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Department of Commerce,
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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**Honoring Alaska's Volunteers: Serve Alaska and JustServe
Host Volunteer Recognition Luncheon**

Friday, May 3rd, 2024 (Anchorage, AK)— Serve Alaska and JustServe are proud to announce the upcoming Volunteer Recognition Awards, an event dedicated to celebrating the invaluable contributions of volunteers across Alaska. Taking place at the First Presbyterian Church downtown on May 7th at noon, this event will serve as a tribute to the selfless individuals who make a difference in their communities every day.

"We are immensely grateful for the dedication and passion of Alaska's volunteers," said **Katie Abbott**, Executive Director of Serve Alaska. "Their commitment to service not only enriches the lives of those they help but also strengthens the fabric of our communities. This event is an opportunity to express our sincere appreciation for their tireless efforts."

We are delighted to announce that Assemblyman Kameron Perez-Verdia will be speaking as the keynote for the event, offering his insights and inspiration to our volunteers. Additionally, Anchorage Mayor Bronson will be giving inaugural remarks, and Miss Alaska, Hannah Utic, will be singing the national anthem.

The Volunteer Recognition Awards would not be possible without the generous support of our community sponsors, including the Municipality of Anchorage, Bells Nursery, and AmeriCorps Alaska. Their commitment to supporting volunteerism underscores the importance of community collaboration in creating positive change.

"We are proud to partner with Serve Alaska and Bridge Builders to recognize the outstanding contributions of volunteers," said **Allison Smith**, Event Coordinator at JustServe. "Volunteerism is at the heart of what makes Alaska such a special place, and we are honored to play a role in celebrating these dedicated individuals."

Media representatives are highly encouraged to attend the event.

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 Division

for Community and Regional Affairs and the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development at the State of Alaska.

***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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