

Dear Neighbors,

It's no secret that the current economic landscape across our country has presented severe challenges for those in need. Rising food costs, reductions in available services, and skyrocketing housing needs have created an overwhelming strain on the resources available to help our Milford community members. Your Milford United Way has been here, always, to help those in need.

Our role as a community supporter is vibrant – and essential – but we can't do it alone.

As we enter our Annual Campaign period, we ask you to pledge your support for the Milford United Way today. The amount of your donation is a personal decision but please know that our work depends on your generosity. We are grateful for your support as we partner to make Milford a place where everyone can thrive.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Kathy

Kathy Bonetti
Director, Milford United Way

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20 Evergreen Avenue
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Milford United Way

Helping Milford residents in need since 1957

United Way
MILFORD UNITED WAY

20 Evergreen Avenue Milford, CT 06460
203.874.6791



2025-26

United Way MILFORD UNITED WAY

How We Help

Your gift enables us to provide desperately needed assistance for a wide variety of services and needs.

| Hot Meals | Mental Health Care |

| Utility Bill Relief | Food |

| Counseling | Child Care Support |

| No-Freeze Shelter |

| Diaper Bank | Emergency Relief |

| Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention |

| Food Bank Supplies | Disaster Relief |

| Summer Camp Scholarships |

| Statewide Support Service Directory |

| Recreational Support for Youth |

| Educational Programming |

| Making Connections for Overwhelmed Clients to Services Already Available |

www.milfordunitedway.org

Grant Recipients 2025-26

American Red Cross

Beth-El Center
Where everyone is home and all are fed

The Storehouse Project

BRIDGES Healthcare

Good Child Development Center

Rape Crisis Center of Milford
Ansonia • Derby • Milford • Orange
Seymour • Shelton • West Haven

the YMCA

Purple Pantry Boxes
Take what you need, donate what you can.

haven's harvest

Connecticut 2-1-1

Additional Partner Agencies

| City of Milford | Milford Senior Center | Girl Scouts of CT | Milford Prevention Council | Boys & Girls Clubs of Milford | Literacy Volunteers of Southern CT | The Salvation Army | Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford | The Kennedy Collective | New Haven Legal Aid | Boy Scouts of America | Connecticut Epilepsy Advocate Foundation | Big Brothers Big Sisters of CT | TEAM Inc. | BH Care

Please complete the Pledge Form and return to us with your donation or visit our secure online portal using the QR Code. Thank you for your support!

Donate Today

Thank You!

United Way MILFORD UNITED WAY

2025-26 Milford United Way Pledge

NAME

COMPANY (if applicable)

STREET

CITY

EMAIL

PLEDGE AMOUNT _____

☐ ONE TIME DONATION ☐ PER MONTH

PAYMENT METHOD

☐ CASH ☐ CHECK

☐ ONLINE Or donate online (credit/debit) securely by scanning the QR code with your Smart device.

OR VENMO: @milfordduw

PLEDGE DESIGNATION (optional) _____

Milford United Way , 20 Evergreen Ave, Milford, CT 06460

The Condition of Need

In Milford



- Milford has 21,310 households.
- Nearly 3 out of 10 are defined as ALICE households.
- This equates to 6,206 households struggling to meet the most basic of monthly needs.
- The most pressing needs in Milford are in the areas of **food insecurity**, **unstable housing**, **mental health/well-being support,** and **education for independence**.
- Your **Milford United Way** works to address all of these issues in a coordinated way with our partners and fellow city agencies.

What is ALICE?

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed households that earn above the **Federal Poverty Level** (FPL) but cannot afford the basic cost of living in their county. People included in the ALICE data pool are hard-working, employed individuals who are desperately trying to make ends meet but are struggling in the current economy.

When costs increase faster than wages (as we have seen in the last two years) households find it harder to meet their **Monthly Survival Budget**.

Additionally, ALICE households often do not qualify for public assistance. Averages and outdated measures, like the **Federal Poverty Level** (developed in the mid-1960s) are based largely on the cost of a minimum food diet. **Today, the ALICE calculation is viewed nationally as a more accurate depiction of monthly survival costs** and includes other necessities in this calculation such as housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology, and taxes.

ALICE families live paycheck-to-paycheck. Every hour of every day, they must choose between keeping food on the table, paying rent, clothing their children or affording the high cost of needed medications.

In Connecticut



*In May 2025, the United Way of Connecticut issued its 2025 Update -- **The State of ALICE in 2025** -- on the condition of need across the state. This trusted compilation of updated data points to the continued rise in costs associated with the **Household Survival Budget**. Taking it a step further, because of these increases (along with other factors), working adults and households with families are not able to meet basic monthly expenses. This added strain is causing those in the ALICE definition to rely on support and services in their communities.*

In Connecticut, it was determined that the benchmark for income in order to meet household expenses for a family of 4 was $116,208 a year.

ALICE Household Survival Budget, CT (State Avg. Costs, 2023)			
	Single Adult Age 18-65	Single Adult Age 65+	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	$1,267	$1,267	$1,850
Child Care	-0-	-0-	$2,683
Food	$552	$508	$1,500
Transportation	$419	$355	$967
Health Care	$212	$595	$802
Technology	$86	$86	$116
Miscellaneous	$254	$281	$792
Taxes	$392	$451	$974
Monthly Total	**$3,182**	**$3,543**	**$9,684**
Annual Total	**$38,184**	**$42,516**	**$116,208**

Examples of Emergency Support







17,000 Diapers: distributed in one year, free of charge, to Milford residents with children

Food/Gas Gift Cards: for clients in desperate and unique situations

Bus Fare Passes: for clients in emergency transportation situations (for medical appointments, etc.)

Utility Bill Payment: in partnership with the Milford Human Services Dept., providing funds to "keep the lights on" for families in extreme circumstances

Housing/Shelter: for emergency, short-term housing (from a few days up to 1 week); small shortfalls in rent and security deposits

Emergency Uber Fare: to an elderly man who was victim of identify theft

Delivery of Emergency Items to a Person's Home: when people have no other way to receive assistance, we oftentimes will go to them

Registration Fees for youth athletic programming (for kids in need)

And much, much more.

Your Gift Gives a 'Hand Up' to Someone in Need

Put Yourself in Their Shoes



Making Tough Choices

The United Way of Connecticut designed this interactive tool to give the general public a chance to see the choices people must make every single day.

Food? Or Rent?
Medicine? or Child Care?
You decide.

https://makingtoughchoices.org/