



## 13,000th RUN Ride Ride United Network Update

United Way of Frederick County is excited to announce its latest milestone: 13,000 rides provided to the Frederick County ALICE community.

Ride United Network (RUN) is an initiative to help overcome transportation barriers in Frederick County. This rideshare program offers free or discounted rides to ALICE individuals and families not served by Transit, as well as to those most vulnerable seeking services from the nonprofit community. Acceptable ride uses include access to a library, food access, employment, education, economic stability programs, healthcare, and legal needs.

Since RUN's launch in March 2023, we have been growing our reach and addressing transportation gaps in the Frederick community. One of the many ways we have addressed these gaps is through utilizing Ride Providers. Each of our Ride Providers address different needs such as financial stability services, addiction recovery services, domestic abuse and violence support, senior services, youth services and impaired driving mitigation.

In November, RUN provided a record breaking **1,697 rides across Frederick County**. During our first month of the RUN program, 454 rides were provided, this shows the immense growth that has occurred, and we are not stopping here!



## 10th Unity Campaign for Frederick County Tops \$635K!

Through collaborative efforts and shared vision, we have achieved remarkable success in the 10th Annual Unity Campaign for Frederick County.

The Unity Campaign is a collaborative initiative bringing together nonprofit partners, sponsors, and the broader Frederick community to extend support to our most vulnerable neighbors through contributions to a nonprofit organization of their choice every year. Thanks to the generosity of the Incentive Match Fund sponsors, 100% of each donation goes directly to the designated nonprofit, plus a match.

This critical campaign raises needed funds and awareness for the local nonprofit community so they can better serve the 36% of our community struggling to afford basic needs, also known as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

**The 2024 Unity Campaign raised over \$635,000 from more than 1,400 donors in support of 35 organizations**, who work to support the health, education, and financial stability of ALICE households in Frederick County. This campaign has surpassed all but one prior Unity Campaigns in both funds raised and number of donors. This is a testament to the strength of our community and the incredible work of our local nonprofits.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to Incentive Match Fund sponsors - Aushman Family Foundation, Delaplaine Foundation, Natelli Communities, and the Randall Charitable Trust Donor Advised Fund, a component fund of the Community Foundation of Frederick County - for amplifying all contributions made during the Unity Campaign!

*We look forward to another successful campaign in 2025!*

# Mission Measures

Mobilizing the caring power of the community to improve lives

4,212

Donors

2,456

Advocacy Hours

21,851

Volunteer Hours

\*Data from FY24 July 1, 2023 - March 28, 2024



## United Way's Newest Program: Getting Ahead

**Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By-World is an internationally recognized 16-week program designed to help ALICE individuals build their resources for a better life.**

Getting Ahead is a critical part of United Way of Frederick County's Pathway to Financial Stability. This program involves rigorous work done in a safe, kitchen-table style learning environment with the support of an experienced facilitator. It enables participants, called "Investigators," to examine their own experience of inadequate resources as well as explore issues in the community that impact success – banking, housing, jobs, transportation. This provides critical information the community can use to take action to end the cycles of poverty. Getting Ahead compensates Investigators for their time when they attend each weekly three-hour meeting and guides the Investigators through an assessment of their own resources and how to build those resources as part of their move toward self-sufficiency. Putting concepts, tools, and relationships in the hands of people in poverty to make a difference in their own lives and in the life of their community.

Our first Getting Ahead graduation took place on March 7th at Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ. At the graduation, each of the Getting Ahead graduates were able to share with the attendees their future story, including plans and goals they hope to achieve using what they learned during the program. The graduates expressed their personal narratives via their vision boards, illustrating their challenges and outlining strategies for overcoming them to accomplish their goals. Many graduates had similar goals, including the purchase of a home and/or vehicle, along with the overall goal of financial stability. The attendees were fortunate to dine with the graduates, gaining deeper insights into each individual's story.

*We are looking forward to sharing the success of the next cohort and the growth of the Getting Ahead program.*

# LEADERS UNITED

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to our LEADERS UNITED donors who have contributed or pledged a gift of \$1,000 or more between July 1, 2023 and March 28, 2024

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## Internet Access Initiative

United Way of Frederick County Provides Chromebooks to ALICE Households, Increasing Technology Access in Community



At United Way of Frederick County, we believe that access to technology is one key to achieving economic freedom and accessing important educational opportunities. As part of our strategic plan, we are helping close the digital divide in Frederick County. Through a grant provided by Frederick County Government via the Maryland State Department of Housing and Community Development, we are proud to provide technology and broadband access to those who need it.

**To date, we have provided ALICE households in Frederick County with 3,000 Chromebooks. We are thrilled to announce that this program will be distributing an additional 2,000 Chromebooks through the month of April.**

Data collected from anonymous Chromebook recipients identifies more than 80% of eligible low-income households did not have a computer in their home before receiving their new device. Access to technology through their new device will allow them to more easily apply for jobs, attend trainings, attend telehealth appointments, and so much more.

The current round of distributions will place emphasis on increasing access in our rural communities, with distributions taking place in Myersville, Sabillasville, Thurmont, and Emmitsburg. This will increase support for nearly 22,000 ALICE households living outside the City of Frederick.

TO VOLUNTEER AT AN UPCOMING CHROMEBOOK DISTRIBUTION, VISIT [UWFREDERICK.ORG/VOLUNTEER](http://UWFREDERICK.ORG/VOLUNTEER)



United Way of  
Frederick County

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## Upcoming Events

Stuff the Bus - June 17 - July 29, 2024  
BRAVO! Awards - June 25, 2024  
Day of Action - October 4, 2024

### UnitedWayFrederick.org

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## Who is ALICE?

ALICE are individuals and families in Frederick County who are:

### Asset Limited

Don't have a safety net for emergencies.

### Income Constrained

Income falls short of covering basic necessities like food, housing, healthcare, child care and transportation.

### Employed

Work but cannot afford a basic cost of living.

*Our biennial ALICE Report provides critical data about who cannot afford a basic cost of living in Frederick County.*

**Scan the QR code to support  
our ALICE neighbors!**



**Give Today!**



### MOHAMMAD'S PATHWAY TO TRANSPORTATION

Mohammad, a husband and father of three, works diligently each day to provide for his family, but has encountered challenges.

His daughters' health requires frequent medical appointments, making reliable transportation essential.

While completing the Pathway to Transportation, the Ride United Network provided crucial assistance to Mohammad for commuting to work and doctor's appointments on a temporary basis.

Now, after purchasing his own vehicle through the program, Mohammad can provide safe, reliable transportation to care for his family.

***Thanks to Pathway to Transportation program, Mohammad can advance further along his journey towards financial stability.***

