

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION REPORT 2019

## | UNITED WAY OF ALLEN COUNTY |

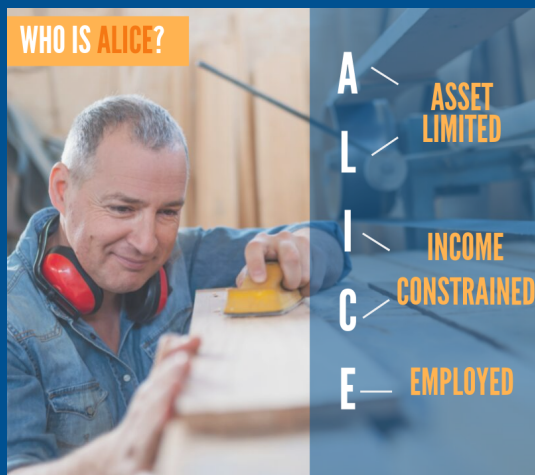
Over the past year United Way brought together families to share their lived experiences to help guide our community investment for families who are working hard but struggling to survive.

### In Our Community...

We call those families working hard but struggling to survive, ALICE.

United Way initiates conversations in and about the community around its most pressing social dilemmas, knowing these barriers can't be solved in a day, in a boardroom, or without community collaboration. Individuals in the community that are working hard but struggling to survive have aspirations for their neighborhoods and perspective on community strengths to share.

#### WHO IS ALICE?



### WHAT ARE COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS?

Community Conversations are designed for people to have raw discussions about where they want their communities to be, the strengths of their communities, the challenges they face, and the resources or actions that should be happening in order to make change.

### ALLEN COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS

7

CONVERSATIONS

58

PARTICIPANTS

22%

ALICE IN ALLEN COUNTY

### PARTICIPANT\* HOUSEHOLDS

ABOVE ALICE THRESHOLD

18%

ALICE  
18%

POVERTY  
64%

\*Not every participant completed a demographic survey.

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION RESULTS 2019

**ASPIRATIONS** and hopes were prevalent among the residents of Allen County that joined us to share their experiences.

- ▶ Sense of safety in the community, including less drug and gun violence
- ▶ Engagement within their community & neighborhood
- ▶ Proper infrastructure, property upkeep & maintenance
- ▶ Wider range of activities for youth & children
- ▶ Various amenities: parks/recreation, indoor shops, and restaurants
- ▶ Overall cleanliness of the environment/community

**STRENGTHS** were identified among these communities that benefit Allen County as a whole.

- ▶ Strong presence of emergency services (police, fire)
- ▶ Enjoy their quiet, friendly, & interactive neighborhood
- ▶ Major community amenities (sports venues, arts, libraries)
- ▶ Variety of resources and support available for those in need
- ▶ Prominent religious communities
- ▶ Less violence than other major cities and countries
- ▶ Significant amount of job opportunities available
- ▶ Variety of schools

**24% OF PARTICIPANTS WORK MULTIPLE JOBS OR OVER 45 HOURS A WEEK,  
YET THEY ARE STILL FACING THESE CHALLENGES DAILY.**

**CHALLENGES** that affect these neighborhoods daily are changes we must make as a community.

- ▶ Proper and safe infrastructure
- ▶ Language barriers and lack of access to ESL classes
- ▶ Lack of assistance in obtaining a drivers license/transportation
- ▶ Improve police involvement in certain areas
- ▶ Minimal communication/relationship between neighborhoods
- ▶ Limited number of good paying jobs and job type options
- ▶ Insufficient access to affordable healthcare
- ▶ Little access to affordable childcare
- ▶ Scarce amount of time to further education or learn English due to working overtime or multiple jobs

**ACTIONS** that must be taken to support our neighbors basic needs for the entire betterment of our community.

- ▶ Provide greater access to jobs and higher pay
- ▶ Encourage equal pay and diminish temp service fees
- ▶ Increase education opportunities for children and adults
- ▶ Offer more youth activities (sports complex or center nearby)
- ▶ Maintain neighborhood cleanups and upkeep
- ▶ Increase police visibility
- ▶ Require better transportation service (bus system)
- ▶ Add more centralized services for our criminal justice system
- ▶ Provide affordable childcare (be available for older children, decrease waiting list, and increase availability)

