In 2018, United Way of Mat-Su continued to work every day to make the Valley a great place to live, work, and play. We envision a Mat-Su Valley in which every individual and family is happy, healthy and thriving. By improving access to resources, collaborating with others, daring to be bold and innovative, and by taking the lead on critical issues in our community, we can help make our community the best possible place to live, grow, and prosper.

United Way of Mat-Su welcomed new staff to our dynamic team this past year. Be sure to connect with Becky, Michele and Nick if you haven’t had a chance to meet them. We championed the 2018 Prevention Summit, took the lead on disaster response and assistance following the Cook Inlet Earthquake, and have been working diligently to launch Youth 360 to provide more out-of-school opportunities for youth.

Thank you for your generous and thoughtful support. The Board of Directors and staff of United Way of Mat-Su are grateful to take part in this important work and we look forward to continuing to partner with you to make a difference and strengthen our community. We are proud and honored to share the 2018 United Way of Mat-Su Annual Report with you.
Our Mission
To mobilize and empower the caring community of the Mat-Su, while improving the self-reliance of individuals' lives in measurable and lasting ways.

Our Vision
A community where compassion and generosity is valued and all individuals and families thrive.

United Way of Mat-Su
By encouraging healthy living, increasing access to needed services, preventing health disparities, strengthening our community’s health and wellness infrastructure and reducing risky behavior by supporting our youth, United Way of Mat-Su seeks to create a community that is the best possible place to live, grow, and prosper.

2018 Projects | Play 60 - FamilyWize prescription discount cards - Thrive Mat-Su - Immunizations | Back-to-School Fair - Prevention Summit - Youth 360 - Senior Farmers Market Nutrition - Alaska Wellness Coalition - Mat-Su Resource Guide - Earthquake Relief - Mat-Su COAD
In August, United Way of Mat- facilitated the 2018 Alaska Prevention Summit in partnership with Mat-Su Health Foundation, CITC, the Mat-Su Opioid Task Force, Mat-Su Public Health, and Recover Alaska. The summit focused on primary prevention and included such topics as protective factors, the power of assets, and adverse childhood experiences. The summit's goal was to foster a healthy, resilient community.
Education

Whether it’s backpacks full of school supplies, providing youth with opportunities, or equipping young children and their families with necessary resources, United Way of Mat-Su believes that education is the foundation for a bright future.

2018 Projects | Stuff the Bus - Back to School Fair - Thrive Mat-Su Youth Retreat - Youth 360 - Burchell Summer School - Pioneer Peak Behavioral Support Program
"WASILLA — Students from every corner of the Mat-Su Borough School District flocked to the Menard Sports Center on Wednesday to collect free school supplies prior to the start of grades first through 12th on Thursday. About 1,200 students were handed backpacks and got to walk around to fill them with school supplies. This is the fifth year of the event, organized by the United Way of Mat-Su...

Boxes of school supplies stacked three or four high in the United Way office had to be loaded into a truck Wednesday night, and volunteers began unpacking before 8:00 a.m.. Many of the students who came to pick up free school supplies come from single parent families, and were relieved to have some of the financial burden of being prepared for school taken off of the shoulders of single parents."

-Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman
Financial Stability

United Way of Mat-Su believes that our work with local families and individuals to develop skills and access resources will help them become stronger and more independent, leading to a more resilient community.

2018 Projects | Mat-Su Project Homeless Connect - Mat-Su Valley Resource Guides - Emergency Food & Shelter Program - Mat-Su COAD - CERT Training.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>Upper Susitna Seniors</td>
<td>Meals on Wheels</td>
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<td>Work Therapy Program</td>
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<td>MY House</td>
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<td>Sunshine Transit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girl Scouts of Alaska</td>
<td>School Troup Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Alaska Council/Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Girl Cubs/Scouts BSA/Training</td>
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<td>Family Promise</td>
<td>Vouchers, supplies, case mgmt, training</td>
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<td>Big/Mentoring Program</td>
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<td>Agency</td>
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<td>Mat Su Food Bank</td>
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<td>Upper Susitna Food Pantry</td>
<td>Volunteer Training Program</td>
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<td>The Children’s Place</td>
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<tr>
<td>Set Free Alaska</td>
<td>Children’s Behavioral Health</td>
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What Is Youth 360?

Youth 360 is United Way of Mat-Su's newest initiative that connects local youth to their peers, parents and community to increase health and wellness throughout the Mat-Su. The more connected a young person is, the more likely they will become happy, healthy, thriving adults. Social connection is linked to increased rates of health and well-being and reduced rates of bullying, suicide, and substance misuse.

Youth 360 builds connection by providing positive, meaningful activities and opportunities for young people and their families. Youth will be able to contribute their ideas to help shape programs. Youth 360 offers youth clubs, fun and interesting activities, family events, summer programs, behavioral health services and transportation.

Youth 360 will begin in Houston/Big Lake and Wasilla in 2019 and will grow and expand throughout the Mat-Su.
Youth and families thrive in a caring and connected community.

