

Kaden's Story



"For him, it was more than a message - it was a reflection of how far he had come, and a reminder to others that healing is possible."

Kaden had experienced severe neglect and physical abuse. He could not trust anyone - let alone the caring foster family desperate to help him feel safe.

Through therapy at UWBC Community Partner New Hope Children's Advocacy Center, he slowly began to rebuild his sense of security. He processed frightening memories, began to understand his emotions, and developed healthier coping skills. His foster family participated in caregiver sessions to learn how to support his healing at home.

Near the end of his counseling journey, Kaden learned that his foster family planned to adopt him - a moment he met with joy rather than fear. He proudly chose to take their last name, a sign that he not only felt safe, but truly felt he belonged.

Last year, 151 Blount County traumatized children received individualized, evidence-based therapy at no cost to families with the support of United Way of Blount County.



Mr. Pickle's Story



**“Without it,
I wouldn’t be able
to make it.”**

Mr. Pickle spends six hours at dialysis treatment three days every week. He considers skipping, even though he knows this treatment is lifesaving.

“Dialysis takes up all your time. It has totally changed my life. I’m usually physically worn out or tired. My body hurts ten times more.”

Without assistance from UWBC Community Partner East Tennessee Kidney Foundation (ETKF), transportation costs would make this lifesaving treatment even more impossible.

ETKF reimburses eligible patients for their transportation costs to and from dialysis. Last year, 25 Blount County neighbors accessed this lifesaving treatment with the support of United Way of Blount County.

“Most every month [the assistance] is critical to get me here. Without it I wouldn’t be able to make it.”



Tabitha's Story



"This experience reminded me that we're not alone. We just needed someone to help us find the right resources," Tabitha shared.

Because of UWBC Community Partner Good Neighbors of Blount County's emergency utility assistance, her lights are back on, the home is warm, and Tabitha's family is moving forward with renewed confidence.

Their story is a powerful reminder that when neighbors come together, even the coldest moments can give way to warmth, dignity, and hope.



Flynn's Story



“We are so thankful for the support of his therapy team. Their guidance has helped us help Flynn thrive!” - Flynn’s Mom

Flynn was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and needed support across communication, motor, and self-help skills. This care can be astronomically expensive.

Through the Early Intervention program at UWBC Community Partner Tennessee Educational Cooperative, Flynn received Developmental Therapy so he can reach his full potential.

He is learning how to express his wants, needs, and ideas. He can feed himself and use markers for writing and creative play. He is beginning to navigate the playground with confidence and enjoys visits to the local library.

By partnering with Flynn’s mother, therapy has empowered the family to support Flynn’s development between visits with the Early Interventionist.

Last year, 201 Blount County children with developmental delays received individualized early intervention services with the support of United Way of Blount County.



Emma's Story



“Giving children like Emma a steadfast advocate who helps them move from fear and uncertainty to safety, stability, and the promise of a brighter future.”

When 10-year-old Emma entered foster care in Blount County, she had already experienced multiple home placements. She struggled with feelings of fear, loneliness, and uncertainty. Until Sarah.

Emma was appointed a volunteer, Sarah, through UWBC Community Partner CASA of the Tennessee Heartland.

For the first time, Emma had a consistent adult who listened and fought for her needs. Sarah attended school meetings, connected with counselors, and regularly checked in with Emma, ensuring her voice was heard in court.

Through Sarah's advocacy, Emma received the mental health support and tutoring she desperately needed. Over time, she began to feel safe, seen, and understood, gaining confidence and hope for the future. Sarah's actions led Emma to a permanent, loving home.

69 children who have experienced abuse or neglect and are involved in the Blount County Juvenile Court system received an advocate with the support of United Way of Blount County.





Over 7,200 children directly benefit from UWBC grants.

- Educational enrichment activities
- Housing support
- Leadership development
- Rental and utility assistance
- Mental health and substance misuse treatment
- Early intervention
- High-quality, age-appropriate books





Over 600 seniors directly benefit from UWBC grants.

