



Contributor's Corner

Fred & Kimberly Genau

BRAVO! is an annual special event hosted by United Way of Frederick County to celebrate volunteers and supporters for their commitment to mobilizing the caring power of our whole community to improve lives. Five awardees were recognized on the field prior to the Frederick Keys game on June 4.

Fred and Kimberly Genau were recognized as the recipients of the LEADERS UNITED award, making its debut this year.

As a former member of the United Way of Frederick County Board of Directors, serving for 15 years, Fred is no stranger to the needs of local struggling families. Along with his wife Kimberly, he is also acutely aware of the important role that the generosity of Frederick County plays in providing support for these struggling families.

Along with Fred's leadership on United Way's Board of Directors and Campaign Cabinet, the couple have been members of United Way's LEADERS UNITED for over 10 years, joining an effective network of individuals committed to making Frederick County a better place to live, work, and play through an annual gift of \$1,000 or more.

We thank Fred and Kimberly for their ongoing support to improve lives in Frederick County!



Ride United Zooms Ahead

Increasing Access to Transportation in Frederick

Access to reliable, convenient transportation continues to be a hot-button issue for Frederick County residents. This May, the Ride United program expanded to include library access, as well as vaccines and testing for veterans and nonprofit clients. Rides are also available for six major areas of need: food access, employment, education, economic stability, health, and legal needs.

Between United Way, 2-1-1, and nonprofit partners, Ride United has provided more than 3,000 round-trip rides to ALICE households!

United Way has been able to break down the demographics and see where the needs are in the community. Women made up the majority of riders at 50.70% percent. The highest percentage of riders were between the ages of 22 to 24, followed by those ages 25 to 29. Nearly 12% of riders disclosed they were a veteran. The biggest transportation need was commuting to and from work at 48.04%. This was followed by access to education and commuting to and from school or daycare at 10.38%.

Ride codes have been distributed to nonprofit partners, including SHIP, Mental Health Association, and the Housing Authority of Frederick County. These codes have become a lifeline to veterans, parents, and students who access rides to get to school or work. Ride United gives them a chance at stability and opportunity.

Additionally, United Way of Frederick County was awarded \$50,000 for Ride United couched within Frederick County Government's MD's ARPA funding award for Good Works Frederick's Volunteer Transportation Program. This partnership will help local ALICE families continue to benefit from these transportation solutions.

United Way will pilot the Ride United program through June 30, 2022 and use the data to inform long-term transportation solutions. Your support helps make this possible. Thank you!

Ride United has become a critical tool in the transportation toolbox for ALICE households in Frederick County.

Mission Measures

6,325

Donors

16,034

Volunteer Hours

1,349

Volunteers

*Data from FY22 through May 26, 2022



2022 VITA Wrap-Up Another Successful Year!

More than 400 taxes filed for ALICE households

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program wrapped up another successful tax season on April 15th! A huge thank you to our dedicated team of IRS-certified VITA volunteers who completed over 400 tax returns and logged more than 800 volunteer hours serving local ALICE households!

VITA works to ensure that our ALICE households get the tax credits and refunds they deserve, such as the Child Tax Credit or the Earned Income Tax Credit, for which they are eligible.

Every year, many ALICE households pay hundreds of dollars in tax preparation fees because they have no alternatives. Some fall victim to predatory lenders, ending up paying more in charges than they receive in refunds. VITA helps ALICE households keep more of what they earned.

In 2022, VITA completed 405 tax returns, bringing back \$701,517 in tax refunds to the Frederick community.

Through VITA, United Way also connected households with financial education and asset-building programs such as the Pathway to Homeownership savings account program with budget coaching, and the Credit Café.

Thank you to our VITA volunteers for their unwavering dedication and to generous donors like you! Thank you to 2-1-1 for scheduling appointments. Our Ride United program was able to provide transportation for ALICE households to and from the tax preparation site.

VITA is a partnership between United Way of Frederick County, the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick, and Asian American Center of Frederick. VITA is supported by the Delaplaine Family Foundation, Cash Campaign for Maryland, Turning Point Financial, Truist Financial, PNC Bank, Frederick County and City Governments, and donors throughout Frederick County.





Thank you for
your support!

LEADERS UNITED

Thank you to our Leaders United donors who have contributed or pledged a gift of \$1,000 or more since May 26, 2022

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Advocating for ALICE

Improving Lives in Frederick County

United Way of Frederick County is hyperfocused on advocacy and improving the lives of our ALICE neighbors, who make up 37% of our community.

In April, the City of Frederick's Board of Alderman considered a measure that would significantly increase taxicab fares. Ken Oldham, concerned about the long-term implications that a taxicab fare increase would have on ALICE workers, provided a written testimony for their consideration. Subsequently, the measure was removed from the agenda for further consideration by the Taxicab Commission.

That same month, after receiving complaints from community members, Ken spoke to the City's Board of Alderman asking them to look into whether low-income residents were being targeted with "abusive and predatory behavior" by tow trucks. United Way focused its efforts on the impact improper towing practices would have on ALICE individuals.

In May, the Pathway to Transportation program welcomed its sixth graduate! Crystal received a Nissan Sentra during a car presentation at Second Chances Garage. Crystal, who was born deaf and lives with a disability, is able to live a life with more independence. The Pathway to Transportation program connects local ALICE families to safe, reliable, and affordable private transportation.

In late May, United Way was pleased that the Office of the County Executive proposed an income tax rate reduction for ALICE workers. Notably, the ALICE Report was cited in detail in this proposed legislation. Ken presented comment on behalf of United Way and ALICE households at the in-person public hearing on May 16.

United Way fully supports the recently passed income tax rate reduction for taxpayers who file jointly and have a taxable income of \$100,000 or less, and for taxpayers who file as an individual with a taxable income of \$50,000 or less. ALICE families will keep more of their wages to access basic needs such as: healthy food, child care, transportation, and health care.

Thank you for joining us in our
fight for the health, education, and
financial stability of every person in
Frederick County.



United Way of Frederick County

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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



Save The Date: Stuff the Bus

School Supply Drive: July 5 - August 3, 2022
uwfrederick.org/stuffthebus



CRYSTAL'S BARRIERS: Savings to Purchase Her First Car

CRYSTAL'S PATHWAY TO FINANCIAL STABILITY: Transportation, Budget Coaching, Credit Counseling

For Crystal, buying a car was about more than having reliable transportation, it was about having independence and the chance to start a life of her own.

Through United Way's Prosperity Center, she qualified for matched savings for a car and in May 2022, she purchased a Nissan Sentra through Second Chances Garage.

Thanks to this program through the Prosperity Center, Crystal was able to set a shining example of determination and possibility!

