



**UNITED WAY**  
Reno County

# UNITED FOR ALL

**Our 2024-2025 Impact  
in Reno County**



# LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

We're proud to recognize the dedicated leaders serving on our 2024 and 2025 Board of Directors and United Way Campaign Cabinet. Their guidance, passion, and commitment help drive our mission forward and strengthen our impact across the community.

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Dreher, Chairperson  
Randy Partington, Vice-Chair  
Jennifer Berning, Treasurer  
Lacey Mills, Secretary  
Marc McCrary, Finance Chairperson  
Sam Conklin  
Cheri Fahrbach  
Becky Gleason  
Nikki Hutton  
Amy Kraft  
Rion Rhoades  
David Sotelo  
Shauna Schoepf  
Krystal Young  
Angie Zwickl

## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Dreher, Chairperson  
Randy Partington, Vice-Chair  
Jennifer Berning, Treasurer & Finance Chairperson  
Lacey Mills, Secretary  
Sam Conklin  
Cheri Fahrbach  
Becky Gleason  
Amy Kraft  
Dr. Michael Little  
Dr. Tricia Paramore  
Rion Rhoades  
David Sotelo  
Shauna Schoepf  
Krystal Young  
Angie Zwickl

## 2024-2025 CAMPAIGN HYPE SQUAD

Keith and Angie Zwickl, Campaign Co-Chairs

Pastor James Davis  
Paul Erickson  
Greg Fast  
David Foster  
Jasmine Hurlbut  
Amanda Laymon  
Scott Meggers  
Jeff Schenk  
Jessica Schmidt  
Emily Schwartzkopf  
Kolbe Sheridan  
Dave Sotelo  
David and Christena Weber



# LETTER FROM CEO

**At United Way Reno County, we believe in the power of community—YOUR POWER—to create meaningful, lasting change.** Our mission is simple but strong: to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities to advance the common good.

We do this by focusing on four key areas that build a strong foundation for everyone: **Youth Opportunity, Healthy Communities, Financial Stability, and Community Resiliency.**

In the past year, UWRC has supported our community in three significant ways:

## Investing in Local Non-Profits

- With your support, UWRC invested **\$850,000** into **33 vital programs** across 21 of our trusted non-profit partners. Keep reading to learn how these programs are bettering people's lives every day, right here in Reno County.

## Providing Direct Support Through Internal UWRC Programs

- United Way of Reno County connects people directly to the help they need through programs like Reno Connections, which links individuals and ALICE families to critical local resources—from housing and food assistance to employment and health services. We also support early literacy through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, mailing over 24,000 free books last year to more than 2,000 children in Reno County. In addition, thanks to our partnerships, we provide free online mental health support through 7 Cups, as well as access to dental care and prescription savings programs—because a stronger community starts with meeting people's everyday needs.

## Building Solutions for Long-Term Change Through Community Impact

- We know complex issues require collective action. That's why UWRC leads and invests in community impact work—convening partners, forming coalitions, and driving upstream solutions to systemic challenges like childcare, mental health, and family supports. This

approach has already helped secure \$6.2 million in ARPA funding for childcare and over \$900,000 for early education in Reno County. By bringing people together and turning shared ideas into action, we're not just meeting needs—we're building a stronger future for everyone.

## But our impact isn't just measured in numbers—it's measured in lives changed.

At the heart of everything we do, our mission is about people. United Way of Reno County is proud to stand alongside local non-profits, businesses, volunteers, and neighbors like you who show up, give back, and care deeply.

**We're more than a name you hear during campaign season—we are a network of people who care. We want you to think of UWRC when a family needs food, when a parent is seeking childcare, or when a neighbor doesn't know where to turn.**

We may not have all the answers, but together—with our partners and this incredible community—we can connect people to the right resources, the right programs, and the right support.

This work is not just about services. It's about relationships. And together, we're building a stronger, more supportive Reno County where no one has to face life's challenges alone.

Thank you for being part of this community of care.

With gratitude,



Lacey Mills  
CEO  
United Way Reno County



# YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

## BUILDING BRIGHTER FUTURES: HOW UNITED WAY IS CHAMPIONING YOUTH OPPORTUNITY IN RENO COUNTY

Last year, a young single mom in Reno County sat at her kitchen table, trying to balance working full-time without losing access to child care. Like many **ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed)** families, she earned too much for public assistance but not enough to afford full-time care.