- Nutritious groceries and pre-prepared meals
- Home repair projects
- Transportation to dialysis
- Civil legal aid
- Housing support
- In-home caregiving services
- Mental healthcare



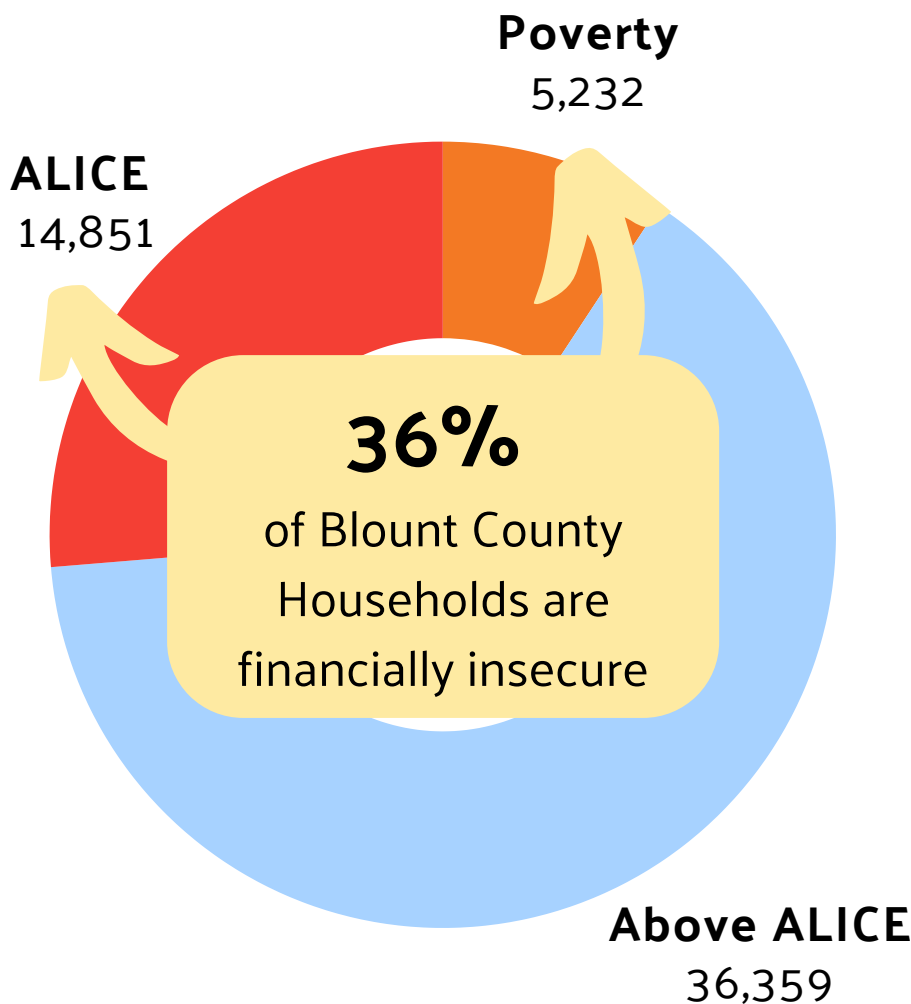


Over 500 victims of violence directly benefit from UWBC grants.