Vision

Youth 360 | Staff
In 2018 United Way volunteers donated thousands of hours to various causes in the Mat-Su. Day of Caring, Earthquake Response, Homeless Connect, Stuff the Bus & Back To School Fair, Thrive Mat-Su Youth Retreat, Prevention Summit, and Play 60 wouldn't have been possible without you. Thank you so much for all the time and love you dedicate to our community!
2018 Volunteer of the Year Award

Winner
Lucas Adams
No More Mat-Su

Nominee
James Savage
Fiend 2 Clean

Nominee
Michael Carson
Mat-Su Opioid Task Force

2018 Dorothy A. Jones Legacy Award

Winner
Linda Conover
Mat-Su Imagination Library
Cook Inlet Earthquake

United Way of Mat-Su has long been known for its quick and compassionate response to local natural disasters, including the Sockeye Fire in 2015, and the Miller's Reach Fire of 1996. United Way of Mat-Su was honored and ready to take immediate action in assisting Mat-Su Valley residents in the aftermath of the November 30th earthquake.

As the dust settled, it became clear that many Valley schools were severely affected. Many Houston Middle School students were evacuated from the middle school building without their personal belongings, including winter jackets. Through the generous partnership of Mat-Su Health Foundation, Sportsman’s Warehouse, Fred Meyer, Walmart, and with the help of MSBSD faculty and staff, United Way of Mat-Su purchased over 300 new winter coats for HMS students. Students and their families were able to shop from tables loaded with brightly-colored, warm coats. We were honored to contribute to ensuring a happy, successful school year for our local students.

Additionally, UWMS helped earthquake survivors with food, toilets, counseling, heating, and water needs.
“I wanted to take a moment to say thank you to United of Way Mat-Su for all the help they have given my family and I. The November 30, 2018 earthquake changed the lives of many Alaskans. The damage that followed in its wake was devastating to some of us. Our home was not immune to the big shake we experienced. Our family of five lost our water, well, septic and use of our primary heat source, our wood stove. My children, husband and I would have had no way to go to the restroom or heat our home through the winter without the United Way. Michele, the woman that handles the outreach program, has helped us with a Port-A-Potty, as well as making sure we had propane for heat. Michele has not only been an integral part of my family’s daily needs, she has listened to my frustrations and concerns through the process of putting our home back together. Knowing that United Way and its people are truly concerned about our well-being is a great comfort. Thank you for all that you do. My family and I will be forever grateful.”

-Annette Mason & Theodore Kelly, Houston AK
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MEA
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MTA
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Mat-Valley Federal Credit Union
Northwest Pain Relief Center
NOVA River Runners
Palmer Lions Club
Q 99.7
R&R Productions
Shear Fire
Stage 2 Studios
State of Alaska, DOC
State of Alaska, DJJ
Subway of Mat-Su
Susitna Rotary
TOTE Maritime
Wasilla Lions Club
Wasilla Sunrise Rotary

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ELITE ($2500-4999)
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Les & Janet Helfrich
Francis LaChapelle

VISIONARY ($1500-2499)
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LEADERSHIP ($1000-1499)
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Diana Wright

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Cliffors Alexander IV
Dawn Baham
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John Butcher
Cleve Coyne
David Downey
Robert Doyle
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Ryan Finley
Micah Freeman
Goyette Family
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Moira Halbert
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Danielle Howard
William Hurr
Rachel Jaime
Brandon Kell
Janet Kincaid
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Pamela McCabe
Robert Morgan
Jeffrey Myers
Bonnie Parret
David Pease
Kelly Pollock
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Timothy Schelling
Jill Shaffer
Larry Snapes
Amy Spargo
Trudy Tyrrell
Nikki Velock
Larry & Connie Wiget
Tony Zellers

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Marcus Adams
Thea Agnew Bemben
Karen Alden
Holly Amos
Stephanie Atkinson
Emily Austin
Casey Bahman
Roger Baird
Douglas Barker
Iris Bates
Keanna Beck
Stephanie Bellah
Tammy Berdeaux
Esther Berezyuk
Cynthia Bergstrom
Stephanie Berta
Crystal Bird
Thomas Blavka
Elise Blocker
Deborah Bolton
Jessie Boulier
Sarah Brooks
Barbara Brown
Kimberly Brown
Margie Brown
Rachel Brown
Thomas Brown
Derek Bryant
Sharon Bulawa
Daryn Byram
Romy Byrd
Carlos Caballero
Erma Renee Carlson
Amelia Carney
Michelle Carrington
Amanda Carroll
Lori Cato
Harmony & Thomas
Chadwick
Steven Chancy
Magali Chapelle

In loving memory of Christina Powell
Your life touched the hearts of many
Leaving a Legacy | 2018 Donors & Supporters

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Kierre Childers
Dayton Christiansen
Jamie Clark
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Erik Connolly
Charmarée Cook
Christopher Cook
Michelle Cook
Darien Cooke
Alexia Cook-Giffith
Kaitlyn Cornelissen
Abigail Crawford
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Linda Duke
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Selden Endes
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Robyn Erickson
Sharla Erickson
Derek Evans
Jacob Evans
Kimberly Evans
Michael Eymann
Megan Faraci
Marcy Farris

