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Early Successes Revealed in Mid-Year Results of Unique Partnership Between United Way of Anchorage and Anchorage School District

Anchorage, AK – United Way is excited to announce results of our work with Community PLUS Schools, a partnership with the Anchorage School District that connects students who are underperforming to community supports particular to their individual needs. The focus of the effort is improving math and attendance outcomes. Results are from the first half of the 2014-2015 school year in three elementary schools and one middle school.

So far this year, 103 students have been connected to supports and efforts are underway to reach an additional 102 students. Mid-year results show that students at the three elementary schools – Lake Otis, Airport Heights and College Gate- who received supports improved at a significantly higher rate compared to students who had not yet been connected to supports.

“Community-school partnerships are essential. Community and home factors significantly contribute to academic outcomes for kids. And, there are terrific community supports available. This partnership very intentionally gets the right supports to the right kids at the right time to further student success in school,” said Michele Brown, President of United Way of Anchorage. “It’s working! These youngsters are more engaged and doing better in school.”

This unique system uses data along with family and school input to help diagnose student needs and create tailored plans to connect kids with supports including after school programs, homework and study skills help, sports activities, mentors, food support, peer circles and family engagement opportunities. Progress reports and student data are used throughout the year to ensure continuous learning and improvement in this process. The partnership began in two schools in 2012 and expanded to four schools in 2014.

Alongside United Way of Anchorage and the Rasmuson Foundation, ConocoPhillips has been a major investor since the conception of this partnership, committing \$300,000 over the past three years. This investment has been crucial to building this partnership in its early stages, making it possible to improve the process and expand to more schools and students.

“We invest in education because of the powerful and long lasting impact it can have on individuals and the community as a whole. Our investment over the past three years in United Way’s PLUS School program shows real results that are changing lives. We are very pleased this program is working,” said Bij Agarwal, Vice President of Commercial Assets, ConocoPhillips Alaska.

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About United Way of Anchorage

United Way of Anchorage mobilizes people and resources to make lasting, measurable changes in our community to improve lives. Our priorities are successful, prepared kids; strong, financially stable families; access to medical care for all; and a community making healthy lifestyle choices. United Way invites you to join the movement.

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