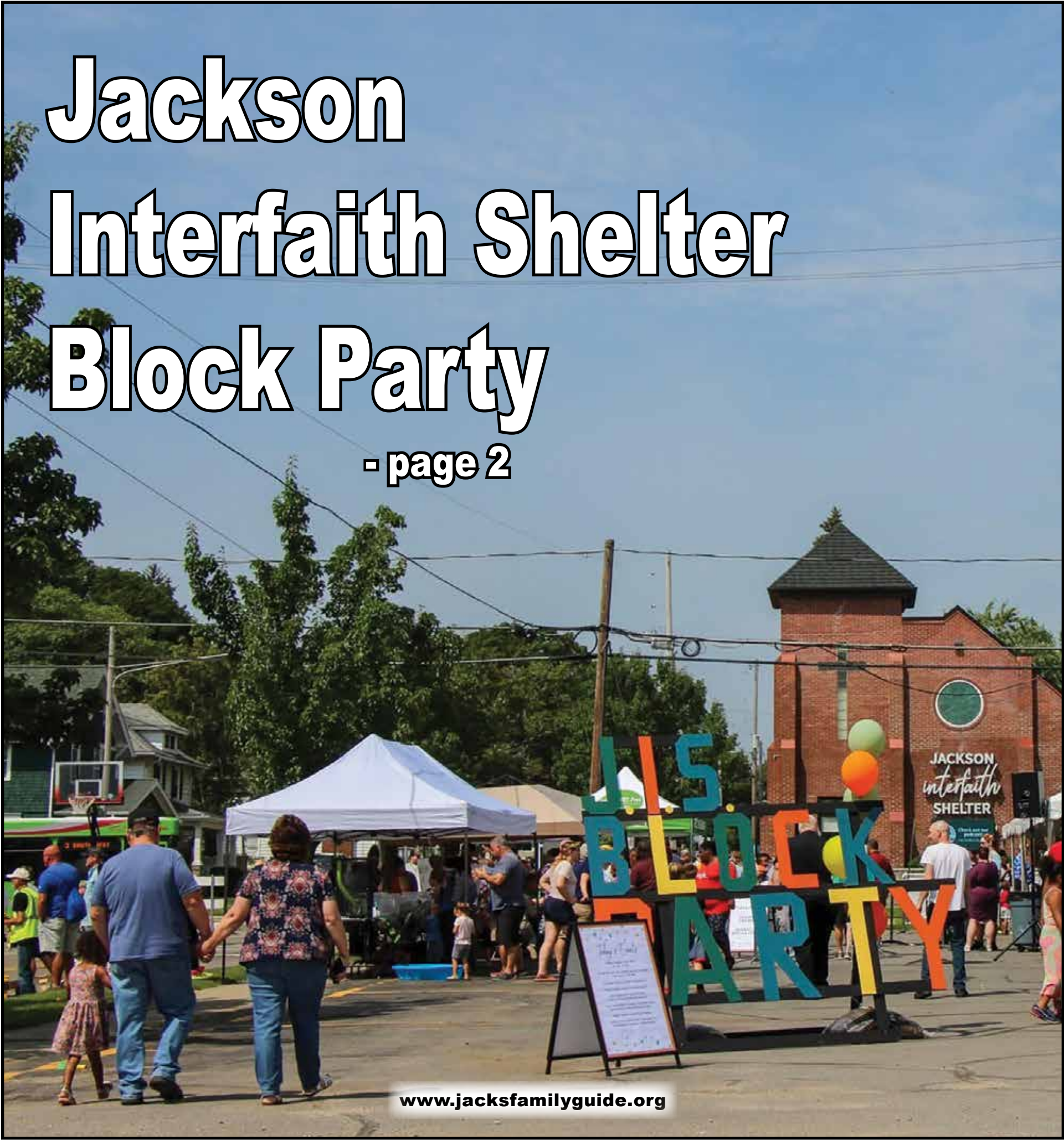


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JACKSON AREA COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE SOURCE