Her story begins with a toddler, but in Reno County, youth opportunity spans from birth through high school. United Way of Reno County is committed to walking alongside families at every stage and chapter in life.

In 2024, United Way of Reno County deepened this commitment by managing critical funding and collaborating with local leaders to turn dollars into impact. **As the fiscal agent for ARPA-funded child care support, UWRC helped distribute over \$860,000 to local centers and providers, guided by the Reno County Child Care Task Force.**

**UWRC also manages the Early Childhood Block Grant, bringing over \$900,000 to 11 local partners.** These funds support programs for at-risk children from birth to Kindergarten, using data-driven practices to prepare them socially, emotionally, and academically.

**But the focus doesn't stop at early childhood. When you support United Way of Reno County, your helping provide programs that empower youth of all ages—from first steps to first careers.**

Every day, these UWRC funded partners are making a powerful difference across Reno County:

- **Boys & Girls Club of Hutchinson** delivers after-school and summer enrichment, leadership development, and college and career prep for local kids. More than 750 students are served by the club each year, thanks in part to the support of UWRC.



**Above:** Chucc Crumble, UWRC Reno Connections Resource Navigator, helps student during Saturday Night at the Y event.

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Reno County** matches youth with mentors who expand their sense of what's possible. UWRC donors helped support 22 NEW matches in the last year.
- **Saturday Night at the Y** gives middle school teens a safe, positive space to connect and grow. More than 800 students participated in this FREE monthly event last year.
- **BrightHouse** provides trauma-informed support to youth and families in crisis. UWRC donors helped deliver this program to more than 1000 students and community members last year.
- **Healthy Families (KCSL)** strengthens parenting skills and home environments for families with young children. Because of donations to UWRC, more than 100 family members were impacted by this program in 2024.
- **Child Care Links, Hadley Day Care Center, and the USD 308 Childcare Center** helped families access and afford high-quality early education and child-care. Combined, these organizations served 183 children and their families last year, thanks in part to funds from UWRC.
- The **Infant and Toddler Program** with the Early Education Center provided FREE in-home services, like physical therapy, speech therapy and service coordination to more than 300 young children and their families last year—thanks to UWRC donors like you!

Through these partnerships, we're building a continuum of opportunity—from crib to college—with the goal of ensuring every young person in Reno County can imagine and reach a brighter future.

We're also making an impact behind the scenes. UWRC staff play an active role in shaping policy and fostering collaboration by serving on the **Reno County Child Care Task Force** and leading **community conversations** that keep youth opportunity front and center.

Because when we invest in youth, we invest in the future of our entire community.

Remember the mom at the kitchen table? She's still working hard. But thanks to support from these programs and partners, she's not just trying to keep up—she's actively building a better life for her child, and a stronger future for both of them.

**That's the power of community.**  
**That's the power of partnership.**  
**That's the power of United Way.**

## THE WORK OF THE RENO COUNTY CHILDCARE TASK FORCE

**\$860,550**

Distributed in APRA  
Retention Grants to Child  
Care Centers and Home  
Providers in Reno County

**293**

New Child Care Slots  
Created Due to ARPA  
Funding

**411**

Families Received  
Support from Programs  
Funded by Early  
Childhood Block Grant  
Funding



**READ MORE**



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

## EMPOWERING HEALTH: CREATING STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Health isn't just a clinic visit or a filled prescription. It's feeling safe. It's being able to access mental health care, or enjoy a hot meal. It's about independent mobility and emotional support—especially when life feels uncertain.

**At UWRC, we believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to live a healthy life—regardless of their age, income, or background.**

That's why UWRC is investing in programs that reach people at every stage of life, and why we're tackling barriers that prevent too many from getting the care they need.

In 2024, our Healthy Communities work supported these programs that restore stability, dignity, and connection:

- **BrightHouse Parenting Time** and the **Child Advocacy Center** at Horizons provide safety and support for families navigating trauma.
- The **Children's Bereavement Program** at Hospice and Home Care of Reno County helps children process loss with care and guidance.
- **Meals on Wheels**, the **Friends in Action** program at the Reno County Volunteer Center and the **Wheelchair & Equipment Fund**, available through CPRF, ensure older adults and individuals with disabilities stay nourished, connected, and mobile.
- **Income-Based Financial Assistance** and **Will Power Hour** at the YMCA promote inclusion and wellness for all, regardless of the ability to pay.
- **Horizons' prevention and outreach, and the Reno County Suicide Prevention Coalition** with Rise Up Reno work to create a safer, more informed community—starting with youth.
- And at life's end, the **Hospice House** provides comfort, dignity, and peace—regardless of financial means.

