Financially stable families are more likely to have access to quality health care, provide a good education for their children, and contribute to their local economies. United Way supports programs that give people the skills they need to get ahead.
**BEING EMPLOYED DOESN’T ALWAYS MEAN BEING FINANCIALLY SECURE.**

Simply having a job may not be enough to move you up the economic ladder. United Way supports programs that help people gain the skills, education, and confidence they need to be successful in work and life.

**CREATING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ECONOMIC MOBILITY**

*Sometimes, all someone needs to get ahead is the right education, a new job skill, or additional training.*

Financial stability doesn’t come without a lot of hard work. But too many hardworking people in our community still aren’t making rent. Many are stuck in low paying jobs or sectors that are traditionally underpaid. Others didn’t have access to quality education or vocational training. Some have had to leave the workforce due to the cost of child care—or the lack of it.

Without the skills or resources needed to advance their careers, working folks can get trapped in a situation where they are working one or more jobs, but still living paycheck to paycheck, barely scraping by. Or not scraping by at all.

This is where United Way steps in to help, funding local nonprofits and programs designed to increase economic mobility for individuals and families in Whatcom County.

Economic mobility is a term you are likely familiar with. But what does it mean?

- It means giving people the skills, tools, and training they need to get that new job, that coveted promotion, or that well-deserved raise.
- It means giving someone new skills, or helping them learn to read.
- It means making sure working parents have access to affordable child care that allows them to stay employed.
- It means teaching people how to navigate employment systems and manage their finances.
- It means offering people opportunities, and giving them the chance to succeed.

There are lots of reasons hardworking individuals struggle to make ends meet. Many haven’t had the training, education, or opportunities they need to get ahead. United Way funds programs that put people on a path to financial stability.

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LIVE UNITED

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