



Helping Alaskans with Differing Abilities Experience Hope Since 1968

October 13, 2020

Dear friends, family, and stakeholders,

Growing up in Colorado many summer nights were spent gazing up at star filled skies hoping for a sighting of a shooting star to make a wish on. As a child, the expanse of the solar system and universe beyond was hard to fathom, but the lessons I learned about light traveling through space have influenced my views of “impact”. Gorgeous star lit nights bring light forward from the past, and amazingly that light, potentially generated billions of years in the past, provides guidance for the present.

The past few months have given each of us many individual opportunities to influence future outcomes. Our choice to be unselfish rather than defiant, our choice to adapt rather than complain, our choice to embrace rather than exclude, our choice to be quiet and listen rather than judge, our choice to expect accountability rather than accepting the status quo enables us to shine bright in a world desperately in need of light. We may never fully understand the impact of individual choices, but our decisions today do influence the future for ourselves and others.

In the midst of a pandemic, we are weeks away from national and local elections. It’s hard to see “light” in the nearly incessant headlines, social media feeds, and television and radio ads. As we have navigated this, I have regularly reflected on the words of Hope’s corporate vision; each of us have daily opportunities to shine our own light into the future by our actions of kindness, compassion, and understanding that create a shared kinship between ourselves and others. Humankind, each of us can be both.

Judge Ginsburg said, “Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time”. One step, one vote. Our civic rights to participate in the electoral process are just as important now as they ever have been. Equally important during these strange times are kind words exchanged between neighbors at the mailbox, fresh vegetables from gardens shared between friends, connecting with your colleagues in meaningful, human ways, smiles at passersby on autumn walks, distant dinners with family, and all of the many simple, wonderful ways in which we build inclusive communities together. I encourage all of you to believe enduring change is possible.

Shine ever bright,

Michele Girault

CEO

Hope Community Resources