



UNITED WAY
West Tennessee

2025-26

ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

As I reflect on this past year, one word comes to mind: transition.

Across West Tennessee, families and communities continue to navigate rising costs, evolving needs, and changing circumstances. Yet through every challenge, I have been reminded that when people come together with a shared purpose, we can accomplish far more than any one of us can alone.

This year has also been a season of transition for United Way of West Tennessee. I am honored to serve as President & CEO and help lead an organization that has strengthened our region for more than 85 years. As the first woman to hold this role, I am grateful for the leaders, donors, volunteers, and partners who have built the foundation we stand on today.

While we celebrate progress, we also face new challenges. This summer, the grant funding our Family Champions initiative comes to an end. Through this work, families received guidance, support, and connections to critical resources. Though the funding is ending, the impact on those families will continue.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unchanged. We will continue connecting people to resources, strengthening nonprofit partnerships, mobilizing volunteers, and investing in solutions that improve lives across West Tennessee.

This year also brought exciting momentum through the launch of Women United, a new leadership giving circle bringing women together to invest in the future of our communities. It is a powerful reminder that lasting change happens when people unite around a common purpose.

Thank you for your generosity, partnership, and belief in this mission. Because of your support, we are creating opportunities for children, strengthening families, and building a brighter future for West Tennessee.

Together, we are creating lasting change.

With gratitude,

Lauren Cino

President/CEO
United Way of West Tennessee

John Tucker

Board Chair
United Way Board of Directors

2025-26 BY THE NUMBERS

\$674,690

Invested in Partner
Agencies

91,789

Community
Members Served

\$35,204

Increased Savings
for FEC Clients

\$11,536

Provided to Families
Impacted by Disaster

10,641

Books Placed in Homes
Across the Region

2,214

Students Exposed to
Career Opportunities

552

Families Served by
Family Champions

833

Emergency Calls
Fielded

West Tennessee families are working hard, yet for many, breaking the cycle of financial hardship feels increasingly out of reach. Rising costs for housing, food, childcare, transportation, and healthcare continue to place enormous pressure on households already struggling to make ends meet.

ALICE IN WEST TENNESSEE

49% ABOVE ALICE THRESHOLD

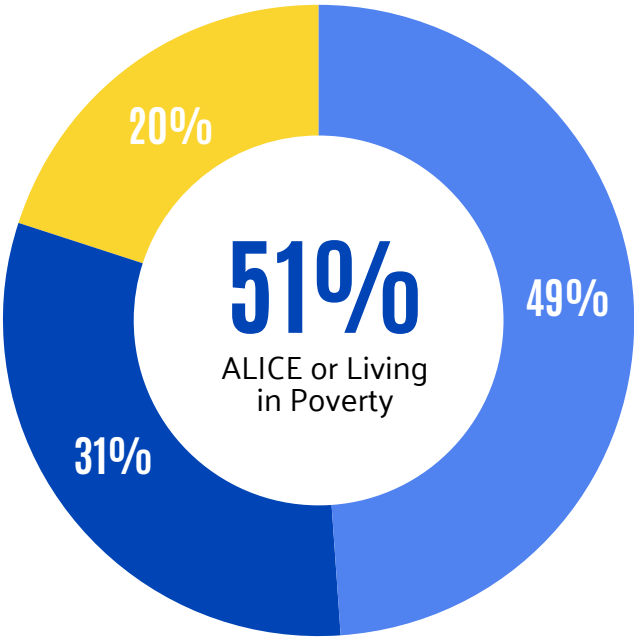
Households earning enough to afford basic needs.

31% ALICE

Households earning above poverty but below the cost of basic needs.

20% IN POVERTY

Households earning below the poverty level.



ALICE MEANS

ASSET LIMITED

Those living paycheck to paycheck without an ability to save or plan ahead.

INCOME CONSTRAINED

These households struggle to afford basic needs - transportation, groceries, childcare - despite living above the Federal Poverty Level.

EMPLOYED

Our essential workers within our economy who often work more than one job to make ends meet.