**These programs meet real needs—and they remind people they are not alone.**

Beyond funding services, United Way of Reno County plays a role in long-term community solutions.

Our team is deeply involved in local coalitions like the **Mental Health Task Force, Reno Recovery Collaborative, Health Access Team, and the Stepping Up Task Force**. These collaborative efforts help identify gaps, align resources and improve systems—because lasting change requires all of us to work together.

UWRC also provide practical tools for everyday wellbeing. Through internal programs, like **SingleCare**, a prescription savings program, and **7 Cups**, a free 24/7 online mental wellness platform, we're helping community members access care they might otherwise go without.

When we say we're building healthier communities, we mean it in the fullest sense. Whether someone is healing from loss, reaching out for help, or just trying to get through the day, we want them to know they're not alone.

**In the last year, your support of UWRC helped create a healthier Reno County by providing:**

2669

People Trained in Suicide Prevention

255

People Received End-of-Life Care on Sliding Scale

36

Customized Wheelchairs Built to Provide an Independent Life

515

Companionship Visits & Grocery Delivery Visits to Local Seniors

# Highlighting Mental Health Advocacy on an International Stage

In early 2024, UWRC was invited to attend and present at the Milestone Clubhouse International World Seminar held in St. Pete Beach, Florida.

As UWRC holds an advisory board position with the local Milestone Clubhouse organization, Valerie Taylor (previous UWRC Director of Community Impact) spoke to attendees from across the US about United Way of Reno County's role in supporting the program from its inception and continuing to **advocate for improved mental health access**. Taylor emphasized the importance of including Clubhouse members in broader community conversations around mental health.

Milestone Clubhouse provides a supportive, community-focused environment for individuals living with mental illness. The program offers recovery-focused services, peer connection, job support, social opportunities and skill-building services.

"I was honored to share how this innovative program is **changing lives** and to represent a community that **values mental health advocacy**," said Taylor.



**Above:** Dallas Bryant, a Milestone Clubhouse Member, and Valerie Taylor, pose for a selfie at the Clubhouse International World Seminar before speaking.

## SPOTLIGHT: RISING UP, REACHING OUT

### How One Local Leader is Building a Healthier Future for Reno County Youth

Carla Smith, Director of Rise Up Reno Prevention Network, doesn't just talk about change—she builds it, one student, one conversation, one community at a time.

Under Carla's leadership, Rise Up Reno has become a powerful force for youth substance use prevention and mental health advocacy across Reno County. Using local data to drive their work, the RUR team focuses on reducing risk factors like isolation and access to harmful substances, while strengthening protective factors like trusted adult relationships, school connection, and youth leadership.

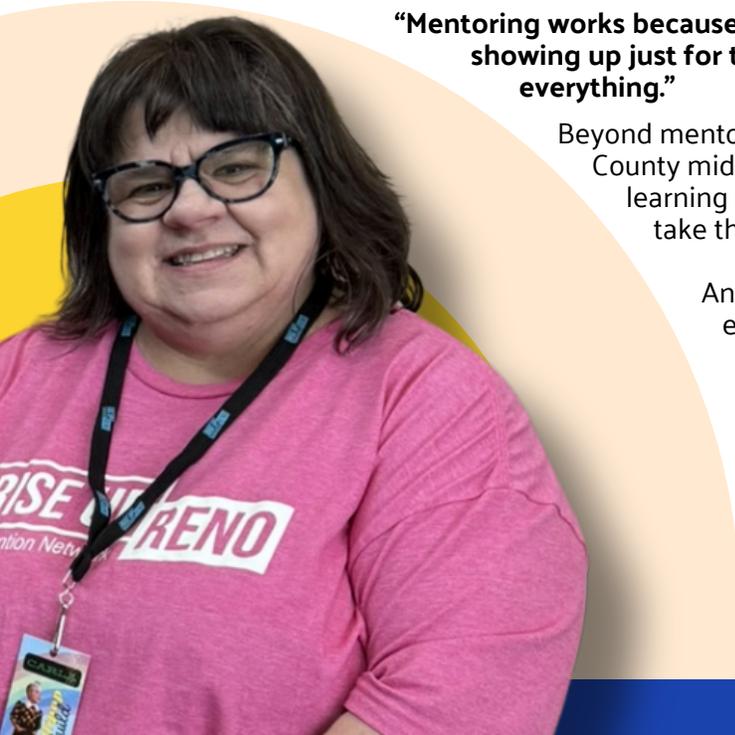
Their school-based mentoring program reaches elementary students through weekly, one-on-one time with caring volunteers. Whether it's helping with class work or trying archery for the first time, these simple moments have a measurable impact: kids matched with mentors are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, skip school, or engage in violence, and more likely to feel socially accepted and do better academically.

