

WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN 2026



PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE real issues. real local impact.



REAL PEOPLE. REAL LOCAL NEEDS. **ALICE**

Who ALICE Represents- Asset limited, income constrained, employed.

Our neighbors, our families, our friends

Working Struggling Households: ALICE describes individuals and families who work hard at essential jobs—such as cashiers, child care providers, waiters, and home health aides—yet do not earn enough to pay for basic daily necessities.

Above Poverty, Below Survival: ALICE households earn more than the official Federal Poverty Level, which often disqualifies them from public assistance, but their incomes still fall short of the true cost of basic living expenses like housing, food, child care, health care, and transportation.

A Widespread Reality: Research by United For ALICE shows that 37% of Northwest Illinois households struggle to make ends meet when combining those in poverty and those living below the ALICE threshold

Local Financial Hardship Breakdown
Households Below ALICE Threshold

Carroll County 6,578- 40%

Stephenson County 19,358-37%

Jo Daviess County 10,391- 32%

While the Federal Poverty Level remains stuck at an obsolete calculation of \$31,200 for a **family of four**, the United For ALICE Income Status Tool calculates that a family of four in Illinois actually needs a bare-minimum Household Survival Budget of \$80,556 (\$40.28/hr for two working adults) **just to afford basic housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care.**

ONE GIFT. MANY LOCAL LIFELINES. | CHOOSE PAYROLL DEDUCTION.

HOW DOES YOUR WORKPLACE PAYROLL DEDUCTION HELP?

A small amount from each paycheck can become dependable support all year long.

You don't have to choose just one.

Your workplace campaign supports the entire safety net of our community.

United Way does not fund just one need. Your payroll deduction helps strengthen a safety net of local network partners that supports seniors, children, working families and neighbors facing crisis and every day needs across Stephenson, Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties.

Safety cannot wait. Local shelter, counseling and advocacy help neighbors facing violence, homelessness, abuse or crisis take a safe next step.

Strong starts help families work. Childcare, early learning and afterschool support help children grow while helping parents stay connected to work.

211 helps people find the right door. Neighbors can connect to food, housing, utilities, transportation, mental health support and other resources.

Need still exceeds capacity. Funded partners reported 1,372 people waitlisted, turned away or unable to be fully served.

26,298
SHELTER NIGHTS

6,584
COUNSELING
HOURS

203,838
Meals Served

1836
Senior Citizens
Served

The United Way of Northwest Illinois ALICE Fund provided stability for 6 working families just since March

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