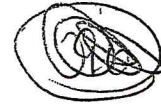


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### The Struggles of An ALICE Family

To some, money is no object. Some families may have multiple cars, homes, and go on luxury vacations and excursions. But to others, the thought of not having enough money seems to follow them wherever they go. Though having a source of income, these families still struggle to make ends meet. What can we, as a community, do to help eliminate some of the issues these families have to face daily?

For some parents, having to spend money to fix a flat tire, plumbing/electrical issue, or having to give their child \$15 for a school field trip is easy. But these families that lie in the ALICE category must be mindful about every penny they spend. They struggle in providing the necessities: food, clothing, and paying the bills. Going to the doctor and dentist could be a financial issue for some as well. They also struggle in purchasing things like shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, and other hygienic products. What about not having the money to provide their children with Christmas gifts and birthday presents, the things children look forward to receiving every year? What are some things that we as a community can do to help eliminate just a few of these issues?

I think one way we can help is to create training programs that result in these individuals being qualified for better, higher-paying jobs. By offering inexpensive or even free courses, these

individuals can learn to be skilled in a different career and find a better job. By finding a better job, these employees could receive better benefits and insurance as well. Another way we can help is to offer scholarships for the children in these families. No one should be denied a good education simply because of not having enough money to go to a college or university. By offering scholarships, we can begin to decrease the amount of people that could potentially fall into the ALICE group because the kids would get a higher education than just a high school diploma. A simpler way we could help would be to start making donations. Whether it's clothes, canned food, or hygienic products, getting as many donations as possible would make a huge difference in some of these families' lives. Fundraisers would be a great way to provide these families with extra necessities that they may not be able to afford on their own. In conclusion, there are many ways we, as a community, can help improve the lives of people in ALICE households. Whether it's beginning new programs, or simply donating canned food/toiletries, I believe that there is something we can all do to help.