**"Mentoring works because it builds trust," Carla says. "When kids know someone is showing up just for them, they begin to believe in themselves—and that changes everything."**

Beyond mentoring, Rise Up Reno runs a Youth Leadership Club, where Reno County middle and high school students become community advocates—learning how to talk about mental health, share prevention resources, and take the lead on awareness campaigns in their schools.

And their education efforts extend far beyond the classroom. By equipping parents, educators, and civic groups with the latest data and drug trends, Rise Up Reno empowers the whole community to recognize early warning signs—like sudden changes in behavior or grades—and respond with care and confidence.

**Carla's message is clear:** prevention starts with connection. And thanks to her leadership, more young people in Reno County are growing up with the relationships, resilience, and resources they need to make healthy choices and thrive.



# FINANCIAL SECURITY

## FINDING SECURITY: CREATING FINANCIAL SECURITY IN EVERY CORNER OF OUR COMMUNITY

**Financial insecurity is a daily reality for many in Reno County**—including friends, neighbors, and coworkers who work hard but still face tough choices, like paying for groceries or filling a prescription.

Many Reno County residents fall into the ALICE category: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed—earning above the recognized poverty level but not enough to cover essentials like housing, child care, or health care.

**At UWRC, we believe financial security shouldn't be a privilege. From basic support to deep mentorship, from emergency assistance to lifelong tools, with your support, these partner programs help individuals and families create new financial futures:**

- **Kansas Legal Services**, helped 52 individuals in 2024 resolve legal barriers which prevented them from accessing housing, employment, and other benefits.
- **Interfaith Housing's (IHS) Home Repair & Rehab program** ensures that low-income and elderly homeowners can remain safely living in their homes. Last year, more than 250 homeowners were able to take advantage of this service, thanks to the help of UWRC funds.
- **The Kansas IDA Program**, also hosted by IHS, empowers individuals to build matched savings toward homeownership, education, or business goals. In 2024, 22 residents took advantage of the 2-1 match this program offers, thanks to the support of UWRC donors.
- **Take Control Wellness**, another IHS program, supports physical, emotional, and financial wellbeing through one-on-one coaching. With the support of UWRC, this program saw 238 participants last year.
- **Lighthouse**, a newer Interfaith program provides transitional housing and life coaching for 10 young adults learning how to live independently and become financially secure.
- **The VITA program**, coordinated by the Volunteer Center connects low to moderate income individuals with FREE tax prep and access to the credits they've earned. In 2024, VITA volunteers prepared over 3,800 tax returns for local residents, resulting in more than \$1M in refunds coming back to our community.

- **Circles Reno County** provides a long-term program to walk with people as they pursue goals—from paying off debt to purchasing a home—with community support and accountability. In 2024, 26 families participated in the program, along with 14 volunteers, impacting more than 50 individuals in total.

And finally, there's UWRC's **Reno Connections**, a “no-wrong-door” (meaning FREE and open access) program that helps people navigate a web of services during times of stress or uncertainty. Whether someone is facing eviction, escaping abuse, or simply doesn't know where to turn for help, Reno Connections offers one-on-one help, real-time referrals, and a way forward. **In 2024, 572 individuals were connected with more than 1800 local services through this program.**

People often arrive to the Reno Connections office overwhelmed and unsure— they leave with a plan, a pathway, and often, a renewed sense of hope.

**Below:** Circle Leader, Lesley Sunkel, celebrates her graduation from the program with facilitator, Anthony Frischenmeyer, and Mayor Stacy Goss.