Jackson Interfaith Shelter Block Party

- page 2

www.jacksfamilyguide.org



2025 MARK YOUR
CALENDAR

JULY 19	BLOOMS & BREWS	Cascades Humane Society
SEPTEMBER 27	PUNCHLINES FOR PAWS	Commonwealth Commerce Center
NOVEMBER 6	SANTA PAWS	Jackson Crossing Target Wing

For More Information: www.chspets.org

Welcome to J.A.C.K.S. —

Jackson Area Collaborative Knowledge Source. Our mission is to inspire community unification and promote the voices of organizations and individuals in Jackson County through a collaborative monthly publication.

**Learn more at
www.jacksfamilyguide.org**

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Find us at one of your favorite area businesses!



Jackson Interfaith Shelter Hosts its Annual Block Party

*Contributed by
Jackson Interfaith Shelter*

Jackson Interfaith Shelter (JIS) is pleased to host its fifth annual Block Party on Saturday, July 19, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This free community event will be located at 414 S. Blackstone St. in downtown Jackson.

All are invited to join us for lunch, lawn games, face paint, kids inflatables, and a foam party. Shelter tours will be offered every 15 minutes for those who would like to see the renovations made to the shelter over the past four years. Live music will be provided by BIG L & Code Blü, and lunch will be served by MyPlace. Community partners will be providing ice cream (Amnati's Frosty Boy), flower crowns (Gwen's Greens), a Story Walk (Jackson District Library), and an inter-

active reptile exhibit (Belynda Griebenow). Jackson Police Department will be present with a bike raffle and fun activities for kids, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 109 will be participating with an open house.



This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of event sponsors Emmons Service, Inc., Consumers Energy, American 1 Credit Union, Arbor Hills Psychological Servic-

es, and HOME.fm.

Join us for this fun community event on July 19, starting at 11 a.m.

About Jackson Interfaith Shelter

Jackson Interfaith Shelter is Jackson's emergency homeless shelter, currently celebrating its 50th anniversary, and is in the initial phases of a capital project to build a separate building dedicated for families. JIS currently has 76 beds and serves over 600 men, women, and children every year. Additionally, community meals are served three times a day, 365 days a year, at 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Over 90,000 meals are served annually. To learn more about the mission of JIS, the Family Shelter project, or the summer Block Party, visit www.interfaithshelter.com.

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Paws, Petals & Pours

Visitors will enjoy, strolling the gardens while sipping, snacking, and snuggling. Tastings will be available from local wineries and craft breweries, as well as delicious treats from vendors. Plus, meet adorable dogs and cats looking for love! It's the perfect blend of fun, flavors, and furry friends—all in support of the Cascades Humane Society.

July 19, 2025

1515 Carmen Dr., Jackson, MI 49202

3:00 to 7:00 pm

\$35 - Tasting Ticket

\$15 - Non-Tasting Ticket

CHSbloomsandbrews.eventbrite.com

See you there!

Jackson County Michigan Historical Society Among Winners of America250MI History Grant Program

*Contributed by
Jackson County Michigan
Historical Society*

The America250MI Committee has awarded the Jackson County Michigan Historical Society \$24,000 as a part of the first round of the America250MI History Grant Program for “Pathways of Patriotism – Educational Exhibit.”

The new limited-time exhibition will highlight how the ideals of the American Revolution—liberty, representation, and civic responsibility—shaped Jackson County’s ongoing fight for justice.

Tracing a line from Revolutionary War veterans to the 1854 founding of the Republican Party in Jackson and beyond, the exhibit connects local activism to broader struggles like abolition, Black military service, women’s suffrage, and civil rights. Through storytelling and historical artifacts, it shows how Jackson County helped advance America’s democratic ideals.

The America250MI History Grant Program is funding projects that will help preserve Michigan’s history for future generations. The

grant program represents a key element of the state’s commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

In 2020, Governor Whitmer directed the Historical Society of Michigan and the Michigan History Center to coordinate the state’s commemoration of the anniversary of the founding of the United States of America. The two organizations created the America250MI Committee to aid and advise this effort.

