

*Rapid resources for trusted outreach.*

*Immediate help. Lasting hope.*



*The*  
**GOOD  
NEIGHBOR**  
*Fund*

POWERED BY THE ALASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



## ***FOR ANCHORAGE, BY ANCHORAGE.***

### **Get involved today.**

Call (907) 244-1728  
or use the QR  
code to contribute.  
All contributions  
are tax deductible.

### **Take the meal challenge!**

Commit to give up a meal or  
two per month. Donate the  
dollar value of the food not  
eaten to the Fund — or give  
more generously, whatever  
feels right to you.

### ***“HOW CAN I HELP?”***

The Good Neighbor Fund is a rapid-response resource,  
established by community donors through the Alaska  
Community Foundation, to pay for necessities to help  
people on the streets or in shelter move toward stability.

### ***YOUR DONATION PAYS FOR:***

- IDs and documentation
- Temporary housing and shelter
- Essential supplies like warm clothing and comfort items
- Travel expenses for reunification



**ALASKA  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION**

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Help a Homeless Neighbor in Need!

# Take the Meal Challenge

to Help Provide Housing and Support to a Neighbor

## What do you do?

- Once a month give up (do not eat) one or two meals. Many do this on the first Sunday of the month.
- Give the money value of these meals not eaten each month to the Alaska Community Foundation's:



**The GOOD NEIGHBOR Fund**  
*Immediate help. Lasting hope.*



Scan to Donate  
or to Learn more

## Then what happens?

- Help will be provided by Anchorage Outreach Workers to neighbors in need.
- 100% will provide help to pay for housing or other needs (not a penny to administration or overhead).
- Neighbors in need will be invited to work for the assistance received (to the extent of their ability).

*\*Call 907-244-1728 for options to donate, to ask questions, or just to get involved.*

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# “Take the Meal Challenge:” Fasting and Fast Offerings

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## Definitions:

To **fast** is to go without food and drink voluntarily for a certain period of time.

A **fast offering** is a donation given by community members to benefit the needy. The contribution generally consists of money saved by fasting for two consecutive meals.

## **The Concept**

“Is not this the **fast** that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

“Is it not to (A) deal thy bread to the hungry, (B) and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? (C) when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; (D) and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?”

“Then shall (1) thy light break forth as the morning, (2) and thine health shall spring forth speedily: (3) and thy righteousness shall go before thee; (4) the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. (5) Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. ...

“If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; (6) then shall thy light rise in obscurity, (7) and thy darkness be as the noonday: (8) and the Lord shall guide thee continually, (9) and satisfy thy soul in drought, (10) and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, (11) and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not, and they that shall be of thee shall (12) build the old waste places: thou shalt (13) raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, (14) The repairer of the breach, (15) The restorer of paths to dwell in.” (Isaiah 58:6–12).

## **The Vision**

“The care of the poor is in the hands of [leaders of the neighborhoods]—those leaders who are nearest to the [neighborhood] members and most intimately aware of their needs. ... The funds to administer such aid come through a simple, divinely inspired program—what we call fast day and fast offerings. The millions of dollars which are needed for this purpose each year really cost no one anything. It is not a sacrifice for anyone to go without two meals a month and give the equivalent cost, and even more, to his or her [neighborhood leader] for the care of the needy.

“Think, ... of what would happen if the principles of fast day and the fast offering were observed throughout the world. The hungry would be fed, the naked clothed, the homeless sheltered. Our burden of taxes would be lightened. The giver would not suffer but would be blessed by his small abstinence. A new measure of concern and unselfishness would grow in the hearts of people everywhere. Can anyone doubt the divine wisdom that created this program which has blessed the people of this [neighborhood] as well as many who are not members of [our neighborhood]?”