After setting goals with the Reno Connections Resource Navigators, individuals are often referred into deeper support networks and programs, like those mentioned previously.

Beyond funding, United Way of Reno County is committed to strengthening the systems that support financial security county-wide. Our team participates in strategic partnerships and coalitions including the **Unhoused Community Conversation, the Housing Commission, United for ALICE, and the Emergency Food and Shelter Board**, which UWRC helps disperse when funds are made available.

**Right:** Robbie Fall, Circles Community Team Chair, high fives Sarah Haworth, Director of Circles Reno County.

At UWRC, we believe financial health is not just about income—it's about access, opportunity, and dignity. Because when we help individuals move from financial instability to financial security, we're not just changing lives—we're strengthening the entire fabric of our community.



## SPOTLIGHT: FROM SURVIVING TO LEADING

### Sarah Haworth's Journey from Homelessness to Hope & How She's Inspiring Others to Action in Reno County

When Sarah Haworth talks to new participants at Circles Reno County, she speaks with a kind of authority that only comes from lived experience.

Years ago, Sarah was homeless, living in her car with three children, working long hours and doing everything she could to survive. The path forward felt overwhelming and frustrating for Sarah. That's when she found Circles.

Circles Reno County is more than a financial coaching program—it's about building intentional relationships across income lines. While many middle and high income families have built-in support networks through jobs, schools, and social circles, individuals in poverty are often left to navigate challenges alone. Circles changes that dynamic.

In the program, participants (known as Circle Leaders) are paired with community volunteers (or Allies) who walk beside them as they work toward financial stability. Together, they form a circle of support where advice is offered, contacts are shared, encouragement flows, and fears start to fade. Volunteers learn just as much, gaining a deeper understanding of poverty and a new perspective on the power of community.

Sarah thrived in the Circles environment. **With guidance, accountability, and support—she set goals and built new habits.** And when she graduated, she didn't just leave with financial tools, she left with confidence and purpose.

**Today, Sarah is the Director of Circles Reno County, leading the very program that once helped her rebuild her life. With deep empathy and a fierce belief in what's possible, she now mentors others and creates a culture of dignity, trust, and transformation.**

"Circles gave me more than resources...it gave me a community," Sarah says. "Now, I get to be that help for someone else."

Every week, Circles brings together participants, volunteers, community leaders, and business owners to discuss (and often solve) real-life barriers that keep people in poverty. The goal isn't just personal change, but systemic change—shifting from poverty management to true poverty reduction. Sarah's story is living proof of what's possible when that shift begins.

# COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

## STANDING STRONGER TOGETHER: BUILDING A MORE RESILIENT RENO COUNTY

Resiliency isn't just about bouncing back—it's about having the support you need to weather the storm in the first place. Whether someone is facing a sudden crisis, navigating chronic poverty, or recovering from a natural disaster, the question is the same: Who is there to help? At United Way, our answer is always community.

**In Reno County, 42% of households are either living in poverty or fall into the ALICE category** (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). These families often juggle multiple jobs, but still don't earn enough to cover basic expenses. One unexpected event: a car repair, a medical bill, the loss of a job or childcare slot—can push them into a crisis situation. That's where our work in Community Resiliency begins.

Through our network of funded partners, we support emergency assistance programs that help families stay housed, warm, and fed. UWRC helps to fund the **Salvation Army's Emergency Assistance program (assisting more than 450 households in the last year) and the Noel Lodge Overnight and Daytime shelter (which served 500 individuals, thanks to the support of UWRC last year)**-- ensuring people experiencing homelessness have safe places to stay and access to meet their essential needs.

UWRC's support of **BrightHouse's Emergency Shelter and Victim Advocacy Services** provides immediate, life-saving support for survivors of domestic violence and their children. **This shelter allowed 600 adults and children to escape unsafe conditions** in the last year, with the help of funds from UWRC.

Through the **Volunteer Center's RSVP/Volunteer Action Corps**, community members, many of whom are retirees, serve local nonprofits, meet urgent needs, and create stronger support systems for all. **Not only did these 1200+ volunteers help further the mission of 82 vital non-profit programs last year, they provided over \$2.8M of value to our community through their gifts of time.**

Beyond funding local programs, United Way of Reno County is an active leader in the **Unhoused Community Conversation**, working with partners to better coordinate services, close gaps, and tackle the housing crisis at its roots.