America250MI is Michigan’s statewide committee tasked with commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, the American Revolution’s role in Michigan’s history, and the impact that these, and various historical events, have had on the people of Michigan’s past, present and future.

Established in 1828, the Historical Society of Michigan is Michigan’s oldest cultural organization and helps connect Michigan’s past to its residents and organizations through programs and events, publica-

tions, awards, workshops, networking opportunities, and support for local history organizations. The society is a member-supported educational 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and receives zero state-appro-

priated funding.

The Michigan History Center fosters curiosity, enjoyment, and inspiration rooted in Michigan’s stories through museums, historic sites, Michigan Historical Markers, heritage trails,

archaeology, and programming. The center, a part of the Department of Natural Resources, manages 11 museums statewide, museum and archaeology artifact collections, and various educational programs.

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This organization works exclusively for the benefit of Jackson Symphony Orchestra, giving time and talents toward promoting music in the Jackson community. Our volunteers include people with a wide range of abilities who strive to raise funds through dues and proceeds from the Annual Holiday Ball.

For membership and volunteer information visit jacksonsymphony.org/jackson-symphony-guild/.



Jackson County Animal Shelter's Adoptable Pets: Brownie & Kung Fu Panda

Contributed by the Jackson County Animal Shelter

Brownie

Brownie is a two-year-old, solid brown American Staffordshire mix who came in as a stray. This happy guy is full of energy and loves to play. He has a few dog friends and mostly ignores the cats in the cat room. He's currently on the thin side, but he's a voracious eater and will be gaining weight back soon. Brownie enjoys playing outside, but his main focus is his human. He's working on learning some basic commands and is mostly housetrained. If you're looking for a loyal companion and walking partner, Brownie is your guy. Dog adoptions require an application, which you can find online here. The availability date is when the dog becomes JCAS property; however, any necessary

medical procedures may cause a slight delay in the adoption process. A mandatory meet & greet with your dog is essential. A cat room walk-through is available to test reactions. Dogs will be placed with approved applicants, and the adoption fee is \$150 for medium/large dogs and \$250 for puppies/small dogs, which includes vaccinations, microchip, and sterilization.



Kung Fu Panda

Kung Fu Panda is a four-year-old, light grey tabby who came in as a stray. He weighs just about eight pounds and is a very friendly guy. Kung will come to greet you and loves attention. He's not too fond of other cats and would likely do best as the only cat in

the home. Kung has a big purr motor and will give you lots of head bumps to show affection. Stop by and meet this guy today at the Jackson County Animal Shelter, 3370 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson, Michigan. Cat adoption fees are \$60 for one cat, \$80 for two, which will include applicable tests, vaccines and spay/neutering. Any necessary medical procedures may slightly postpone an adoption. While visiting the shelter is always recommended, you can also submit an online cat application here, fax it to 517-780-4750, or email it to animalshelter@mijackson.org. For more information, visit our website at mijackson.org/579/Animal-Shelter. Find us on Facebook or view all pets on Petango.com-Shelter Details. Current Shelter Hours: Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10:00-4:30, Thu 10-7, Sat 10-4:30.



Cascades Humane Society's Pet of the Month

Contributed by Cascades Humane Society

Meet Dino, a two-and-a-half-year-old mixed breed sweetheart with a heart of gold and the most endearing personality. This gentle, submissive boy has met dogs big and small, and he happily lets them take the lead. Dino can be a little shy at first, but he warms up quickly, often army-crawling over to show his belly and win your heart. He's always excited to meet new people and is ready to charm his way into a loving home. If

you're looking for a kind, affectionate companion who just wants to be loved, Dino is your guy.

Dino is neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, and tested negative for Heart-



worm. His adoption fee is \$310. For more information, please contact Cascades Humane Society at 517-787-7387!

