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**Desiree Smith and Emil Mackey to Lead
United Way 2020 Annual Giving Campaign**

Juneau, AK – United Way of Southeast Alaska is proud to announce a dynamic team that will be leading United Way of Southeast Alaska's annual giving campaign. Desiree Smith, Senior Account Executive at the Juneau Radio Center and a United Way Board Member, and Emil Mackey, Insurance Agent and owner of Country Financial, look forward to building on past success and stretching the campaign goal to \$350,000 while also increasing both donors and donations.

United Way of Southeast Alaska's Board Chair, Jennifer Treadway, announced, "We really appreciate both Desiree and Emil 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 Emil and Desiree have been great ambassadors for these causes in the past. We know that they will do an excellent job."

Desiree Smith has extensive experience in the marketing, sales, and radio space. She has been working in the radio business for over 40 years. Desi moved to Juneau a little over two years ago with her husband Mike. Desi and Mike have quickly worked themselves into the fabric of what makes Juneau so great by volunteering and frequently participating in local events. Desi currently serves on the United Way of Southeast Alaska Board and has been a major driving force in getting the 2020-2021 Campaign started.

Desi also has an extensive background in community service having served as Honorary Chairperson and spokesperson for the Concordia Parish March of Dimes, served on the Board of Supervisors for the Brookhaven Animal Rescue League, and been involved with service to the Natchez Children's Home, the Natchez Humane Society, Concordia Parish Fire Dept., Boys and Girls Club of Adams County, The Natchez Women's Shelter and the Board of Directors of Natchez Little Theatre. Desi states, "United Way is one of the best-rated charity organizations in the world, making it a stand out cause to support and get behind. One can rest assured through giving that their money will stay local and help support the communities we live and work in throughout Southeast Alaska."

Emil Robert "Mackey" was born and raised in Little Rock Arkansas. He moved to Alaska in 2007 after finishing his Ph.D. in Public Policy, emphasizing Educational Policy & Leadership, from the

University of Arkansas. Since moving to Alaska in 2007, he lived and worked in Fairbanks (2007-2009), Kotzebue (2009-2013) and Juneau (2013-Present). Some of his prior volunteer service and recognitions include serving as an AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer (1995-1996), completing the 2007 University of Alaska Fairbanks Leadership Academy, and serving on the Juneau School Board (2015 – 2018 and 2019 to present).

Emil believes that being part of a community means volunteering to help make the community a better place for everyone. “United Way is a hub for nonprofit organizations. They know whom to talk to, how to develop great projects and ideas, and help lead inter-organization cooperation. I volunteer now through United Way because I believe in United Way and the work they do.”

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 or call our offices at 907-463-5530.

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