And in times of disaster—whether it's wildfires, tornados, floods or other emergencies—UWRC stands ready. **As a key member of Reno County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), we help coordinate response efforts and ensure recovery resources reach the people who need them most.**

Through partnership, preparedness, and a relentless belief in our neighbors, we're building a stronger, more connected Reno County: one where everyone has a chance to not just get by, but to move forward with dignity and hope.

**Right:** A home is completely leveled following the May 2025 tornado in Plevna.



# ENGAGED AND UNITED

## MAKING AN IMPACT IN RENO COUNTY: EVERY ACT COUNTS

At United Way of Reno County, we believe that change happens when people come together—not just to donate but to show up, get involved, and take action. Whether it's picking up a paintbrush, pledging through a workplace campaign, sharing the joy of reading with a child, or attending a UWRC community event—every act of engagement adds up to something bigger. And in Reno County, that giving spirit is alive and thriving.

The 2024 **Community Work Day** was a powerful example of that spirit in action. More than **500 volunteers from across the county** rolled up their sleeves to support local nonprofits—painting, landscaping, organizing, and lending their time and energy wherever it was needed most. It wasn't just about the work completed—it was about people stepping outside their everyday lives to serve side by side, united by a love for their community.



We also saw that same passion in action during our annual campaign, where individuals and businesses stepped up to give, advocate, and inspire. **Through workplace giving programs, company donations, individual gifts and #iPledge give-back opportunities—every donated dollar invested into United Way Reno County helped move our mission forward!**



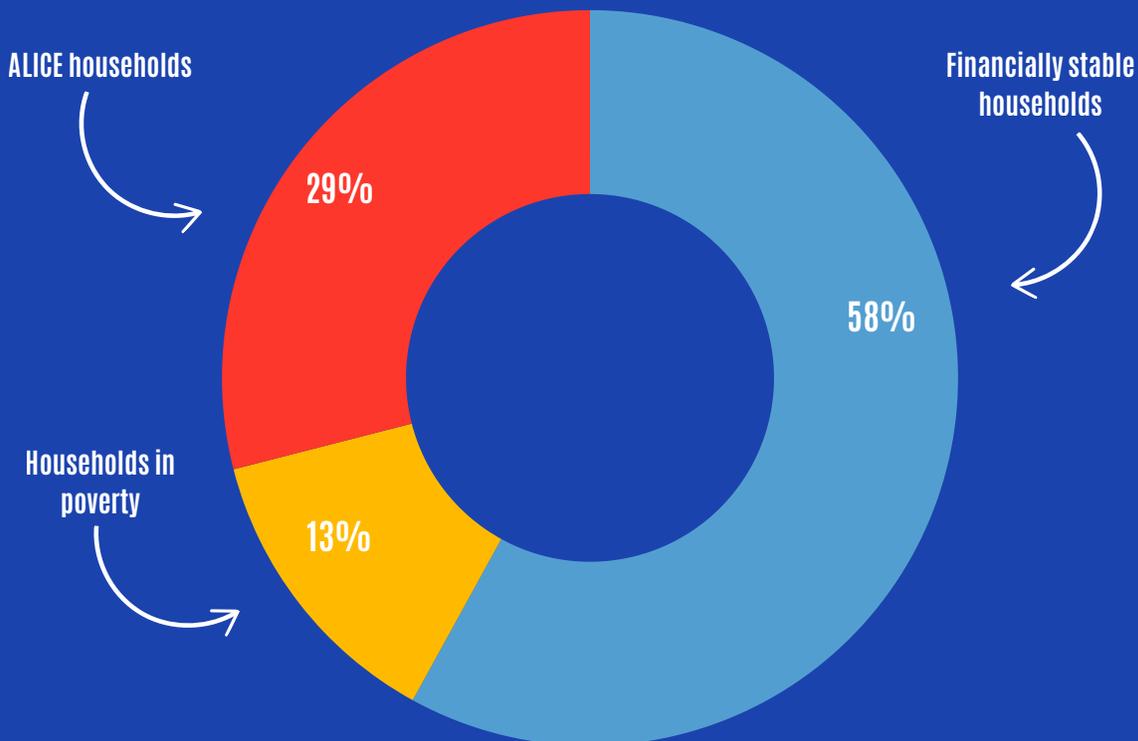
Volunteer and inkind donation opps



# ALICE IN RENO COUNTY

If you've been reading along, or if you have engaged with UWRC lately, you're familiar with our work to support ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) individuals and families in our community. You understand that these households **earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county** (ALICE Threshold). You also might know that households earning below the ALICE Threshold are those in poverty. But what you might not realize is, that according to **recent data** (available at the United for ALICE website), **when Reno County residents living in poverty are combined with those who are ALICE, a staggering 42% of our neighbors are struggling to meet daily needs.**

