



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# SEMINAR 3: BEING AN EFFECTIVE VOLUNTEER



**Emerging  
Community Leaders**



# Community Question:

**What percentage of Illinois households earn above the Federal Poverty Level but still can't afford basic needs like housing, childcare, and food?**

- A) 10%
- B) 18%
- C) 24%
- D) 30%



**What percentage of Illinois households earn above the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) but still can't afford basic needs like housing, childcare, and food?**

**C) 24%**

**In Illinois almost 12% of residents are below the FPL.**

**19% in Champaign County. For a single person, the FPL is an annual income of \$15,650 or lower.**



# UNITED WAY IN OUR COMMUNITY

## Who is ALICE? Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed

- ALICE earns just above the FPL but less than what it costs to make ends meet.
- ALICE is forced to make impossible choices each day.

## Data about ALICE reshapes the dialogue of financial hardship

- Clarifies the mismatch between low-paying jobs and survival costs.
- Provides tools to understand income and budget comparisons.

**Federal Poverty Level  
for a single person is  
\$15,650**

**In the past 5 years, the  
Consumer Price Index  
has increased almost  
25%.**

### ALICE Budget and Income Status, Champaign County, Illinois

Categories	Monthly Costs and Credits
Housing	\$1,008
Child Care	\$0
Food	\$476
Transportation	\$397
Health Care	\$182
Technology	\$86
Miscellaneous	\$215
Taxes	\$415
Monthly Total	\$2,779
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$33,348
Hourly Wage	\$16.67

# UNITED WAY IN OUR COMMUNITY

UWCC advocates and collaborates on solutions that promote financial stability.

- Households earning above FPL are not always eligible for federal or state support.
- Supports programs to address the multiple and interwoven challenges.

Programs supported by UWCC:

- **211**
- Shelter Program of **C-U at Home**
- Legal Help with Public Benefits through **Land of Lincoln Legal Aid**

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- What does it mean to be a volunteer?
- What are some roles and responsibilities of a volunteer?
- What should I consider before signing up to volunteer?



# HOW TO BE A GOOD VOLUNTEER

- **Dependability:** Show up and be ready to jump in!
- **Flexibility:** Be prepared to follow the coordinator's guidance and keep in mind the volunteering goal.
- **Congeniality:** Unexpected setbacks or changes may happen. Be a flexible, amicable, and part of a solution.
- **Humility:** Put the organization's needs first.
- **Philanthropy:** Contribute in other ways if you can (e.g. coordinate a collection in advance, donate, etc.)

# REMEMBER YOUR WHY: GETTING STARTED

- What cause or social issue is important to you?
- What skills can you contribute?
- How much time can you commit to in your schedule? Can you commit on a recurring basis?
- What is your capacity?



**Jeniece Nance**

Executive Director  
**Urbana Neighborhood  
Connections Center**



**Kristen Sackley**

Director of the Bachelors of  
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**Celina Trujillo**

Research Development  
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# QUESTIONS FOR PANELISTS

## INTRODUCTION

- What nonprofit organization(s) are you affiliated with?
- What is your role? What volunteer service to you currently participate in? Do you serve on any boards or committees? or have you in the past?

## WHAT TO CONSIDER IN VOLUNTEERING

- What are some details to consider in choosing a volunteer commitment? (connection to the mission, availability and expectations, etc.)
- What are some good tips to prepare for volunteering?
- What have been some of the challenges/obstacles you have faced when volunteering?

# QUESTIONS FOR PANELISTS

## YOUR BOARD INVOLVEMENT

- What role(s) does the board play in the organization(s) you're involved with?
- What are some responsibilities you've been asked to perform as a board member?

## AND/OR

- As a nonprofit leader, what are some responsibilities you've asked board members to perform? (fundraising, engagement, expertise, etc.)
- What are the time and/or financial commitments of being a board member in your experience?

# QUESTIONS FOR PANELISTS

## DECIDING TO BE ON A BOARD

- What are some good questions to ask to current board members or the organization director?
- What do you consider the most important advice to give someone as they consider board or committee service?

## TAKEAWAYS

- What are some of your best takeaways and benefits from volunteering?
- What have been some of the challenges/obstacles you have faced when serving on a board, and how did you overcome them?

# CLOSING NOTES

- To-do's
  - Volunteer and track hours
  - Volunteer with team project date?
  - Team project presentation
- Group Volunteer Opportunities
  - Power of the Purse, **Thursday, May 7\***
  - Bottom Line Diaper Bank Re-Pack, **Monday, May 11**
- Next meeting, **Tuesday, May 12**
  - Seminar 4 “Fundraising for Impact”
  - Beckman Institute 4269 - 4th Floor Tower Room

\*If you have already signed up or are planning to, please stay to chat with Anne.



United Way of  
Champaign County  
brings people and  
resources together to  
create **positive change**  
and **lasting impact** in  
our community.

# THANK YOU!



**UNITED WAY**  
Champaign County

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