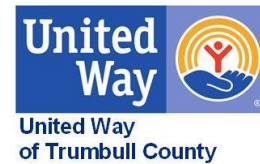


For Immediate Release

September 17, 2020



Contact:

Ginny Pasha

United Way of Trumbull County

330-503-7864

gpahsa@unitedwaytrumbull.org



New Report Reveals Seniors and Families Struggling pre-COVID-19

ALICE Report: A crisis in the making fueled by high-priced basics and stagnant wages

To read a copy of the report and find county-by-county and town-level data on the size and demographics of ALICE as well as the community conditions and costs faced by ALICE households, visit www.UnitedForALICE.org/Ohio or www.unitedwaytrumbull.org/what-is-ALICE

Warren, Ohio - United Way of Trumbull County announced today that Ohio United Way has launched an updated ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) report yesterday showing that when the COVID-19 pandemic began, more than 1.1 million Ohio households were already one emergency away from financial ruin – a 10-year record high – setting the stage for the unprecedented economic impact of the crisis.

The ALICE Report provides county-by-county and town-level data revealing that 42% of households in Trumbull County were living below the ALICE threshold before the pandemic compounded their financial struggles. This means that they were unable to afford even the most basic budget making them especially vulnerable to the economic effects of the crisis. The average ALICE survival budget for a family of four to afford housing, food, health care, transportation, and other essentials in Trumbull County is \$67,404. Because most of the forty-two percent of ALICE households in Trumbull County earn below the income to maintain a survival budget, but earn above the Federal Poverty Level, they are not eligible for assistance.

The report shows ALICE households were locked out of the boom economy and unable to establish savings due to meager pay raises and inconsistent job hours, schedules, and benefits. No matter how hard ALICE families worked, the gap between their wages and the cost of basics kept widening. These already fragile ALICE households are now facing an even deeper financial hole due to the state of emergency created by COVID-19.

The report also determined that seniors are an especially high-risk group in terms of both health and finances. Due to age, underlying conditions, and often living in group quarters such as assisted living facilities or nursing homes, those over age 65 are more susceptible to getting and dying from COVID-19 than the general population. This increased vulnerability, as well as the closing or limited access to senior centers, houses of worship, and other community organizations, has heightened anxiety and isolation among the senior population. Some seniors have decided to leave the workforce earlier than planned in response to heightened risk or new demands of the post-pandemic workplace, thereby reducing their earnings and retirement

savings. In addition, some supply chains have been disrupted impacting the availability of generic prescription drugs and other necessities.

The mission of United Way of Trumbull County (UWTC), to be United in helping Children and Families Thrive, is more relevant based on this new information from the ALICE Report. The data provided, along with responses from community surveys conducted by UWTC, allows the non-profit to position programming and funding efforts where it is needed most including assistance with food, shelter, utilities, prescription assistance, student support, and senior support. Seniors represent more than twenty one percent of Trumbull County and funding programs provided by SCOPE, Trumbull Mobile Meals, and the Women United Diabetes Initiative continue to be a priority for United Way in Trumbull County.

Making sure families can thrive through and beyond this pandemic remains at the core of the work being done by UWTC and their strategic partners that consist of governments, schools, businesses, community minded individuals, and other non-profits. Working together, they identify gaps in community resources and build data-driven solutions to help ALICE families achieve economic stability, bolstering the County's economy overall.

Trumbull County has faced major impact with business closures in pre-COVID times. "Now, as we are all confronted with new challenges, the trend of individuals and families making below a financially secure income is sloping upward at a pace faster than we would like to see," says Ginny Pasha, President of UWTC. "The ALICE report just further emphasizes the need for our United Way to keep our focus on helping children and families to Learn Well, Earn Well, and Stay Well in Trumbull County".

About United Way of Trumbull County

Our mission is to be United in Helping Children and Families Thrive in Trumbull County. Through our strategic partnerships, United Way can help create positive change in Trumbull County. We depend on our partner agencies, area businesses, school, churches, local government, and energized individuals' expertise to work and solve issues that help our community LEARN WELL, EARN WELL and STAY WELL. To learn more, visit www.unitedwaytrumbull.org.

About United For ALICE

United For ALICE is a driver of innovation, shining a light on the challenges ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households face and finding collaborative solutions. Through a standardized methodology that assesses the cost of living in every county, this project provides a comprehensive measure of financial hardship across the U.S. Equipped with this data, ALICE partners convene, advocate, and innovate in their local communities to highlight the issues faced by ALICE households and to generate solutions that promote financial stability. The grassroots movement represents United Ways, corporations, nonprofits and foundations in Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Hawai'i, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin; we are United For ALICE. For more information, visit: UnitedForALICE.org.

###