

## UNITED WAY OF NORTHERN NEW JERSEY *Center for Financial Growth*

United Ways across the nation are working to cut in half the number of families and individuals who are financially unstable by 2018. Success would mean that 1.9 million working people will be on the road to becoming financially self-sufficient.

In Somerset County, United Way *Center for Financial Growth* is working to ensure all our neighbors have the tools to achieve financial stability. We partner with local service providers, government, businesses, faith based institutions, and educational organizations to enable families to increase income, build savings, and gain and sustain assets.



### WHY FINANCIAL STABILITY MATTERS

United Way conducted a study to help us better understand the struggles of many working families and individuals in our communities. This study revealed that over 30,000 (28 percent) households in Somerset County do not earn enough to afford basic needs like housing, transportation, child care, food, and health care. Through this study, a population was brought to life known as ALICE – Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed.

Due to the high cost of living and a challenging economy, these hardworking residents find it difficult to build savings. One set back – a broken water heater or a costly repair – can force ALICE into a downward spiral into poverty.

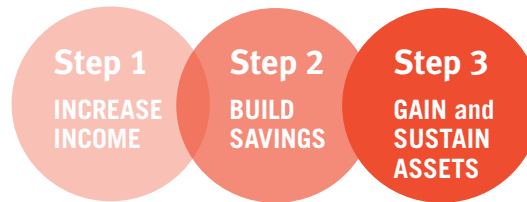
ALICE is a local teacher or child care provider, a home health aide or mechanic, as well as the much-needed administrative staff at our local corporations. ALICE is vital to the health of our communities.

## OUR WORK

United Way *Center for Financial Growth* works with a coalition of community partners to provide financial education and a variety of services to help families and individuals achieve financial independence.

### OUR APPROACH

United Way uses a three-step approach to help community members achieve long-term financial stability.



We pair families and individuals with financial coaches to develop a personalized plan which meets their financial goals. These coaches monitor their progress and provide support and counseling along the way.

Working with our community partners, we provide FREE services:

- Tax preparation capitalizing on specialized tax credits like the Earned Income Tax Credit
- Connecting families and individuals with community assistance programs
- Individualized financial assessment and counseling
- Financial education, workshops, and training
- Credit counseling and repair
- Savings and asset building, including the Somerset Saves initiative
- Connections to legal, housing, and employment services

## OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Alternatives, Inc.  
Arbor Glen  
Bound Brook Congregational Church  
Central Jersey Community Development Corp.  
Central Jersey Housing Resource Center (CJHRC)  
Consumer Credit Counseling Services of New Jersey  
e-ACH  
Financial Resources Credit Union  
Internal Revenue Service  
Legal Services of Northwest Jersey  
Magyar Bank  
Raritan Valley Community College  
Somerset County Action Program  
Somerset Savings Bank  
Sun National Bank  
TD Bank  
UCEDC Resources and Solutions for Small Business  
United Way of Northern New Jersey  
U.S. Tax Advantage  
Wells Fargo



## CONTACT US

**We are ready to help you achieve financial stability!**  
Make an appointment today.

### **United Way Center for Financial Growth**

P.O. Box 6835  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
Phone: 908.253.6516  
Fax: 908.725.5598

Visit our virtual *Center for Financial Growth* at [www.scuw.org](http://www.scuw.org).



Everyone deserves a quality education that leads to a stable job, the tools needed to achieve financial stability, and good health. United Way of Northern New Jersey *Center for Financial Growth* is working to make financial stability a reality for Somerset County families and individuals.

## LIVE UNITED IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY

As part of United Way of Northern New Jersey's mission of advancing the common good, the *United Way Center for Financial Growth* brings together community members to assist Somerset County families and individuals on their path to financial health.

### GIVE.

#### **Join hands. Open your heart.**

Make a gift that gives back to you, your family, and your community. United Way of Northern New Jersey works to make a difference in the quality of life for our neighbors.

### ADVOCATE.

#### **Get informed. Find your voice.**

Visit [www.UnitedWayNNJ.org](http://www.UnitedWayNNJ.org) and sign up for our monthly e-updates to learn more about the issues our Morris, North Essex, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren communities are facing.

### VOLUNTEER.

#### **Get involved. Give an hour. Give a Saturday.**

Learn how you can create lasting changes for families and individuals living and working in Somerset County. Contact Lisa Galonardo at 908.253.6503 or [Lisa.Galonardo@UnitedWayNNJ.org](mailto:Lisa.Galonardo@UnitedWayNNJ.org).

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**  
**LIVE UNITED** 

[www.UnitedWayNNJ.org](http://www.UnitedWayNNJ.org)  
P.O. Box 6835 :: Bridgewater, NJ 08807 :: 908.725.6640



## United Way *Center for Financial Growth*



**Working to ensure everyone  
in our community achieves  
financial stability**



**United Way  
of Northern New Jersey**