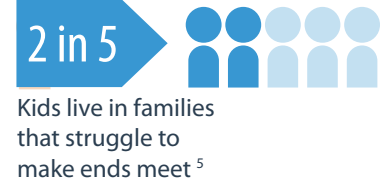
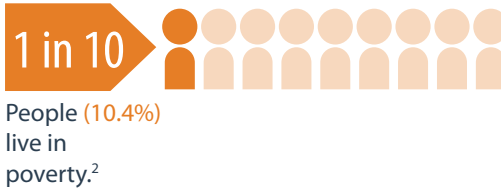
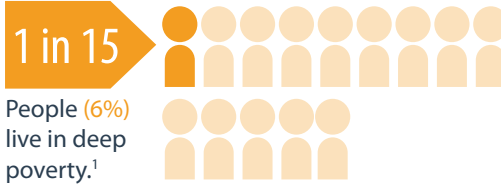




In 2014, 48 million Americans lived in poverty.

poverty in Snohomish County



the working poor

89,000 families in Snohomish County...

...face a cost of living higher than what most wages pay. "ALICE" families – an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — work hard and earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), but not enough to afford a basic household budget of housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care.

ALICE households include women and men, young and old, urban, suburban, and rural, and of all races and ethnicities, and they live in right here in Snohomish County.

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 (\$15 per hour full time = \$30,000/year). These jobs — especially service jobs that pay below \$20 per hour and require only a high school education or less — will grow far faster than higher-wage jobs over the next decade.

The cost of basic household expenses in the Pacific Northwest is more than what most of the region's jobs can support. The average annual Household Survival Budget for a family of four (two adults with one infant and one preschooler) is \$52,152 in Washington — more than twice the Federal Poverty Line of \$23,550⁶.

...of people benefitting from major government poverty alleviating assistance such as SNAP (Food Stamps) and Earned Income Tax Credits live in working families. These 146 million people - almost half of all Americans, live in the struggling poor-but-working class⁷.

Clearly, something is wrong...discover resources and learn more on our website at www.ttns.org/poverty

Jamie lived in an abandoned travel trailer with her mother, her usually absent addicted, and abusive father, and two siblings.

The trailer had no water, heat, bathroom, or electricity.

Jamie's mother brought her into Take the Next Step, asking if we had any warm shoes. Jamie said her feet "really hurt."

When she pulled off her socks to show us, her toes were already turning black. Jamie lost several of her toes to frostbite.

Jamie's mother doesn't think her family is homeless -- they have a place to live.



poverty in snohomish county[®]

11%

of Snohomish County residents live in poverty

22%

of Snohomish County working families struggle to make ends meet

246,000

people live just one small crisis away from financial disaster

living in monroe

\$22.98

is the hourly wage required to afford a two bedroom apartment in Monroe⁹
\$9.47 is the minimum wage

97 hours

a week is what you need to work at minimum wage to afford that apartment in Monroe

51%

of renter households in Monroe spend more than 30% of their income for housing¹⁰

understanding what poverty really looks like

In Snohomish County, 78% of homeless families are headed by a single mother. A typical homeless family is a single parent with two children. When we see how difficult it is to provide for your family, we can understand how easy it is to become homeless.

A single mom with two kids, working full time at the **minimum wage of \$9.47** per hour (Washington State's is the highest in the nation) will earn \$1,641 per month - if she can find full time employment. 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.



Living Wage¹¹
\$4,413 per month¹
for a family of 3 in Snohomish County



Working Full Time at Minimum Wage
plus supplemental benefits

Federal Poverty Line
\$1,680 per month

\$290 SNAP (food stamps)
\$478 TANF (welfare)

When you lose your job
your family falls into deep poverty

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

Then, if she's lucky, her family will qualify for TANF (welfare) 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 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 graduated and has a great job!

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



¹ Numbers 1 - 3 reflect Snohomish County - Deep Poverty: Annual Income less than 50% of Federal Poverty Line (\$10,450 for a family of three). ² Federal Poverty Line: Less than \$20,900
³ Low Income: Less than 200% of Poverty Line - \$41,800 ⁴ Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction: Washington State Report Card ⁵ In Washington State: Kids Count In Washington
- www.kidscountwa.org ⁶ United Way <http://unitedwayalice.org/PNW/> ⁷ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2015/04/15/we-are-spending-153-billion-a-year-to-subsidize-mcdonalds-and-walmarts-low-wage-workers/> ⁸ US Census Bureau - quickfacts.census.gov ⁹ A two bedroom Morning Run apartment in Monroe rents for \$1,195 per month.
A family should spend 30% of their income on housing. ¹⁰ http://ftp.snoco.org/planning_and_Development_services/Housing/Final-Steering-Committee-Draft-under%20construc-tion-1-9-2014.pdf ¹¹ Economic Policy Institute's Family Budget Calculator for the Seattle Metro Census Area: <http://www.epi.org/resources/budget/>
Photo Credit: "48 million" on reverse - Flickr user OccupyMN