resident since 1984. He has been in banking in Juneau for 31 years and currently is the Southeast Regional Manager for First National Bank Alaska responsible for overseeing offices in Haines, Cordova, Sitka and the two offices in Juneau.

Tom has served on several non-profit boards over the years in Juneau, is active in the Juneau Chamber of Commerce, and is past President of the Juneau Gastineau Rotary Club

He has raised 3 children in Juneau ages 27, 24 and 18 and as of September 6th of this year, became a grandfather for the first time, welcoming his grandson Hayden Parker into the world.

Sullivan commenting on his long term involvement said “I am proud to be a part of United Way and the great work it does in the communities of Southeast. No matter the size of the contribution, you can rest assured that it will be staying right here in Southeast Alaska helping those in need. I also appreciate that if you have a specific organization or service that you want to direct your contribution to, United Way can facilitate that type of directed giving. “

Continuing he noted that “There is great need in our Southeast communities, and United Way is at the fore-front of addressing those needs with care and compassion. United Way of Southeast Alaska’s campaign annually raises funds to support the United Way’s mission of improving lives and communities in Southeast Alaska as well as the work of our 31 partner agencies. “

Community contributions are invested carefully and systematically in programs and agencies that work to solve various community problems. We have a great responsibility to ensure that your contribution is invested in the most effective and impactful way possible.

Statistics show that 1 in 3 people will use a United Way partner agency in their lifetime. Your support ensures that you, your loved ones, neighbors, and co-workers will have help when it is needed.

United Way of Southeast Alaska is a volunteer-driven, grass-roots organization that creates lasting change by bringing people and resources together to address community-wide issues. UWSEAK focuses on the building blocks of a good life: **Education, Income and Health**; a quality education that leads to a good job, income that can support a family through retirement, and good health.

UWSEAK is a member of the United Way Worldwide system that includes nearly 1,800 community-based United Way organizations. Each is independent, separately incorporated, and governed by local volunteers.

For more information about United Way of Southeast Alaska or to find information about holding a workplace campaign at your business visit our website at [www.unitedwayseak.org](http://www.unitedwayseak.org) or call our offices at 907-463-5530.

###