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Department of Commerce,
Community, and
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**Serve Alaska, AmeriCorps Alaska, and Just Serve
Celebrate National Volunteer Week with a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**

Tuesday, April 25th, 2023 (Anchorage, AK)—Today, Serve Alaska, AmeriCorps Alaska, and Just Serve will celebrate National Volunteer Week with a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to honor the enduring contributions of volunteers and encourage all Alaskans to discover their power to make a difference. The luncheon will take place at the Kincaid Chalet, from 11:30 to 1 p.m. and is an invitation-only event.

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Dahlstrom and Mayor Dave Bronson will be in attendance to show their support and appreciation for Alaska's volunteers. The Lieutenant Governor will also recognize key volunteers from dozens of local organizations during the event. Sponsoring organizations include the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), Bridge Builders of Anchorage, JustServe, Serve Alaska, and Crumbl Cookie Company.

Volunteers in Alaska provide invaluable services to their communities including trash pickup, winter clothing drives, food drives, and support at food pantries as well shelters. These contributions foster, support, and promote the ethic of service and volunteerism in the areas of disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and families. Whether volunteering multiple times a week, once a month, or somewhere in between, volunteers make a positive impact and bring local communities together.

"We are proud of the volunteers who are getting things done for Alaska," said **Katie Abbott, Executive Director of the Serve Alaska State Commission**. "Volunteerism makes a significant impact on Alaska's ability to meet so many local needs including healthy futures. Join us in thanking the volunteers who make our mission a reality."

"Our motto is 'Building Unity through Community Service' and we are excited to be honoring outstanding volunteers in the Anchorage community for their volunteer service," said **Allison Smith, Specialist at Just Serve Alaska**. "This event will bring leaders and volunteers from over thirty organizations together to celebrate these individual efforts to build our community."

Volunteers often work in partnership with AmeriCorps members or AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers to give organizations, like JustServe, more people power.

AmeriCorps' Volunteering and Civic Life in America report shows that in 2021, more than 148,000 residents volunteered through an organization contributing \$299.1 million in economic value. The report also found in September 2020 and 2021, more than 276,000 residents helped their neighbors despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

AmeriCorps research shows that volunteers engage with their communities at higher rates than non-volunteers. They more frequently talk to neighbors, participate in civic organizations, attend public meetings, discuss local issues with family and friends, do favors for neighbors, and vote in local elections. Volunteers donate to charity at twice the rate of non-volunteers.

Media are welcome to attend the event. Please contact Mirna Estrada with Serve Alaska for more information.

Serve Alaska promotes and supports volunteerism across the state and brings AmeriCorps programs to Alaska. It is overseen by no fewer than 15 and no more than 25 voting Commission members appointed by the Governor. The Serve Alaska sub-grantees operate in almost every region of the state, bringing much-needed support and training to rural and urban Alaska. Serve Alaska is housed within the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's Division of Community and Regional Affairs.

AmeriCorps, the federal agency for volunteerism and national service, provides opportunities for Americans to serve their country domestically, address the nation's most pressing challenges, improve lives and communities, and strengthen civic engagement. Each year, the agency invests more than \$800 million in grants for local nonprofit, community, tribal, and state organizations; places more than 250,000 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in intensive service roles; and empowers millions more to serve as long-term, short-term, or one-time volunteers. Learn more at [AmeriCorps.gov](https://www.americorps.gov).

JustServe is a free service of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and is a global initiative to build stronger communities.

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