## The hidden reality in Reno County



**42% of households in Reno County are living in poverty**

**-OR-**

**Paycheck to paycheck, with little or no savings for an emergency.  
This is higher than the Kansas state average, which is at 39%.**

# ALICE SURVIVAL BUDGET

The **Household Survival Budget** reflects the minimum cost to live and work in today's economy and takes into consideration the make-up of individuals living in a home. The budget includes everyday expenses like housing, childcare, food, transportation, healthcare and technology. It also takes into consideration taxes and a 10% miscellaneous category. This budget is the basis for determining whether households are above or below the ALICE Threshold by county.

ALICE Household Survival Budget, Reno County, Kansas, 2023								
Monthly Costs	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Adult 65+	Two Adults 65+
Housing	\$640	\$728	\$728	\$728	\$958	\$958	\$640	\$728
Child Care	\$0	\$180	\$480	\$0	\$360	\$1,005	\$0	\$0
Food	\$450	\$761	\$683	\$825	\$1,384	\$1,221	\$414	\$759
Transportation	\$389	\$512	\$512	\$608	\$937	\$937	\$325	\$480
Health Care	\$192	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$687	\$687	\$513	\$1,026
Technology	\$86	\$86	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116	\$86	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$176	\$271	\$293	\$272	\$444	\$492	\$198	\$311
Taxes	\$275	\$235	\$277	\$357	\$352	\$449	\$333	\$645
Monthly Total	\$2,208	\$3,212	\$3,498	\$3,345	\$5,238	\$5,865	\$2,509	\$4,065
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$26,496	\$38,544	\$41,976	\$40,140	\$62,856	\$70,380	\$30,108	\$48,780
Hourly Wage	\$13.25	\$19.27	\$20.99	\$20.07	\$31.43	\$35.19	\$15.05	\$24.39

# ALICE STABILITY BUDGET

The **Household Stability budget** takes into consideration higher monthly costs--thus offering a more financially stable household over time. In addition to the standard living costs, a 10% savings category is also factored in, providing funding for an emergency or for longer-term goals like saving for an education or other asset purchase.

ALICE Household Stability Budget, Reno County, Kansas, 2023				
Monthly Costs	Single Adult	Two Adults	Two Adults Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care
Housing	\$910	\$1,198	\$1,454	\$1,454
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$336	\$957
Food	\$690	\$1,286	\$2,338	\$1,989
Transportation	\$882	\$1,120	\$1,532	\$1,532
Health Care	\$210	\$475	\$759	\$759
Technology	\$86	\$116	\$116	\$116
Miscellaneous	\$278	\$420	\$654	\$681
Savings	\$278	\$420	\$654	\$681
Taxes	\$552	\$726	\$934	\$969
Monthly Total	\$3,886	\$5,761	\$8,777	\$9,138
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$46,632	\$69,132	\$105,324	\$109,656
Hourly Wage	\$23.32	\$34.57	\$52.66	\$54.83

# BEYOND THE GOAL

## A COMMUNITY UNITED FOR IMPACT

Thanks to the passion and generosity of our business partners, nonprofit allies, campaign volunteers, and donors, we're proud to share that we not only met—but exceeded—our \$1.3 million goal for the 2024-2025 United Way Campaign.

We kicked things off with energy and excitement—literally—on street corners across Hutchinson, raising awareness and building momentum. From there, the season was full of connection and community through events like the CEO Breakfast, High Impact Special Events, and Shop Local! Give Local! Each one of these opportunities helped remind us that behind every dollar raised is a life changed.

**At the center of it all were our incredible Campaign Co-Chairs, Keith and Angie Zwickl.** From day one, they were our biggest champions—sharing the mission wherever they went and inspiring others to join them. Their outreach helped to more than double our #iPledge revenue this year, bringing in new supporters and broadening our impact in powerful ways.