About the Cascades Humane Society

Organized and incorporated in 1952, Cascades Humane Society is dedicated to improving the lives of animals, promoting responsible pet ownership, and creating lasting connections between pets and families. If you are interested in donating, volunteering, or learning about other ways to support CHS, please call 517-787-7387 or email hgolightly@chspets.org to learn more.



2024
IMPACT
CHS
Cascades Humane Society

1,187
TOTAL
ADOPTIONS

11,247
POUNDS OF PET
FOOD GIVEN TO
PETS IN NEED

990
OWNED CATS &
DOGS SPAYED
OR NEUTERED

4,103
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

Hometown Eats

July 2025 Edition: Prates Place Bar & Restaurant

By Val Herr

My family recently tried Prates Place Bar & Restaurant at 114 West Michigan Ave in Grass Lake. The atmosphere—and the bathrooms—are outstanding. I'd give both 5 out of 5 stars. I only wish the food, service, and pricing had been just as impressive.

Three of us went for lunch on a Thursday afternoon. There were only four other tables occupied. The sign on the door said closed, but we could see people inside, so we walked in. No one greeted us, so I

asked if they were open. An employee who was sitting down said, "Yeah, you can sit anywhere." So we found a table and sat down.

The waitress came over in a reasonable amount of time to take our drink orders. When she brought our drinks, she asked if we knew what we wanted. I then asked for menus. Once we received our menus, I was impressed with the selections—something for everyone. We ordered an appetizer and our lunches. The food took a while to come out of the kitchen, and our appetizer was delivered with our food. She asked if we needed anything else, and I asked for napkins and silverware. The waitress never came back to check

on us or to refill our drinks; we sat there with nothing to drink and couldn't get her attention. Finally, after 20 minutes, we were able to get boxes and our check. She never came back. We had to take our check up to the bar to pay.

The spinach artichoke dip with chips and bread was excellent—5 stars. It came out bubbling hot and had great flavor.

For lunch, we had flatbread, mac and cheese, and fish tacos. The food was okay.

Taking everything into consideration, I would give them 2 out of 5 stars. They opened in January of 2025.

I hope they get the kinks worked out. It's a great addition to the small village of Grass Lake.



Photos courtesy of Val Herr



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Stay Cool and Save: Easy Ways to Cut Your AC Costs

*Contributed by TRUE
Community Credit Union
and their partner GreenPath
Financial Wellness*

Summer's finally here! While those sun-soaked days feel amazing, your energy bill might not. Air conditioning accounts for about 19% of a U.S. household's electricity usage – that's nearly one-fifth of your bill going to cooling alone. Thankfully, there are plenty of ways to trim those costs without sacrificing comfort.

1. Get Smart with Shade & Ventilation

Keep blinds or curtains closed during peak sun hours to block heat at the source. A set of blackout curtains can shave off a few dollars from your bill. If the nights dip cooler, open windows to invite a natural breeze. And once the morning warmth rolls in, shut those windows quickly to trap the freshness inside.

2. Try Fans Before Cranking AC

Fans are AC's less expensive sidekicks. A ceiling fan rotating counterclockwise pushes cool air down, letting you raise the thermostat by a couple of degrees with little loss of comfort. If

you don't have ceiling fans, desktop or box fans can still help. Just be sure to turn them off before leaving; fans cool people, not rooms!

3. Seal the Deal on Leaks

Wasted energy is money flying out cracks and poorly sealed windows or doors. Maybe you can fix it yourself with weatherstripping or caulk. Even just sealing window perimeters and door frames can cut your cooling bills by 10%-20%.

4. Wildly Efficient Maintenance

Clean or change your AC filters every one to three months. Clogged filters force your system to work harder, which drives up usage and shortens its lifespan. Also, consider a professional AC tune-up every spring. Systems that aren't serviced can lose efficiency over time, costing you more energy.

5. Upgrade Smart with ENERGY STAR

If your system is more than 10 years old, you might think about an upgrade. New ENERGY STAR-certified AC units are about 20-30% more efficient than

standard models. ENERGY STAR window units alone typically use 23% less energy and cost about \$70 per year to operate.