\$50,695

Median West Tennessee Household Income

91,450

Households Below ALICE Threshold

26%

Tennessee Workers Cannot Afford Basics



13 HOURS OF WORK = 1 DAY OF INFANT CARE

At \$15/hour, a parent would need to work roughly 13 hours just to cover one day of infant care.



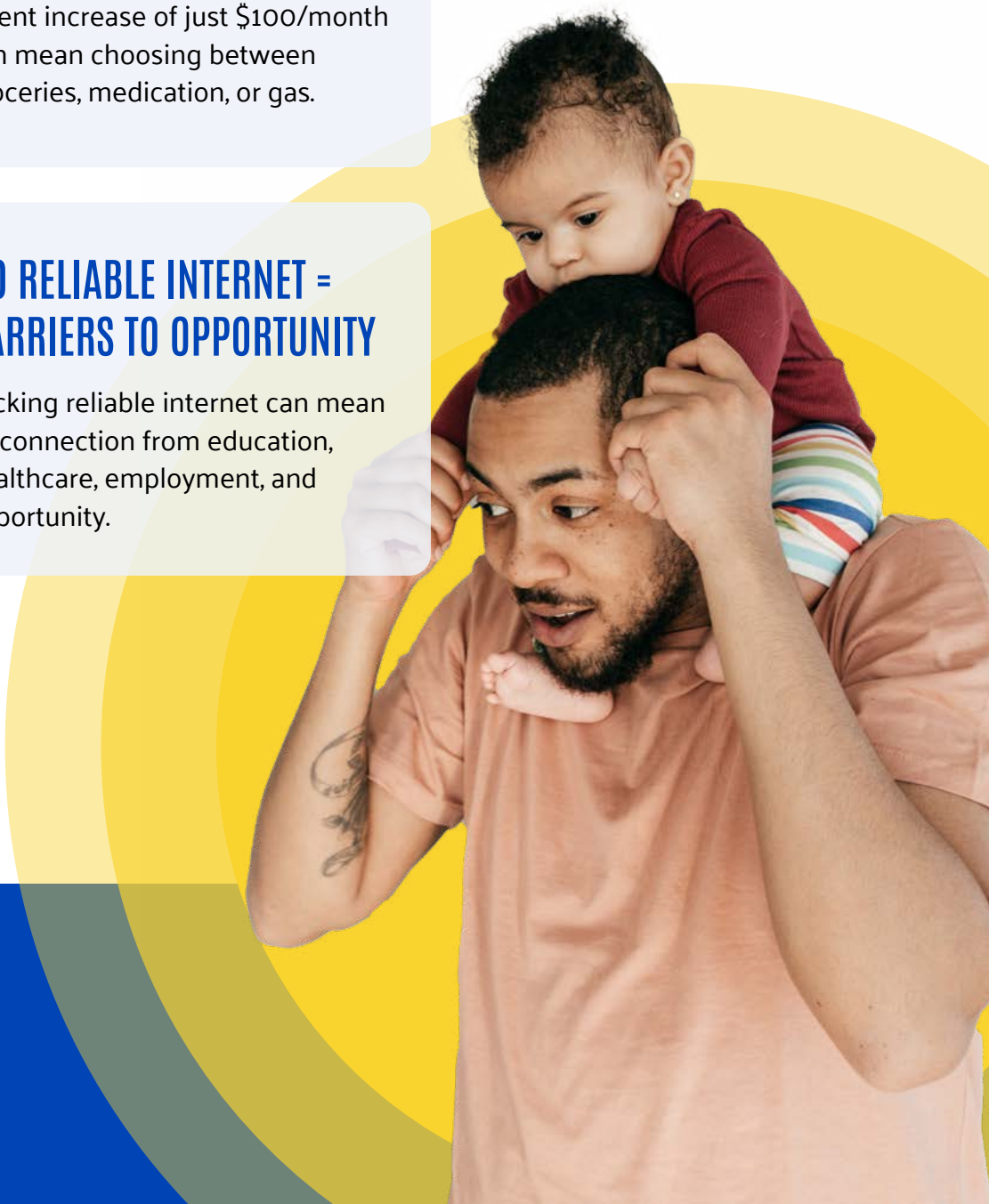
\$100 RENT INCREASE = CHOOSING BETWEEN BASICS

A rent increase of just \$100/month can mean choosing between groceries, medication, or gas.



