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THE WAY™**

Taking action together
so all can thrive.

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UWSCC CommUNITY Chronicles

a monthly newsletter for the community

As we begin a new fiscal year, United Way of Southern Chester County is proud to announce the launch of our **2025–2026 Annual Campaign: Mobilizing for ALICE**. This year, our focus is on the hardworking families who are earning above the poverty line but still struggling to afford life's essentials. **Nearly 30% of Chester County households fall into this category**, and together, we can ensure these neighbors have the support and opportunities they need to thrive.



**Support ALICE in our
Community**

A Message from the CEO



Dear Friends,

As we launch our new fiscal year, United Way of Southern Chester County is Mobilizing for ALICE. ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed—households who earn above the federal poverty line but still struggle to make ends meet. These are hardworking families living paycheck to paycheck, often unable to cover basic needs like housing, childcare, food, or healthcare. Nearly 30% of households in Chester County fall under the ALICE threshold.

In 2025, we invested \$650,000 in programs that ensure gaps are being bridged for our most vulnerable neighbors. We are working hand in hand with local nonprofits to provide the tools, services, and opportunities families need to move from surviving to thriving.

But we cannot do this work alone. Costs continue to rise, wages remain stagnant, and many programs are losing critical government funding. Now more than ever, we need our community to come together to ensure that every family has the support they need to build a stable, independent future.

With gratitude,
Darcie Martin
Chief Executive Officer
United Way of Southern Chester County

Your Gift Makes a Difference



Mobilizing for ALICE: Building Resilient, Thriving Communities Together

United Way of Southern Chester County is proud to launch our FY2025–2026 Annual Campaign, with the theme: **Mobilizing for ALICE: Building Resilient, Thriving Communities Together**.

This theme reflects our **shared mission to mobilize communities to action** so all can thrive. It shines a light on ALICE households—those who work hard yet still cannot afford basic expenses. In Pennsylvania, ALICE represents 40% of households, and **in Chester County nearly 3 in 10 families fall under the ALICE threshold**. These are our neighbors—families juggling multiple jobs, seniors on fixed incomes, and young workers struggling to keep up with rising costs.

In 2025, United Way of Southern Chester County invested \$650,000 to strengthen the programs and partnerships that bridge the gap for ALICE families. Together, we are **working to create a community where every household has the tools and opportunities to achieve independence**.

Our investments focus on four key impact areas:

- **Healthy Community:** Ensuring equitable access to healthcare and well-being. This includes maternal and child health, nutrition and food security, mental health support, and chronic/infectious disease prevention.

- Youth Opportunity: Preparing young people to realize their full potential, with programs that span childcare, early education, after-school and summer learning, literacy development, and career readiness.
- Financial Security: Building sustainable futures by supporting adult education, job training, affordable housing, financial coaching, and homelessness prevention.
- Community Resiliency: Addressing urgent needs through 211 crisis hotlines, emergency response and recovery, disaster preparedness, and environmental sustainability.

This campaign year, we are calling on our community to join us in Mobilizing for ALICE. Together, we can ensure families don't just get by—but thrive.

Together, we can create a stronger, more resilient community.

Make your gift today [HERE](#)

In the CommUNITY



Opening Doors Through Literacy: The Adult Literacy Program at Kennett Library

At the heart of the Kennett Library, the Adult Literacy Program (ALP) is transforming lives through the power of education. Its mission is clear and impactful: to provide free educational instruction to adults in our community, raising literacy levels so individuals can thrive at work, at home, and in society.

[Read More](#)



Back to School Isn't Just for Kids!

ALP provides free instruction to adults in our community—helping neighbors strengthen reading, writing, English, and workforce skills.

A gift of \$50 helps provide textbooks, GED study guides, or citizenship materials for adult learners right here in our community.

Live here. Give here. Stays here.

[Support Programs like ALP](#)

Tick Tock School Supply Drive Wrap Up

School Supply Drive Success!

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we collected over \$1,200 worth of school supplies for the children at Tick Tock Early Learning Center during last month's drive. These supplies will support the unique learning needs of our youngest learners, giving them tools for hands-on exploration and discovery every day.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated—you've helped give these children the strong start they deserve!



CommUNITY Calendar

September

6/7

Saturday & Sunday, September 6 & 7 | Kennett Square

Mushroom Festival

This year's Festival theme is "Harvesting 40 Years Together!" which encapsulates our dedication to nurturing not just the delicious and healthy fungi that we grow but also supporting the future of the community.

More information can be found [here](#).

September

13

Saturday, September 13 | 12pm-7pm | 600 South Broad Street, Kennett Square

Casa Guanajuato Hispanic Festival

The Hispanic Festival and Mexican and Central American Independence Day Celebration organized by Casa Guanajuato returns to Kennett Square on Saturday, September 13. This is a completely family-friendly event and free of charge. [Info here](#).

September

20/21

Saturday & Sunday, September 20 & 21 | 600 South Broad Street, Kennett Square

Kennett Arts Festival

New this year: The Kennett Arts Festival is proudly hosted by and benefits KACS (Kennett Area Community Service), supporting their mission of strengthening the community. More info [here](#).

October

11

Saturday, October 11 / 12pm-4pm / Penn Township Park

Penn Township Fall Festival

It was their first major in-person event created and planned after the pandemic, and has now grown into a wholesome, community staple. Event info can be found [here](#).

For a comprehensive list of all upcoming Community events, please visit the [events calendar](#) on our website.



UNITED WAY
Southern
Chester County

Contact us:
info@unitedwayscc.org
www.unitedwayscc.org
610-444-4357

Follow us:



United Way of Southern Chester County | 712 E Baltimore Pike #100 P. O. Box 362 | Kennett Square, PA 19348 US

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