6. Install a Smart Thermostat

Set programmable thermostats to gently raise the temperature when you're away or asleep and cool down right before you return. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, "You can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling by simply turning your thermostat back 7°-10°F for 8 hours a day from its normal setting."

7. Seal and Clean Your Ducts

If you have central air, leaky or dusty ducts could be wasting the conditioned air you're paying for. A professional duct-sealing and cleaning service is well worth it – and could pay for itself in energy savings in just a year or two.

8. Consider Long-Term Investments

Installing a heat pump could slash your energy use in winter and summer – it's a longer-term project with upfront costs; however, the

savings over time can be significant. Likewise, adding insulation or upgrading to a high-efficiency HVAC system could reduce your overall energy usage by 20%-50%.

No single trick is a silver bullet; however, when combined, these tips can significantly dial down your energy usage. And for those

times when higher energy costs affect your budget or sense of security, remember: GreenPath, our trusted partner, offers free financial counseling to help you navigate your options.

Visit our website, TRUECCU.com, for more information on GreenPath and other free educational and financial resources.



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Statement on New ALICE Report, Impact on UWSCMI Communities

*Contributed by
United Way South
Central Michigan*

In May, the Michigan Association of United Ways (MAUW) released the latest data on the state's ALICE population—Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained and Employed individuals who struggle to meet their financial needs. The report, which covers 2023 data, found 14% of Michigan households fall below the Federal Poverty Level, while another 27% of households live above poverty but don't earn enough to be financially secure—a measure known as the ALICE threshold.

The full report is available here: unitedforalice.org/introducing-ALICE/Michigan.

Chris Sargent, President and Executive Officer of United Way of South Central Michigan (UWSCMI), made the following statement reflecting on the ALICE data for UWSCMI's six-county region (Calhoun, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, Jackson, Kalamazoo):

"For more than a century, our United Way has worked with partners of every kind to tackle the toughest social issues our communities face. While times change and issues evolve, we know that financial instability has always been the common thread. What that means—and what this report makes crystal clear—is that ALICE is still struggling."

In our six-county region:

- 41% of households fall below the ALICE thresh-

old. That's 171,521 households, of which 14% are in poverty and 27% are barely able to make ends meet.

- Nearly three-quarters (74%) of single-female-led households with children live below the ALICE threshold.

- 72% of age-25-and-under households can't reach the ALICE threshold, while 49% of age-65-and-above households live below that measure.

- 61% of Black households and 46% of Hispanic, American Indian/

cashiers, and other critical workers we depend on every day. They're the engine that powers our economy. ALICE can be a family member, a friend, a neighbor, or a co-worker.

Each day brings a new, impossible choice for ALICE families trying to make ends meet. Pay the heating bill, or buy healthy food for the family? Pay for childcare, or work reduced hours to stay home with a child? Fix the car to get to work, or skip medication this month?

grassroots programs that target the barriers to ALICE's success.

UWSCMI leads, partners on, and invests in many programs that help ALICE:

- United for ALICE@Work, a project developed in partnership with United Way of Northern New Jersey to help employers better understand and support ALICE workers.

- JobSTAR, an employee resource network in Jackson that provides Success Coaches to local