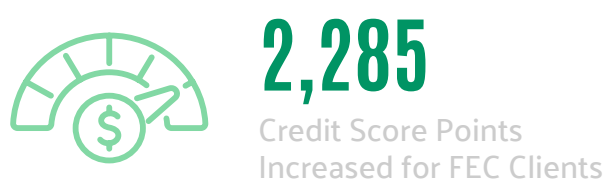
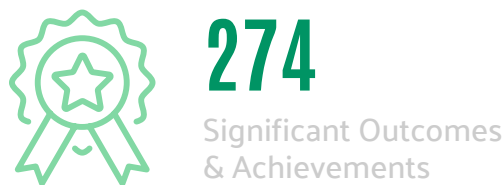
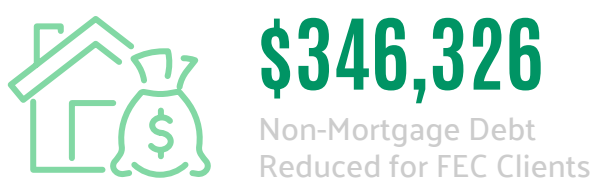
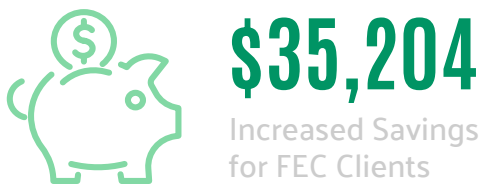
NO RELIABLE INTERNET = BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY

Lacking reliable internet can mean disconnection from education, healthcare, employment, and opportunity.



CREATING A STRONG FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR EVERY GENERATION.

For over four years, the Greater Jackson Financial Counseling Center has offered free financial counseling to West Tennesseans. Financial hurdles remain significant for many families. To ensure families thrive – not just survive – we partner with local banks, educational institutions, and nonprofits to provide a financial service they can access in person and virtually. Roughly half in our region cannot afford basic needs. We strive to meet families where they are and empower them to build a more stable future.

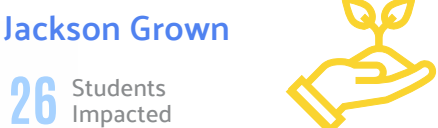
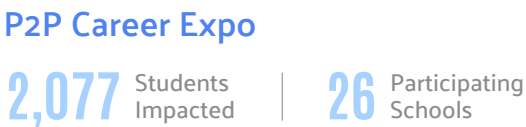


HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

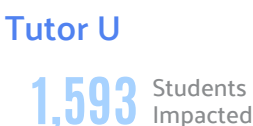
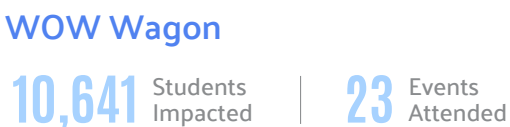
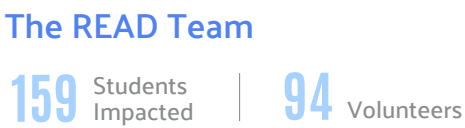
Our community’s future begins with our youth. From early literacy development to leadership opportunities, we are committed to equipping the next generation with the tools they need to succeed. Every stage of a child’s development plays a vital role in their overall wellbeing and future success. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and if we want our children to thrive, we must be willing to invest in and support them along the way. Through programs like Jackson Grown, Pathways2Possibilities, The READ Team, All Star Readers, Hub City Baby, and Childcare West Tennessee, we are helping children and families across West Tennessee build stronger foundations for the future.