Alicia Fields
Charles Fillman
Kelly Fink
Tamaran Finley
Debbie Fischer
Lance Fleury
Brandi Gage
Christina Gagnon
Jose Galvan
Garet Gates
Rachel Gerard
Charles Gerhardt
Krista Godwin
Lukasz Grabarek
Jason Green
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Lynn Haralson
Michele Harmeling
Christine Harrison-Davenport
Sierra Hawthorne
Alia Heck
Meagan Hegge
William Helm
Juli Hemphill
Joseph Hendrickson
Kelli Henry
Suzanne Hermon
Gigi Hersh
Vera Hershey
Tana Heussner
Jennifer Higgins
Kathleen Hite
Aneres Hoang
Monica Hobbs
Sue Hocker
Danielle Hodgson
Jennifer Hoffman
Lucy Hope
Charity House
Deanna Hrachia
Carol Huizar

Chase Huston
Rachel Ingham
Debra James
Nick Jenkins
Hailee Jensen
Donna Johnson
Lance Johnson
Micheal Johnson
Tallie Jones
Nicole Justice
Summer Keelan
Nicole Kelpe
Wanda Kie-Miller
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Wendy King
Linda Jo Klapperich
Johnnie Knapp
Lyne Knutson
Nicole Kofoid
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Christopher Kopy
Melissa Kortbein
Roseann Kowalczyk
Jamie Kowalski
Lynn Kracke
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Suzan Labby
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Carly Leonidakos
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Tamera Lusher
Hilary Macdonald
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Mary Maresh
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Lindsay May
Michelle Maynor
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Mandie McLaughlin
Nancy McNamus
Jessica McMillen
Maureen McNamara
Marina Mead
Marla Melton
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Tracy Neves
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Hamilton Norris
Cynthia Norvell
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Theron Powell
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Qinhua Rigg
Finn Rye
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Britany Sisson
Theresa Slaven
Saiko Smith
Diana Soliday
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Marguerite Vomela
Mathew Vos
Ripley Wakahuki
Tina Wareham
Denise Waychoff
Katherine Weber
Allison Webster
Sue Welton
John Western
Lisa Wheeler
Debra Whitmore
Mike Williamson
Marie Wise

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver.

Maya Angelou
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$482,751</strong></td>
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</table>
I have a couple questions that I saved for the finale.

**Why here? Why Us? What’s your vision for this valley?**

And while I’ll never claim to know the world in which you live
I’ll tell you a little about mine and how I choose to work and play and give

**Why Here?**
It’s not easy being here.
This place will chew you up and spit you out before you can cry a frozen tear
I know that because I chose it
the north has always drawn a kind of folk
that see the status quo and loathes it
I’m here for a challenge
I’m here for the wild
I’m here for the snowy peaked adventures that I dreamt of as a child
I’m here for the freedom
I’m here as a test
I’m here because I’ve search the world
and this place just flat out beat out all the rest
I was first drawn by the mountains
And how they never seem to end
my list to climb only seems to grow with every year here that I spend
but I stayed for the people
the ones that pick this place and stay
the ones that sink in roots, dig in their heels and stand up tall and say:
“this place is my home”
The ones with Matanuska might
the kind that lend a hand
know where to stand and don’t back down from a fight
the ones that are Susanna Strong
with Glacial silt in their veins, that barely bat a frosted eyelash when it blows
and snows and rains
So why here?
I’m here because of you
and I’m here because this place has taught me
that I need you more than I ever knew.

**Why us?**
What was the first thing that drew you to us
and made you stop and think and pause
because there’s always a moment
something that makes you start to see
that we’re all in this thing together
and there’s more to this whole thing than just me
I know this because I’ve had one, I’ve had a few to be exact
In the short time that I’ve been around
I’ve seen miracles in fact
it feel like magic when you can reach
someone who truly needs a hand
I’ve watched a watched the world
come off the shoulders of a struggling single dad
And I no know recovered women
who now advance the cause that just because your down,
don’t mean your out, and now help write the laws
and I know that this is mostly me just preaching to the choir
Because there’s a good chance you were standing next to me
and were equal parts inspired
Because you are our champions
and though I’m not exactly sure why you’re here
I would love to have that conversation
so if you see me grab my ear

**What is your vision?**
I ask because I truly want to know
and I want each of you to have a hand
in how we dream and plan and grow
because together we can make this place
so much better than we found it
but it’ll take us all, efforts big and small
till we can go and seize and grab it
So lastly I’d like to thank you
for your charity and your drive
in helping us help others
you let us sprout from seed and thrive
I hope you leave here with a purpose
one that makes you feel ignited
so act, and do and give based on that
we’re here to help you do it

**Let’s go and Live United!**

- Nick Jenkins
United Way of Mat-Su | Staff & Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Michele Harmeling
Outreach Coordinator

Nick Jenkins
Development Director

Becky Stoppa
Community Impact Director

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