



5,200
visitors came to our
Community Resource
Drop-In Center
58% were homeless



13,400
meals
for our hungry and
homeless neighbors
were prepared and served
by more than
200 volunteers



100
elementary students
are enrolled in
Kidz Club
our after school program
for children
living in poverty



60
teen and young moms
and their children
meet together with
leaders and mentors...
they learn, have fun and are
Growing Together



poverty in snohomish county



11%

of Snohomish County residents live in poverty

22%

of families in Snohomish County cannot make ends meet¹

246,000

people live just one small crisis away from financial disaster

meet ALICE families

With the cost of living higher than most wages pay, **ALICE families** (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) work hard and earn above the Federal Poverty Line, but not enough to afford a basic household budget of housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care because...

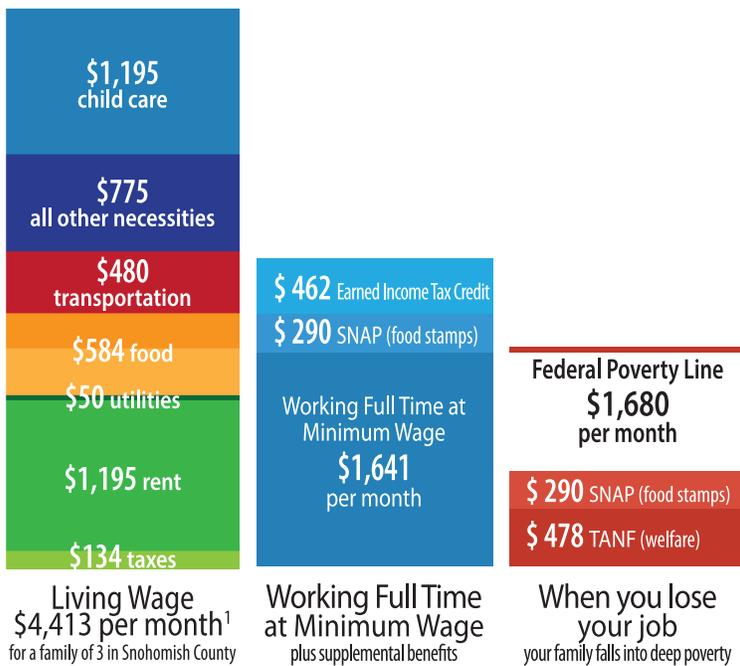
Low wage jobs dominate the local economy...more than half of all jobs in the Pacific Northwest pay less than \$20 per hour, with most paying between \$10 and \$15 per hour. These jobs - especially service jobs that pay less than \$20 per hour will grow faster than higher wage jobs over the next decade.¹

When we see how difficult it is to provide for your family, we can understand how easy it is to become homeless.

In Snohomish County, 78% of homeless families are headed by a single mother. A typical homeless family is a single parent with two children.

A single mom with two kids, working full time at the **minimum wage of \$9.47** per hour (Washington's is the highest in the nation) will earn \$1,641 per month - if she can find full time work. Many minimum wage jobs have irregular, less than full time shift work schedules. To make ends meet, she will likely work more than one job.

Working full time at a minimum wage job, she will still fall below the Poverty Line.



How do single moms like her provide for their families?

She can qualify for SNAP benefits that will help feed her children. Once a year, with her income tax filing, she can receive an Earned Income Tax Credit.

A sick child, a broken down car, a missed day of work, can become a catastrophic event...a lost job.

Then, if she's lucky, her family will qualify for TANF as a last resort - \$478 per month, not even half the cost of rent.

Alene came to us with tears in her eyes, "I don't know how to be poor and homeless."

As Alene's two children enjoyed a sack lunch on the porch, she told us how her husband left her with nothing but a mortgage and far too many bills. She was going to lose her house and didn't know where to turn. Someone suggested she come to Take the Next Step.

Though Alene described herself as "only a stay at home mom", she was energetic, bright, and full of life. We helped her find housing and enter college to become an EMT. She now has a great job!

Poverty and homelessness are never a choice and are invisible to many of us. Alene could be your neighbor.



¹<http://unitedwayalice.org/PNW/>

Cost of Living Chart from Economic Policy Institute: <http://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>