LEADERSHIP & CAREER READINESS



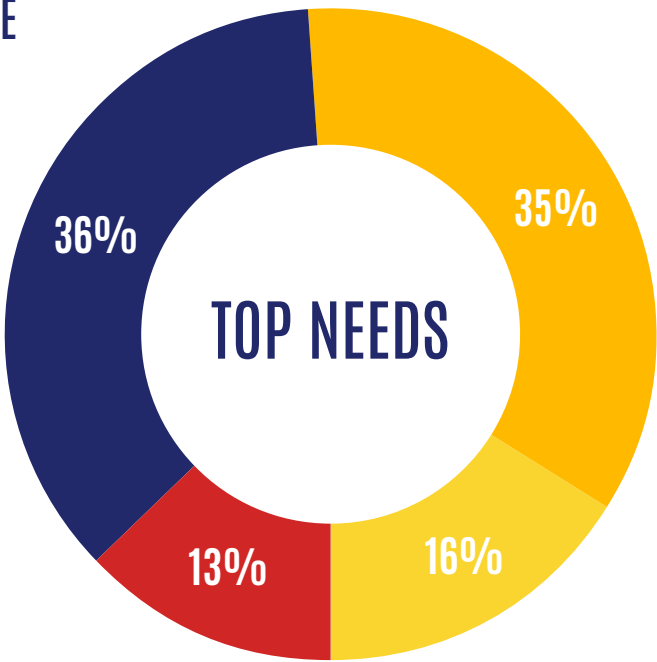
LITERACY & LEARNING



ADDRESSING URGENT NEEDS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

Communities thrive when individuals and families have access to the support they need during both everyday challenges and times of crisis. This is why programs like our 211 emergency hotline, the 211 Hub, the West Tennessee Nonprofit Network, and Disaster Relief exist. We believe health and resiliency go hand in hand. Through partnerships with local organizations, healthcare providers, schools, nonprofits, and community members, we work to ensure people can access essential resources that strengthen their overall wellbeing and help them navigate difficult circumstances.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE



FOOD

MENTAL HEALTH

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

833

211 Emergency Calls Fielded

1,045

Referrals Made

208

Volunteers Serving

\$11,536

Provided to Families Impacted by Disaster

FAMILY CHAMPIONS

552

Families Served

700

Referrals Made

29

New Jobs Secured

112

Applications Completed for Assistance

17

Housing Placements Secured

“Family Champions are trusted partners, advocates, and sources of hope. By helping families overcome barriers and connect to opportunities, they empower parents to build stability, achieve their goals, and create brighter futures for their children.”

FORD COMMUNITY CENTER

342

Individuals & Families Served

33

New Clients Served

10

Workshops & Events

24

Partner Agencies

The Ford Community Center (FCC) in Stanton is part of Ford’s Good Neighbor Plan for West Tennessee, a long-term initiative designed to invest in the well-being, economic mobility, and future success of communities surrounding BlueOval City. Through a partnership between Ford Philanthropy, United Way, and local organizations, the center connects residents with educational programming, workforce development opportunities, financial empowerment resources, healthcare access, legal assistance, and other essential services.

- ✓ Construction continues on the FCC’s permanent home inside the historic Stanton School building.
- ✓ Permanent facility opens Winter 2026.
- ✓ Will feature expanded community gathering spaces, educational programming, internet access, and a coffee shop.



WHEN WOMEN UNITE, COMMUNITIES THRIVE.

This spring, United Way of West Tennessee proudly launched Women United, a dynamic community of women dedicated to creating lasting change across our region. Through philanthropy, volunteerism, networking, and leadership opportunities, members can invest in brighter futures for children, stronger families, and more resilient communities throughout West Tennessee.

Women United is more than a giving circle – it is a movement of women using their collective influence to strengthen the communities they call home. Join us, connect with like-minded leaders, and be part of a growing force for change: uwwt.org/wunited.

“The strength of our community comes from the incredible women who lead and inspire each day. Together, we can accomplish so much for our beloved communities in West Tennessee.”