- Therapy for children
- Crisis hotline for domestic violence victims
- Support navigating legal system
- Emergency shelter for domestic violence survivors
- Support for caregivers of traumatized children



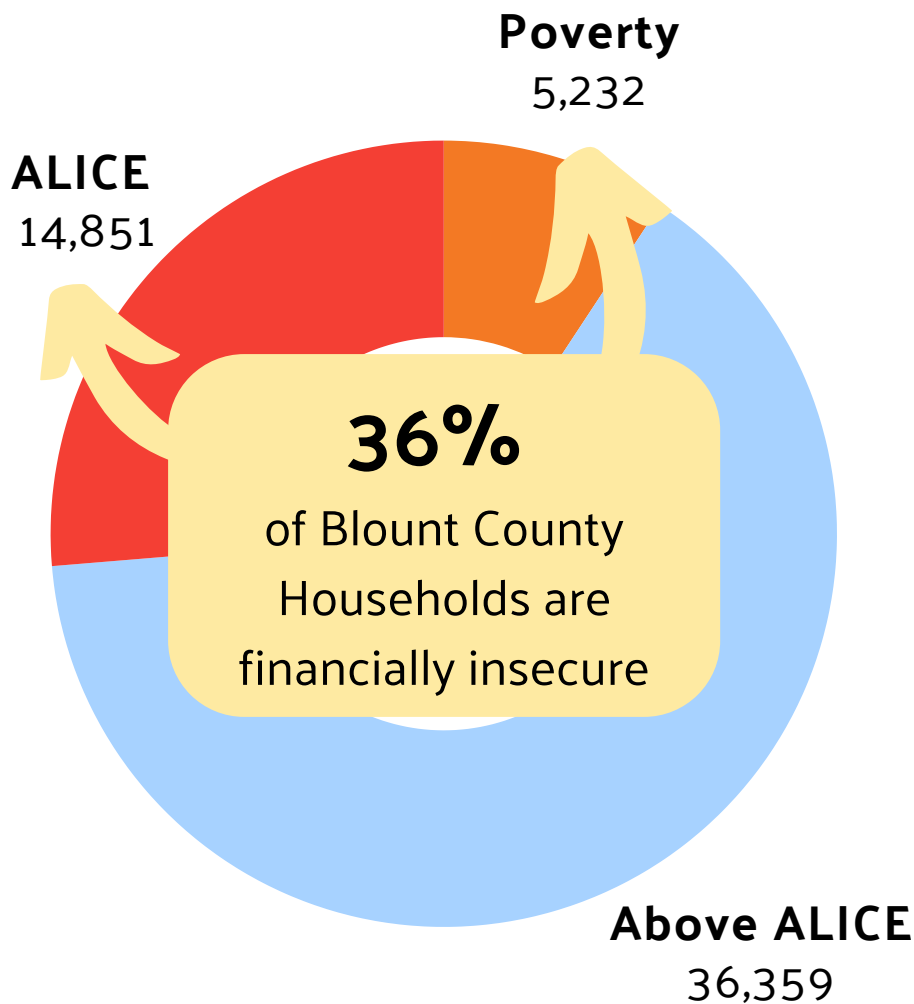
The Need in Blount County



Financial insecurity leads to...

- Working families struggling to pay rent and utilities.
- Children without safe afterschool childcare.
- Seniors lacking nutritious food and in-home caregiving.
- Teenagers without high-quality substance misuse treatment.
- Children with developmental delays without early intervention.

The Need in Blount County



82%
of programs awarded grants by UWBC
focus on supporting
financially insecure neighbors.

Tyler's Story



“Tyler processed the overdose event and other traumatic experiences, while gradually engaging meaningfully in group sessions.”

Referred by the Juvenile Justice system after experiencing an overdose at school, Tyler had no interest in treatment. He struggled to engage in individual and group therapy, often distracting others instead of participating. His history in foster care contributed to his distrust of adults.

Over time, Tyler began to open up, processing the overdose event and other traumatic experiences. He consistently passed drug screenings, participated in individual and family therapy, and strengthened his relationship with his sister. He and his sister were able to participate in family therapy.

Since graduating from the program, he has maintained contact with program staff, sharing updates on his recovery and continued progress. He also likes to call to discuss UT Vols football!

Last year, 29 Blount County youth experiencing co-occurring substance use and mental health challenges received critical behavioral healthcare with the support of United Way of Blount County.