We also want to recognize our dedicated Campaign Hype Squad, who energized efforts behind the scenes and helped keep the momentum going throughout the campaign.

Finally, we owe a special shoutout to our workplace campaign partners—your support, energy, and generosity were vital to this achievement. We were proud to celebrate a few standout partners with Special Recognition Awards for going above and beyond.

This campaign wasn't just about dollars—it was about relationships, resilience, and a community that believes in each other. It takes a network of people who care deeply about helping others—and you are part of it!!

### Thank you, Reno County!

Together, we're making a difference—and building a stronger community where no one has to face life's challenges alone.



## Top 25 Companies

Ranked by Total Dollar Amount Donated

1. Dillons Stores
2. Horizons Mental Health Center
3. Hutchinson Clinic
4. Data Center, Inc
5. Hutchinson Regional Medical Center
6. Superior Boiler Works
7. USD 308 - Hutchinson
8. ProValue Insurance
9. Kroger Accounting Services
10. Takako America Co
11. First National Bank of Hutchinson
12. J & J Drainage Products Company
13. Hutchinson Community College
14. ONEOK Hydrocarbon, LP
15. Heartland Credit Union
16. Cargill
17. Portfolio Recovery Associates
18. Decker & Mattison Co., Inc
19. Bretz Injury Law
20. Wesley Towers
21. City of Hutchinson
22. Network Management Group, Inc
23. Lumineo Sign
24. Lawrence Paper Company
25. IdeaTek

## Special Awards

\*NEW\* in 2024--We recognize these individuals for their outstanding efforts around campaign:

- "Hype-est Hype Squad Member": Emily Schwartzkopf- Hutch Clinic (pic top left)
- "Campaign Leadership Champion"- Dr. Trisha Paramore, HCC (pic bottom right)
- "Campaign Coordinator Champion"-- Teresa Heusser--ONEOK
- "Campaign Creativity Award"--Candy Beckerman--DCI (pic bottom left)



See Business Awards

# BECAUSE OF YOU

As you've been reading this report, you've seen the impact numbers, you've read stories, and you know that your donations to UWRC fuel real change in Reno County. But the best way to understand the power of your donation? Hear directly from the people whose lives you've touched.

**These are THEIR stories. These are YOUR results.**



## Kaitlynn's Story - CPRF Client

Meet Kaitlynn! She (pictured far left) has scoliosis and uses CPRF's Wheelchair & Posture Seating Clinic to get customizations to her power wheelchair. Features like a custom O2 tank holder, tilt to help with pressure sore prevention, and weight shifting provide long-term comfort for Kaitlynn and have allowed her family to live life to the fullest! "I'm more grateful for that chair than anything. She's been able to do countless things, like go to school, doctor's appointments, physical therapy, movies, hockey games, zoos, water parks, the ocean, Disney World, to the top of the mountains to feed chipmunks, on boats, on airplanes, in campers, on amusement park rides. All made possible by her chair! It's life-changing to have this kind of wheelchair." –Meagan, Kaitlynn's Mom



## Terrance's Story - Reno Connections Client

Five months ago, I rode my bike in the rain to my first Reno Connections appointment—recently evicted, unemployed and struggling in so many ways. I was scared, lacking any kind of self-esteem, but I was greeted kindly and after sharing my situation, was instantly assured that Jessica and Chucc could help me. They have helped me get ID documents, food, clothing, and have been a safe place to share my struggles and my successes. The encouragement I receive from Reno Connections has helped me become the person I am today—gainfully employed and training to be a manager, current on my bills and saving money. Five months ago, I was ready to give up. Now I'm ready to LIVE. Thank you, United Way and Reno Connections, for believing in me when I didn't believe in myself.

## GIVE NOW. BE THE REASON.

Every dollar you give fuels change that stays right here in Reno County. Whether it's early literacy, mental health, basic needs, or long-term solutions, your support powers programs and hope

**MORE THAN 1 IN 4 FAMILIES IN RENO COUNTY  
FACE DAILY CHALLENGES—AND YOUR SUPPORT  
HELPS THEM MOVE FORWARD.**



[www.uwrenocounty.org/give](http://www.uwrenocounty.org/give)  
or call (620) 669-9329

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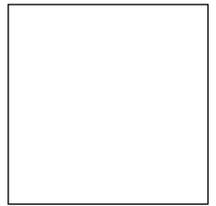
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\$500 TO \$749

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