– Anita Kay Archer
Board Member & Founder of First Ladies’ Luncheon



COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS AND FUNDS SECURED IN 2025-26

Total Community Investments and Funds **\$3,430,168.73**

INVESTMENTS

Agency Partner Programs	\$674,690
Non-Partner Programs	\$75,571
Corporate Sponsorships	\$29,000
Special Events	\$155,680
Grants	\$1,953,045
United Way Worldwide Dues	\$29,333
Admin	\$181,429

FUNDS SECURED

Ford Philanthropy	\$750,000
AARP	\$2,500
Norfolk Southern	\$50,000
Community Foundation of West Tennessee	\$9,000
Toyota	\$20,000
USDA Rural Business Development Grant	\$60,180
Walmart Spark Good Grant - Huntingdon Walmart	\$1,000
2025-26 Campaign	\$1,060,365

CORPORATE SPONSORS

\$20,000



\$10,000



\$5,000



\$2,500



\$1,000



TOP GIVING COMPANIES

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Kellanova | 16 Tennalum/Division of Kaiser Aluminum |
| 2 First Citizens National Bank | 17 DOT Foods |
| 3 Teknor Apex | 18 Falcon Plastics |
| 4 Jackson Energy Authority | 19 Jackson Housing Authority |
| 5 Bobrick Washroom Equipment | 20 Dixie Jackson |
| 6 Caterpillar | 21 NSK |
| 7 Parker Hannifin | 22 SWHRA Services |
| 8 City of Dyersburg | 23 McNairy County Schools |
| 9 Ford Construction (Includes Choctaw) | 24 White & Associates |
| 10 Bluescope Buildings North America | 25 Central Distributors |
| 11 Security Bank | 26 Simmons Bank |
| 12 ERMCO | 27 Martin Housing Authority |
| 13 CECO Door Products | 28 City of Jackson |
| 14 Firestone | 29 MHDS |
| 15 Westlake Pipe & Fittings | 30 Pickwick Electric |



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Tucker

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First Citizens National Bank

Dr. Janice Epperson

Past Chair
Humboldt City Schools

Adam Kruzich

Chair Elect and Finance Chair
ERMCO

Jill Holland

Secretary
Southwest Tennessee
Development District

Anita Kay Archer

Security Bank & Trust

Gem Bell

Teknor Apex

Shea Brown

Leaders Credit Union

Jay England

West Tennessee Bank

Yancy Freeman

UT-Martin

Sheronda Green

SK On

Jim Hart, Sr.

Mars Snacking

Dr. Marlon King

Jackson Madison County
School System

Greg Martin

McNairy County Schools

John Pitcher

Parker Hannifin

David Prince

INSOUTH Bank

PARTNER AGENCIES

A Step Ahead
American Red Cross - Midwest Tennessee
Area Relief Ministries
Aspell Recovery Center
Born to Win
Boys & Girls Club of Humboldt
Boys & Girls Club of Jackson
Brenda's House of Hope
Brownsville Senior Center
Catholic Charities of West Tennessee
Community Cancer Fund - Dyer County
Damascus
Dyer County Rescue Squad
Global Citizens Adventure Corp
Greenfield Senior Center
Habitat for Humanity in Northwest Tennessee
Hands Up! Preschool
Haywood Reading Railroad
Healing Horses
Henderson County Adult Education
Impact Management Solutions
Jackson Center for Independent Living
Life Choices

Matthew 25:40
McKenzie-Carroll County United Neighbors
MHDS
Milan Mustard Seed
Office on Aging - Carroll County
Office on Aging - Dyer County
Quinco
Raising Kellan
RIFA
Salvation Army - Dyer County
Sardis Senior Center
Scarlet Rope Project
STAR Center
Team 4 Success
The Children's Theatre Company
The Dream Center
Transitions
Vision Haywood
WE CARE Ministries, Inc.
Weakley County Backpack Program
West Tennessee Hearing & Speech Center
Why Not Ministries
WRAP



uwwt.org



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