

A Month of Hope



Dear Friends,

April has always been a month of promise in Alaska- the snow will melt, the rivers will thaw, the leaves will pop, and our glorious summer will follow. This month is also celebrated as the National Month of Hope.

The perpetual barrage of troubling images from across the world can lead one to feeling hopeless and helpless to changing outcomes. Each day, we see distressing stories in the news feed – the war in Ukraine, Coronavirus statistics, increasing food, gas and housing prices, etc. You may need to search a little harder to find positive stories, but extreme situations can reveal the best in people, like the [celebrity chef](#) who is cooking food for free for thousands of displaced Ukrainians, neighboring countries that are welcoming Ukrainian refugees with open arms, a [marketing agency](#) that is offering pro bono help to non-profits as a result of the pandemic, and good Samaritans who buy groceries or pay bills for strangers in need. Desmond Tutu wisely said, “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. ”I love working for an organization known as “Hope” and for the many opportunities to see light during challenging times and the resulting positive impact on others.

For the past 53 years, during the month of April, generations of Hope Community Resources’ stakeholders have been preparing for the annual Walk for Hope traditionally held on the first Saturday in May. The initial Walk for Hope was the result of a critical need - to help bring Alaskan children experiencing disabilities home from out of state institutions. Thousands of Alaskans responded to the call to help and “walking for Hope” became an annual tradition. While many who have walked may not be aware of the true impact their efforts have had on the lives of fellow Alaskans- they had “hope” their efforts would be of help. The outcome of the initial walks was successful in bringing children home to Alaska, and the foundation of our journey to build communities and support systems where those experiencing differing abilities could thrive was established.

This year our annual walk will be held Saturday May 7th, and I’d love to invite you to enjoy the returning light of spring and join us as we Walk and Roll for Hope. As we continue the decades-long tradition of helping to ensure Alaskans with differing abilities have the resources and supports needed to live in inclusive communities across the state hope becomes a word of action.

Michelle Obama said, “You may not always have a comfortable life and you will not always be able to solve all the world’s problems at once, but don’t ever underestimate the importance you can have because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own.”

Those who have “Walked for Hope” through the years have made a difference, bringing light and the expectation of good to others. What a wonderful tradition to continue!

Looking forward to seeing you on May 7th!

Regards,

Michele Girault
Executive Director

Register here for the 53rd Walk for Hope: <https://secure.qgiv.com/event/53wfh/>