## **The Plan: Fast Day and Fast Offering**

The neighborhood designates one day each month, usually the first Sunday, as a **day of fasting**. Observance of “fast Sunday” includes going without food and drink for two consecutive meals, and giving a **fast offering** to help care for those in need. A fast offering should be at least the value of the two meals one does not eat. When possible, be generous and give much more than this amount.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

### IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM

A need for discretionary money for rapid use by outreach workers to meet immediate needs of those experiencing homelessness on the streets, in camps, and in shelters.

### PROPOSE THE SOLUTION

**How is the money distributed?** Following principles of the program and structure set up by the advisory council, the designated outreach teams (HOPE, RRS, 3RNC Director) will decide on specific uses.

**Give examples of how and when the money would be used.** The money can help transport people home, provide gas/repairs to a vehicle, or provide temporary accommodations until a spot in a program or other permanent housing solution emerges. It also can pay for IDs, phones, food, hygiene, etc.

**Who guides how the money is used?** Front-line outreach workers (HOPE, RRS, 3RNC Director) have discretion on specific expenditures. Donors and other community members will guide the use of the fund through the advisory council.

**How could a neighborhood effort work?** Money is raised by a neighborhood to address hyper-local needs.

### STATE WHY THE SOLUTION IS A GOOD ONE

**What is different about this fund compared to other kinds of donations?** This is discretionary money for immediate needs identified by outreach workers to help individuals move from homelessness to safety. It is based on individuals giving back to the community.

**Why should we trust you to use this money appropriately?** The idea has been 15 years in the making. Organizers are using the Alaska Community Fund as the fiduciary agent for the Fund. The Advisory Council, to be formed from donors, community members, and beneficiaries of the Fund, will guide the use of the fund. We are providing reviewed reports of the money. We are reporting income and expenses regularly.

**Why not use public funds to meet these needs?** Public money requires a process for approval and distribution that is not flexible or quick. Also, public money costs money to manage, and it is difficult to mix public funds with private funds. This voluntary program allows community members to work together on a united solution.

**Why not distribute this through other channels?** This streamlines the effort to help someone in a camp, street corner, or shelter. None of the donated money is used to cover administrative or overhead costs of any organization.

**Does the recipient have to work for the money given?** Recipients will be invited to give back for what they receive.

**Isn't this just a handout?** Money will be used primarily to move from survival to stabilization. With a tailored care plan, the recipient can increase in self reliance and dignity in one, several, or all of the focus areas.

**How will spending be reported?** Monthly expenditures will be aggregated into how much came in from which neighborhood/zip code and how much was spent per focus area and the number of people served.

## **WHAT RESOURCES ARE NEEDED**

**How do I get involved?** Donate. Give suggestions. Meet other needs. Promote this in your circles

**Are there other things needed besides just money?** YES. Do you have extra rooms/housing? Do you have job opportunities? Would you like to fulfill relationship opportunities? Would you like to use your skills to help?

**How can businesses get involved?** Some businesses would like a particular area of town near them addressed. Let's discuss a neighborhood-specific strategy

**Is it tax deductible?** Yes. Through ACF

## **HOW IT FITS IN VARIOUS EXISTING EFFORTS**

**How does it compare to other efforts and fund sources?** This fund is meant to be the “tip of the spear” for outreach workers. Instead of giving your small bills to someone asking for help on the street, you can ensure it goes for a good cause through this fund.

**Won't this compete with other giving to outreach worker organizations or nonprofit providers?** We welcome you to give to your trusted and preferred organizations. This doesn't change that.

**How do other organizations tap into this money?** They don't. The Advisory Council will steward and direct the funds.

## **RESOLUTION OF ACTION**

Establish the Good Neighbor Community Fund with the Alaska Community Foundation  
Form an Advisory Council for expanding funding, fiduciary integrity, and strategic planning  
Establish an effective communication and marketing plan  
Establish regular meetings  
Invite and gather funders  
Consider alternative funds or categories of funding

Please Give to the  
**Good Neighbor Fund**  
for the Homeless



Scan to **donate** or to learn more

Our Anchorage outreach workers  
use this **community fund** to  
**help our homeless** neighbors  
be safe & **improve their lives.**