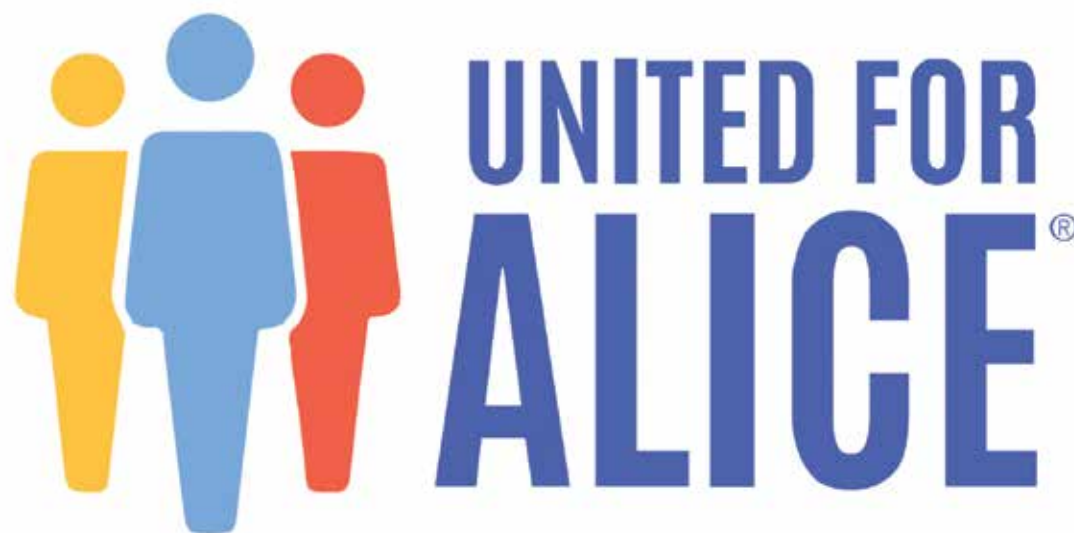
Still, as the ALICE Report shows, more changes are necessary. Those changes begin with awareness that leads to action. All of us must understand and be willing to step up to give ALICE that chance—however we can, wherever we can. It takes courage, commitment, and compassion. At United Way, we're ready to do our part to build those partnerships and pathways.

Because when ALICE succeeds, we all succeed.

United For ALICE partners with MAUW to bring this research to the state, and this work is sponsored by Consumers Energy Foundation. To access dashboards for state and county data, including demographics and survival and stability budgets by household types, go to unitedforalice.org/introducing-ALICE/Michigan.

About UWSCMI

United Way of South Central Michigan brings together the people, ideas, and resources to lead with our communities and create a flourishing, equitable life for all. We are committed to addressing the most pressing social issues locally and regionally; championing equity, diversity and inclusion by embedding equity and antiracism throughout our work; and engaging partners in our communities to drive lasting impact. We envision strong, caring communities where every person is valued, thriving, and connected for the common good. Website: www.unitedforscmi.org.



Alaskan Native, and multi-racial households live below the ALICE threshold, compared to 38% of White households.

- Some of the larger cities in our region saw higher ALICE rates than the regional average, including Jackson (64%), Kalamazoo (53%), Battle Creek (51%) and Lansing (50%).

- Our region includes urban and rural areas, and ALICE lives in all of them. ALICE workers are typically our childcare providers, home health aides, delivery drivers, grocery store

Making things even harder is the fact that ALICE is often locked out of public assistance. Despite ALICE living paycheck to paycheck, in many cases ALICE workers earn too much to qualify for support.

What's the answer? Unfortunately, there isn't a one-size-fits-all solution. The path forward must be a collective one—a shared commitment across every sector of our society to give ALICE families a fair shot at thriving. That means supportive public policies, better-paying jobs, and

workplaces, connecting ALICE workers with crucial resources.

- Program Assistance Center, which helps ALICE households statewide catch up on past-due energy bills.

- 2-1-1, a one-stop shop where callers can be connected to services and support based on their specific needs.

- Local and regional partnerships and investments addressing essential needs, including food insecurity, safe and affordable housing, and other needs.

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College & Career Access Center, July Scholarships

AGMA Foundation Scholarship Program

Description: The AGMA Foundation Scholarship Program is open to students interested in a career in the gear industry, and/or power transmission as it relates to the gear industry. Applicants must be enrolled or recently accepted as full- or part-time students in a nationally accredited program. Annual scholarships are available for those enrolled at technical/associate, undergraduate, and graduate schools. Preference is given to applicants with current or recent experience working in the gear and/or power transmission industry.

Eligibility: The scholarship levels, renewal policies, and award amounts are:

1. Technical school/associate degree students are eligible for a scholarship award of up to \$2,500. Many students are attending school part-time, so students should apply for the funding needed for classes in that academic year. The scholarship is renewable in additional years, for a maximum aggregate of \$7,500 in funding at this level. Scholarship renewal is not automatic, applicants MUST submit a full and timely application to be considered for additional scholarship awards. Scholarships awarded at the technical school/associate degree level do not disqualify a student from applying for a scholarship(s) at higher levels and do not count towards the maximum funding aggregate at higher levels.

2. Undergraduate students are eligible for up to a \$5,000 scholarship award. Awards are made at the discretion of the AGMA Foundation Trustees and are based on the experience of students and the number of eligible scholarship awardees for a given year. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of three additional years, for a maximum aggregate of \$20,000 in funding at this level. Previous AGMA Foundation scholarships awarded as a technical/associate degree student do not count towards the \$20,000 undergraduate-level aggregate. Scholarship renewal is not automatic, applicants MUST submit a full and

timely application to be considered for additional scholarships.

3. Graduate students are eligible for up to \$5,000 scholarship awards. Awards are made at the discretion of the AGMA Foundation Trustees and are based on the experience of students and the number of eligible scholarship awardees for a given year. The scholarship is renewable for a maximum of two additional years, for a maximum aggregate of \$15,000 in funding at this level. Previous AGMA Foundation scholarships awarded as a technical/associate or Undergraduate degree student do not count towards the \$15,000 Graduate level aggregate. Scholarship renewal is not automatic, applicants MUST submit a full and timely application to be considered for additional scholarships.

Award: Up to \$5,000
Deadline: July 1, 2025

American Legion Baseball Scholarship

Description: The American Legion awards between \$22,000 and \$25,000 in scholarships to deserving baseball players each year. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from its department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships each year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Eligibility: The player must:

- Attach a copy of his official high school transcript.
- Have graduated from high school.
- Be on a current roster (American Legion National Baseball Electronic Registration Form) with National Headquarters.
- Be part of a team affiliated with an American Legion post.
- Have three letters of testimony attached to application.

Award: \$500-\$5,000
Deadline: July 15, 2025

OMC Graduate Scholarships

Description: The OMC Graduate Scholarship awards \$500 to graduate students pursuing accredited programs. This scholarship helps cover tuition, books, and other essential

educational expenses, enabling you to concentrate on your academic achievements.

Eligibility:

- Graduate Students: Must be enrolled in an accredited graduate program at any university or college.
- Financial Need: Must demonstrate financial need through required documentation.
- Academic Standing: Maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 or meet academic standards.
- Age: Applicants must be 18 years or older.
- Residency: Scholarships are open to only legal residents of the United States.
- Enrollment: Applicants should be currently enrolled in a graduate-level degree in an accredited university or college in the United States.
- Read the full contest

rules before applying.

Award: \$500
Deadline: July 26, 2025

Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship

Description: The Gen and Kelly Tanabe Scholarship is a merit-based program that helps students fulfill their dreams of a higher education. The scholarship is named for Gen and Kelly Tanabe, best-selling authors on education, whose generous donations fund this program.

Eligibility:

- 9th-12th grade high school, college, or graduate students including adult students.
 - Legal resident of the U.S.
 - Currently in school or planning to start school within the next 12 months.
- Award:** \$1,000
Deadline: July 31, 2025

Kids Chance of Michigan Scholarship

Description: Kids' Chance of Michigan is one of 50 state chapters associated with Kids' Chance of America, a national organization. At Kids' Chance of Michigan we're dedicated to helping Michigan kids who need it most – those who need assistance for college or vocational education because a parent has been killed or catastrophically injured in a work-related accident.

Eligibility:

- Michigan resident
- Aged 17-22
- Financial need due to a parent's catastrophic injury or death from a work-related accident

Award: \$7,500

Deadline: July 31, 2025

For the full list of monthly scholarships, please visit the College and Career Access Center's website at jacksoncac.org.

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